THE ORDER FOR CHORAL COMPLINE

Wednesday 2 February at 9:30pm, Selwyn College Chapel

Safety Notice: Please take care with candles. If you choose to light one, you do so at your own risk. Please beware dripping wax, and be vigilant about holding the flame away from your service sheet and your neighbour. Do not hold candles by the drip-shields, or allow them to burn down too far. If in doubt, REMOVE YOUR FACEMASK BRIEFLY and blow them out.

INTROIT: The manger is empty

music: Sarah MacDonald (b.1969)
words: R. S. Thomas (1913-2000) from Young and Old (1972).

He is alone, it is Christmas.
Up the hill go three trees, the three kings.
There is a star also
Over the dark manger. But where is the Child? Pity him. He has come far
Like the trees, matching their patience
With his. But the mind was before
Him on the long road. The manger is empty.

Please remain standing.

Minister The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end.
All Amen.

Minister Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil,
as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:
whom resist, steadfast in the faith.
But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us;
All Thanks be to God.

Minister Our help is in the name of the Lord
All who hath made heaven and earth.

Minister O God, make speed to save us;
Choir O Lord, make haste to help us.

Minister Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;
Choir As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

Minister Praise ye the Lord;
Choir The Lord’s Name be praised.

PSALM 31:1-6

Have mercy upon me O God, and hearken unto my prayer.

1. In thee, O Lord, have I put my trust:
let me never be put to confusion, deliver me in thy righteousness.
2. Bow down thine ear to me : make haste to deliver me.
3. And be thou my strong rock, and house of defence : that thou mayest save me.
4. For thou art my strong rock, and my castle:
be thou also my guide, and lead me for thy Name’s sake.
5. Draw me out of the net that they have laid privily for me : for thou art my strength.
6. Into thy hands I commend my spirit :
for thou hast redeemed me, O Lord, thou God of truth.

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

Have mercy upon me O God and hearken unto my Prayer
Please be seated.

THE LESSON:

A short scripture lesson is read after which all say:

All   Thanks be to God.

Choir   Into thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit;
        Into thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit;
        For thou hast redeemed me, O Lord, thou God of truth.
        I commend my spirit
        Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost.
        Into thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit;

Please stand. The Choir sings the hymn

1. Before the ending of the day,  2. From all ill dreams defend our eyes,
Creator of the world, we pray    From nightly fears and fantasies;
That with thy wonted favour thou,  Tread under foot our ghostly foe,
Wouldst be our guard and keeper now.  That no pollution we may know.

3. O Father, that we ask be done,
    Through Jesus Christ, thine only Son,
    Who with the Holy Ghost and thee,
    doth live and reign eternally. Amen.

Keep me as the apple of an eye; Hide me under the shadow of thy wing

NUNC DIMITTIS   In B flat (choir)
words: Luke 2: 29-32
music: Howard Helvey (b.1968)

Preserve us, O Lord, while waking, and guard us while sleeping,
that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep we may rest in peace

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.
Preserve us, O Lord, while waking, and guard us while sleeping,
that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep we may rest in peace

The choir turns and faces East. All are invited to join in the creed:

THE CREED

Minister   I believe in God
All       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 Catholick Church; The Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body; And the life everlasting. Amen.

All turn to face the centre.

Minister Lord, have mercy upon us.
All Christ, have mercy upon us.
Minister Lord, have mercy upon us.

Minister Our Father,
All 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.

Minister Blessed art thou, Lord God of our fathers;
Choir To be praised and glorified above all for ever;
Minister Let us bless the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost;
Choir Let us praise and magnify him for ever.
Minister Blessed art thou, O Lord, in the firmament of heaven;
Choir To be praised and glorified above all for ever.
Minister The Almighty and most merciful Lord guard us and give us his blessing.
Choir Amen.

Please be seated.

CONFESSIO N and ABSOLUTION

Minister We confess to God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, That we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, Through our own grievous fault. Wherefore we pray God to have mercy upon us.

All Almighty God, have mercy upon us, Forgive us all our sins and deliver us from all evil, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and bring us to life everlasting; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Minister May the Almighty and merciful Lord grant unto you pardon and remission of all your sins, time for amendment of life, and the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

Please remain seated when the choir stands.

Minister Wilt thou not turn again and quicken us;
Choir That thy people may rejoice in thee?
Minister O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us;
Choir And grant us thy salvation.
 Minister          Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this night without sin;
 Choir           O Lord, have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us.
 Minister       O Lord, hear our prayer;
 Choir          And let our cry come unto thee.
 Minister       Let us pray.

*Then follow the Collects, to which the Choir respond Amen.*

*Please remain seated for the anthem.*

**ANTHEM:** In the bleak midwinter  
**music:** Jack Wilson (b.1998)  
**words:** Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

1. In the bleak midwinter,  
frosty wind made moan,  
Earth stood hard as i\_ron, water like a stone;  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,  
snow on snow,  
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

2. Our God, heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain;  
Heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign;  
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed  
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

3. Angels and archangels  
may have gathered there,  
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;  
But his mother only, in her maiden bliss,  
Worshiped the Beloved with a kiss.

4. What can I give Him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;  
Yet what I can I give Him—give my heart.

Please stand.

 Minister          Abide with us O Lord;  
 All            for it is toward evening and the day is far spent
 Minister       As the watchmen look for the morning;  
 All           so do we look for thee, O Christ.
 Minister       Come with the dawning of the day  
 All          and make thyself known in the breaking of bread.
 Minister       The Lord be with you;  
 All          and with thy spirit.
 Minister       Let us bless the Lord;  
 All          Thanks be to God.
 Minister       The Almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son, and the Holy  
 Ghost, bless and preserve us this night and for evermore.
 All          Amen.
 Minister       May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace, and rise in glory.  
 All          Amen.

*Please remain standing as the clergy and choir leave the Chapel. All depart in silence.*

*Please REMOVE YOUR FACEMASK BRIEFLY and blow out your candle before you leave your seat and leave used candles and drip-shields in the box at the door as you leave.*