



a service for
renewal
of
hope

*Lead, kindly light, amid
the encircling gloom,
lead thou me on.*

J. H. Newton (1801 - 90)

Welcome

THURSDAY DECEMBER 31, 2020 • 6 PM

ST. THOMAS' CATHEDRAL
MUMBAI

a service for renewal of hope

“Ich rufe dich zu dir Herr Jesu Christ”
 (“I call to you, Lord Jesus Christ)

Voluntary
J.S. Bach, BWV 639 (1685 - 1750)

Interlude on, “Amazing Grace”

Bryan Hesford (1930 - 1996)

Please stand as the Presbyter enters.

Introit
Sung by the Cantors

LEAD, kindly Light, amid the encircling gloom,
Lead Thou me on;
The night is dark, and I am far from home,
Lead Thou me on.
Keep Thou my feet; I do not ask to see
The distant scene; one step enough for me.

So long Thy power has blest me, sure it still
Will lead me on,
O'er moor and fen, o'er crag and torrent, till
The night is gone,
And with the morn those Angel faces smile,
Which I have loved long since, and lost awhile.

Words: Cardinal John Henry Newman (1801 - 1890)
Tune: SANDON • Composer: Charles Purday (1799 - 1885)

Please be seated.

Welcome & Introductory Remarks
The Revd Avinash Rangayya
(The Presbyter)

Opening Sentences

Presbyter Jesus said,
'I have said this to you, so that in me you may have peace. In the world
you face persecution. But take courage; I have conquered the world!'
John 16.33

The Lord is good, a strong refuge when trouble comes. Nahum 1.7

All **God is close to those who trust in Him.**

Presbyter May the God of hope fill you
with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit.
Romans 15: 13

Lighting the Candle of Hope

We keep a moment's silence and gather our thoughts, intentions and prayers.

As the candle is lit, the Cantors sing:

Unbounded grace, it reached to me,
When hope was gone from view.
In my despair Christ came to me
As He alone could do.

After the Candle of Hope is lit, the reader says:

Let us pray

We light this candle as a sign that you are with us, Lord,
and with all your Church gathered in different places
yet united by your Spirit and in faith, hope and love.
May the flickering light of this candle
shine the Christ-light into the hearts of all people.
All **Amen**

The Cantors sing:

God's grace does not on me depend,
it's God who is my stay.
His love is offered without end.
He walks with me each day.

John E. Walvoord and Don Wyrzten

The Presbyter says:

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15: 13

A Collect for Hope

The Presbyter

BOUNTIFUL God, source of the greatest good for all of us: Guide us in the right direction towards a better future for your creation. Help us to overcome our own limitations during this pandemic, and grant us steadfast love to look after each other. Give us humbleness of heart to accept that without you we cannot be real stewards of your creation. Show us ways to spread the gospel that will touch hearts and change minds for a better tomorrow for all humanity, the preservation of every creature, and the planet. In the name of your beloved Son, we ask it.

All **Amen.**

A Reading from the New Testament

First Letter of St Paul to Timothy chapter 6 verses 11-16

But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness.

Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

In the sight of God, who gives life to everything, and of Christ Jesus, who while testifying before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which God will bring about in his own time— God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honour and might forever. Amen.

Psalm 91

Intoned by the Cantors

Refrain **The Lord is my refuge and my fortress,
my God in whom I trust.**

1. He who dwells in the shelter of the | Most High*
will abide in the shadow of the Al- | mighty.
2. I will say to the Lord, “My refuge and my | fortress,*
my God, in | whom I trust.”
3. For he will deliver you from the snare of the | fowler*
and from the deadly | pestilence.
4. He will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find | refuge,*
his faithfulness is a shield and | buckler.

Refrain

5. You will not fear the terror | of the night,*
nor the arrow that | flies by day,
6. nor the pestilence that stalks in | darkness,*
nor the destruction that wastes at | noonday.
7. A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your | right hand,*
but it will not come | near you.
8. You will only look | with your eyes*
and see the recompense of the | wicked.

Refrain

9. Because you have made the Lord your | dwelling place—*
the Most High, who is my | refuge—
10. no evil shall be allowed to be- | fall you,*
no plague come | near your tent.
11. For he will command his angels con- | cerning you*
to guard you in | all your ways.
12. On their hands they will | bear you up,*
lest you strike your foot a- | gainst a stone.
13. You will tread on the lion and the | adder;*
the young lion and the serpent you will trample | underfoot.

