LUMINARIA

An Evening Service of Light for All Souls

Words and music to remember those we love but see no longer

Sunday 31st October 2021 at 6 p.m.

inter quos lucetis sicut luminaria in mundo
in which you shine like lights in the world.

Philippians 2:15
The congregation are asked to sit quietly before the Service begins. All stand as the Chaplain enters the Chapel in silence.

Chaplain  
Blessèd art thou, Sovereign God, creator of light and darkness!
As evening falls, thou dost renew thy promise to reveal among us the light of thy presence. May thy word be a lantern to our feet and a light upon our path, that we may behold thy glory coming among us. Strengthen us in our stumbling weakness and free our tongues to sing thy praise, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All  
Blessèd be God for ever!

The Gospel Candle is lighted.

The Choir sings:

**Greek Hymn to the Light**

*Phos Hilaron*

Φῶς ἱλαρὸν ἁγίας δόξης  
ἀθανάτου Πατρός, οὐρανίου, ἁγίου, μάκαρος, Ἱησοῦ Χριστὲ, ἐλθόντες ἐπὶ τὴν ἡλίου δύσιν, ἱδόντες φῶς ἐσπερινόν, ὑμνοῦμεν Πατέρα, Υἱόν, καὶ ἄγιον Πνεύμα, Θεόν. Ἀξιών σὲ ἐν πάσι καὶ ρόις ὑμνεῖσθαι φωναίς αἰσίαις, Υἱὲ Θεοῦ, ζωὴν ὁ διδοῦς· διὸ τὸ κόσμος σὲ δοξάζει.  

O Joyful Light of the holy glory of the immortal, heavenly, holy blessed Father, O Jesus Christ. Having come to the setting of the sun, having beheld the evening light, we hymn the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, God. Meet it is at all times to hymn Thee with reverend voices, O Son of God, Giver of Life, wherefore the whole world doth glorify Thee.
Chaplain  We have gathered to pray for the repose of the souls of all the departed, to give thanks for the lives of those whom we love but see no longer, and to ask God’s blessing on ourselves in our grief, our pain and our loss. We acknowledge our human frailty, we call to mind our sins of word, deed and omission, and confess them before God our Father.

All sit or kneel and, in silence, call to mind sins and failings.

All  Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against thee and against our neighbour, in thought and word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We are heartily sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past, and grant that we may serve thee in newness of life to the glory of thy name. Amen.

Chaplain  Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All  Amen.

Chaplain  As thy word, O Lord, gives light to our path, may we behold the glory of thy presence and so rejoice to sing thy praise, now and for ever.

All  Amen.

All stand.
THE OPENING RESPONSES

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
    forgive our foolish ways;
recolthe us in our rightful mind,
in purer lives thy service find,
in deeper reverence, praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard
beside the Syrian sea
the gracious calling of the Lord,
let us, like them, without a word
rise up and follow thee.

O Sabbath rest by Galilee,
    O calm of hills above,
where Jesus knelt to share with thee
the silence of eternity,
interpreted by love!
Drop thy still dews of quietness,      
till all our strivings cease;          
take from our souls the strain and stress,  
and let our ordered lives confess         
the beauty of thy peace.               

Breathe through the heats of our desire         
thy coolness and thy balm;                 
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;         
speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,   
O still, small voice of calm!

Please be seated

THE FIRST READING

Wisdom 3.1-9

But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God,       
and no torment will ever touch them.            
In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died,       
and their departure was thought to be a disaster,          
and their going from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. 
For though in the sight of others they were punished,         
their hope is full of immortality. 
Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good,  
because God tested them and found them worthy of himself;    
like gold in the furnace he tried them,               
and like a sacrificial burnt-offering he accepted them. 
In the time of their visitation they will shine forth,         
and will run like sparks through the stubble.  
They will govern nations and rule over peoples,          
and the Lord will reign over them for ever.   
Those who trust in him will understand truth,       
and the faithful will abide with him in love, 
because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones,        
and he watches over his elect.

For the gift of his holy word:
Thanks be to God.

All remain seated as the Choir sings the anthem
ANTHEM
words from Isaiah 26 and Psalm 139

The darkness is no darkness
Judith Bingham

The darkness is no darkness with Thee,
But the night is as clear as the day,
The darkness and the light
(no darkness at all),
In Thee is no darkness at all,
But the night is as clear as the day.
Surely the darkness shall cover Thee?
In him is no darkness at all.

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace
S S Wesley

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace,
Whose mind is stayed on Thee.
The darkness is no darkness with Thee,
But the night is as clear as the day.
The darkness and the light to Thee
are both alike,
God is light and in him
is no darkness at all.
For Thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory, for ever more.

Judith Bingham’s anthem is a haunting pre-echo of Wesley’s much-loved setting of words from Psalm 139 and Isaiah 26, drawing on some of its melodic and harmonic features to create, in sound, something akin to the warm haze of candlelight.

All remain seated

THE SECOND READING
John 14.1-6,27

Jesus said, ‘Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.’ Thomas said to him, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?’ Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

For the gift of his holy word:
Thanks be to God.
THE HOMILY
The Chaplain

ANTHEM
Valiant For Truth
Ralph Vaughan Williams

After this it was noised abroad
that Mr Valiant for Truth
was taken for a summons
And had this for a token that the summons was true:
‘That his pitcher was broken
At the fountain.’
When he understood it,
He called for his friends, and told them of it.
Then, said he, ‘I am going to my Father’s, and though with great
difficulty I am got hither,
Yet now I do not repent me of all the trouble I have been at
To arrive where I am.
My sword, I give to him that shall succeed me in my pilgrimage
And my courage and skill,
To him that can get it.
My marks and scars I carry with me
To be a witness for me
That I have fought his battles
Who now will be my rewarder.’
When the day that he must go hence was come
Many accompanied him to the riverside,
into which, as he went, he said,
‘Death, where is thy sting?’
And as he went down deeper, he said,
‘Grave, where is thy victory?’
So he passed over
And all the trumpets
Sounded for him.

Words from John Bunyan, Pilgrim’s Progress
THE GREAT SILENCE
An extended period of silence is kept for reflection and private prayer.

THE COMMEMORATION OF THE DEPARTED

Chaplain  Let us now thank God for the lives of the faithful departed, commending them to our Father’s mercy.

All stand.

Especially this All Soulstide, we remember:

The names of the departed are read aloud.

Once the names have been read out, members of the congregation are invited to come forward and light a candle; when you return to your place, please be seated.

Chaplain  Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord
All  and let light perpetual shine upon them.

Chaplain  May they rest in peace
All  and rise in glory.

Chaplain  Merciful Father, hear our prayers and comfort us; renew our trust in thy Son, whom thou didst raise from the dead; strengthen our faith that all who have died in the love of Christ will share in his resurrection; who livest and reignest with thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All  Amen.

All stand, as a symbol of the Resurrection
THE LORD’S PRAYER

Chaplain  Let us pray with confidence in the words our Saviour taught us:

All    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. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Remain standing

HYMN

Abide with me, fast falls the eventide; The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide! When other helpers fail, and comforts flee, Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life’s little day; Earth’s joys grow dim, its glories pass away; Change and decay in all around I see; O thou who changest not, abide with me.
I need thy presence every passing hour;
What but thy grace can foil the tempter’s power?
Who like thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.

I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death’s sting? Where, grave thy victory?
I triumph still if thou abide with me.

Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies:
Heaven’s morning breaks, and earth’s vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

Chaplain  The Lord be with you;
All      And with thy spirit.

Chaplain  Give us light in the night season, we beseech thee, O Lord, and grant that our rest may be without sin, and our waking to thy service; that we may come in peace and safety to the waking of the great day; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
All      Amen.

Chaplain  Let us bless the Lord.
All      Thanks be to God.

Chaplain  The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end.
All      Amen.

All remain standing as the Chaplain leaves. Please then be seated.

VOLUNTARY
Sine Nomine
Herbert Howells

The livestream will end a few moments after the end of the voluntary.
This service may stir up the emotions surrounding grief. Please feel free to sit quietly in the Chapel for as long as you wish, or to leave and spend some time alone. Conversely, you may find that friendly or familiar company is worth seeking out tonight so that you don’t have to be alone.

Guests who have been invited to join the President for supper should please move through to the marquee in Main Court. On leaving the Chapel, turn left and make your way clockwise around Main Court to reach the entrance.

Lavatories are situated below the Ramsden Room (signposted).