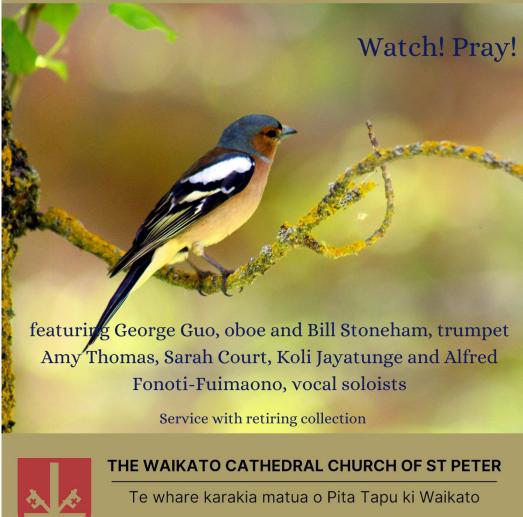
CANTATA VESPERS SAT. 16TH NOVEMBER, 5PM Wachet! Betet! BWV 70 J.S. Bach



stpeter.org.nz

Leading the service today: George Guo, oboe; Bill Stoneham, trumpet; Catherine Polglase and Ted Yu, violins; Matilda Griffiths, viola; Martin Griffiths, cello; Rachael Griffiths-Hughes, organ; Amy Thomas, Claire Carpenter, Sarah Court, Sally Rosenberg, Koli Jayatunge, Francis Cowan, Rob Carpenter, Ian Campbell, Alfred Fonoti-Fuimaono, singers. Rev'd Wendy Tyrell

Next cantata vespers: 5pm Saturday 15th February

OPENING

PRELUDE : Trio Sonata in F by G.F. Handel

Let my prayer be set forth in thy sight as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice. Psalm 141:2

We stand to sing

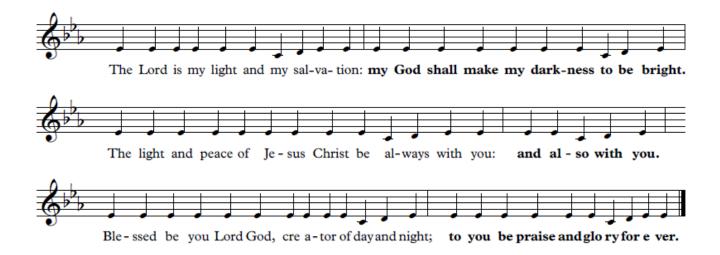
THE OPENING HYMN



Words: Latin, ninth century; trans. John Cosin, 162

THE BLESSING OF LIGHT

Please sit or kneel



As darkness falls, you renew your promise to reveal among us the light of your presence. By the light of Christ your living word, dispel the darkness of our hearts that we may walk as children of light, and sing your praise throughout the world. **Amen**

Almighty God, we give you thanks for surrounding us, as daylight fades, with the brightness of the vesper light; and we implore you of your great mercy that, as you enfold us with the radiance of this light, so you would shine into our hearts the brightness of your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.



Words: Greek; trans. John Keble, 1834

INVITATORY AND PSALTER

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 Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. **Amen.**

Blessed are you, God of compassion and mercy, to you be praise and glory for ever. In the darkness of our sin, your light breaks forth like the dawn and your healing springs up for deliverance. As we rejoice in the gift of your saving help, sustain us with your bountiful Spirit and open our lips to sing your praise: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Blessed be God for ever.**

Please join in singing

PSALM 86 1-12

CHANT: CROTCH



Bow down thine ear, O /Lord, and /hear me : for I am /poor, /and in /misery.

