

# Lincoln Cathedral



**FESTAL EVENSONG  
FOR THE  
FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING  
with farewell for the Right Reverend Christopher  
Lowson, Bishop of Lincoln**

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2021  
3.45 pm

## ***Introduction***

Much of this evening's service is sung by the choir, and there may be less active congregational involvement than you are accustomed to in other forms of service. If the service is new to you, we hope that in the combination of words, music and silence you will find within it a space for prayerful reflection in the midst of our busy and often hectic world.

### **The Bishop of Lincoln writes:**

'The readings have been chosen to reflect the fact that today is the Solemnity of Christ the King, the Sunday next before Advent.

The first lesson will be read by our daughter (Rebecca) who read the lesson at my consecration in Westminster Abbey on 21 September 2011. The second lesson will be read by Susan who read the lesson at my enthronement in November 2011 and who has supported me throughout my time in Lincoln, visiting many of the parishes with me on Sundays. I am deeply grateful to my family and friends for their love and support. Some are with us today — others cannot be. These include our family in Australia (James and Katie and our grandchildren, Joseph and Rosie) who will watch online. Our newest grandchildren (Dulcie and Emmeline) just 12 weeks old, are safely tucked up at the Bishop's House as they have yet to complete their vaccinations.

The music has been selected to reflect something of my time in ministry in Southwark, Portsmouth, London and Lincoln dioceses and the history of the Church in Lincolnshire. I have deliberately chosen well-known hymns — I hope you will all join in enthusiastically.'

### **Acknowledgements**

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# Order of Procession

## *Bedel*

Chanters, Choristers and Lay Vicars  
Master of the Choristers  
Warden of Lay Ministry      Warden of Spirituality  
Diocesan Director of Ordinands  
Clericus Fabricae

## *Canons Verger*

Non-residentiary canons  
The Archdeacons of Boston and Lincoln  
The Rt Rev'd Dr Nigel Peyton, Assistant Bishop  
The Bishops of Grimsby and Grantham  
The Cathedral Chapter:  
Lay and Non-residentiary members of Chapter  
Canon Dadswell      The Vice Chancellor  
The Precentor and Subdean      The Chancellor

## *Dean's Verger*

The Dean

## *Bishop's Verger*

The Bishop,  
accompanied by the Registrar and Chancellor

# ***The Office of Evensong***

*The dean and residentiary canons escort the distinguished guests to their places.*

*Music before the service, including: Fantasia in G (BWV572) J. S. Bach*

## **INTROIT**

*The choir sing 'Never weather-beaten sail' by Richard Shepard from the South Transept:*

Never weather-beaten sail more willing bent to  
shore.

Never tired pilgrim's limbs affected slumber  
more,

Than my wearied sprite now longs to fly out of  
my troubled breast:

O come quickly, sweetest Lord, and take my  
soul to rest.

Ever blooming are the joys of Heaven's high  
Paradise.

Cold age deafs not there our ears nor vapour  
dims our eyes:

Glory there the sun outshines whose beams  
the blessed only see:

O come quickly, glorious Lord, and raise my  
sprite to thee!

*Words: Thomas Campion*

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

*during which the procession enters:*

**THERE's a wideness in God's mercy  
Like the wideness of the sea;  
There's a kindness in his justice  
Which is more than liberty.  
There is no place where earth's sorrows  
Are more felt than up in heaven;  
There is no place where earth's failings  
Have such kindly judgement given.**

**For the love of God is broader  
Than the measure of man's mind;  
And the heart of the Eternal  
Is most wonderfully kind.  
But we make his love too narrow  
By false limits of our own;  
And we magnify his strictness  
With a zeal he will not own.**

**There is plentiful redemption  
In the blood that has been shed;  
There is joy for all the members  
In the sorrows of the Head.  
There is grace enough for thousands  
Of new worlds as great as this;  
There is room for fresh creations  
In that upper home of bliss.**

**If our love were but more simple,  
We should take him at his word;  
And our lives would be all gladness  
In the joy of Christ our Lord.**

*Words: F. W. Faber  
Music: M. Bevan*

## PRECES

*The cantor and choir sing the introductory verses to a setting by William Smith of Durham:*

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

O God, make speed to save us.  
**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.**

## WELCOME

*by the Dean of Lincoln, The Very Reverend Christine Wilson, after which the service proceeds unannounced.*

## OFFICE HYMN

**O Thou who camest from above,  
The pure celestial fire to impart,  
Kindle a flame of sacred love  
On the mean altar of my heart.**

**There let it for thy glory burn  
With inextinguishable blaze,  
And trembling to its source return  
In humble prayer, and fervent praise.**

**Jesus, confirm my heart's desire  
To work, and speak, and think for thee;  
Still let me guard the holy fire,  
And still stir up the gift in me.**

**Ready for all thy perfect will,  
My acts of faith and love repeat,  
Till death thy endless mercies seal,  
And make my sacrifice complete.**

*Words: Charles Wesley  
Music: Samuel Sebastian Wesley*

*Sit*

PSALMODY

Psalm 121

*These ancient songs are the Jewish hymn book, and, as such, would have been used by Jesus and his disciples. Our use of them continues an ancient tradition which links us with the continuing prayer of Jesus himself.*

*Levavi oculos*

*I WILL lift up mine eyes unto the hills : from whence cometh my help.  
My help cometh even from the Lord : who hath made heaven and  
earth.*

*He will not suffer thy foot to be moved : and he that keepeth thee will  
not sleep.*

*Behold, he that keepeth Israel : shall neither slumber nor sleep.  
The Lord himself is thy keeper : the Lord is thy defence upon thy right  
hand;*

*So that the sun shall not burn thee by day : neither the moon by  
night.*

*The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil : yea, it is even he that shall  
keep thy soul.*

*The Lord shall preserve thy going out, and thy coming in : from  
this time forth for evermore.*

*Stand*

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.

