

Bishop Wordsworth's School

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR FOUNDER'S DAY



“How shall we sing the Lord’s song in a strange land?”

Psalm 137

Friday 31 March 2023

Salisbury Cathedral

WELCOME

Founder's Day has come early this year! Last year we were later than usual, celebrating in the final days of May when Spring was morphing into Summer. This year we are still on the cusp of Spring and, unusually, also on the cusp of Holy Week. This time next week will be Good Friday and by the time we return from the holidays it will be the season of new life in Easter.

Our theme this morning is "*How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?*", a phrase from Psalm 137, immortalised for the maturer generations amongst us by Boney M's 'By the Rivers of Babylon'. That is not, I hasten to add, why I have chosen this theme! It flows through our readings and hymns today because it is a centrifugal question as we come to remember the school Bishop John Wordsworth founded, to honour the Old Wordsworthians who have died during the last year and then to re-commit ourselves to running with the Wordsworth baton until it is our turn to hand it on. How do we live out John Wordsworth's legacy in a world he would not recognise? How does old and new live alongside each other and enhance each other? What do we keep; what do we change?

We are delighted to have the Bishop of Salisbury, Bishop Stephen, as our preacher today. Bishop Stephen generously invited some of our students from Years 11 and 13 to help him to shape his vision for the Church in the coming years and they valued that opportunity to help the Church speak in a new world. The Church, like our school, has a legacy and a future. It too has to work out how one speaks into the other, on the issues that have been highlighted in the media, but other fundamental ones also. In life, at school, in the Church, we cannot go back, but we can build with hope for the future. We all have to work out how to sing our song in a new world. It is a joy, a responsibility and a privilege that we all share.

Revd Canon Dr Stella Wood, School Chaplain

A Prayer from the 1890 Order of Service for Founders, Benefactors and Worthies, compiled by Bishop John Wordsworth.

O God of our fathers, who hast given us grace to meet together this day to commemorate the mercies which Thou hast shown forth in this Thy house from generation to generation: hearken we beseech Thee to the supplications of Thy servants; and grant that all who in the coming year shall enter this house to seek a blessing from Thee may feel with joy that Thou hast heard their prayers and granted their requests according to Thy perfect love and wisdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

ORDER OF SERVICE

The congregation remains seated as the Choir and Clergy process to the back of the Cathedral.

WELCOME

Canon Edward Probert

INTROIT

Sarabande
Jean Hubeau

Played by Monty Clark and Joe Parker

INTRODUCTION AND BIDDING PRAYER

Led by Dr Stuart Smallwood, Head Master

We have come together to offer our thanks to God both for the work of John Wordsworth and his vision in establishing his School and for the service of its staff, past and present. We have come to pray for the boys and girls who are its being and its purpose and for all those who have passed through its doors to serve the wider community.

So, as we prepare to join in these acts of worship and praise, we remember the many blessings bestowed by God upon our School through past years. As we offer our thanks for all his goodness to us and to our predecessors, and ask for his guidance for times to come, we pray that he will help us to realise his presence, respond to his love and live our lives to his praise and glory.

We gather our prayers and thanksgivings together, saying

**Our Father, who 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 those who 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.**

The congregation stands to sing

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

**Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided,
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.**

**Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
teaches and trains us, rebukes us and inspires us:
Lord of the world, receive your people's praise.**

**Lord, for our world where we disown and doubt him,
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain,
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without him:
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.**

An organ interlude may be played before the final verse

**Lord, for ourselves; in living power remake us –
self on the cross and Christ upon the throne,
past put behind us, for the future take us:
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.**

We remain standing for the

THANKSGIVING

Led by Daniel Harpwood and Olivia Wordley
Cathedral Prefects, 2023-2024

From the rising of the sun to its setting,
Let us pray with joy and thanksgiving.

For the school which unites us,
past and present,
staff and students.
Thanks be to God.

For John Wordsworth, our Founder
Thanks be to God.

For governors who steer the school
through good times and hard times.
Thanks be to God.

For all who have taught,
and inspired by their teaching.
Thanks be to God.

For the freedom to learn
and the knowledge that brings freedom to others.
Thanks be to God.

For the beauty of art and the majesty of music.
Thanks be to God.

For time together on stage and field.
Thanks be to God.

For this Cathedral Church built in a generation
and a beacon of hope for generations since.
Thanks be to God.

For all that has been,
for all that is,
for all that is to come,
Thanks be to God. Amen.

