

PORTSMOUTH  
CATHEDRAL

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Diocese of  
Portsmouth

**Choral Evensong**  
**with Thanksgiving for the Ministry**  
**of**  
**and Farewell**  
**to**

**Bishop Christopher Foster**

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

**1600**

**A very warm welcome to all to this special service:**

both to those who are following online and to those in the Cathedral.

Bishop Christopher and Sally would have hoped that many more could have been present in person from across the Diocese of Portsmouth - and from other places where they have both served - but, because of restrictions, a great number will be joining virtually.

The music for this service has been chosen by Bishop Christopher and reflects many aspects of life and his ordained ministry in Wolverhampton, Oxford, north London, St Albans and Portsmouth over the past forty years. The psalm and readings are those set for today, so we share in the worship of the whole church.

Donations received at the end of today's service - at Bishop Christopher's request - will be shared with St Nicholas' Seminary, Cape Coast, which forms and trains ministers - lay and ordained, men and women - for mission and service in the dioceses of Ghana with which we are linked.



*2010: Bishop Christopher's Installation*

*2011: Visit to Anglican Churches in Ghana*



*Music before the start includes: Andante in F by S. S. Wesley (1810-1876)*

*Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Hampshire is greeted by the Dean and escorted to his seat.*

*Please stand, if you are able, when the bell is rung.*

*The Cathedral Choir sings the Introit, which has been sung at many Diocesan Ordinations and Chrism Eucharists during Bishop Christopher's time here.*

*Bishop Christopher enters and moves to listen from the Crossing, before making his way into the Quire as the Introit concludes.*

In your image I was made, for your majesty in me to be displayed.  
Your intention, your design,  
    was that your holy face should be revealed in mine.  
And for this purpose, Lord, you gave your Son to die for me;  
    to suffer shame on my behalf upon the cross.  
When I see his sacrifice, how willingly he paid the price,  
    all my earthly glories I consider loss.  
I bow down at your feet, and my tongue confesses you are Christ my Lord.  
You restored me, made me whole  
    and your loving kindness satisfies my soul.  
You have bought me with your blood.  
You have paid the ransom that I never could.  
And for this purpose, Lord, you raised your Son to life for me.  
Your love for me his Resurrection reaffirms,  
and the good work you've begun will perform until your Son,  
    in all his heavenly glory, to the earth return.  
I bow down at your feet, and my tongue confesses you are Christ my Lord.  
In your power you're changing me into the person I should be,  
    to stand for all eternity before your throne.

*Words: Anthony Green (b.1970)*

*Music: Anthony Green, arr. Leddington Wright*

*Please remain standing, if you are able.*

**WELCOME**      *given by the Dean*

*The service then continues with the opening responses.*

PRECES     *to the setting by Bernard Rose (1916-1996) - sung at Bishop Christopher's Commissioning in St Albans Cathedral as Bishop of Hertford in 2001.*

          O Lord, open thou our lips  
*Choir*   and our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

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

          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.

          Praise ye the Lord.  
*Choir*   The Lord's name be praised.

*Please sit as the Choir sings the Psalm.*

#### PSALM 46

God is our hope and strength: a very present help in trouble.  
Therefore will we not fear, though the earth be moved:  
          and though the hills be carried into the midst of the sea.  
Though the waters thereof rage and swell:  
          and though the mountains shake at the tempest of the same.  
The rivers of the flood thereof shall make glad the city of God:  
          the holy place of the tabernacle of the most Highest.  
God is in the midst of her, therefore shall she not be removed:  
          God shall help her, and that right early.  
The heathen make much ado, and the kingdoms are moved:  
          but God hath shewed his voice, and the earth shall melt away.  
The Lord of hosts is with us: the God of Jacob is our refuge.  
O come hither, and behold the works of the Lord:  
          what destruction he hath brought upon the earth.  
He maketh wars to cease in all the world:  
          he breaketh the bow, and knappeth the spear in sunder,  
          and burneth the chariots in the fire.  
Be still then, and know that I am God:  
          I will be exalted among the heathen, and I will be exalted in the earth.  
The Lord of hosts is with us: the God of Jacob is our refuge.

