



CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT
IN THE CITY OF BIRMINGHAM

5:30 P.M.
MARCH 16, 2023
The Fourth Thursday in Lent
Choral Evensong

VOLUNTARY

A Meditation on *Brother James's Air*

Harold Darke

THE PEOPLE STAND.

INTROIT

Charles Villiers Stanford

Beati quorum via integra est: Qui ambulant in lege Domini.

Blessed are the undefiled in the way: Who walk in the law of the Lord.

-Psalm 119:1

Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924) composed *Beati Quorum Via* as part of his *Three Latin Motets*, Op. 38, published in 1905. The first verse of Psalm 119 is set here in a very florid and lyrical manner, expressing the joy of walking in the way of Christ.

HYMN NO. 141

So giebst du nun

OPENING SENTENCES

Jesus said, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."

-Mark 8:34

CONFESSION OF SIN

PRAYER BOOK, PAGE 62

Dear friends in Christ, here in the presence of Almighty God, let us kneel in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, so that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

THE PEOPLE KNEEL.

**Almighty and most merciful Father,
we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep,
we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts,
we have offended against thy holy laws,
we have left undone those things which we ought to have done,
and we have done those things which we ought not to have done.
But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us,
spare thou those who confess their faults,
restore thou those who are penitent,
according to thy promises declared unto mankind
in Christ Jesus our Lord;
and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,
that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life,
to the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.**

THE DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all our sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

THE PEOPLE STAND.

THE PRECES

William Byrd

SUNG BY THE CHOIR.

Officiant: O Lord, open thou our lips.

Choir: And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

Officiant: O God, make speed to save us.

Choir: O Lord, make haste to help us.

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.

Praise ye the Lord. The Lord's Name be praised.

THE PEOPLE SIT.

PSALM 49

Anglican Chant: Thomas Attwood Walmisley

SUNG BY THE CHOIR.

- 1 O hear ye this, all ye people;
ponder it with your ears, all ye that dwell in the world;
- 2 High and low, rich and poor,
one with another.
- 3 My mouth shall speak of wisdom,
and my heart shall muse of understanding.
- 4 I will incline mine ear to the parable,
and shew my dark speech upon the harp.
- 5 Wherefore should I fear in the days of wickedness,
and when the wickedness of my heels compasseth me round about?
- 6 There be some that put their trust in their goods,
and boast themselves in the multitude of their riches.
- 7 But no man may deliver his brother,
nor make agreement unto God for him,
- 8 For it cost more to redeem their souls,
so that he must let that alone for ever;
- 9 Yea, though he live long,
and see not the grave.

- 10 For he seeth that wise men also die and perish together,
as well as the ignorant and foolish, and leave their riches for other.
- 11 And yet they think that their houses shall continue for ever,
and that their dwelling-places shall endure from one generation to another;
and call the lands after their own names.
- 12 Nevertheless, man will not abide in honour,
seeing he may be compared unto the beasts that perish, this is the way of them.
- 13 This is their foolishness;
and their posterity praise their saying.
- 14 They lie in the hell like sheep; death gnaweth upon them;
and the righteous shall have domination over them in the morning:
their beauty shall consume in the sepulchre out of their dwelling.
- 15 But God hath delivered my soul from the place of hell;
for he shall receive me.
- 16 Be not thou afraid, though one be made rich,
or if the glory of his house be increased;
- 17 For he shall carry nothing away with him when he dieth,
neither shall his pomp follow him.
- 18 For while he lived, he counted himself an happy man;
and so long as thou doest well unto thyself, men will speak good of thee.
- 19 He shall follow the generation of his fathers,
and shall never see light.
- 20 Man being in honour hath no understanding,
but is compared unto the beasts that perish.

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.

A READING FROM THE EPISTLE OF ST. PAUL
TO THE EPHESIANS.

For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. ¹³But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.” (5:8-14)

Here endeth the Reading.

MAGNIFICAT IN F

Harold Darke

SUNG BY THE CHOIR.

My soul doth magnify the Lord,
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.
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 showed 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.

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.

