

CHORAL EVENSONG
FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF THE FEAST OF
ST. GEORGE THE MARTYR
PATRON SAINT OF ENGLAND



GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
IN THE CITY OF CHARLESTON

The Sixth Sunday of Easter

April 27, 2008

The Reverend Canon J. Michael A. Wright, Officiant
St. Gregory Choir & St. Nicholas Choir
Dr. Scott Bennett, Organist and Master of the Music
Jodi Bennett, Director of Children's Choirs
Members of the Royal Society of St. George

What is Evensong?

Evensong in Grace Church is a very tiny fragment of something else: it is a fragment of the worship which is offered to God by Christian people, every hour of the twenty-four, in every part of the world. When you come to Evensong at Grace Church, it is as if you were dropping in on a conversation already in progress – a conversation between God and His people which began long before we were born, and will go on long after we are dead.

Evensong is drawn almost entirely from the Bible. Its primary purpose is to proclaim the wonderful works of God in history and in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Its secondary purpose is to evoke from the worshipper a response of praise, penitence, prayer and obedience.

The service is in three parts. The first part (which is quite brief) prepares the worshipper for the story which is to follow. The second part is the narrative of God's redeeming work, heard in the singing of psalms, canticles, and readings from Holy Scripture, which reaches its climax in the affirmation of faith (the Apostle's Creed). The third part is our response to the God who has revealed Himself in history, in Jesus Christ, and in the Church.

Today's Preces and Responses with The Lord's Prayer were composed by John Sanders and dedicated to the choirs affiliated with the Royal School of Church Music in the Gloucester Diocese. These Responses also commemorated the centenary of the death of Richard Wagner in 1883. They are based on the Dresden Amen used extensively by Wagner in his opera *Parsifal*.

High Tea

Please come to Hanahan Hall for High Tea following this evening's service.

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

IN THE CITY OF CHARLESTON

Choral Eucharist

April 27, 2008

Welcome to Grace Church, celebrating our 162nd year of service and worship in Charleston.

Page numbers on the right side of this leaflet refer to the Book of Common Prayer.

Hymn numbers are on the left side; numbers preceded by 'S' are from the Service Music at the front of the Hymnal.

Please turn off all electronic paging devices and cellular telephones before the liturgy begins.

Voluntary

Procession

Introit

I will sing with the Spirit

David Goodenough

I will sing with the Spirit.
I will sing with the understanding.
O sing unto the Lord a new song.
Sing unto the Lord all the earth.
I will sing with the Spirit. Amen.

Please stand.

Hymn

And did those feet in ancient time

Jerusalem

And did those feet in ancient time
Walk upon England's mountains green?
And was the holy Lamb of God
On England's pleasant pastures seen?
And did the countenance divine
Shine forth upon our clouded hills?
And was Jerusalem builded here
Among those dark satanic mills?

Bring me my bow of burning gold!
Bring me my arrows of desire!
Bring me my spear! O clouds, unfold!
Bring me my chariot of fire!
I will not cease from mental fight,
Nor shall my sword sleep in my hand,
Till we have built Jerusalem
In England's green and pleasant land.

William Blake, 1757-1827

Please remain standing.

The Lord's Prayer *(said together)*

THE INVITATORY AND PSALTER

Preces

John Sanders

Officiant: O Lord, open thou our lips.
Choir: And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.
Officiant: O God, make speed to save us.
Choir: O Lord, make haste to help us.
Officiant: 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.
Officiant: Praise ye the Lord.
Choir: The Lord's name be praised.

Phos hilaron (choir)

O gracious light

David Hogan

O gracious light, pure brightness of the everlasting One, O Jesus, Christ, most Holy and Blessed! Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing thy praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Thou art worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Son of God, O Giver of Life, and to be glorified through all the worlds. Amen.

Please be seated.