*Please stand, if you are able.*

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.

*All sit.*

OLD TESTAMENT READING  
*read by Clare Jones*

*Exodus 29.1-9*

Now this is what you shall do to Aaron and his sons to consecrate them, so that they may serve me as priests. Take one young bull and two rams without blemish, and unleavened bread, unleavened cakes mixed with oil, and unleavened wafers spread with oil. You shall make them of choice wheat flour. You shall put them in one basket and bring them in the basket, and bring the bull and the two rams. You shall bring Aaron and his sons to the entrance of the tent of meeting, and wash them with water. Then you shall take the vestments, and put on Aaron the tunic and the robe of the ephod, and the ephod, and the breastpiece, and gird him with the decorated band of the ephod; and you shall set the turban on his head, and put the holy diadem on the turban. You shall take the anointing-oil, and pour it on his head and anoint him. Then you shall bring his sons, and put tunics on them, and you shall gird them with sashes and tie head-dresses on them; and the priesthood shall be theirs by a perpetual ordinance. You shall then ordain Aaron and his sons.

*A time of silence is kept after the reading.*

*Please stand, if you are able, as the Choir sings the Canticle.*

MAGNIFICAT *to the setting in G by Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924). This setting reflects Bishop Christopher's time as Sub Dean and Residentiary Canon at St Albans Abbey, 1994-2001.*

My soul doth magnify the Lord and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath magnified me and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations. He hath shewed strength with his arm: he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seat and hath exalted the humble and meek. He hath filled the hungry with good things and the rich he hath sent empty away. He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever. 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.

*Words: Luke 1.46-55*

*All sit.*

NEW TESTAMENT READING  
*read by Sally Foster*

*Luke 2.21-40*

After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,  
according to your word;  
for my eyes have seen your salvation,  
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,  
a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel.'

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

*A time of silence is kept after the reading.*

*Please stand, if you are able.*

NUNC DIMITTIS            *to the setting in G by Stanford*

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.

*Words: Luke 2.29-32*

*All turn East to say the Creed.*

THE APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God  
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 catholic Church;  
the communion of saints;  
the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*All turn back.*

THE RESPONSES *sung to the setting by Bernard Rose.*

Choir            The Lord be with you  
                    and with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

*Please sit or kneel.*

*Choir* Lord, have mercy upon us.  
Christ, have mercy upon us.  
Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Choir* 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 trespasses,  
as we forgive them that trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil. Amen.

*Choir* O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us  
and grant us thy salvation.

*Choir* O Lord, save the Queen  
and mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

*Choir* Endue thy ministers with righteousness  
and make thy chosen people joyful.

*Choir* O Lord, save thy people  
and bless thine inheritance.

*Choir* Give peace in our time, O Lord  
because there is none other that fighteth for us,  
but only thou, O God.

*Choir* O God, make clean our hearts within us  
and take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

## THE COLLECTS

### *The Collect for the Day*

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life:  
raise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin unto the life of righteousness,  
that we may seek those things which are above,  
where he liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.



*The Collect for Peace*

O God,

from whom all holy desires, all good counsels and all just works do proceed:  
Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give;  
that both our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments,  
and also that by thee we being defended from the fear of our enemies  
may pass our time in rest and quietness;  
through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

*The Collect for Aid against all Perils*

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee O Lord;  
and by thy great mercy, defend us from all perils and dangers of this night;  
for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Please sit as the Choir sings the Anthem, which was sung at Bishop Christopher's  
Institution as Vicar of Christ Church, Southgate, in 1986.*

THE ANTHEM

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor;  
He hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted,  
to preach deliverance to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind,  
to preach the acceptable year of the Lord;  
to give unto them that mourn a garland for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning,  
the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness;  
That they might be called trees of righteousness,  
the planting of the Lord that He might be glorified.  
For as the earth bringeth forth her bud,  
and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth;  
So the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring forth before all nations.  
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel.

