



ST ANDREW'S
* CATHEDRAL *
ABERDEEN

Welcome to the Cathedral Church of St Andrew

We hope that you enjoy worshipping with us today. Please join us for tea and coffee after the service. If you are visiting, please do stay and ask a member of the congregation for directions. A special warm welcome to Fr Emsley and the congregation of the church of St Margaret of Scotland, who are sharing the service with us today.

SOLEMN EUCHARIST

10.45 am, Sunday 8 September 2019
Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Celebrant and Preacher: Very Rev'd Isaac Poobalan
The Cathedral Trebles, conductor Lewa Olaosebikan
Organist: Bill Henderson

Mass Setting

Josef Rheinberger, *Missa Puerorum* Op. 62

Organ voluntary: J.S. Bach, Meine Seele erhebt den Herrn

ProceSSIONAL Hymn 181

(Words: Venantius Fortunatus, *Quem terra, pontus, aethera*; Tr. J.M. Neale. Music: Michael Praetorius, *Puer Nobis Nascitur*, in *Christliches Gesangbüchlein*, harmony by G.R. Woodward)

- 1 The Lord whom earth and sea and sky
Adore and praise and magnify,
Who o'er their threefold fabric reigns,
The Virgin's spotless womb contains.
- 2 And he whose will is ever done
By moon and seas, by stars and sun,
Is borne upon a maiden's breast,
Whom God's foreseeing grace possessed.
- 3 How blest that Mother, in whose shrine
The very Word of God divine,
The maker of the earth and sky,
Was pleased in fleshly form to lie.
- 4 Blest in the message Gabriel brought,
Blest in the work the Spirit wrought,
Blest evermore, who brought to birth
The long-Desired of all the earth.
- 5 O Jesu, Virgin-born, to thee
Eternal praise and glory be,
Whom with the Father we adore
And Holy Spirit, evermore. Amen.

Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, who stooped to raise fallen humanity through the child-bearing of blessed Mary: grant that we, who have seen your glory revealed in our human nature and your love made perfect in our weakness, may daily be renewed in your image and conformed to the pattern of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First Reading: Revelation 11:19-12:6, 10 (NRSV)

read by Carole Clarke

Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant was seen within his temple; and there were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake, and heavy hail. A great portent appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pangs, in the agony of giving birth. Then another portent appeared in heaven: a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. Then the dragon stood before the woman who was about to bear a child, so that he might devour her child as soon as it was born. And she gave birth to a son, a male child, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron. But her child was snatched away and taken to God and to his throne; and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, so that there she can be nourished for one thousand two hundred sixty days.

Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, proclaiming, "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Messiah, for the accuser of our comrades has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. But they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they did not cling to life even in the face of death.

Rejoice then, you heavens and those who dwell in them. But woe to the earth and the sea, for the devil has come down to you with great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!"

Psalm 45 (vv. 11-18) Chant 196

11 Hearken O daughter and consider, in|cline thine | ear : forget also thine own
people | and thy | father's | house.

12 So shall the King have pleasure | in thy | beauty : for he is thy Lord | God and
| worship thou | him.

13 And the daughter of Tyre shall be | there with a | gift : like as the rich also
among the people shall make their | suppli|cation be|fore thee.

14 The King's daughter is all | glorious with|in : her clothing | is of | wrought |
gold.

15 She shall be brought unto the King in | raiment of | needle-work : the virgins that be her fellows shall bear her company, and shall be | brought | unto | thee.

16 With joy and gladness shall | they be | brought : and shall enter | into the | King's | palace.

17 Instead of thy fathers thou | shalt have | children : whom thou mayest make | princes in | all | lands.

18 I will remember thy Name from one generation | to an|other : therefore shall the people give thanks unto thee, | world with|out | end.

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.

Epistle: Galatians 4:4-7 (NRSV)

read by Ike Okpala

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Gradual Hymn 180 (NEH)

(Words: Latin, 9th century; Tr. Athelston Riley, co-editor of the English Hymnal; this was one of seven translations from Latin contributed by Riley. Music: *Ravenshaw* – medieval German melody harmonised by W.H. Monk)