Psalm 34 (Choir)

Benedicam Dominum

Edward Bairstow/David Hurd

I will bless the LORD at all times; * his praise shall ever be in my mouth.	Come, children, and listen to me; * I will teach you the fear of the LORD.
I will glory in the LORD; * let the humble hear and rejoice.	Who among you loves life * and desires long life to enjoy prosperity?
Proclaim with me the greatness of the LORD; * let us exalt his Name together.	Keep your tongue from evil-speaking * and your lips from lying words.
I sought the LORD, and he answered me * and delivered me out of all my terror.	Turn from evil and do good; * seek peace and pursue it.
Look upon him and be radiant, * and let not your faces be ashamed.	The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, * and his ears are open to their cry.
I called in my affliction and the LORD heard me * and saved me from all my troubles.	The face of the LORD is against those who do evil, * to root out the remembrance of them from the earth.
The angel of the LORD encompasses those who fear him, * and he will deliver them.	The righteous cry, and the LORD hears them * and delivers them from all their troubles.
Taste and see that the LORD is good; * happy are they who trust in him!	The LORD is near to the brokenhearted * and will save those whose spirits are crushed.
Fear the LORD, you that are his saints, * for those who fear him lack nothing.	Many are the troubles of the righteous, * but the LORD will deliver him out of them all.
The young lions lack and suffer hunger, * but those who seek the LORD lack nothing that is good.	He will keep safe all his bones; * not one of them shall be broken.
	Evil shall slay the wicked, * and those who hate the righteous will be punished.

THE LESSONS

The First Lesson: Revelation 19:11-21

And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS. And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great. And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.

Please stand.

The Office Hymn 293

I sing a song of the saints of God

Grand Isle

Please be seated.

Magnificat (choir)

Magnificat (The Harvard Service)

Charles Callahan

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 rememb'ring 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.

(Luke 1:46-55)

The Second Lesson: Ephesians 6:10-20

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

Nunc dimittis (*choir*)

Nunc dimittis (The Harvard Service)

Charles Callahan

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
(Luke 2:29-32)

Please stand.

The Apostles' Creed (*said together*)

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.

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

Choir: And with thy Spirit.

Officiant: Let us pray.

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

Officiant: Our Father,

All: which 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 them that trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

Amen.

The Suffrages *(Choir)*

Officiant: O Lord, show thy mercy upon us.

Choir: And grant us thy salvation.

Officiant: O Lord, save the State.

Choir: And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Officiant: Endue thy ministers with righteousness.

Choir: And make thy chosen people joyful.

Officiant: O Lord, save thy people,

Choir: And bless thine inheritance.

Officiant: Give peace in our time, O Lord,

Choir: Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.

Officiant: O God, make clean our hearts within us.

Choir: And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

A Collect for St. George the Martyr

O God of hosts, who didst so kindle the flame of love in the heart of thy servant George that he bore witness to the risen Lord by his life and by his death: grant us the same faith and power of love that we, who rejoice in his triumphs, may come to share with him the fullness of the resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A 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 our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee, we, being defended from the fear of all enemies, may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior. *Amen.*

A Collect for Aid against 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 Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Please be seated.

The Anthem

King of Glory

T. Frederick H. Candlyn

King of glory, King of peace, I will love Thee; and that love may never cease, I will move Thee. Thou hast granted my request, Thou hast heard me; Thou didst note my working breast, Thou hast spared me. Wherefore with my utmost art I will sing Thee, and the cream of all my heart I will bring Thee. Though my sins against me cried, Thou didst clear me, and alone, when they replied, Thou didst hear me. Seven whole days, not one in seven, I will praise Thee; in my heart, thou not in heav'n, I can raise Thee. Small it is, in this poor sort to enroll Thee: e'en eternity's too short to extol Thee.

(George Herbert: 1593-1632)

Closing Prayers

Orison *(choir)*

God be with you till we meet again

Barry Rose

God be with you till we meet again, by his counsels guide, uphold you, with his sheep securely fold you, God be with you, till we meet again. God be with you till we meet again, 'neath his wings protecting hide you, daily manna still provide you: God be with you till we meet again. God be with you till we meet again: when life's perils thick confound you, put his arm unfailing round you, God be with you till we meet again.

The Blessing

Hymn 24

The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended

St. Clement

Final Response

E.W. Naylor

Officiant: The Lord be with you:

Choir: And with thy spirit.

