Christ Church Cathedral
Oxford

CHORAL EUCHARIST
for the Patronal Festival
on the Eve of St Frideswide
17 October 2019, 6pm
THE PATRONAL EUCHARIST AT CHRIST CHURCH

A very warm welcome to Christ Church and to this service. The Eucharist is at the heart of Christian worship and our celebration this evening unites us with Christians who have worshipped in this way across the world and throughout the centuries. When we receive Communion, please come to the altar to receive if that is your usual practice. Otherwise you are invited to receive a blessing – please come to the altar bringing your order of service. Gluten-free wafers are available on request.

This service particularly celebrates the life, legend and legacy of Saint Frideswide (c.650–727), founder of the first church on this site and remembered as founder and patron of cathedral, university and city of Oxford. The daughter of the local king Dydan, Frideswide chose a life of dedication to Christ over royal status and marriage. According to twelfth-century accounts, she fled the unwelcome attentions of a royal suitor, preferring to remain a bride of Christ; when he pursued her, God struck the prince blind. Frideswide, however, prayed for his healing. His sight was restored and the pair reconciled to their different vocations. After her death, reputedly on 19 October 727, Frideswide’s tomb became a place of pilgrimage and prayer, of healing and sanctuary, at the heart of the growing city and county of Oxford.

As we remember Frideswide’s story today, we make our procession to the restored medieval shrine. We pray for healing and wholeness in our own day, for women in leadership, for all who seek sanctuary amidst persecution and for those who work for reconciliation and forgiveness. It is also a time to celebrate the contribution of the Priory, College and Cathedral, of which she is patron, to the life of Oxford over the centuries, and particularly the diverse ministries of our Honorary Canons, the wider Chapter, and the Order of St Frideswide within the diocese.

May our prayers to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be joined with those of Frideswide and all the saints.

Setting of the Eucharist

Mass in E flat

Josef Rheinberger (1839–1901)
Please stand when the Choir enters.

During the opening hymn, the Ministers enter in procession. The Deacon carries the Book of the Gospels and places it on the High Altar.

Hymn

God, whose city’s sure foundation
stands upon his holy hill,
by his mighty inspiration
chose of old and chooseth still
men and women from each nation
his good pleasure to fulfil.

Here before us through the ages,
while the Christian years went by,
saints, confessors, martyrs, sages,
strong to live and strong to die,
wrote their names upon the pages
of God’s blessèd company.

Some there were like lamps of learning
shining in a faithless night,
some on fire with love, and burning
with a flaming zeal for right,
some by simple goodness turning
souls from darkness unto light.

As we now with high thanksgiving
their triumphant names record,
grant that we, like them, believing
in the promise of thy word,
may, like them, in all good living
praise and magnify the Lord!

WORDS: C A Alington (1872–1955)
MUSIC: Westminster Abbey, adapted from an anthem by Henry Purcell (1659–95)
Common Praise 219
The President welcomes the Congregation and introduces the service. Please remain standing as the Choir sings the Gloria in Excelsis.

Gloria in Excelsis

Gloria in excelsis Deo. 
Et in terra pax 
hominibus bonæ voluntatis.

Laudamus te, benedicimus te, 
adoramus te, glorificamus te. 
Gratias agimus tibi 
propter magnam gloriam tuam, 
Domine Deus, Rex cælestis, 
Deus Pater omnipotens.

Domine Fili unigenite, 
Jesu Christe, 
Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, 
Filius Patris, 
qui tollis peccata mundi, 
miserere nobis. 
Qui tollis peccata mundi, 
suscipe deprecationem nostram. 
Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris, 
miserere nobis.

Glory to God in the highest, 
and peace to his people on earth. 
Lord God, heavenly King, 
almighty God and Father, 
we worship you, we give you thanks, 
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, 
only Son of the Father, 
Lord God, 
Lamb of God, 
you take away the sin of the world: 
have mercy on us; 
You are seated 
at the right hand of the Father: 
receive our prayer.
Quoniam tu solus Sanctus;  
tu solus Dominus;  
tu solus Altissimus, Jesu Christe,  
cum Sancto Spiritu  
in gloria Dei Patris.  
Amen.

For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Collect

Let us pray.

All remain standing. Silence is kept.

