



**Leicester Cathedral**  
*A beating heart for City and County*

# **SUNDAY WORSHIP**

from the Community  
of Leicester Cathedral

**Sunday 20 September 2020**  
**Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist**

*Canon Emma Davies, Acting Canon Precentor, leads the service.*

*David Cowen, Associate Organist, plays on the Organ*

Vater unser im Himmelreich BuxWV219  
(*'Our Father in heaven'*)

*Dietrich Buxtehude (1637–1707)*

## **Welcome and Greeting**

We meet in the presence of God, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

*Canon Emma continues with words of welcome.*

Today we are keeping the feast day of St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist.

Jesus said, 'What are you looking for?... Come and see.'  
Where have you noticed God in these last days?  
What do you desire from God today?

*John 1.38, 39*

*A short silence is kept.*

God gathers us across the distance.  
Let us worship God together.

## **Penitence Asking for God's forgiveness and healing**

Matthew was called from his life as a tax-collector,  
despised by his people around him,  
into a life of following Jesus as one of the twelve disciples.  
Today Jesus still calls each of us by name  
to turn away from all that harms us and others  
and to find new honest life lived in the truth and love of God.

Jesus said to his apostles,  
'You are my friends if you obey my commands.'  
Let us now confess where we have failed him.

*Silence is kept.*

Lord Jesus, in your love you invite us to be your friends:

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, in your joy you choose us to go out and bear fruit:

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, in your power you send us to be your faithful witnesses:

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

### **Absolution** God's forgiveness for us

Almighty God,  
who forgives all who truly repent,  
have mercy upon you,  
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,  
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,  
and keep you in life eternal;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### **Prayer** Collect for Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

Let us pray.

O Almighty God,  
whose blessed Son called Matthew the tax collector  
to be an apostle and evangelist:  
give us grace to forsake the selfish pursuit of gain  
and the possessive love of riches  
that we may follow in the way of your Son Jesus Christ,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

## The First Reading

### Proverbs 3.13–18

*Read by Ruth Inman*

A reading from the Book of Proverbs.

Happy are those who find wisdom,  
and those who get understanding,  
for her income is better than silver,  
and her revenue better than gold.  
She is more precious than jewels,  
and nothing you desire can compare with her.  
Long life is in her right hand;  
in her left hand are riches and honour.  
Her ways are ways of pleasantness,  
and all her paths are peace.  
She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her;  
those who hold her fast are called happy.

Hear the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## The Gospel Reading

### Matthew 9.9–13

*Read by Simon Mold*

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew.

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, 'Follow me.' And he got up and followed him.

And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax-collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with tax-collectors and sinners?' But when he heard this, he said, 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and

learn what this means, “I desire mercy, not sacrifice.” For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.’

Hear the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Reflection

The Very Revd David Monteith, Dean of Leicester, in conversation with Marian Kandi, Pastoral Assistant in Training

*James Cowen plays on the piano*

Prelude in E minor

*Frédéric Chopin (1810–1849)*

## Prayers of Intercession

*The following response is used*

Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**

*and this response may be used at the end:*

Merciful Father,  
**accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*The prayers conclude with The Lord's Prayer*

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

**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.**

## **The Hymn**

**O thou who camest from above  
the fire celestial 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.**

HEREFORD (AM258)  
*Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810–1876)*

*Charles Wesley (1707–1788)*

## The Blessing and Dismissal

God, who has prepared for you a city with eternal foundations,  
bring you, with all the saints,  
to the eternal and triumphant joy of that city;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be with you now and always.  
**Amen.**

Until we meet again,  
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

*David Cowen plays on the Organ*

Allein Gott in der Höh sei Ehr BWV717  
(*'To God in the highest alone be glory'*)

*Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)*

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