Words: Isaiah 61.1-3, 11  
Music: Edward Elgar (1857-1934)

*Please kneel or sit for the prayers of intercession which are led by Malina Green,  
Katharine Rustell and Jenny Hollingsworth.*

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Eternal God, we thank and praise you for all the blessings  
you have poured out upon us.

We thank and praise you for all the blessings  
that you hold out to us now.

We thank and praise you for all the blessings  
that you will invite us to share in the years to come.

Kindle in us the fire of your love.

*The Choir sings.*

O thou who camest from above the pure celestial fire to impart,  
kindle a flame of sacred love on the mean altar of my heart.

Gracious Father, we thank you for the past ten years  
and for Bishop Christopher's ministry in this diocese.  
Through him you have led us into new opportunities,  
you have enriched us through his warmth and engagement,  
you have inspired us and the wider Church  
through his commitment and care for the needy  
in our society and our world.

Kindle in us the fire of your love.

*The Choir sings.*

O let it for thy glory burn with inextinguishable blaze,  
and trembling to its source return in humble prayer and fervent praise.

Lord Jesus, Lord of life,  
we pray for Christopher and Sally as they begin retirement,  
for their move to Somerset, their time together and with family.  
We pray for those who will be responsible during the vacancy,  
especially for the Vacancy-in-See committee  
and for Bishop Rob who will be our Commissary.  
We pray for ourselves, that together and individually,  
we may be true to you, our Friend, our Brother  
and our Risen Lord.

Kindle in us the fire of your love.

*The Choir sings.*

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 thy gift in me.

Creator Spirit, be with us and with all in this Diocese  
who will listen to hear what you are saying to our churches,  
and who will work to bring about all that you have in store  
for our schools and chaplaincies and communities.  
As you lead us into the future, with new and renewed blessing,  
inspire us as we seek to live and pray and serve  
so that all may realise their gifts  
and receive the abundance of your grace.

So we pray together:

*All*      **The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
be with us all evermore. Amen.**

*The Choir sings.*

Ready for all thy perfect will, my acts of faith and love repeat,  
till death thy endless mercies seal, and make the sacrifice complete.

*Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)  
Tune: HEREFORD*

SERMON    *The Bishop*

*Please stand if you are able as the Choir sings Bishop Christopher's favourite hymn. He says, 'The words express the immeasurable grace, mercy and generosity of God and invite us to reflect and show that love. The tune, named after a Shropshire river, reminds me of my family roots in the Black Country, curacy in Wolverhampton, and trips out of the industrial towns into the countryside.'*

HYMN

There's a wideness in God's mercy  
like the wideness of the sea;  
there's a kindness in his justice  
which is more than liberty.  
There is no place where earth's sorrows  
are more felt than up in heaven;  
there is no place where earth's failings  
have such kindly judgement given.

For the love of God is broader  
than the measure of man's mind;  
and the heart of the Eternal  
is most wonderfully kind.  
But we make his love too narrow  
by false limits of our own;  
and we magnify his strictness  
with a zeal he will not own.

There is plentiful redemption  
in the blood that has been shed;  
there is joy for all the members  
in the sorrows of the Head.  
There is grace enough for thousands  
of new worlds as great as this;  
there is room for fresh creations  
in that upper home of bliss.

If our love were but more simple,  
we should take him at his word;  
and our lives would be all gladness  
in the joy of Christ our Lord.