2 Preserve thou my soul, for /I am /holy : my God, save thy servant that /putteth his/ trust in /thee.

3 Be merciful unto /me, O/ Lord : for I /will call/ daily up/on thee.

4 Comfort the soul /of thy/ servant : for unto thee, O Lord, do /I lift/ up my /soul.

5 For thou, Lord, art /good and /gracious : and of great mercy unto all /them that /call up/on thee.

6 Give ear, Lord, /unto my/ prayer : and ponder the /voice of .my /humble de/sires.

7 In the time of my trouble I will /call up/on thee : for /thou /hearest /me.

8 Among the gods there is none like unto/ thee, O /Lord : there is not one that/ can do /as thou/ doest.

9 All nations whom thou hast made shall come and worship /thee, O /Lord : and shall /glori/fy thy/ Name.

10 For thou art great, and doest /wondrous/ things : /-/thou art /God a/lone.

11 Teach me thy way, O Lord, and I will walk /in thy /truth : O knit my heart unto thee, that I may /fear /thy /Name.

12 I will thank thee, O Lord my God, with /all my/ heart : and will praise thy /Name for /ever/more.

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. A/-men

WORD

We sit to hear

THE FIRST READING: 2 PETER 3: 3-13

Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.

For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

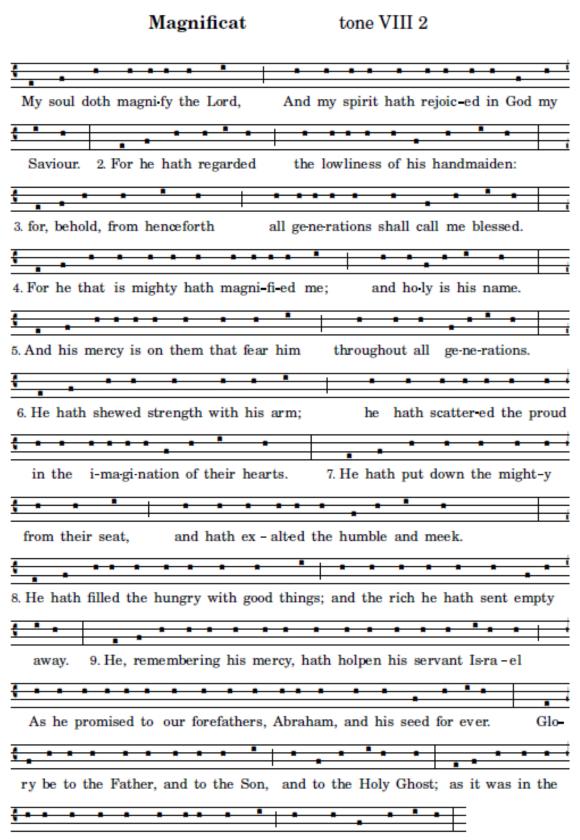
But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

Here ends the first Lesson **Thanks be to God**

We stand to sing



beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

We sit to hear

THE SECOND READING: MATTHEW 25: 31-46

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?"

"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'

"They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?"

"He will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'

"Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

Here ends the second Lesson **Thanks be to God**

THE CANTATA

Today's cantata is the first part of one written for the last Sunday before Advent and is a reworking of an earlier version intended for the 2nd Sunday of Advent. Liturgically, both these days focus on the second coming of Jesus, as Judge of the world. The presence of the trumpet is symbolic of the Day of Judgement and appears throughout this dramatic cantata, which alternates in mood between the frightening outcome for the unrepentant sinner, and the words of comfort for those chosen. The opening chorus is both exciting and urgent. This is followed by a dramatic accompanied bass recitative, complete with trembling sinners anticipating the worst on the day of judgement. The alto aria is scored for obligato cello and is much more soothing and conciliatory in mood. The soprano sings of the importance of faith when 'mocking tongues' try to lead the listener astray – this aria is borrowed from an opera by Handel. Before the first part ends with a simple setting of a chorale, we will also

include the confident tenor aria which begins Part 2 and avoid being wrenched back to the 'Day of Judgement' sentiments by the bass by leaving the rest of Part 2 for another time!