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord.

Choir: Thanks be to God.

Voluntary

† † †

Service Participants

Officiant

The Reverend Canon J. Michael A. Wright

Prayers

The Reverend Dr. Kirtley Yearwood

Lectors

Julian V. Brandt, III; Mara P. Brockbank

Ushers

William P. Crosher, Capt.; Earl Fain, IV; Robert D. Mikell; Daniel T. Russler, Jr.

Greeters

Judy Phipps, Charlotte Rhoden, Susan Simonson

Music

Dr. Scott Bennett, Organist and Master of the Music

Jodi Bennett, Director of Children's Choirs

St. Gregory Choir

SOPRANO

Jodi Bennett
Marsha Callahan
Sarah Christian
Mary Hubbell
Heather Jones
Rachel Lindsay
Mary Rudisill
Laura Schroeder
Jean Wade
Esther Williams

ALTO

Mary Beth Berry
Karen Bostick
Mary Elizabeth
Canaday
Barbara Christie
Ruth Goldsmith
Thu Leshner
Ansley Lucas
Camille Reynolds
Martha Rudisill
Terry Ritcher
Carol Stanford
Char Stricklin
Anna Lee Turner

TENOR

Graham Bridges
Wayne French
Aaron Leshner
Brian Scholtens
Alex Schroeder

BASS

Bill Christian
Barry Goldsmith
Tom Gressette
Bob Ramella
Ed Ritcher
Jason Roberson
John Schroeder
Steve Skardon
Sam Stafford
Derek Wade

St. Nicholas Choir

Anna Rhett Allen
Bailey Allen
Rachel Bays
Dorothy Behre
Marinesa Fabrizio
Marjorie Herbert*
Virginia Herbert*
Elizabeth Howell
Bear Huggins
Margaret Davis Huggins

Heather Jones*
Ellie Lindrooth
Emma MacMillan
Chloe Matilla
Eleanor McLoud
Murray McLoud
Leila Miles
Kitty Rice
Amelia Rider
Clarissa Rider

Lilly Rumph
Mary Kate Rumph
Bethany Schroeder
Susannah Smith
Allison Wendt
Abbey Wright
Julian Wright

* *Head Choristers*
2007-2008

Tower Bells

St. Dunstan's Guild

St. George

There are many legends in many cultures about St. George, but they all have a common theme; he must have been an outstanding character in his lifetime, for his reputation to have survived for almost 1,700 years. Most authorities agree that he was born in Cappadocia in what is now Turkey, around AD 280. It is probable that he was of Darian origin because of his tall stature and fair hair. He enlisted in the Cavalry of the Roman Army at 17, during the reign of the Emperor Diocletian, and established a reputation for his virtuous behavior and physical strength; his military bearing, valor and handsome good looks.

He quickly achieved the rank of Millenary or Tribunus Militum, roughly equivalent to a full Colonel, in charge of a regiment of 1,000 men and became a favorite of his Emperor. Diocletian was a skilled military tactician and strict disciplinarian, who wanted to improve Rome's morale by reviving its traditions and paganism. This was a time of high inflation and civil unrest in Rome, and one outcome of this was the increasing influence of Christianity. Diocletian achieved the reputation of being a cruel persecutor of Christians at that time.

Having become a convert to Christianity, St. George acted to limit the excesses of Diocletian's persecution. He entered the city of Nicomedia and tore down the notice of the Emperor's edict calling for the burning of Christian churches and scripture. As news spread of his rebellion, St. George realized he faced arrest, and prepared by disposing of his property to the poor and freeing his slaves. It is said that he appeared before the emperor and denounced him eloquently, stirring the populace against the decree of persecution. The Emperor consigned St. George to prison with instructions that he be tortured until he denied his faith in Christ. Having defended his faith, he was beheaded at Nicomedia near Lyddia in Palestine on April 23, 303.