Words: F. W. Faber (1814-1863)  
Tune: CORVEDALE

## TRIBUTES AND THANK-YOUS

*There will be three tributes:*

*from Bishop Matthias (read by Terry Loudon)*

*from Graham Galbraith, Vice-Chancellor of Portsmouth University*

*from Peter Leonard, Archdeacon of the Isle of Wight.*

*Then Peter Leonard will present some farewell gifts to Bishop Christopher and Sally on behalf of us all.*

*Please stand as the Cathedral Choir sings the final hymn.*

*This was sung as the final hymn at Bishop Christopher's Installation here in 2010, and is again today a call on us all to Christian witness.*

## HYMN

Go forth and tell! O Church of God awake!  
God's saving news to all the nations take:  
proclaim Christ Jesus, Saviour, Lord and King,  
that all the world his worthy praise may sing.

Go forth and tell! God's love embraces all;  
he will in grace respond to all who call;  
how shall they call if they have never heard  
the gracious invitation of his word?

Go forth and tell! the doors are open wide:  
share God's good gifts – let no-one be denied;  
live out your life as Christ your Lord shall choose,  
your ransomed powers for his sole glory use.

Go forth and tell! O Church of God, arise!  
Go in the strength which Christ your Lord supplies;  
go till all nations his great name adore  
and serve him, Lord and King, for evermore.

Words: James Seddon (1915-1983)  
Tune: YANWORTH

*Please remain standing as Bishop Christopher gives the blessing.*

## THE BLESSING

*All*           The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

God the Father,  
by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead,  
strengthen you to walk with him in his risen life;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

*All*           **Amen.**

*The following anthem was commissioned for this occasion from one of Bishop Christopher's favourite contemporary composers as a present from the Cathedral, and is sung for the first time today.*

*During the anthem, after a time of reflection, the Bishop passes his crozier, safely, to Debbie Sutton the Diocesan Lay Chair to place on the altar.*

Christe, martyrum tu es adiutor potens  
proeliantium sancta pro tua gloria,  
qui, cum victores exirent de hoc saeclo,  
tibi sancti canebant: Alleluia.

*Christ, you are the mighty helper of the martyrs  
who contended for your glory:  
when victorious they leave this world,  
the saints will sing to you: Alleluia.*

*Words: From the hymn 'Sacratissimi martyres summi Dei' (c.680)  
Music: Nico Muhly (b.1981)*

*The Dean leads us as we take our leave of Bishop Christopher.*

*All* Christopher, Sally: the Lord himself be your keeper:  
**the Lord be your defence at your right hand.**

*All* The Lord protect you from all evil:  
**the Lord keep you, in body and soul.**

*All* May the Lord preserve your coming in and your going out  
**from this time forth and for evermore. Amen.**

*The Dean then encourages us all as we look towards God's future.*

Let us entrust our Diocese to God's merciful keeping.

Lord, we lay down what is past and look to your future.

We say thank you for all that has been,  
and we say yes to all that shall be.

May your Spirit inspire us, your presence sustain us,  
and your power confirm us as we go forth in faith,  
trusting in the One who leads us in peace.

*All* **Amen.**

*Bishop Christopher and his family make their way to the West Doors.  
We express our thanks and appreciation as they leave us.*

**VOLUNTARY**

**Toccata in G – Théodore Dubois (1837-1924)**

*This was played as the voluntary at Bishop Christopher and Sally's wedding.*

*The Dean escorts Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Hampshire to the West doors.*

*Please remain standing until the Lord-Lieutenant has left, and then make your way out through the appropriate door.*

*Please ensure that any conversations outside observe the required social distancing.*



2012:  
Ordination of Deacons

2013:  
Diocesan Pentecost weekend project -  
helping out at Holy Trinity Fareham



2014:  
70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day  
at Christchurch, Portsdown



2015:  
Footwashing at the Ordination  
of Deacons







*2016:  
With pupils  
from Alverstoke Junior School*

*2017:  
Ordination of Priests*



*2018:  
Visit to the Holy Land  
with curates from the Diocese*

*2019:  
Thy Kingdom Come  
celebration at Porchester Castle*



*2020:  
Livestreamed Ordination  
during lockdown*