O God, who endued blessed Frideswide with zeal for your Church  
and love towards your people;  
mercifully grant that we,  
who commemorate her life of holiness and self-denial,  
may be fruitful in good works and attain by your grace  
to the reward of the poor in spirit, the merciful, and the pure in heart;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

Please sit for the reading.

First Reading
Acts 16: 11-15

A reading from the book of Acts.

With Paul and his companions, I set sail from Troas and took a straight course  
to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi,  
which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We  
remained in this city for some days. On the sabbath day we went outside the  
gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat  
down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. A certain woman  
named Lydia, a worshipper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city  
of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen  
eagerly to what was said by Paul. When she and her household were baptized,  
she urged us, saying, ‘If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come  
and stay at my home.’ And she prevailed upon us.

Reader For the word of the Lord  
All Thanks be to God.
Please stand. The Choir sings the Acclamation ‘Alleluia’ followed by a verse from scripture or the words of a prayer. The Gospel book is brought in procession to the nave, where it is censed and then read by the Deacon.

**Gospel Reading**

Luke 10: 38-42

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord’s feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, ‘Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me.’ But the Lord answered her, ‘Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

The Dean

After the sermon, the Congregation remains seated for a moment of reflection, before standing with the Ministers and turning East to sing the Nicene Creed.
Nicene Creed
Common Worship contemporary language
Merbecke / Hutchings
arr. Stephen Darlington

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten not made,
of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipp'd and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come, Amen.
Pilgrimage to the Shrine of St Frideswide

Deacon

In the name of God,
who calls us to walk in his ways and trust his promises,
let us go forth to give honour to Frideswide, our patron.

The Choir, Ministers and Congregation move in procession to the Latin Chapel.
Please join the procession, singing joyfully, and move as far into the Latin Chapel as you are able for the next portion of the service. Please use the seats in the Latin Chapel if you need to, but otherwise remain standing.
The organist may improvise between verses of the hymn or at the end if necessary.

Processional Hymn

Frideswide our patron, clear our clouded sight;
help dissolve our darkness, bring us God’s own light.
Child of royal parents, courted by a king,
sought a crown of glory, spurned a wedding ring.

Frideswide our patron, clear our clouded sight;
help dissolve our darkness, bring us God’s own light.

Pow’rful and peaceful, vowed to God alone,
Frideswide chose a heavenly, not an earthly throne.
Prayer and meditation raised her soul above all this world’s attractions; Jesus held her love.

Frideswide our patron...

Algar of Leicester planned to do her wrong,
sent his men to seize her, Frideswide’s faith was strong – in an instant blinded then his sight restored,
they knew both the wrath and mercy of the Lord:

Frideswide our patron...

Wonders of healing Frideswide’s prayers obtained – crooked limbs were straightened, speech the dumb regained.
Through her intercession may the grace be ours for God’s use to offer all our gifts and powers:

Frideswide our patron...
Light filled the city as she passed away
journeyed through death’s shadow into endless day,
there we hope to join her, by the truth set free,
where we have our treasure, there our hearts shall be.
Frideswide our patron...

WORDS: Paul Dean
MUSIC: Maccabaeus, G F Handel (1685–1759)
tune: Common Praise 160

The Life of St Frideswide

Hear again a portion of the life of Frideswide.

The king hym cam to Oxenford, wroth and eke wode,
And thoght to do the mayde other than goud.
So sone so he to toune cam, he thoghte for to fyght
And habbe this maide Fretheswythe with strengthe agenryght.
He enquered ware heo was. Me told hym sone that cas:
That heo in the wode of Benysye preveliche yhydde was.

The king rod toward the wode with hauke and with racche,
For to enserchy after this mayde yf he myght cache.
Tho this maide this yherd, anon heo bygan to fle
Priveliche toward Oxenford, that non scholde hure se;
So that heo was underyute that heo was fleynde.
After hure me wende faste; the king rod ernyng.
The mayde scaped into the toune, as hit was Godes grace.

The maide holde hure ther in pes fram alle hure fon.
Glad was that myght with hure speke other to hure gon.
Of hure holy lyf me told fer and eke nere,
Into alle Englonde that me wyste nas yholde hure pere.