Stories of St. George's courage soon spread and his reputation grew very quickly. He soon became known in Russia and the Ukraine as the Trophy Bearer and his remains are said to have been buried in the church that bears his name in Lydda. However, his head was

carried to Rome, where it was preserved in the Church that is also dedicated to him. He was beatified by the Roman Catholic Church and is recognized in the liturgy of the Russian Orthodox and Greek Orthodox Churches as well as the Roman Catholic Church. He has been revered in the Ukraine since Christianity was established there in 988. His reputation for virtue and chivalrous conduct became the spiritual inspiration of the Crusaders, and pennants, flags and breastplates bearing a red cross on a white or silver background

became prominent as a means of recognition by English Knights. The flag bearing St. George's Cross was flown by English explorers to North America and by the Mayflower. It is also the flag of the Church of England.

St. George became the Patron Saint of England in 1415, when English Soldiers under Henry V won the battle of Agincourt.

Legends about St George spread far and wide. It was claimed that near the town of Silene in Libya, a dragon dwelt, keeping the population in terror. To satiate him the population offered tethered animals to consume until they had no more. They then provided human sacrifices and in ultimate desperation, a young princess was selected, the king's daughter, Cleolinda. According to legend, St. George rode up on his white charger, dismounted and fought the monster on foot; until it eventually succumbed. He then dragged the dying monster into the city, using the girdle of the Princess, and slew the dragon in front of the people. The king offered St. George a bag of gold as a reward for saving his daughter, but St. George refused and asked that it be given to the poor.

The story is a powerful allegory, emblematic of the triumph of good over evil; but it also teaches of enduring Christian faith in the extreme and the trust that at all times should be placed in the Almighty by the invocation of the name of St. George, Soldier, Saint and Martyr.

(From the Royal Society of St. George website, royalsocietyofstgeorge.com)



The Royal Society of St. George

The story of England and the English is one of history's most remarkable sagas. The word "England" conjures up many different images: from our great cities with their imposing Georgian and Victorian architecture to the Medieval castles and cathedrals of our country towns and the delightful villages and tranquil meadows of the rural shires, England's green and pleasant land. It is, however, its distinctive culture, values and traditions which are the unmistakable marks of English nationhood.

Even today, though some of the old glories and certainties may have dimmed, England still maintains her inner strength, her quiet dignity. No longer the hub of a great Empire, but still a bastion of freedom, gentility and human decency - values which give meaning to the clarion cry "Saint George for England!"

Prior to the formation of The Royal Society of St. George and before the American War of Independence, Societies of St. George had been founded in the then North American Colonies for the relief of British immigrants and to give them general assistance in the new country. The earliest branches of which there are any records are those of New York (1770), Philadelphia (1772) and Charlestown (1773). Subsequently Branches were formed in all the great cities of the North American continent and celebrations were always held on St. George's Day. At the time of the War of Independence many Loyalists moved to Canada and founded similar Societies there.

The Royal Society of St. George was founded in 1894 with the noble object of promoting "Englishness" and the English way of life. The Society quickly attracted the support of many distinguished public figures in England and throughout the British Empire. Its first Royal Patron was Queen Victoria; and the society has enjoyed the Patronage of every reigning monarch from that day to this. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, in 1963, bestowed a notable honour by granting the Society its own Royal Charter.

Today, more than a century after its birth, the Society is still the standard bearer of traditional English values, both at home and abroad. Its role is primarily educational, promoting the common cultural heritage of people throughout the English-speaking world, including our former Dominions and Colonies. The Society now focuses its work on the younger generations of English and kindred people whose most valuable inheritance is our nation's history and culture.

The objects of the Carolinian Branch of the Royal Society of St. George are:

- To foster the love of England and to strengthen England and the Commonwealth by spreading the knowledge of English history, traditions, and ideals;
- To keep fresh the memory of those in all walks of life, who have served England or the Commonwealth in the past, to inspire leadership in the future;
- To combat all activities to undermine the strength of England or the Commonwealth;
- To further English interest everywhere;
- To ensure that Saint George's Day is properly celebrated and to provide a focal point where English men and women may gather together;
- To raise funds for charitable purposes, including support of United States armed forces members injured in armed conflict and the families of those injured or killed in armed conflict;
- To promote social intercourse amongst its members.



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