

CHRIST CHURCH

CATHEDRAL, OXFORD.



Choral Evensong
6:05pm
Thursday 24 April 2025

A warm welcome to Christ Church. Founded in 1546, Christ Church is both a college of the University of Oxford and the cathedral church of the diocese of Oxford. It is the only dual foundation of this kind in the world. We are proud of our many traditions, including our tradition of fine choral music and the continuing pattern of daily sung and said worship.

Our service is largely sung by the choir, which tonight is the Cathedral Singers. There is not so much active participation as you may find in other service styles. As the congregation, our participation is by prayerful, attentive listening. This allows the music and text to lift our prayers, praise and meditation to God.

Tonight, we are joined by the attendees of the Theology and Integral Ecology Conference, organised by the Laudato Si' Research Institute at Campion Hall. This service will include readings and music related to integral ecology; we invite you to join us in thanksgiving for the world God has given us and in prayerful reflection regarding the responsibility of human societies in this time of ecological and planetary concern.

Any instructions to sit, stand or kneel are only invitations. We ask that you ensure that your mobile phones and other devices will not disrupt the service.



The Cathedral has a hearing loop. The system is most effective in the centre and away from the pillars.



Please do not take photographs or videos during the service. On occasions we take pictures for publicity purposes. Please let us know if you prefer not to have your photo taken.

Please stand as the Choir and Clergy enter.

The Opening Versicles and Responses

Matthew Martin (b. 1976)

Minister O Lord, open thou our lips
Choir and our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

Minister O God, make speed to save us.

Choir O Lord, make haste to help us.

Minister Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost;

Choir as it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Minister Praise ye the Lord.

Choir The Lord's name be praised.

Please sit. The minister welcomes the congregation.

Psalm 19

- 1 The heavens declare the glory of God :
and the firmament sheweth his handywork.
- 2 One day telleth another :
and one night certifieth another.
- 3 There is neither speech nor language :
but their voices are heard among them.
- 4 Their sound is gone out into all lands :
and their words into the ends of the world.
- 5 In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun :
which cometh forth as a bridegroom out of his chamber,
and rejoiceth as a giant to run his course.
- 6 It goeth forth from the uttermost part of the heaven,
and runneth about unto the end of it again :
and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof.

- 7 The law of the Lord is an undefiled law,
 converting the soul :
 the testimony of the Lord is sure,
 and giveth wisdom unto the simple.
- 8 The statutes of the Lord are right,
 and rejoice the heart :
 the commandment of the Lord is pure,
 and giveth light unto the eyes.
- 9 The fear of the Lord is clean, and endureth for ever :
 the judgements of the Lord are true,
 and righteous altogether.
- 10 More to be desired are they than gold,
 yea, than much fine gold :
 sweeter also than honey, and the honey-comb.
- 11 Moreover, by them is thy servant taught :
 and in keeping of them there is great reward.
- 12 Who can tell how oft he offendeth :
 O cleanse thou me from my secret faults.
- 13 Keep thy servant also from presumptuous sins,
 lest they get the dominion over me :
 so shall I be undefiled,
 and innocent from the great offence.
- 14 Let the words of my mouth,
 and the meditation of my heart :
 be alway acceptable in thy sight,
- 15 O Lord : my strength, and my redeemer.
- Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:
 and to the Holy Ghost;
 as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
 world without end. Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Proverbs 8: 1–8 (NRSV)

read by Mayamiko Kachipapa SJ

Reader The book of Proverbs, chapter 8, beginning at verse 1

Does not wisdom call,
and does not understanding raise her voice?
On the heights, beside the way,
at the crossroads she takes her stand;
beside the gates in front of the town,
at the entrance of the portals she cries out:
'To you, O people, I call, and my cry is to all that live.
O simple ones, learn prudence;
acquire intelligence, you who lack it.
Hear, for I will speak noble things,
and from my lips will come what is right;
for my mouth will utter truth;
wickedness is an abomination to my lips.
All the words of my mouth are righteous;
there is nothing twisted or crooked in them.

Reader Here ends the first lesson.

Please stand.

