**RSCM** FESTIVAL SERVICES



Music Sunday Eucharist

11th June 2023

**T H E R O Y A L S C H O O L O F C H U R C H M U S I C**

To give thanks is a regular, and often central, element of worship. Often, we give thanks for the gifts God has given each of us, whatever those may be. On Music Sunday, it is good specifically to give thanks for music.

Firstly, we should give thanks for the wonderful, transformative way it can enhance and uplift our worship, be that in shared song, received anthem, or offered on an instrument. As I personally experienced recently at a service where the music moved me to tears, it has the unique power to bring words to a deeper level of meaning than they can on their own convey.

Secondly, we should give thanks for all those who have been bestowed with musical gifts. This specifically includes when they are used in the service of the church, whether as experienced and skilled professional or as someone at the very beginning of a journey into musical participation in worship. The time and talent invested week by week, month by month and in many cases decade by decade is often offered in quiet, devoted service – rightly so in that it is the music and the worship which take precedence over the performer. But to take a moment to say a public ‘thank you’ for that devotion is a good and valuable thing to do, lest it be taken for granted.

Lastly, we should give thanks for the power of music in helping the church to open her doors wide and welcome (new) people in. Be that in services, concerts, or other events, it provides an opportunity to connect with the communities in which each of our churches sit. To feel welcome stepping over the threshold of a church, for whatever reason, is to enable a step towards encountering God, and the wonders of the Christian faith.

For all these and more, then, we offer to God our humble and heartfelt thanks indeed.

Hugh Morris

Director, RSCM.

***The Gathering***

**Opening Hymn *(A&M 589)*:**

1. **Angel-voices ever singing
round Thy throne of light,
angel-harps for ever ringing,
rest not day nor night;
thousands only live to bless Thee
and confess thee**

**Lord of might.**

1. **Thou who art beyond the farthest
mortal eye can scan,
can it be that Thou regardest
songs of sinful man?
Can we know that Thou art near us,
and wilt hear us?**

**Yea, we can.**

1. **Yea, we know that thou rejoicest
o'er each work of Thine;
Thou didst ears and hands and voices
for Thy praise design;
craftsman's art and music's measure
for Thy pleasure
all combine.**
2. **In thy house, great God, we offer
of Thine own to Thee;
and for Thine acceptance proffer
all unworthily
hearts and minds and hands and voices
in our choicest
psalmody.**
3. **Honour, glory, might, and merit
Thine shall ever be,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
blessèd Trinity.
Of the best that Thou hast given
earth and heaven**

**render Thee.**

*Tune: Angel Voices*

*Words: F. Pott; Music: E. G. Monk.*

In the name of the Father,

and of the Son,

and of the Holy Spirit.

*All* **Amen.**

Grace, mercy and peace

from God our Father

and the Lord Jesus Christ

be with you

*All* **and also with you.**

*The congregation is welcomed and the service introduced.*

**Prayer Of Preparation**

*All* **Holy God,**

**to whom worship is due both day and night,**

**accept our humble offerings of praise,**

**so that our hearts may feel your fatherly love,**

**our souls be inspired by your Holy Spirit**

**and our minds be filled with the knowledge of Christ,**

**for you reign, in earth and sky and sea,**

**Trinity in Unity.**

**Amen.**

**Prayers of Penitence**

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith,

firmly resolved to keep God’s commandments

and to live in love and peace with all.