*Sit*

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Ezekiel 34. 1and 11-17

*read by Rebecca Lowson*

*Stand*

## MAGNIFICAT

*The choir sing the Song of Mary (Luke 1: 46-55):*

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.

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.

*Setting: Evening Canticles in G by Charles Villiers Stanford*

*Sit*

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Luke 23. 35-43

*read by Susan Lawson*

*Stand*



## NUNC DIMITTIS

*The choir sing the Song of Simeon (Luke 2: 29-32):*

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.

*Setting: Evening Canticles in G by Charles Villiers Stanford*

*Turn to face east*

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 PRAYERS

*The cantor and choir sing the Lesser Litany, Lord's Prayer and Responses to a setting by William Smith of Durham:*

The Lord be with you  
**and with thy spirit.**

Let us pray.

*Kneel*

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, 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.**

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us  
**and grant us thy salvation.**

O Lord, save the Queen  
**and mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.**

Endue thy ministers with righteousness  
**and make thy chosen people joyful.**

O Lord, save thy people  
**and bless thine inheritance.**

Give peace in our time, O Lord  
**because there is none other that fighteth for us,  
but only thou, O God.**

O God, make clean our hearts within us  
**and take not thy Holy Spirit from us.**

*The cantor intones the Collect of the Day*

Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King: keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet; who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

*and 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.**

*and the Collect for Aid Against All 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.**

*Sit*

## ANTHEM

*The choir sings the anthem, 'The Call' (from Five Mystical Songs) by Ralph Vaughan-Williams:*

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:  
such a way as gives us breath;  
such a truth as ends all strife;  
such a life as killeth death.

Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:  
such a light as shows a feast;  
such a feast as mends in length;  
such a strength as makes a guest.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:  
such a joy as none can move:  
such a love as none can part;  
such a heart as joys in love.

*Words: George Herbert*

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*led by the dean.*

*These conclude with petitions for the bishop and parishes of the diocese of Lincoln, and for present and past members of the Cathedral Foundation led by the canon-in-residence.*

*After the prayers of intercession all say together*

**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.**

## SERMON

The Bishop of Lincoln

## HYMN

*All stand to sing the following hymn:*

**Take my life, and let it be  
Consecrated, Lord, to thee.  
Take my moments and my days;  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

**Take my hands, and let them move  
At the impulse of thy love.  
Take my feet, and let them be  
Swift and beautiful for thee.**

**Take my voice, and let me sing,  
Always, only, for my King.  
Take my lips, and let them be  
Filled with messages from thee.**

**Take my silver and my gold;  
Not a mite would I withhold  
Take my intellect, and use  
Ev'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.**

**Take my will, and make it thine;  
It shall be no longer mine.  
Take my heart, it is thine own;  
It shall be thy royal throne.**

**Take my love; my Lord, I pour  
At thy feet its treasure-store.  
Take myself, and I will be  
Ever, only, all for thee.**

*Words: Frances R. Havergal  
Tune: John B. Dykes*

*Sit*

*The dean moves to the front of the altar. Bishop Christopher and Susan kneel and the dean invites everyone to pray for them.*

*Then the dean says a prayer adapted from one originally written by St Francis of Assisi.*

Most High and glorious God, enlighten the darkness of our hearts and give to your people true faith, a certain hope and a perfect love.

As we bid farewell to Bishop Christopher and Susan we thank you for their fellowship with us and for all that you have done through them in this Diocese.

As we seek your blessing upon them give them a sense of the divine and knowledge of your love, so that everything they do may be in fulfilment of your holy will; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All*           **Amen.**

## BLESSING

*by the Bishop of Lincoln, The Right Reverend Christopher Lowson*

*Bishop*           Our help is in the name of the Lord  
*All*               **who has made heaven and earth.**

*Bishop*           Blessed be the name of the Lord  
*All*               **now and for ever. Amen.**

*Bishop*           Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage;  
hold fast that which is good; render to no-one evil for  
evil; strengthen the faint-hearted; support the weak;  
help the afflicted; honour all people; love and serve the  
Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;  
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and  
the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

*All*               **Amen.**

*Having pronounced God's blessing, the bishop places the diocesan crozier on the altar, and is handed the staff that he was given at his ordination as a bishop, as a sign of his continuing episcopal ministry. While this is taking place, the choir sing the anthem 'Prevent us, O Lord' by William Byrd*

## RECESSIONAL HYMN

*All stand to sing the following hymn during which the choir, college of canons, chapter and bishop process out of the nave:*

**Now thank we all our God,  
With heart and hands and voices,  
Who wondrous things hath done,  
In whom his world rejoices;  
Who from our mother's arms  
Hath blessed us on our way  
With countless gifts of love,  
And still is ours to-day.**

**O may this bounteous God  
Through all our life be near us,  
With ever joyful hearts  
And blessed peace to cheer us;  
And keep us in his grace,  
And guide us when perplexed,  
And free us from all ills  
In this world and the next.**

**All praise and thanks to God  
The Father now be given,  
The Son, and him who reigns  
With them in highest heaven,  
The One eternal God,  
Whom earth and heaven adore;  
For thus it was, is now,  
And shall be evermore. Amen.**

*Words: Martin Rinkart, translated by Catherine Winkworth*

*Music: J. Cruger*

## CONCLUDING VOLUNTARY: Toccata in G *Theodore Dubois*

*Please remain in your places for the presentations, which will follow the concluding voluntary. Refreshments will be available in the north transept after the presentations have been made.*