



# **Choral Evensong**

## **Giving thanks for the life of John Richards**

**Sunday 8th March 2026  
4.00pm**

Responses: Ferial      Canticles: Wood in D

*All stand*

**Introit: My eyes for beauty pine (H. Howells)**

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

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

Praise ye the Lord.  
**The Lord's name be praised.**

*All sit*

**Psalmody** Psalm 46 Chant by Ivor Richards

*Deus noster refugium*

- 1 God is our hope and strength :  
a very present help in trouble.
- 2 Therefore will we not fear, though the earth be moved :  
and though the hills be carried into the midst of the sea;
- 3 Though the waters thereof rage and swell :  
and though the mountains shake at the tempest of the same.
- 4 The rivers of the flood thereof shall make glad the city of God :  
the holy place of the tabernacle of the most Highest.
- 5 God is in the midst of her, therefore shall she not be removed :  
God shall help her, and that right early.
- 6 The heathen make much ado, and the kingdoms are moved :  
but God hath shewed his voice, and the earth shall melt away.
- 7 The Lord of hosts is with us :  
the God of Jacob is our refuge.
- 8 O come hither, and behold the works of the Lord :  
what destruction he hath brought upon the earth.
- 9 He maketh wars to cease in all the world :  
he breaketh the bow, and knappeth the spear in sunder, and  
burneth the chariots in the fire.
- 10 Be still then, and know that I am God :  
I will be exalted among the heathen, and I will be exalted in the  
earth.
- 11 The Lord of hosts is with us :  
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

*All 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.

*All sit*

**First Lesson - Joshua 1.1-9**

After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord spoke to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying, 'My servant Moses is dead. Now proceed to cross the Jordan, you and all this people, into the

land that I am giving to them, to the Israelites. Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, as I promised to Moses. From the wilderness and the Lebanon as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, to the Great Sea in the west shall be your territory. No one shall be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you. Be strong and courageous; for you shall put this people in possession of the land that I swore to their ancestors to give them. Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to act in accordance with all the law that my servant Moses commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, so that you may be successful wherever you go. This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth; you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to act in accordance with all that is written in it. For then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall be successful. I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.'

Here endeth the Lesson.

*All stand*

## **Magnificat**

- 1 My soul doth magnify the Lord :  
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
- 2 For he hath regarded :  
the lowliness of his handmaiden.
- 3 For behold, from henceforth :  
all generations shall call me blessed.
- 4 For he that is mighty hath magnified me :  
and holy is his Name.
- 5 And his mercy is on them that fear him :  
throughout all generations.
- 6 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.

9 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.

*All sit*

## **Second Lesson - Ephesians 6.10-20**

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

Here endeth the Lesson.

*All stand*

## **Nunc dimittis**

- 1 Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace :  
according to thy word.
  - 2 For mine eyes have seen :  
thy salvation;
  - 3 Which thou hast prepared :  
before the face of all people;
  - 4 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.

## **The Apostles' Creed**

**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 Lord be with you.  
**And with thy spirit.**

Let us pray.

*All kneel*

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

### **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 trespasses,  
as we forgive them that trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil. Amen.**

○ Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.  
**And grant us thy salvation.**

○ Lord, save the Queen.  
**And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.**

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

○ Lord, save thy people.  
**And bless thine inheritance.**

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

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

### **The Collect of the Day**

We beseech thee, Almighty God, look upon the hearty desires of thy humble servants, and stretch forth the right hand of thy Majesty, to be our defence against all our enemies; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**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 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.**

*All sit*

## **Anthem: I was Glad (Ivor Richards)**

*All kneel*

## **Prayers**

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.**

*All sit*

## **Sermon**

*All stand*

## **Hymn - The Day Thou Gavest**

The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended,  
the darkness falls at thy behest;  
to thee our morning hymns ascended,  
thy praise shall sanctify our rest.

We thank thee that thy Church unsleeping,  
while earth rolls onward into light,  
through all the world her watch is keeping,  
and rests not now by day or night.

As o'er each continent and island  
the dawn leads on another day,  
the voice of prayer is never silent,  
nor dies the strain of praise away.

The sun that bids us rest is waking  
our brethren 'neath the western sky,  
and hour by hour fresh lips are making  
thy wondrous doings heard on high.

So be it, Lord; thy throne shall never,  
like earth's proud empires, pass away;  
thy kingdom stands, and grows for ever,  
till all thy creatures own thy sway.

*Tune "St Mary-at-Finchley" by Ivor Richards*

## **Blessing**

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord: and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

Organist Macie Sutherland  
Director of Music Alison Fisher

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