*Silence is kept for a short time.*

*All* **Most merciful God,**

**Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,**

**we confess that we have sinned**

**in thought, word and deed.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart.**

**We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.**

**In your mercy**

**forgive what we have been,**

**help us to amend what we are,**

**and direct what we shall be;**

**that we may do justly,**

**love mercy,**

**and walk humbly with you, our God.**

**Amen.**

Almighty God,

who forgives all who truly repent,

have mercy upon you/us,

pardon and deliver you from all your/our sins,

confirm and strengthen you/us in all goodness,

and keep you/us in life eternal;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

**Gloria in Excelsis**

*The Gloria, an ancient hymn of praise, may be sung or said.*

*All***Glory to God in the highest,**

**and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,**

**almighty God and Father,**

**we worship you, we give you thanks,**

**we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,**

**Lord God, Lamb of God,**

**you take away the sin of the world:**

**have mercy on us;**

**you are seated at the right hand of the Father:**

**receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,**

**you alone are the Lord,**

**you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,**

**with the Holy Spirit,**

**in the glory of God the Father.**

**Amen.**

**The Collect for Music Sunday**

God of majesty,

whom saints and angels delight to worship in heaven:

be with your servants who make music with your people,

that, with joy, we on earth may glimpse your beauty;

and bring us to the fulfilment of that hope of perfection,

which will be ours as we stand before your unveiled glory,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

***The Liturgy of the Word***

**First Reading: Revelation 5.6-end**

Then I saw between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders a Lamb standing as if it had been slaughtered, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. He went and took the scroll from the right hand of the one who was seated on the throne. When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

They sing a new song:

‘You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals,

for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God saints from every tribe and language and people and nation;

you have made them to be a kingdom and priests serving our God,

and they will reign on earth.’

Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, singing with full voice,

‘Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered

to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might

and honour and glory and blessing!’

Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing,

‘To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb

be blessing and honour and glory and might

for ever and ever!’

And the four living creatures said, ‘Amen!’ And the elders fell down and worshipped

**Gradual Hymn:**

1. **When in our music God is glorified,**

**and adoration leaves no room for pride,**

**it is as though the whole creation cried,**

**Alleluia!**

1. **How often, making music, we have found**

**a new dimension in the world of sound,**

**as worship moved us to a more profound**

**Alleluia!**

1. **So has the Church, in liturgy and song,**

**in faith and love, through centuries of wrong,**

**borne witness to the truth in ev'ry tongue.**

**Alleluia!**

1. **And did not Jesus sing a psalm that night**

**when utmost evil strove against the Light?**

**Then let us sing, for whom he won the fight,**

**Alleluia!**

1. **Let ev'ry instrument be tuned for praise!**

**Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise!**

**And may God give us faith to sing always**

**Alleluia!**

*Tune: Engelberg; Music: C V Stanford (1852-1924)*

*Words: F Pratt Green (1903-2000)*

**The Gospel: Luke 7.31-35**

Jesus said, ‘To what then will I compare the people of this generation, and what are they like? They are like children sitting in the market-place and calling to one another,

“We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
   we wailed, and you did not weep.”

For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, “He has a demon”; the Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, “Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors and sinners!”

Nevertheless, wisdom is vindicated by all her children.’

**The Sermon** *(this may take the form of an interview or conversation with others involved in shaping the church’s music in worship).*

**The Creed:** *this (or another authorised version) may be said or sung.*

Let us declare our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

***All*   We believe in God the Father,**

**God almighty, by whose plan**

**earth and heaven sprang to being,**

**all created things began.**

**We believe in Christ the Saviour,**

**Son of God in human frame,**

**virgin-born, the child of Mary**

**upon whom the Spirit came.**

**Christ, who on the cross forsaken,**

**like a lamb to slaughter led,**

**suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**he descended to the dead.**

**We believe in Jesus risen,**

**heaven’s king to rule and reign,**

**to the Father’s side ascended**

**till as judge he comes again.**

**We believe in God the Spirit;**

**in one Church, below, above:**

**saints of God in one communion,**

**one in holiness and love.**

**So by faith, our sins forgiven,**

**Christ our Saviour, Lord and friend,**

**we shall rise with him in glory**

**to the life that knows no end.**

*Words: Common Worship. Tune: Abbots Leigh*

**The Prayers of Intercession**

*The congregation kneels or sits.*

*This response and conclusion, or an alternative, is used:*

Lord, in your mercy,

*All* **hear our prayer.**

Merciful Father,

*All* **Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,**

**our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*Stand.*

**The Peace**

You shall go out in joy and be led back in peace;

the mountains and the hills before you shall

burst into song, and all the trees of the field

shall clap their hands. *Isaiah 55.12*

The peace of the Lord be always with you

*All* **and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*All are invited to exchange a sign of peace.*

