



**BLACKBURN
CATHEDRAL**

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Sunday 30 March 2025

The Cathedral Choir

Choral Evensong

Gibbons Short Service

Responses - Bertalot

O For a Closer Walk,
Stanford

Psalms 30, p. 379

The order for the service is on the cream card

Office Hymn

Old 100th



All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
him serve with fear, his praise forth tell,
come ye before him and rejoice.

The Lord ye know is God indeed,
without our aid he did us make;
we are his folk he doth us feed,
and for his sheep he doth us take.

O enter then his gates with praise,
approach with joy his courts unto;
praise, laud and bless his name always,
for it is seemly so to do.

For why? the Lord our God is good:
his mercy is for ever sure;
his truth at all times firmly stood,
and shall from age to age endure.

To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
the God whom heaven and earth adore,
from us and from the angel host
be praise and glory evermore. Amen.

Text: William Keith (d. 1594) from Days psalter (1560)

Music from the Genevan Psalter (1551) arr. R. Vaughan Williams

The Word of God

Psalmody 30
First reading Isaiah 40.27-41.13
Second reading 2 Tim 4.1-18

Anthem

Final Hymn

WAREHAM 493



Jesus, where'er thy people meet,
here they behold thy mercy-seat;
where'er they seek thee thou art found,
and every place is hallowed ground

Here may we prove the power of prayer
to strengthen faith and sweeten care,
to teach our faint desires to rise,
and bring all heaven before our eyes.

Dear shepherd of thy chosen few,
thy former mercies here renew;
where to our waiting hearts proclaim
the sweetness of thy saving name.

Lord, we are few, but thou art near;
nor short thine arm, nor deaf thine ear
O rend the heavens, come quickly down,
and make a thousand hearts thine own.

William Cowper (1731-1800)

The Organ Voluntary

You are warmly invited to stay for our Organ Meditation

LENT ORGAN MEDITATION 4

played by Nigel Spooner (Associate Organist)

Variations on Ave Maris Stella

Alan Spedding (1938 – 2014)

Christ, Unser Herr, zum Jordan kam BWV 684

J. S. Bach (1685 – 1750)

Chorale Prelude on Hollingside

Alec Rowley (1892 – 1958)

Trio on “Attende Domine”

Sarah MacDonald (b. 1968)

Chorale Paraphrase on “Attende Domine”

Jeanne Demessieux (1921 – 1968)

Ave Maria

Sigfrid Karg-Elert (1877 – 1933)

Sun Dance

Bob Chilcott (b. 1955)

Nigel Spooner began learning the organ on the fantastic Father Willis instrument in Truro Cathedral with organist John Winter. Lessons followed at Wells Cathedral and Bath Abbey, where he was a lay clerk in the Abbey Choir whilst studying Chemistry at the university. He gained his Fellowship of the Royal College of Organists halfway through his degree course and was a finalist in the St Albans International Organ Competition in his graduation year.

Pursuing a chemistry schoolteaching career, Nigel taught in schools in Rye, Bishop's Stortford, Clitheroe and finally at Bolton School, where he was able to combine his Chemistry teaching with being school organist (the school's two divisions, boys and girls, each have a pipe organ in their respective Great Halls). Encouraging music performance in pupils was always important to him and he formed and directed groups as diverse as a piano trio, string quartet and swing band.

After his time as Deputy Headteacher at Clitheroe Royal Grammar School (and head of its sixth form of over 500 students), he experienced a completely different chapter as a freelance musician – teaching, performing and playing regularly for BBC Daily Service and with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra. As an ABRSM examiner, he spent much time in Indonesia, Malaysia and Hong Kong on foreign tours.

Retiring a couple of years ago, he much enjoys travel, cycling in this country and abroad (Rotterdam to Venice later this year), singing with the Hallé Choir and playing and singing at cathedrals when their choirs are on holiday (most recently Canterbury Cathedral and York Minster; Truro at the end of this summer). He is delighted to have been appointed Associate Organist here at Blackburn and to be able to play such an inspiring instrument so frequently.