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

Refrain

Prayers of the People

Prayer for putting on a mask

We bless you and praise you, Lord Christ, for commanding us to love one another.
Let this mask be a sign of your love, and let my behaviour be filled with love for my neighbour.

All **Amen.**

Prayer for those returning to work

Lord, you know what it is like to be alone and be afraid.
We pray for those who are soon returning to their workplaces.
Walk ahead of them and walk beside them.

All **Amen.**

The Cantors sing:

Christ be beside me, Christ be before me,
Christ be behind me, King of my heart.
Christ be within me, Christ be below me,
Christ be above me, never to part.

(St Patrick's Breastplate)

Prayer for those affected by COVID and disparities therein

Oh God of all comfort, we pray for those who have been, who are, and who will be, affected by all that encompasses Covid-19.

The physical, mental, spiritual, emotional, and financial burdens are great.

May they know especially that they are heard, they are held, and they are loved.

By Your name we are beloved, we belong, and we are beautiful.

All **Amen.**

A prayer for our church community in this time

Loving God, deliver us from simply desiring to go "back to normal,"
give us grace instead to be open to the opportunities that your Spirit brings in this time of separation.

In your good time bring us safely back together as a people
renewed in the knowledge of your faithfulness and abiding love.

We pray in the name of Jesus.

All **Amen.**

The Cantors sing:

In His time, in His time,
He makes all things beautiful in His time.
Lord, please show me everyday
as You're teaching me Your way,
that you do just what You say in Your time.

Diane Ball

In Time of Great Sickness and Mortality (The Book of Common Prayer, 1928)

O most mighty and merciful God, in this time of grievous sickness,
we flee unto thee for succour.
Deliver us, we beseech thee, from our peril;
give strength and skill to all those who minister to the sick;
prosper the means made use of for their cure.
All **Amen.**

For Emergency Workers

God our strong deliverer:
when those charged with the urgent mediation of your healing power feel overwhelmed,
give comfort, and renew their energy and compassion,
for the sake of Jesus in whom is our life and our hope.
All **Amen.**

For Workers and Day Labourers

Provident Father, Creator of humankind:
Your Son our Lord lived among us as a day labourer, earning thus his daily bread.
Support and protect those who are reopening their businesses,
through Jesus our Lord.
All **Amen.**

For the Aged (The Book of Common Prayer)

Look with mercy, O God our Father,
on all whose increasing years bring them weakness, distress, or isolation.
As their strength diminishes, increase their faith and their assurance of your love.
This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
All **Amen.**

The Presbyter reads the final prayer

For Christ's Presence

Resurrected Lord: Dwell in each of our hearts,
in each person who has been hospitalized, in all medical personnel, in priests and pastors,
in the rulers of the nations and civic leaders, in our families at home, in our grandparents,
in those who are in prison, who are afflicted, who are oppressed and mistreated,
in those who do not have their daily bread,
in those who have lost a loved one because of COVID-19 or some other condition.
May the Resurrected Christ bring us hope, strengthen our faith,
fill us with love and kinship, and grant us his peace.
All **Amen.**

The Cantors sing:

In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my song
This Cornerstone, this solid ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My Comforter, my all in all
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

Keith Getty (b. 1974) and Stuart Townend (b. 1963)

The Blessing
The Presbyter

Almighty God,
whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross:
Give us faith to perceive his glory, that we may be strengthened to bear our cross,
and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
All Amen.

Hymn
Sung by the Cantors

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

Words: John Newton (1725 - 1807)
Music: William Walker (1809 - 1875) • Tune: NEW BRITAIN

All turn to face the West Door.

The Dismissal

<i>Presbyter</i>	To a troubled world,
<i>All</i>	peace from Christ.
<i>Presbyter</i>	To a searching world,
<i>All</i>	love from Christ.
<i>Presbyter</i>	To a waiting world,
<i>All</i>	all hope from Christ.
<i>Presbyter</i>	Let us bless the Lord.
<i>All</i>	Thanks be to God!

Postlude

“Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart”

Irish traditional tune, ‘Slane’
arr by Gordon Young (1919 - 1998)

“Not Everything is Cancelled”

Not everything is cancelled...

Sun is not cancelled

Spring is not cancelled

Relationships are not cancelled

Love is not cancelled

Reading is not cancelled

Devotion is not cancelled

Music is not cancelled

Imagination is not cancelled

Kindness is not cancelled

Conversations are not cancelled

Hope is not cancelled

And God’s love for HIS people is never cancelled.

*“The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you; the LORD
turn his face toward you and give you peace.”*
Numbers 6:24-26