The congregation sits

READING

Jeremiah 31
'I will make a new covenant'

Read by Toby Runyard
Cathedral Prefect, 2022-2023

PSALM

Words from Psalm 134 are sung by the Choir
'O taste and see that the Lord is good'
Setting: Ralph Vaughan Williams

Soloist – Rosie Woodhouse

READING

The way it is
William Stafford

Read by Youssef Elmorsy
Head Boy, 2023-2024

We stand to sing

HYMN

**Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,
Pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
hold me with thy powerful hand:
bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore,
feed me now and evermore.**

**Open now the crystal fountain
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fiery cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through:
strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield,
be thou still my strength and shield.**

**When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side:
songs and praises, songs and praises,
I will ever give to thee,
I will ever give to thee.**

The congregation sits

READING

John 13

'A new commandment I give to you, that
you love one another, as I have loved you'

Read by Poppy Freer
Head Girl, 2023-2024

ADDRESS

Rt Revd Stephen Lake
Bishop of Salisbury

ANTHEM

Adoramus te
Johannes Brahms

PRAYERS

Led by Theon Evans, Deputy Head Boy
and Nicole Wynn, Deputy Head Girl, 2023-2024

THANKSGIVING FOR FORMER MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL

Led by Dr Wood, Chaplain

Let us remember with thanksgiving at this time those from this School who have died during the last year. Among them Valerie Allpress, Christopher Bullen, Richard Cox, Nigel Evans, Colin Everett, Robert Harman, Sam Kent, Gerald Potterton and Michael Wheeler.

O Eternal Lord, who holdest all souls in life, we beseech thee to shed forth upon thy whole Church in Paradise and on earth the bright beams of thy light and heavenly comfort; and grant that we, following the good example of those who have loved and served Thee here and are now at rest, may at last enter with them into the fulness of Thine unending joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(A prayer of John Wordsworth)

Rest eternal grant to them O Lord;
And may light perpetual shine upon them.
May they rest in peace.

Candles in memory of those remembered here today were lit before the service at one of the prayer stands in the Trinity Chapel at the East end of the Cathedral.

ANTHEM

The Chamber choir sing from the Font

O Sacrum Convivium
Messiaen

The congregation stands

THE RE-DEDICATION

Mindful of those who have gone before, and of the inheritance entrusted to us, let us rededicate ourselves to the service of God and humanity.

**God our Father, we commit ourselves afresh
to building up what is good
and breaking down what is hateful.
We dedicate our minds,
our gifts,
and our skills
to seeking the truth you reveal,
showing the compassion you lived,
and building the world you imagined
in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

HYMN

**I danced in the morning
when the world was begun,
And I danced in the moon
and the stars and the sun,
And I came down from heaven
and I danced on the earth;
at Bethlehem I had my birth.**

***Dance then wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
And I'll lead you all,
wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.***

**I danced on the Sabbath
and I cured the lame:
the holy people
said it was a shame.
They whipped and they stripped
and they hung me high,
and they left me there
on a cross to die:
*Dance then wherever....***

I danced on a Friday
when the sky turned black;
it's hard to dance
with the devil on your back.
They buried my body
and they thought I'd gone;
but I am the dance
and I still go on:
Dance then wherever....

They cut me down
and I leapt up high;
I am the life
that'll never, never die;
I'll live in you
if you'll live in me:
I am the Lord
of the Dance, said he:
Dance then wherever....

We remain standing for the

BLESSING

The Bishop

Please remain standing until the Choir and Clergy have left the Nave.

Our thanks to all who have taken part today, to Revd. Mark Wood for playing the organ and to the Cathedral who welcome us so often. To everyone, a very good Easter break!

RETIRING COLLECTION

Today's collection is shared between the charity supported when the Bishop is with us and a charity chosen by the Charity Committee at school.

We ask for your generosity today towards the people of South Sudan and Sudan with whom we have a long-standing partnership and Salisbury Foodbank.



Founder's Day is a very special occasion for BWS as we celebrate and reflect on all aspects of the school and its history. Each year we run a charity collection as it continues to be a fantastic opportunity to provide some support to others within our community.

This year we have chosen to support the Salisbury Foodbank. The foodbank provides emergency food to people in crisis and runs locally, just outside of the centre of town. It has seen huge increases in its usage in recent months from both adults and children.

We truly believe that this is an excellent charity to donate to – one which can make a significant impact to someone struggling in the current cost of living crisis we face. Any donation, big or small, can make a hugely positive difference to those around you.

Thank you very much for your support.

Tom Sutthery
Chair of the Charities Committee 2022-2023

Homam Khasreen
Chair of the Charities Committee 2023-2024