

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Voluntary:

i) Fuga sopra il Magnificat, BWV 733 - (?)

J S Bach

ii) Ecce Dominus veniet

Marcel Dupré

Introit: O taste and see

Vaughan Williams

Call to Worship

“...The Lord, the God of their fathers, sent persistently to them by His messengers, because He had compassion on His people and on His dwelling place.”

II Chronicles 36:15

Hymn: 277 Hark the glad sound!

Crediton

1. Hark the glad sound! the Saviour comes,
The Saviour promised long;
Let every heart exult with joy,
And every voice with song!
2. He comes, the prisoners to relieve,
In Satan's bondage held;
The gates of brass before Him burst,
The iron fetters yield.
3. He comes the broken hearts to bind,
The bleeding souls to cure;
And with the treasures of His grace
To enrich the humble poor.
4. The sacred year has now revolved,
Accepted of the Lord,
When heaven's high promise is fulfilled,
And Israel is restored.
5. Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace
Thy welcome shall proclaim;
And heaven's exalted arches ring
With Thy most honoured Name.

*We bring to God our prayers and
The Lord's Prayer*

**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 debts as we forgive our debtors,
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory,
Forever.
Amen**

We hear the Word of God

Old Testament: **Isaiah 11:1-10**

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

² And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

³ And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;

⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall slay the wicked.

⁵ Righteousness shall be the girdle of his waist,
and faithfulness the girdle of his loins.

⁶ The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,
and the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
and the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.

⁷ The cow and the bear shall feed;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸ The sucking child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.

⁹ They shall not hurt or destroy
in all my holy mountain;

for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰ In that day the root of Jesse shall stand as an ensign to the peoples; him
shall the nations seek, and his dwellings shall be glorious.

Amen

(read by Robert Armour)

We respond to God's Word with our Offering
(Children invited to help with the Offering)



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Offertory: Chorale Prelude on "Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen"

Brahms

Prayer

Children leave for Crèche and Sunday Club

We bring to God our prayers of Adoration and Confession

We hear the Word of God

New Testament: **Matthew 3:1-12**

In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, ² "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." ³ For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said,

"The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

Prepare the way of the Lord,

make his paths straight."

⁴ Now John wore a garment of camel's hair, and a leather girdle around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey.

⁵ Then went out to him Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sad'ducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?" ⁸ Bear fruit that befits repentance, ⁹ and do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰ Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ "I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Amen

Intimations

Hymn: 676 Shout for joy!

Landsdowne

(text omitted due to copyright laws)

Sermon **Prepare the Way**

***We bring to God our prayers
of Thanksgiving and Intercession***

***We make confession of our Faith
in the Apostles' Creed (all standing)***

**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**

Invitation to the Lord's Supper

Hymn: 19 Ye gates lift up your heads on high *St George's Edinburgh*

1. Ye gates, lift up your heads on high;
 Ye doors that last for aye,
 Be lifted up, that so the King
 Of glory enter may.
 But Who of glory is the King?
 The mighty Lord is this.
 Even that same Lord that great in might
 And strong in battle is.
 Even that same Lord that great in might
 And strong in battle is.

2. Ye gates, lift up your heads; ye doors,
 Doors that do last for aye,
 Be lifted up, that so the King
 Of glory enter may.
 But Who is He that is the King,
 The King of glory? Who is this?
 The Lord of hosts, and none but He,
 The King of glory is.
 The Lord of hosts, and none but He,
 The King of glory is.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia!
Amen, amen, amen.

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

The bread, and the wine in individual cups, will be brought to the congregation by the elders. For those who wish to have wine from the

common cup, join the Minister at the table at the back of the church. All are welcome this day to share in this sacrament of remembering and love.

At the Communion: Creator of the stars of night

Malcolm Archer

Creator of the stars of night,
Thy people's everlasting light,
Jesu, Redeemer, save us all,
And hear thy servants when they call.
Thou camest, bridegroom of the bride,
As drew the world to eveningtide,
Proceeding from a virgin shrine,
The Son of Man, yet all divine.
At thy great name, exalted now,
All knees must bend, all hearts must bow, And things in heav'n and earth
shall own That thou art Lord and King alone.
To God the Father, God the Son,
And God the Spirit, Three in One,
Laud, honour, might, and glory be
From age to age eternally.
Amen.

Hymn: 281 People, look East

Besançon

(text omitted due to copyright laws)

Benediction and Threefold Amen

Voluntary: Chorale Prelude on "Valet will ich dir geben", BWV 736

J S Bach

*The Apostles' Creed is an ancient creed of the Church. It is the preferred statement of belief of the Reformed churches and was included in weekly worship by both Calvin and Knox. The word 'creed' comes from the Latin word **credo** meaning 'I believe.' The Creed can be understood literally, though it is best read as poetry. It is Scriptural and, therefore, draws upon the faith narratives of the Bible. It employs powerful religious imagery intended for meditation.*