‘The Life of St Frideswide’, 75–87, 91–94,
The Shorter South English Legendary

To God be glory in Frideswide and all his saints
for ever and ever. Amen.
King [Algar] came to Oxford, wrathful and furious, and plotted to do evil to the maid [Frideswide]. He planned to fight his way to her as soon as he came to the town, and to have her immediately taken by force. He asked where she was, and was soon told that she was hidden secretly in the wood at Binsey. The king rode towards the wood with his hawks and dogs, to search for the maid and to catch her. When she heard this, she immediately began to flee in secret towards Oxford, so that nobody would see her. But she was seen as she was fleeing; men pursued her swiftly, with the king at a gallop. The maid escaped into the town by the grace of God. She remained there, at peace from all her enemies, and whoever could visit her or talk with her was made glad. People told the tale of her holy life far and near; and nobody could be held as her equal in all England.

Prayers of Intercession

The Intercessions are led by the Bishop of Dorchester, the Rt Revd Colin Fletcher.

In company with Frideswide and all the saints of this City and County, let us pray for Oxfordshire, its churches and its people:

Each bidding ends with:
Generous God:

To which the congregation replies:
Pour out your love.

The Intercessions conclude:

Almighty God,
by your Holy Spirit you have made us one
with your saints in heaven and on earth;
grant that in our earthly pilgrimage
we may ever be supported
by this fellowship of love and prayer,
and know ourselves surrounded by their witness
to your power and mercy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.
Prayers of Penitence

Deacon Christ calls us to share the heavenly banquet of his love with all the saints in earth and heaven. Let us ask from him both mercy and forgiveness.

Friend of sinners, you bring hope in our despair. 
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

Deacon Healer of the sick, you give strength in our weakness. 
Christ, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy.

Deacon Destroyer of evil, you bring life in our dying. 
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

President God our Father forgive your sins, and bring you to the fellowship of his table with his saints for ever.

All Amen.

The Peace

President We are fellow-citizens with the saints and of the household of God, through Christ our Lord, who came and preached peace to those who were far off and those who were near:

Ephesians 2: 19, 17

The peace of the Lord be always with you and also with you.

All

Deacon Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may greet those near them with a sign of peace, saying ‘Peace be with you’. During the hymn which follows, the procession returns to the sanctuary. Please follow the procession back to your seats.
A place to cross a river, where shade and shallows run,  
where working oxen rested from hours of restless sun:  
This strand of light and water, where mayfly threads are sewn,  
where trout and elvers needle, a house, a hearth, a home.

An abbey in a meadow beside an ancient ford,  
where Frideswide’s prayer and fasting gave glory to her Lord.  
That simple wooden shelter gave way to glass and stone,  
a glimpse of heaven’s mansions, a house, a hearth, a home.

A place of light and learning where questing minds can grow,  
where world and time are fathomed, for nothing but to know.  
In bare-walled rooms great questions are sounded out alone  
the fabric of this city, a house, a hearth, a home.

A county and a city both built on work and trade,  
where factory and office turn making into made;  
where fields are cut and seeded, and science tests the known:  
this ancient, modern people, a house, a hearth, a home.

Each city is a foretaste of cities yet to come,  
of God’s expansive kingdom, where all can find a home.  
A stranger walks beside us, we are not left alone.  
In Jesus Christ the traveller, a house, a hearth, a home.

WORDS: Michael Symmons Roberts  
MUSIC: Thornbury, Basil Harwood (1859–1949)  
tune: Common Praise 606

The Processional Hymn is followed directly by the Offertory Hymn, during which the Congregation continue to return to their seats, the Deacon prepares the altar and the altar, clergy and people are censed.
Alleluia, sing to Jesus!
his the sceptre, his the throne;
alleluia, his the triumph,
his the victory alone:
hark, the songs of peaceful Sion
thunder like a mighty flood;
Jesus out of every nation
hath redeemed us by his blood.

Alleluia, not as orphans
are we left in sorrow now;
alleluia, he is near us,
faith believes, nor questions how:
though the cloud from sight received him,
when the forty days were o’er,
shall our hearts forget his promise,
‘I am with you evermore’?

Alleluia, bread of angels,
thou on earth our food, our stay;
alleluia, here the sinful
flee to thee from day to day:
Intercessor, Friend of sinners,
earth’s Redeemer, plead for me,
where the songs of all the sinless
sweep across the crystal sea.

Alleluia, King eternal,
thee the Lord of lords we own;
alleluia, born of Mary,
earth thy footstool, heaven thy throne:
thou within the veil hast entered,
robed in flesh, our great High Priest;
thou on earth both Priest and Victim
in the eucharistic feast.

