Choral Evensong

Organ Voluntary
Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland   Nicolaus Bruhns (1665–1697)

Preces & Responses   Thomas Tomkins (1572–1656)

Psalm 115   *Non nobis, Domine*   *Setting:* G. Knight

Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto thy Name give the praise : for thy loving mercy, and for thy truth's sake.
   Wherefore shall the heathen say : Where is now their God?
As for our God, he is in heaven : he hath done whatsoever pleased him.
Their idols are silver and gold : even the work of men's hands.
They have mouths, and speak not : eyes have they, and see not.
They have ears, and hear not : noses have they, and smell not.
They have hands, and handle not; feet have they, and walk not : neither speak they through their throat.
They that make them are like unto them : and so are all such as put their trust in them.
But thou, house of Israel, trust thou in the Lord : he is their succour and defence.
Ye house of Aaron, put your trust in the Lord : he is their helper and defender.
Ye that fear the Lord, put your trust in the Lord : he is their helper and defender.
The Lord hath been mindful of us, and he shall bless us :
   even he shall bless the house of Israel, he shall bless the house of Aaron.
He shall bless them that fear the Lord : both small and great.
The Lord shall increase you more and more : you and your children.
Ye are the blessed of the Lord : who made heaven and earth.
All the whole heavens are the Lord's : the earth hath he given to the children of men.
The dead praise not thee, O Lord : neither all they that go down into silence.
But we will praise the Lord : from this time forth for evermore. Praise the Lord.

(standing)
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:
   As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

First Lesson   Amos 6:1–14

Thus says the Lord, the God of hosts, the Lord: "Woe to those who are at ease in Zion, and to those who feel secure on the mountain of Samaria, the notable men of the first of the nations, to whom the house of Israel come! Pass over to Calneh, and see; and thence go to Hamath the great; then go down to Gath of the Philistines. Are they better than these kingdoms? Or is their territory greater than your territory, O you who put far away the evil day, and bring near the seat of violence? "Woe to those who lie upon beds of ivory, and stretch themselves upon their couches, and eat lambs from the flock, and calves from the midst of the stall; who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp, and like David invent for themselves instruments of music; who drink wine in bowls, and anoint themselves with the finest oils, but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph! Therefore they shall now be the first of those to go into exile, and the revelry of those who stretch themselves shall pass away." The Lord God has sworn by himself (says the Lord, the God of hosts): "I abhor the pride of Jacob, and hate his strongholds; and I will deliver up the city and all that is in it." And if ten men remain in one house, they shall die. And when a man's kinsman, he who burns him, shall take him up to bring the bones out of the house, and shall say to him who is in the innermost parts of the house, "Is there still any one with you?" he shall say, "No"; and he shall say, "Hush! We must not mention the name of the Lord." For behold, the Lord commands, and the great house shall be smitten into fragments, and the little house into bits. Do horses run upon rocks? Does one plow the sea with oxen? But you have turned justice into poison and the fruit of righteousness into wormwood— you who rejoice in Lo-debar, who say, "Have we not by our own strength taken Karnaim for ourselves?" "For behold, I will raise up against you a nation, O house of Israel," says the Lord, the God of hosts; "and they shall oppress you from the entrance of Hamath to the Brook of the Arabah."

Magnificat *Dorian Service* Thomas Tallis (1505–1585)

Second Lesson Luke 1:57–68

THE time came for Elizabeth to be delivered, and she gave birth to a son. And her neighbors and kinsfolk heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child; and they would have named him Zechariah after his father, but his mother said, "Not so; he shall be called John." And they said to her, "None of your kindred is called by this name." And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he would have him called. And he asked for a writing tablet, and wrote, "His name is John." And they all marveled. And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God. And fear came on all their neighbors. And all these things were talked about through all the hill country of Judea; and all who heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, "What then will this child be?" For the hand of the Lord was with him. And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying, "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people."

Nunc dimittis *Dorian Service* Thomas Tallis

Anthem arr, Barry Ferguson (b. 1942)

PEOPLE look East, the time is near
Of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
Trim the hearth and set the table.
People look East, and sing today:
Love the Guest is on the way.

Furrows, be glad, though earth is bare,
One more seed is planted there:
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
That in course the flower may flourish.
People look East, and sing today:
Love the Rose is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
One more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather,
Bright as sun and moon together.
People look East, and sing today,
Love the star is on the way.

Angels, announce to man and beast
Him who cometh from the East.
Set every peak and valley humming
With the Word, the Lord is coming.
People look East and sing today:
Love the Lord is on the way.

Eleanor Farjeon (1881–1965)

Hymn 60
Creator of the stars of night *Conditor alme siderum*