

All remain standing as the Choir and Clergy exit.

The Voluntary

A Festival Toccata

Malcolm Archer (b. 1952)

*Commissioned for the inaugural recital of this organ, 22 November 2011,
much enjoyed by Stella.*

*Immediately following the service a tipple and toast will be raised to Stella.
Please help yourself to a drink and then make your way outside
to enjoy the evening sun and socialise.*



*Hymns covered by Christian Copyright Licensing (Europe) Ltd are reproduced under CCL no 74516.
Scripture Readings are from the New Revised Standard Version.*



The Parish of Boxmoor

St John's Boxmoor,
St Stephen's Chaulden & St Francis' Hammerfield



Choral Evensong in Thanksgiving for the Life of Stella Chandler

11 July 1923 – 8 June 2020

**Sunday 11 July 2021
6.30pm**

Welcome to this Service of Choral Evensong.

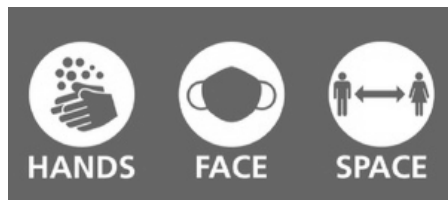
Tonight, as part of our offering of praise and thanksgiving, we give thanks for our departed sister Stella Chandler. Stella, a regular member of our worshipping community, died during the first lockdown when restrictions prevented a full celebration of her long and rich life. Tonight we recall all that made Stella that unique and wonderful person and, in thanksgiving, pray that she may enjoy the fruits of her faith - life eternal in God's heavenly abode.

All the music this evening has been specially chosen for Stella. The service opens with A PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP—calling us from our busy lives to confess our sins and receive God's forgiveness. The choir sings a PSALM—songs from the Hebrew scriptures—during which our minds may meditate on words and ideas that come to us. Christian faith always looks both backward to its roots and forward to God's action. This is represented by the two readings and the responses to them. THE FIRST READING is from the Old Testament, the books recording God's dealings with his ancient people the Jews. Theirs is the tradition into which Jesus was born. In response the choir sings MAGNIFICAT—the song of Jesus's mother, Mary—which affirms God's work in history. THE SECOND READING is from the New Testament, and is a story or a passage of teaching from Jesus or the first Christians. The choir responds with NUNC DIMITTIS, a song that recognizes that in Jesus's coming God keeps his promise to the whole world. In THE CREED we affirm that the Christian faith is founded on this story, and we offer further (sung) prayers.

Today, a EULOGY to Stella will take the place of a traditional sermon to give us time to reflect on her extraordinary life. The choir then sings AN ANTHEM, a piece of music that, again, gives us time and space to meditate on God, his world, and ourselves. The service ends with PRAYERS for the needs of others, before we return to God's service in the busy world.

Covid Secure measures

We are doing everything we can to keep you safe during these times. Please follow the direction of our stewards, use sanitiser on entry and exit, wear a face covering, and observe social distancing. In line with regulations congregational singing indoors is prohibited. As a result the service is sung by an octet of our choir.



All kneel or remain seated for

The Prayers of Intercession

At the end of the Prayers all say:

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.**

The choir sings

The Final Hymn

All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us sing
Alleluia, alleluia!
Thou burning sun with golden beam,
thou silver moon with softer gleam:
*O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
ye clouds that sail in heaven along,
O praise him, Alleluia!
Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,
ye lights of evening, find a voice:

Dear mother earth, who day by day
unfoldest blessings on our way,
O praise him, Alleluia!
The flowers and fruits that in thee grow,
let them his glory also show:

And thou, most kind and gentle death,
waiting to hush our latest breath,
O praise him, Alleluia!
Thou leadest home the child of God,
and Christ our Lord the way hath trod:

Let all things their Creator bless,
and worship him in humbleness,
O praise him, Alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, three in One:

Lasst uns erfreuen 263 NEH

All stand for

The Blessing

The God of peace,
who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,
that great shepherd of the sheep,
through the blood of the eternal covenant,
make you perfect in every good work to do his will,
working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.
Amen.

The choir sings

The Hymn

Dear Lord and Father of mankind, forgive our foolish ways; re-clothe us in our rightful mind, in purer lives thy service find, in deeper reverence praise.	O Sabbath rest by Galilee! O calm of hills above, where Jesus knelt to share with thee the silence of eternity, interpreted by love!
In simple trust like theirs who heard, beside the Syrian sea, the gracious calling of the Lord, let us, like them, without a word rise up and follow thee.	Drop thy still dews of quietness, till all our strivings cease; take from our souls the strain and stress, and let our ordered lives confess the beauty of thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire
thy coolness and thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still small voice of calm.