1 Hail, O Star that pointest
Towards the port of heaven,
Thou to whom as maiden
God for Son was given.

2 When the salutation
Gabriel had spoken,
Peace was shed upon us,
Eva's bonds were broken.

3 Bound by Satan's fetters,
Health and vision needing,
God will aid and light us
At thy gentle pleading.

4 Jesu's tender Mother,
Make thy supplication
Unto him who chose thee
At his Incarnation;

5 That, O matchless Maiden,
Passing meek and lowly,
Thy dear Son may make us
Blameless, chaste and holy.

6 So, as now we journey,
Aid our weak endeavour.
Till we gaze on Jesus,
And rejoice for ever.

7 Father, Son and Spirit,
Three in One confessing,
Give we equal glory,
Equal praise and blessing. Amen.

Gospel: Luke 2:1-7 (NRSV)

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Offertory Hymn 185 (NEH)

(Words: G.B. Timms, priest in the Church of England. The text refers to Mary's seven joys – in vv 1,3 and 4 – and her sorrows at the Crucifixion – v 2; see below. Music: Cyril Taylor, Abbot's Leigh. Originally this hymn was sung to the melody *Austria* by J. Haydn, but as this was the German national anthem it was deemed unsatisfactory during World War 2, and Taylor wrote this melody in 1941 while working at the BBC)

1 Sing we of the blessèd Mother
Who received the angel's word,
And obedient to his summons
Bore in love the infant Lord;
Sing we of the joys of Mary
At whose breast that child was fed
Who is Son of God eternal
And the everlasting Bread.

2 Sing we, too, of Mary's sorrows,
Of the sword that pierced her through,
When beneath the cross of Jesus
She his weight of suffering knew,
Looked upon her Son and Saviour
Reigning high on Calvary's tree,
Saw the price of man's redemption
paid to set the sinner free.

3 Sing again the joys of Mary
When she saw the risen Lord,
And in prayer with Christ's apostles,
Waited on his promised word:
From on high the blazing glory
Of the Spirit's presence came,
Heavenly breath of God's own being,
Manifest through wind and flame.

4 Sing the chiefest joy of Mary
When on earth her work was done,
And the Lord of all creation
Brought her to his heavenly home:
Virgin Mother, Mary blessèd,
Raised on high and crowned with
grace,
May thy Son, the world's redeemer,
Grant us all to see his face.

According to medieval tradition, the Blessed Virgin experienced seven joys and seven sorrows. The above hymn references most of the seven joys: the Annunciation, the Nativity of Jesus, the Adoration of the Magi, the Resurrection of Christ, the Ascension of Christ to Heaven, Pentecost, the Coronation of the Virgin in Heaven. The hymn also references in verse 2 those of Mary's sorrows that occurred at the Crucifixion.

Communion Motet:

Simon Lindley, *Ave Maria*

Post-Communion Hymn 186 (NEH)

(Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith, based on the *Magnificat*. Music: Walter Greatorex, a music teacher who taught, amongst others, Benjamin Britten and W.H. Auden)

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord:
Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;
Tender to me the promise of his word;
In God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name:
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
His mercy sure, from age to age to same;
His holy name-, the Lord, the Mighty One

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might:
Powers and dominions lay their glory by
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
The hungry fed, the humble lifted high

Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word:
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
To children's children and for evermore!

Organ voluntary:

J.S. Bach, *Fugue on the Magnificat* BWV 733

LET US PRAY

In the Cathedral community we pray for Helena Thomas, Yvonne Craik, Moira Paterson, Jean Souter, Ravi Garg and Gordon Smith.

We praise God for those who mark a blessing this week with a birthday or an anniversary, and especially Amu Poobalan.

We remember those whom we love but see no longer, especially those whose year's mind occurs this week.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for the Province of the Episcopal Church of Sudan, and the Most Rev'd Ezekiel Kumir Kondo, Archbishop of the Province of Sudan and Bishop of Khartoum.

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for St John's Church, Aberdeen, and their Chaplain, the Rev'd Kate Gibson.

In the Porvoo Prayer Diary we pray for the Diocese of Salisbury in the Church of England, and Bishop Nicholas Holtam, Bishop Andrew Rumsey, and Bishop Karen Gorham; for the Diocese of St Asaph in the Church in Wales, and Bishop Gregory Cameron; and for the Diocese of Ribe in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark, and Bishop Elof Westergaard.

EVENTS AND SERVICES

- 10 September **The Fellowship Group** meets in the John Skinner Centre on Tuesdays at 6pm for discussion and conversation.
- 11 September **Wednesday Holy Communion**, 10 am.
- 14 September **Cathedral at Noon**, 12 pm: Rachel Fraser, singer songwriter and Assistant Director of ACE Voices.
- 15 September 11th Sunday after Trinity: **Holy Communion** at 8 am.
Sung Eucharist (choral) at 10.45 am.
Evensong (freshers) at 6.30 pm; refreshments after the service.

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