**Hymn** *(A&M 777)*

*during the singing of the hymn, a collection may be taken, donations to be shared between the Royal School of Church Music and the local church.*

1. **Sing of the Lord’s goodness, Father of all wisdom,**

 **come to him and bless his name.**

**Mercy he has shown us, his love is for ever,**

 **faithful to the end of days.**

 ***Come, then, all you nations,***

 ***sing of your Lord’s goodness,***

 ***melodies of praise and thanks to God.***

 ***Ring out the Lord’s glory,***

 ***praise him with your music,***

 ***worship him and bless his name.***

1. **Power he has wielded, honour is his garment,**

 **risen from the snares of death.**

**His word he has spoken, one bread he has broken,**

 **new life he now gives to all:**

 ***Come, then, all…***

1. **Courage in our darkness, comfort in our sorrow,**

 **Spirit of our God most high;**

**solace for the weary, pardon for the sinner,**

 **splendour of the living God:**

 ***Come, then, all…***

1. **Praise him with your singing, praise him with the trumpet,**

 **Praise God with the lute and harp;**

**Praise him with the cymbals, praise him with your dancing,**

 **Praise God till the end of days:**

 ***Come, then, all…***

*Words: Ernest Sands*

*Tune: E. Sands and C. Walker; arr. P. Inwood*

***The Liturgy of the Sacrament***

**The Eucharistic Prayer**

*The president says*

The Lord is here.

*All*    **His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

*All*    **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*All*    **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Blessed are you, Lord God,

our light and our salvation;

to you be glory and praise for ever.

From the beginning you have created all things

and all your works echo the silent music of your praise.

In the fullness of time you made us in your image,

the crown of all creation.

You give us breath and speech, that with angels and archangels

and all the powers of heaven

we may find a voice to sing your praise:

*The choir and/or the congregation sing the Sanctus and Benedictus, according to local practice.*

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts,**

**heaven and earth are full of thy glory.**

**Glory be to thee, O Lord most high.**

**Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*The president continues*

How wonderful the work of your hands, O Lord.

As a mother tenderly gathers her children,

you embraced a people as your own.

When they turned away and rebelled

your love remained steadfast.

From them you raised up Jesus our Saviour, born of Mary,

to be the living bread,

in whom all our hungers are satisfied.

He offered his life for sinners,

and with a love stronger than death

he opened wide his arms on the cross.

On the night before he died,

he came to supper with his friends

and, taking bread, he gave you thanks.

He broke it and gave it to them, saying:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;

do this in remembrance of me.

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,

he gave you thanks, and said:

Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,

which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith.

*All* **Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*The president continues*

Father, we plead with confidence

his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross;

we remember his dying and rising in glory,

and we rejoice that he intercedes for us at your right hand.

Pour out your Holy Spirit as we bring before you

these gifts of your creation;

may they be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

As we eat and drink these holy things in your presence,

form us in the likeness of Christ,

and build us into a living temple to your glory.

Remember, Lord, your Church in every land.

Reveal her unity, guard her faith,

and preserve her in peace.

Bring us at the last with [N and] all the saints

to the vision of that eternal splendour

for which you have created us;

through Jesus Christ, our Lord,

by whom, with whom, and in whom,

with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,

we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

*All*    **Blessing and honour and glory and power**

**be yours for ever and ever.**

**Amen.**

*Kneel or sit to pray the Lord’s prayer, in one of the following versions.*

**The Lord’s Prayer**

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

*All* **Our Father,**

**who 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.**

**For thine is the kingdom,**

**the power and the glory,**

**for ever and ever.**

**Amen.**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

*All* **Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come,**

**your will be done,**

**on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,**

**and the glory are yours**

**now and for ever.**

**Amen.**

**The Breaking of the Bread**

*The president breaks the consecrated bread*

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

*All* **Though we are many, we are one body,**

**because we all share in one bread.**

**The Giving of Communion**

*The president says*

Jesus is the Lamb of God

who takes away the sin of the world.

Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

*All* **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,**

**but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

*The president and people receive Communion.*

*During the distribution the Agnus Dei is sung (this or another version)*

*All* **Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us peace.**

**Music during Communion**

*This hymn (A&M 604), an anthem, or music is offered during the administration of Communion.*

1. **Brother, sister let me serve you.**

**Let me be as Christ to you;**

**pray that I may have the grace to**

**let you be my servant too.**

1. **We are pilgrims on a journey,**

**and companions on the road;**

**we are here to help each other**

**walk the mile and bear the load.**

1. **I will hold the Christ-light for you**

**in the night-time of your fear;**

**I will hold my hand out to you,**

**speak the peace you long to hear.**

1. **I will weep when you are weeping;**

**when you laugh I'll laugh with you;**

**I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through.**

1. **When we sing to God in heaven**

**we shall find such harmony,**

**born of all we've known together**

**of Christ's love and agony.**

1. **Brother, sister let me serve you.**

**Let me be as Christ to you;**

**pray that I may have the grace to**

**let you be my servant too.**

*Tune: Servant Song*

*Words & Music: R. A. M. Gillard; arr. Betty Pulkingham.*

**Prayer after Communion**

*The president says*

Let us pray.

Strengthen for service, Lord,

the hands that have taken holy things;

may the ears which have heard your word

be deaf to clamour and dispute;

may the tongues which have sung your praise be free from deceit;

may the eyes which have seen the tokens of your love

shine with the light of hope;

and may the bodies which have been fed with your body

be refreshed with the fullness of your life;

glory to you for ever.

*All* **Amen.**

*All* **Almighty God,**

**we thank you for feeding us**

**with the body and blood**

**of your Son Jesus Christ.**

**Through him we offer you**

**our souls and bodies**

**to be a living sacrifice.**

**Send us out in the power of your Spirit**

**to live and work to your praise and glory.**

**Amen.**

**Hymn *(A&M 753)***

1. **O praise ye the Lord! Praise him in the height;**

**rejoice in his word, ye angels of light;**

**ye heavens adore him by whom ye were made,**

**and worship before him, in brightness arrayed.**

1. **O praise ye the Lord! Praise him upon earth,**

**in tuneful accord, ye sons of new birth;**

**praise him who hath brought you his grace from above,**

**praise him who hath taught you to sing of his love.**

1. **O praise ye the Lord, all things that give sound;**

**each jubilant chord re-echo around;**

**loud organs, his glory forth tell in deep tone,**

**and, sweet harp, the story of what he hath done.**

1. **O praise ye the Lord! Thanksgiving and song**

**to him be outpoured all ages along:**

**for love in creation, for heaven restored,**

**for grace of salvation, O praise ye the Lord!**

**(Amen, amen.)**

*Tune: Laudate Domine*

*Words: H. W. Baker, based on Ps. 150; Music: C. H. H. Parry;*

***Dismissal***

**Closing prayers**

Great Father of glory,

we praise you for your eternal light,

illuminating the splendour of your creation

and brightening the gloom of our troubled world.

May your unchanging love inspire your Church

in all goodness and grace,

so that all your people may dwell in justice, harmony and peace,

for you reign with Christ and the Spirit,

high soaring in heaven, and deep in our hearts.

*All* **Amen.**

Let us go forth into the world,

singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among ourselves,

and making melody to the Lord in our hearts,

and may the blessing of the Holy Trinity,

the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,

be with you all, in your hearts and voices,

now and always.

*All* **Amen.**

*adapted from The Chorister’s Pocket Prayer Book*

*RSCM 2021*

Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*All* **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

*As the ministers depart, the following music is offered to listen to, as the worship concludes.*