

Evensong, 3rd Sunday after Easter May 3 2009
Hymns from Common Praise.
(Large print editions available)

Opening Hymn	156 Sing choirs of heaven
Psalm	23
Hymn	13 Before the ending of the day
Canticles	Stanford in B Flat
Anthem	O thou the central orb (Wood)
Offertory Hymn	158 The Lord is risen indeed
Closing Hymn	612 We have a gospel

Charles Wood (1866 –1926) was an Irish composer and teacher.

He studied composition under Stanford and Parry at Cambridge and after Stanford died, Wood assumed his mentor's vacant role as University of Cambridge Professor of Music in 1924.

Like his better-known colleague ,he is chiefly remembered for his Anglican church music. Among his anthems, Expectans expectavi, Hail, gladdening light, and O thou, the central orb are frequently both performed and recorded.

A commentator on his little known St Mark passion said "Only an English choir could bring life to such music as this. Few understand the depths the English soul can sound, nor fathom that lucidity of feeling. We want no screeching sopranos to caterwaul the bitter road to perdition,but delicately must they sing."

His pupils included Ralph Vaughan Williams at Cambridge and Herbert Howells at the Royal College of Music.

O thou the central orb of righteous love,
Pure beam of the most high, eternal light Of this our wintry world,

thy radiance bright Awakes new joy in faith, hope soars above.

Come, quickly come, and let thy glory shine,
Gilding our darksome heaven with rays divine;
Thy saints with holy lustre round thee move,
As stars about thy throne, set in the height
Of God's ordaining counsel, as thy sight
Gives measured grace to each, thy power to prove.
Let thy bright beams disperse the gloom of sin,
Our nature all shall feel eternal day,
In fellowship with thee, transforming clay
To souls erewhile unclean, now pure within. Amen.

Psalm 23

1. The Lord | is my | shepherd:
Therefore | can I | lack | nothing.
2. He shall lead me in a | green | pasture:
And lead me forth be | side the | waters • of | comfort.
3.He shall con | vert my | soul:
And bring me forth in the paths of righteousness
| for his | name's | sake,
4. Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will | fear no | evil:
For thou art near me,
Thy | rod • and thy | staff | comfort me.
5. Thou shalt prepare a table before me
Against | them that | trouble me:
Thou hast anointed my head with oil
| and my | cup • shall be | full.
6. but thy loving kindness shall follow me
all the | days of • my | life:
and I will dwell in the |house • of the | Lord for | ever.

At the next Evensong Nigel will be celebrating his 50th year as an Organist and Choirmaster and invites all to partake of wine and refreshments afterwards. The anthem will be Handel's 'Zadok the Priest and the canticles Dyson in D