Magnificat

Francis Jackson (1917–2022) in G

My soul doth magnify the Lord:
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

For he hath regarded:
the lowliness of his handmaiden.

For behold, from henceforth:
all generations shall call me blessed.

For he that is mighty hath magnified me:
and holy is his Name.

And his mercy is on them that fear him:
throughout all generations.

He hath shewed strength with his arm:
he hath scattered the proud
in the imagination of their hearts.

He hath put down the mighty from their seat:
and hath exalted the humble and meek.

He hath filled the hungry with good things:
and the rich he hath sent empty away.

He remembering his mercy
hath holpen his servant Israel:
as he promised to our forefathers,
Abraham and his seed for ever.

(Luke 1: 46–55)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.

Please sit.

New Testament Reading

Acts 17: 22–28 (NRSV)

read by Anna Wera Wilms

Reader The Acts of the Apostles, chapter 17, beginning at
verse 22.

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, ‘Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, “To an unknown god.” What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things.

From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For “In him we live and move and have our being”; as even some of your own poets have said, “For we too are his offspring.”

Reader Here ends the second lesson.

Please stand.

Nunc Dimittis

Wood in E flat

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace:
according to thy word.

For mine eyes have seen:
thy salvation;

Which thou hast prepared:
before the face of all people;

To be a light to lighten the Gentiles:
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

(Luke 2: 29–32)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.

Please turn East, with the Choir and Clergy, to say the Apostles' Creed.

The Apostles' Creed

All I believe in God,
the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth:
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.
He descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand
of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come
to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic Church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Lesser Litany and Responses

Martin

Please kneel or sit.

Minister The Lord be with you.

Choir And with thy spirit.

Minister Let us pray.

Choir Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Choir Our Father, which art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done,
in earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Minister O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

Choir And grant us thy salvation.

Minister O Lord, save the King.

Choir And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Minister Endue thy ministers with righteousness.

Choir And make thy chosen people joyful.

Minister O Lord, save thy people.

Choir And bless thine inheritance.

Minister Give peace in our time, O Lord.

Choir Because there is none other that fighteth for us,
but only thou, O God.

Minister O God, make clean our hearts within us.

Choir And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

The Collect of the Day

Almighty God, who through thine only-begotten Son Jesus Christ hast overcome death, and opened unto us the gate of everlasting life: We humbly beseech thee, that as by thy special grace preventing us thou dost put into our minds good desires, so by thy continual help we may bring the same to good effect; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

The Collect for Peace

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed; give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that both our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that, by thee, we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

The Collect for Aid against Perils

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Please sit.

Anthem

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the Gospel to the poor: he hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted to preach deliverance to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind – to preach the acceptable year of the Lord; to give unto them that mourn a garland for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called the trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he might be glorified. For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden that causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations. The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the Gospel.

WORDS: *Isaiah 61: 1–3, 11*

MUSIC: *Edward Elgar (1857–1934)*

Prayers

Please kneel. The Prayers are led by the Canon in Residence and conclude with the Grace. Please join in with this prayer.

All The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
 and the love of God,
 and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
 be with us all evermore. Amen.

Please stand.

Closing Hymn



All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us sing,
alleluia, alleluia!
Thou burning sun with golden beam,
thou silver moon with softer gleam:
 O praise him, O praise him,
 alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
ye clouds that sail in heaven along,
O praise him, alleluia!
Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice;
ye lights of evening, find a voice:
 O praise him...

Thou flowing water, pure and clear,
make music for thy Lord to hear,
alleluia, alleluia!
Thou fire, so masterful and bright,
that givest us both warmth and light:
O praise him...

Dear Mother earth, who day by day
unfoldest blessings on our way,
O praise him, alleluia!
The flowers and fruits that in thee grow,
let them his glory also show:
O praise him...

All ye that are of tender heart,
forgiving others, take your part,
O sing ye, alleluia!
Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,
praise God, and on him cast your care:
O praise him...

And thou, most kind and gentle death,
waiting to hush our latest breath,
O praise him, alleluia!
Thou leadest home the child of God,
and Christ our Lord the way has trod:
O praise him...

