

## **WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD**

Voluntary:

i) Fantasia in c, BWV 562

J S Bach

ii) Before the Image of a Saint...

Sigfrid Karg-Elert

Introit: The souls of the righteous

Stanley Marchant, arr. M.W.

### **Call to Worship**

“...you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering and to the assembly of the first-born who are enrolled in heaven, and to a judge Who is God of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, and to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant.”

*Hebrews 12:22-24*

**Hymn:** 742 Rejoice in God's saints

*Laudate Dominum*

*(Text omitted due to copyright laws)*

### **We bring to God our prayers and The Lord's Prayer**

Let us pray:

High King of Heaven,

In the early days

When Your Church was young,

After the disciples and apostles

You called many different people

To bring the good news of Jesus

To our country.

For all the saints of long ago

We praise You.

We thank You that their work

Helped to plant the Church in our country.

We pray today

For women and men, boys and girls,

To share their faith and show their love

So that the Church today

May be strong, and kind, and welcoming.

In Jesus' Name,

Who taught us when we pray together to say:

**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 debts as we forgive our debtors,  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the Kingdom,  
The power and the glory, forever.  
Amen**

***We hear the Word of God***

Old Testament:           **Psalm 24**  
*(Read by: Neil Thrower)*

The earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof,  
the world and those who dwell therein;  
<sup>2</sup> for he has founded it upon the seas,  
and established it upon the rivers.  
<sup>3</sup> Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord?  
And who shall stand in his holy place?  
<sup>4</sup> He who has clean hands and a pure heart,  
who does not lift up his soul to what is false,  
and does not swear deceitfully.  
<sup>5</sup> He will receive blessing from the Lord,  
and vindication from the God of his salvation.  
<sup>6</sup> Such is the generation of those who seek him,  
who seek the face of the God of Jacob.  
<sup>7</sup> Lift up your heads, O gates!  
and be lifted up, O ancient doors!  
that the King of glory may come in.  
<sup>8</sup> Who is the King of glory?  
The Lord, strong and mighty,  
the Lord, mighty in battle!

9 Lift up your heads, O gates!  
and be lifted up, O ancient doors!  
that the King of glory may come in.

10 Who is this King of glory?  
The Lord of hosts,  
he is the King of glory!

Amen

### **Children's Time**

***We respond to God's Word with our Offering***  
*(Children invited to help with the Offering)*

Offertory: Andante religioso (from Sonata no. 4 in B flat)      Mendelssohn

### **Prayer**

*Children leave for Crèche and Sunday Club*

**Hymn:** 18 The earth belongs to God alone      *St Matthew*

- 1      The earth belongs to God alone  
and all that it contains;  
the world and its inhabitants  
God's steadfast love maintains.
- 2      The Lord who brought the world to birth  
laid earth's foundations sure,  
and firm within the surging seas  
established them secure.
- 3      Who, then, are those who shall ascend  
the holy hill of God?  
And who is fit to stand within  
the presence of the Lord?
- 4      All those whose hands and hearts are clean,  
with no room in their mind  
for worthless vanities or vows  
of a deceitful kind.

5        These are the people who receive  
          a blessing from the Lord,  
          and vindication for their ways  
          from God, their saving God.

6        O God of Jacob, help us all  
          who gather in this place,  
          to seek your presence with us now:  
          we yearn to see your face.

***We bring to God our Prayers of Confession***

***We hear the Word of God***

New Testament:        **Revelation 21:1-6a**

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup> And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband; <sup>3</sup> and I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling of God is with men. He will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself will be with them; <sup>4</sup> he will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away.”

<sup>5</sup> And he who sat upon the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” <sup>6</sup> And he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the fountain of the water of life without payment.

Amen

Anthem:

How beauteous are their feet who stand on Sion's hill

Charles Stanford

How beauteous are their feet,  
Who stand on Sion's hill,  
Who bring salvation on their tongues,  
And words of peace instil!

How happy are our ears  
That hear this joyful sound,  
Which kings and prophets waited for,  
And sought, but never found!

How blessed are our eyes  
That see this heavenly light!  
Prophets and kings desired it long,  
But died without the sight.

The Lord makes bare His arm  
Through all the earth abroad;  
Let every nation now behold  
Their Saviour and their God.

(Dr. Watts)

### **Intimations**

**Hymn:** 741 Glory to You, O God

*Darwall's 148<sup>th</sup>*

*(Text omitted due to copyright laws)*

Sermon

**Heaven**

***We bring to God our prayers  
of Thanksgiving and Intercession***

**Hymn:** 740 For all the saints

*Sine Nomine*

- 1        For all the saints, who from their labours rest ;  
          who thee by faith before the world confessed,  
          thy name, O Jesus, be for ever blest.  
          Alleluia ! Alleluia !
  
- 2        Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might ;  
          thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight ;  
          thou, in the darkness drear their one true light.  
          Alleluia ! Alleluia !
  
- 3        Oh, may thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,  
          fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,  
          and win, with them, the victor's crown of gold.  
          Alleluia ! Alleluia !
  
- 4        O blest communion, fellowship divine !  
          We feebly struggle, they in glory shine ;  
          yet all are one in thee, for all are thine.  
          Alleluia ! Alleluia !
  
- 5        And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,  
          steals on the ear the distant triumph song,  
          and hearts are brave again, and arms are strong.  
          Alleluia ! Alleluia !
  
- 6        The golden evening brightens in the west ;  
          soon, soon to faithful warriors cometh rest ;  
          sweet is the calm of paradise the blest.  
          Alleluia ! Alleluia !
  
- 7        But, lo ! there breaks a yet more glorious day ;  
          the saints triumphant rise in bright array ;  
          the King of Glory passes on his way.  
          Alleluia ! Alleluia !

8 From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,  
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,  
singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
Alleluia ! Alleluia !

**Benediction and Threefold Amen**

Voluntary: Placare Christe servulis

Marcel Dupré