



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

# **SUNDAY WORSHIP**

from the Community  
of Leicester Cathedral

**Sunday 15 November 2020**  
**The Second Sunday before Advent**

*The Very Revd David Monteith, Dean of Leicester, leads the service.*

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

A Verse

*John Blow (1649–1708)*

## **Welcome and Greeting**

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

*Dean David continues with words of welcome.*

‘When you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you.  
When you search for me, you will find me...I will let you find me,’  
says the Lord.

*Jeremiah 29.12–14*

I wonder what makes you search for God today?  
I wonder what you need from God who lets you find him?

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

At this time of lockdown we are called as a nation to pray;  
here is a prayer offered at the start of this new week:

Loving Father God be with us in our distress:  
with our families, friends and neighbours,  
our country and our world.  
Give health to the sick,  
hope to the fearful,  
and comfort to the mourners.  
Give wisdom to our frontline and key workers,  
insight to our government and patience to us all;  
Overcome disease with the power of your new life,  
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

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

Christ calls us to share the heavenly banquet of his love  
with all the saints in earth and heaven.

Knowing our unworthiness and sin,  
let us ask from him both mercy and forgiveness.

*Silence is kept.*

Turn to us again, O God our Saviour,  
and let your anger cease from us:

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Show us your mercy, O Lord,  
and grant us your salvation:

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Your salvation is near for those that fear you,  
that glory may dwell in our land:

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

May almighty God,  
who sent his Son into the world to save sinners,  
bring you his pardon and peace, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

## **Collect for the Second Sunday before Advent**

Let us pray.

Heavenly Lord,  
you long for the world's salvation:  
stir us from apathy,  
restrain us from excess  
and revive in us new hope  
that all creation will one day be healed  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## The First Reading

I Thessalonians 5.1–11

*Read by Peter Collett*

A reading from Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians.

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, 'There is peace and security', then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Hear the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## The Second Reading

Matthew 25.14–30

*Read by Francis Brown*

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew.

'For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and

traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Hear the word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Reflection

Mirjam Ngoy-Verhage, Cathedral Discipleship Officer

*David Cowen plays*

For Mr. Archdeacon Thornburgh

*Thomas Tomkins (1572–1656)*

## Prayers of Intercession

*The following response may be 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

**Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,  
be all else but naught to me, save that thou art;  
be thou my best thought in the day and the night,  
both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.**

**Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,  
be thou ever with me, and I with thee, Lord;  
be thou my great Father, and I thy true son;  
be thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.**

**Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight;  
be thou my whole armour, be thou my true might;  
be thou my soul's shelter, be thou my strong tower:  
O raise thou me heavenward, great Power of my power.**

**Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise:  
be thou mine inheritance now and always;  
be thou and thou only the first in my heart;  
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art.**

**High King of heaven, thou heaven's bright sun,  
O grant me its joys after victory is won;  
great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.**

SLANE (AM595)  
*Irish traditional melody*  
*harmonised by Erik Routley (1917–1982)*

*Irish, 8th century*  
*translated by Mary Elizabeth Byrne (1880–1931)*  
*versified by Eleanor Henrietta Hull (1860–1935)*

## The Blessing and Dismissal

May God give to you and to all those whom you love  
his comfort and his peace, his light and his joy,  
in this world and the next;  
and the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit  
be among you and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**

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

David Cowen plays

A Voluntary

Thomas Tomkins (1572–1656)

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