WORDS: William Chatterton Dix (1837–98)
MUSIC: Hyfrydol, RH Pritchard (1811–87)
Common Praise 278
Prayer over the Gifts

President
Blessed be God,
by whose grace creation is renewed,
by whose love heaven is opened,
by whose mercy we offer our sacrifice of praise.

All
Blessed be God for ever.

The Eucharistic Prayer

President
The Lord be with you

All
and also with you.

President
Lift up your hearts.

All
We lift them to the Lord.

President
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All
It is right to give thanks and praise.

President
It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God;
and most especially we thank you
in this place and on this day
as we celebrate the life and witness
of your precious daughter Frideswide.
In every generation you call your children to acts of courage;
you urge us to live in this present age
with a heart set on the age that is to come.
Your holy servant Frideswide put her faith and hope
in the words of Christ and in his resurrection,
committing herself to him forever as a witness to your love.
You poured out your Holy Spirit upon her
with gifts of wisdom and healing,
that through her courage and compassion
the people of Oxfordshire, from greatest to least,
might be formed in the image of your Son, Jesus Christ.
And now we give you thanks
for this seat of learning and house of prayer
built up by her for your praise and glory.
In every house of prayer you make your home and by the ceaseless action of your grace you build in your people courage, contemplation and compassion and make us the temple of your Spirit whose beauty is the splendour of lives wholly dedicated to you. Therefore with saints and angels and with all who served you on earth and worship you in heaven, we sing the unceasing hymn of your glory:

The Choir sings Sanctus and Benedictus.

Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus.  
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.  
Pleni sunt cœli et terra gloria tua.  
Hosanna in excelsis.  
Benedictus qui venit  
in nomine Domini.  
Hosanna in excelsis.

Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

Accept our praises, heavenly Father, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, and as we follow his example and obey his command, grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these gifts of bread and wine may be to us his body and his blood; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me. In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.
Therefore, heavenly Father,
we remember his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross;
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;
we look for the coming of your kingdom,
and with this bread and this cup
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

The Acclamation is sung.

Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts
in the presence of your divine majesty,
renew us by your Spirit,
inspire us with your love
and unite us in the body of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty,
in songs of everlasting praise:

Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for ever and ever. Amen.
Please kneel.

**The Lord’s Prayer**

*President* Looking for the coming of the Kingdom, as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

*All* Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

**Breaking of the Bread**

*The President breaks the consecrated bread.*

*President* We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

*All* Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.

**Invitation to Communion**

*The President invites the People to receive Communion.*

*President* God’s holy gifts for God’s holy people.

*All* Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
Giving of Communion

The Choir sings Agnus Dei.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.
Agnus dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem.

Lamb of God, you take away
the sin of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away
the sin of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away
the sin of the world, grant us peace.

The President and People receive Communion. Please follow the directions of sidesmen and vergers. If you are baptised and confirmed, or if you normally receive Communion in your own church, you are very welcome to receive here - gluten free wafers are available on request. To the words used when bread and wine are given to you, the answer is Amen. If you would like to receive a blessing instead, please bring your order of service with you as you come to the altar.

During the distribution, the Choir sings the anthem.

Anthem

Justorum animae in manu Dei sunt, et non tanget illos tormentum mortis.
Visi sunt oculis insipientium mori, illi autem sunt in pace.

The souls of the just are in the hand of God, and the torment of death shall not touch them.
In the sight of the unwise they seemed to die; but they are in peace.

WORDS: Wisdom 3:1-2a, 3b
MUSIC: William Byrd (1543–1623)

Prayer after Communion

President Let us pray.

A time of silent prayer is kept.

All Holy and unchanging God, source of all holiness and giver of all good things: may we who have shared at this table as strangers and pilgrims upon earth be welcomed with Frideswide and all your saints to the heavenly feast on the day of your Kingdom: through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
Blessing

*President*  
God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
give you the spirit of wisdom and revelation,  
to know the hope to which he has called you.  

*All*  
**Amen.**

God, who has shown you a pattern of holy life  
in Frideswide and all the saints,  
bring you to share their glorious inheritance.  

*All*  
**Amen.**

God, who calls you no longer strangers  
but fellow-citizens with the saints,  
set your hearts and minds on things above,  
where Christ is seated.  

*All*  
**Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.  

*All*  
**Amen.**

*Deacon*  
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  

*All*  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

*The Ministers depart in procession.*