- **1.** Chorus: Watch! Pray! Pray! Watch! Be ready at all times until the Lord of glory makes an end of this world.
- 2. **Recitative (Bass):** Be afraid, obdurate sinners! A day dawns, from which no one can hide: it rushes upon you with stern judgment, O! sinful race, to your eternal sorrow. Yet for you, chosen children of God, it is the beginning of true joy. The Saviour gathers you, when everything falls and breaks, before his exalted countenance; therefore do not despair!
- **3.** Aria (Alto): When will the day come, on which we shall depart out of the Egypt of this world? Ah! Let us soon flee out of Sodom, before the fire falls on us! Watch, souls, get up from your complacency and believe, it is the end of time!
- 4. Recitative (Tenor): Even in heavenly longing our bodies hold our spirits prisoner; the world through its deceit lays traps and snares for the righteous. The spirit is willing, yet the flesh is weak; this wrenches from us a sorrowful Alas!
- 5. Aria (Soprano): Let the tongues of the mockers scorn, yet it will and must occur, that we shall behold Jesus upon the clouds, in the heights. World and heaven may pass away, Christ's word must remain firm. Let the tongues of the mockers scorn; yet it will and must occur!
- 6. Recitative (Tenor): However among the uncouth masses God considers his servants, so that this evil way will no longer injure them, as long as he keeps them in his hands and places them in a heavenly Eden.
- **7.** Aria (Tenor): Lift up your heads and be comforted, O righteous ones, even to the bloom of your souls! You shall flourish in Eden, serving God eternally.
- 8. Chorale: Rejoice greatly, o my soul, and forget all stress and anguish, since now Christ, your Lord, calls you out of this valley of sorrow! His joy and glory you shall behold in eternity, to celebrate with the angels, and triumph in eternity.

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Response

Eternal spirit flow through our being and open our lips; **That our mouths may proclaim your praise.**

In response to tonight's cantata let us now stand and affirm our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

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 Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell;

on the third day he rose again from the dead;

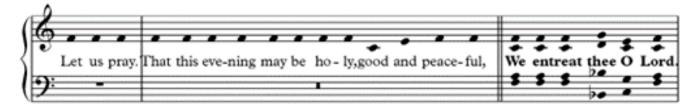
he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS

We sit or kneel

The Lord be with you. And also with you

THE LITANY FOR PEACE



That thy holy angels may lead us in paths of peace and goodwill We entreat...

That we may be pardoned and forgiven our sins and offences, We entreat...

That there may be peace to thy Church and to the whole world, We entreat...

That we may depart this life in thy faith and fear, and not be condemned before the

great judgement seat of Christ, We entreat...

That we may be bound together by the Holy Spirit in the communion of all thy saints,

entrusting one another and all our life to Christ, We entreat...

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. For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.

O God, the source of eternal light: Shed forth thine unending day upon us who watch for thee, that our lips may praise thee, our lives may bless thee, and our worship on the morrow may give thee glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our fathers, creator of the changes of day and night, giving rest to the weary, renewing the strength of those who are spent, bestowing upon us occasions of song in the evening. As you have protected us in the day that is past, so be with us in the coming night; keep us from every sin, every evil, and every fear; for you are our light and salvation, and the strength of our life. To you be glory for endless ages. **Amen**

THE BLESSING



1 Day of judgment! Day of wonders! Hark! the trumpet's awesome sound, louder than a thousand thunders, shakes the vast creation round. How the summons, how the summons will the sinner's heart confound!

2 See the Judge, our nature wearing, clothed in majesty divine.You who long for his appearing then shall say, "This God is mine!"Gracious Saviour, gracious Saviour own me on that day as thine.

3 At his call the dead awaken, rise to life from earth and sea. All the powers of nature, shaken by his looks, prepare to flee. Careless sinner, careless sinner what will then become of thee?

4 But to those who have confessed, loved, and served the Lord below, he will say, "Come near, you blessed, see the kingdom I bestow; you forever, you forever shall my love and glory know.

POSTLUDE: Prelude in G – Henry Purcell

The prayers and liturgy for tonight's service come from the Book of Common Prayer, as available at www.bcponline

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