-*Luke 1:46-55*

Dr. Harold Darke (1888-1976) was a product of the Royal College of Music, having studied composition with Charles Villiers Stanford and organ with Sir Walter Parratt. Darke held the post of Organist and Choirmaster of St. Michael's, Cornhill in the City of London for fifty years from 1916, with the exception of a break during World War II when he stood in at King's College, Cambridge from 1941-1944. He also served as organ professor at the Royal College of Music from 1919-1969, by which time he was over 80 years of age. Darke mostly composed music for the Anglican liturgy and is most famous for his exquisite setting of Christina Rossetti's poem *In the Bleak Midwinter*. His *Evening Service in F* is an early work, dating from 1910-1913, and published in 1923. Darke considered the *Nunc dimmittis* "perhaps one of the best things I've ever written."

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. JOHN.

As he passed by, Jesus saw a man blind from birth. ²And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶Having said these things, he spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man’s eyes with the mud ⁷and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. ⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹Some said, “It is he.” Others said, “No, but he is like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” ¹⁰So they said to him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ So I went and washed and received my sight.” ¹²They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.” ¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, “He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.” ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?” And there was a division among them. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?” He said, “He is a prophet.” ¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” ²⁰His parents answered, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. ²¹But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” ²²(His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.) ²³Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.” ²⁴So for the second

time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, "Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner." ²⁵He answered, "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" ²⁸And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." ³⁰The man answered, "Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." ³⁴They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out. ³⁵Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" ³⁷Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you." ³⁸He said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind." ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, "Are we also blind?" ⁴¹Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, 'We see,' your guilt remains." (9:1-41)

Here endeth the Reading.

NUNC DIMITTIS IN F

Harold Darke

SUNG BY THE CHOIR.

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.

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.

-Luke 2:29-32

THE PEOPLE STAND.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

PRAYER BOOK, PAGE 66

**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 RESPONSES

William Byrd

SUNG BY THE CHOIR.

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

Choir: And with thy spirit.

Officiant: Let us pray.

THE PEOPLE KNEEL.

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

Our Father, which art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Officiant: O Lord, show thy mercy upon us.

Choir: And grant us thy salvation.

Officiant: O Lord, save the State.

Choir: And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Officiant: Endue thy ministers with righteousness.

Choir: And make thy chosen people joyful.

Officiant: O Lord, save thy people.

Choir: And bless thine inheritance.

Officiant: Give peace in our time, O Lord.

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

Officiant: O God, make clean our hearts within us.

Choir: And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which giveth life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A 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 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 Savior. **Amen.**

A 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 Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

THE PEOPLE SIT.

THE WELCOME

The Beatitudes

Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake:

for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you,

and say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven:

for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you. Amen.

-*Matthew 5:3-12*

Welsh composer Paul Mealor (b. 1975) composed *The Beatitudes* in 2013. The music is calm and comforting, expressively setting the beginning of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount.

THE PEOPLE KNEEL.

A PRAYER OF ST. CHRYSOSTOM

PRAYER BOOK, PAGE 72

Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication unto thee, and hast promised through thy well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name thou wilt be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

THE GRACE

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

THE PEOPLE STAND.

HYMN NO. 517

Brother James's Air

VOLUNTARY

Prelude on *Brother James's Air*

Searle Wright

THE PEOPLE REMAIN STANDING FOR THE PROCESSION.

YOU ARE THEN INVITED TO SIT FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE VOLUNTARY, OR KNEEL FOR A MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER.

MUSIC DEDICATIONS

*The Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in F composed by Harold Darke
has been placed in the Cathedral Music Library by Ginny and Richard Anthony
in memory of Benjamin S. Carroll.*

*The anthem The Beatitudes composed by Paul Mealor
has been placed in the Cathedral Music Library by Samuel E. Urmey
in memory of Benjamin S. Carroll.*

*Come to me,
all who labor and are heavy laden,
and I will give you rest.*

Matthew 11.28

The Church of the Advent was founded with the City of Birmingham in 1872.

CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT (EPISCOPAL)
2017 SIXTH AVENUE NORTH | BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA 35203
205 251-2324 | ADVENTBIRMINGHAM.ORG