Let all things their creator bless,
and worship him in humbleness;
O praise him, alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, Three in One:
O praise him...

WORDS: William Henry Draper (1855–1933),
after St Francis of Assisi (1182–1226)
MUSIC: Lasst Uns Erfreuen (Easter Song),
arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)
Common Praise 135

Blessing

given by the Canon in Residence.

Minister May God who clothes the lilies
and feeds the birds of the sky,
who leads the lambs to pasture
and the deer to water,
who multiplied loaves and fishes
and changed water into wine,
lead us, feed us, multiply us,
and change us to reflect the glory of our Creator
now and through all eternity;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

The Choir and Clergy depart in procession.

The organ music which follows is part of our offering of worship: do stay and listen to the music if you wish. As you leave, you are welcome to speak to any of our Clergy, who would be delighted to meet you.

Scripture readings are taken from the New Revised Standard Version Bible: Anglicized Edition, © 1989, 1995 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America.

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The Laudato Si' Research Institute is based at Campion Hall at the University of Oxford, and is a work of the Jesuits in Britain. Since opening in 2019, their work has been inspired by Pope Francis' vision in the encyclical Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home, which calls all people to respond to the "cry of the earth" and the "cry of the poor".

Inspired by Ignatian traditions and drawing insights from the natural sciences, the social sciences and the humanities, the Institute's mission is to develop an integral ecology paradigm to create a hope-filled future for socio-ecological transformation.

For more information, please visit <https://lsri.campion.ox.ac.uk/> or scan the QR code provided:



Theology & Integral Ecology: New Approaches to our Planetary Crisis

An International Conference at the University of Oxford 24–25 April 2025

In his encyclical *Laudato Si'*, published in 2015, Pope Francis proposed an “integral ecology” approach to address the challenges of the contemporary socio-ecological crisis. Since then, the idea of integral ecology has been widely taken up in academic, policy and civil society contexts as a way of describing a more holistic and interconnected approach to our contemporary global situation.

In his encyclical, Pope Francis was clear that the term has theological significance. Ten years on, a conference is being convened in Oxford to examine the relationship between theology and integral ecology. How does integral ecology prompt theology to deepen and expand insights into our global situation? And how might this generate improved dialogue between theology and other disciplines as together we seek to address the contemporary planetary crisis?

Taking place over two days in central Oxford, 24-25 April 2025, *Theology and Integral Ecology: New Approaches to our Planetary Crisis* features a diverse programme of lectures, discussions and seminars addressing both theoretical and practical aspects of integral ecology and its application to contemporary society.

The conference is hosted by the *Laudato Si'* Research Institute (LSRI), a research institute based at Campion Hall, University of Oxford.

Volunteering

The Cathedral wouldn't be able to function without its 400 or so volunteers. We are always looking for people to join many of our teams, including Guides, Stewards, Servers, Schools and Children, Refreshments, etc. If you'd like to join a friendly community, share your skills, or learn something new, please get in touch with: miranda.hockliffe@chch.ox.ac.uk

Hearing Loop



The Cathedral has a hearing loop. The system is most effective in the centre and away from the pillars.

Safeguarding

If you have any concerns about the safety of a child or vulnerable adult in or around Christ Church Cathedral, please let us know immediately. Please speak to any member of the clergy or vergers team on duty, or contact a member of the safeguarding team:

Lisa Wilkins (Cathedral Safeguarding Officer)

lisa.wilkins@chch.ox.ac.uk / 07746 046009

Philippa White (Associate Cathedral Safeguarding Officer)

philippa.white@chch.ox.ac.uk

Matthew Dickins (Associate Cathedral Safeguarding Officer)

matthew.dickins@chch.ox.ac.uk / 01865 610935

If you believe that a child or adult is in immediate danger of significant or serious harm, you should contact the police on 999

Evacuation Procedure

In the unlikely event of an emergency, please follow the instructions of the Vergers, and calmly make your way out through the West (Main) door – or alternative exit if necessary – and move away from the building.

The SPIRE Newsletter

Stay in touch with the latest news and events from us by signing up to our weekly newsletter, The SPIRE:

