

Choral Evensong

The Fourth Sunday of Easter 26th April 2026: 5:30pm

Introit: Holy is the True Light Harris

Responses: Cleobury

Canticles: Evening Service in G - Sumsion

Anthem: Ave Maria Biebl

Voluntary: Choral no. 3 - César Franck 1822-1890

Office Hymn

**1. Christ is made the sure
foundation,**

**And the precious corner-stone,
Who, the two walls underlying,
Bound in each,
binds both in one,
Holy Sion's help for ever,
and her confidence alone.**

**2. All that dedicated city,
Dearly loved by God on high,
In exultant jubilation
Pours perpetual melody,
God the One, in Threefold glory,
Singing everlastingly.**

**3. To this temple,
where we call thee,
Come, O Lord of hosts, today;
With thy wonted
loving-kindness,
Hear thy people as they pray;
And thy fullest benediction
Shed within its walls for ay.**

**4. Here vouchsafe to all
thy servants
Gifts of grace by prayer to gain;
Here to have and hold for ever,
Those good things
their prayers obtain,
And hereafter, in thy glory,
With thy blessèd ones to reign.**

**5. Laud and honour
to the Father,
Laud and honour to the Son,
Laud and honour to the Spirit,
Ever Three and ever One,
One in love,
and One in splendour,
While unending ages run. Amen.**

*WESTMINSTER ABBEY NEH 205
Latin c 7th century,
tr. J.M. Neale 1918-66*

Psalm: 29.1-10

Bring unto the Lord, O ye mighty, bring young rams unto the Lord :
ascribe unto the Lord worship and strength.

Give the Lord the honour due unto his Name :
worship the Lord with holy worship.

It is the Lord, that commandeth the waters :
it is the glorious God, that maketh the thunder.

It is the Lord, that ruleth the sea; the voice of the Lord is mighty in
operation :

the voice of the Lord is a glorious voice.

The voice of the Lord breaketh the cedar-trees :
yea, the Lord breaketh the cedars of Libanus.

He maketh them also to skip like a calf :
Libanus also, and Sirion, like a young unicorn.

The voice of the Lord divideth the flames of fire; the voice of the Lord
shaketh the wilderness :

yea, the Lord shaketh the wilderness of Cades.

The voice of the Lord maketh the hinds to bring forth young, and
discovereth the thick bushes :

in his temple doth every man speak of his honour.

The Lord sitteth above the water-flood :
and the Lord remaineth a King for ever.

The Lord shall give strength unto his people :
the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

Old Testament Reading: Ezra 3.1-13

When the seventh month came, and the Israelites were in the towns, the people gathered together in Jerusalem. Then Jeshua son of Jozadak, with his fellow priests, and Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel with his kin set out to build the altar of the God of Israel, to offer burnt-offerings on it, as prescribed in the law of Moses the man of God. They set up the altar on its foundation, because they were in dread of the neighbouring peoples, and they offered burnt-offerings upon it to the Lord, morning and evening. And they kept the festival of booths, as prescribed, and offered the daily burnt-offerings by number according to the ordinance, as required for each day, and after that the regular burnt-offerings, the offerings at the new moon and at all the sacred festivals of the Lord, and the offerings of everyone who made a freewill-offering to the Lord. From the first day of the seventh month they began to offer burnt-offerings to the Lord. But the foundation of the temple of the Lord was not yet laid. So they gave money to the masons and the carpenters, and food, drink, and oil to the Sidonians

and the Tyrians to bring cedar trees from Lebanon to the sea, to Joppa, according to the grant that they had from King Cyrus of Persia.

In the second year after their arrival at the house of God at Jerusalem, in the second month, Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel and Jeshua son of Jozadak made a beginning, together with the rest of their people, the priests and the Levites and all who had come to Jerusalem from the captivity. They appointed the Levites, from twenty years old and upwards, to have the oversight of the work on the house of the Lord. And Jeshua with his sons and his kin, and Kadmiel and his sons, Binnui and Hodaviah along with the sons of Henadad, the Levites, their sons and kin, together took charge of the workers in the house of God.

When the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the Lord, the priests in their vestments were stationed to praise the Lord with trumpets, and the Levites, the sons of Asaph, with cymbals, according to the directions of King David of Israel; and they sang responsively, praising and giving thanks to the Lord,

'For he is good,
for his steadfast love endures for ever towards Israel.'

And all the people responded with a great shout when they praised the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid. But many of the priests and Levites and heads of families, old people who had seen the first house on its foundations, wept with a loud voice when they saw this house, though many shouted aloud for joy, so that the people could not distinguish the sound of the joyful shout from the sound of the people's weeping, for the people shouted so loudly that the sound was heard far away.

New Testament Reading: Ephesians 2.11-end

So then, remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called 'the uncircumcision' by those who are called 'the circumcision' – a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands – remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, so that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him both of us

have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling-place for God.

Collect

Almighty God, who shewest to them that be in error the light of thy truth, to the intent that they may return into the way of righteousness; Grant unto all them that are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may eschew those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Office Hymn

1. 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.**

**2. 'Twas grace that taught
my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved
how precious did
that grace appear
the hour I first believed!**

**3. Through many dangers,
toils and snares
I have already come
'tis grace that brought
me safe thus far
and grace will lead me home.**

4. The Lord has promised good to me

**his word my hope secures
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.**

**5. Yes, when this heart
and flesh shall fail
and mortal life shall cease
I shall possess within the veil
a life of joy and peace.**

**6. When we've been
there a thousand years
bright shining as the sun
we've no less days
to sing God's praise
than when we first begun.**

*John Newton 1785-1807
New Britain,
19th Century American folk tune*

Offertory Hymn

**Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
Whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy,
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.**

**Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,
Be there at our labours, and give us, we pray,
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.**

**Lord of all kindliness, Lord of all grace,
Your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.**

**Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.**

SLANE NEH 239
Jan Struther 1901-53
Traditional Irish melody,
Harmony by Erik Routley 1917-82