Repton 353 NEH

All remain seated for

The Eulogy to Stella *given by Stella's family and friends*

All remain seated. The choir sings

The Anthem

For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies, for the love which from our birth over and around us lies, Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.	For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child, friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild, Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.
For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night, hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light, Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.	For each perfect gift of thine, to our race so freely given, graces human and divine, flowers of earth and buds of heaven, Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.

John Rutter (b.1945)

The organ is played by Nicholas King.

The choir is directed by Keith Beniston, Director of Music at St John's.

The Service is conducted by the Reverend Michael Macey, Vicar of Boxmoor.

Please remain seated as the clergy take their seats.

The choir sings

The Introit

Flocks in pastures green abiding, safely with their Shepherd rest.
Cool'd by waters gently gliding.
With the food of life He feeds them, to the fold He gently leads them,
There to dwell for ever blest.

*Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)
from Cantata No 208
Ar Stanley Roper*

The officiant gives

The Welcome and Opening Sentence

The choir sings

The Office Hymn

New every morning is the love
our wakening and uprising prove;
through sleep and darkness safely brought,
restored to life and power and thought.

New mercies, each returning day,
hover around us while we pray;
new perils past, new sins forgiven,
new thoughts of God, new hopes of heaven.

If on our daily course our mind
be set to hallow all we find,
new treasures still, of countless price,
God will provide for sacrifice.

The trivial round, the common task,
would furnish all we ought to ask,
room to deny ourselves, a road
to bring us daily nearer God.

Only, O Lord, in thy dear love
fit us for perfect rest above;
and help us, this and every day,
to live more nearly as we pray.

Melcombe 238 NEH

All remain seated for

The Introduction

Dearly beloved brethren,
the Scripture moveth us in sundry places
to acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness;
and that we should not dissemble nor cloke them
before the face of Almighty God our heavenly Father;
but confess them with an humble, lowly, penitent, and obedient heart;
to the end that we may obtain forgiveness of the same,
by his infinite goodness and mercy.
And although we ought at all times
humbly to acknowledge our sins before God;
yet ought we most chiefly so to do,
when we assemble and meet together
to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at his hands,
to set forth his most worthy praise, to hear his most holy Word,
and to ask those things which are requisite and necessary,
as well for the body as the soul.
Wherefore I pray and beseech you,
as many as are here present,
to accompany me with a pure heart and humble voice
unto the throne of the heavenly grace,
saying after me:

All kneel or remain seated to say:

The General Confession

**Almighty and most merciful Father;
we have erred, and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep.
We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts.
We have offended against thy holy laws.
We have left undone those things which we ought to have done;
and we have done those things which we ought not to have done;
and there is no health in us.
But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders.
Spare thou them, O God, which confess their faults.
Restore thou them that are penitent;
according to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesu our Lord.
And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake;
that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life,
to the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.**

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. Amen.*

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.
And grant us thy salvation.

O Lord, save the Queen.
And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.
Endue thy ministers with righteousness.
And make thy chosen people joyful.

O Lord, save thy people.
And bless thine inheritance.

Give peace in our time, O Lord.
Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.

O God, make clean our hearts within us.
And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

The Collects:

O God, who hast prepared for them that love thee
such good things as pass man's understanding;
pour into our hearts such love toward thee,
that we, loving thee above all things,
may obtain thy promises, which exceed all that we can desire;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O God, from whom all holy desires,
all good counsels, and all just works do proceed;
give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give;
that both our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments,
and also that by thee we being defended from the fear of our enemies
may pass our time in rest and quietness;
through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. *Amen.*

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord;
and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night;
for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

All stand. The Choir sings

Nunc Dimittis

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace: according to thy word.
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation:
which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;
to be a light to lighten the Gentiles: and to be the glory of thy people Israel.
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.

*George Dyson
Evening Service in D
St Luke 2: 29–32*

All remain standing to say

The Apostles' Creed:

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth:
and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead,
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic Church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The Officiant and choir sing

The Lesser Litany, The Lord's Prayer, and Responses

The Lord be with you;
and with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

All kneel or sit.

The Absolution

The Officiant pronounces God's forgiveness:

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who desireth not the death of a sinner,
but rather that he may turn from his wickedness, and live;
and hath given power, and commandment, to his ministers,
to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent,
the absolution and remission of their sins:
he pardoneth and absolveth all them that truly repent,
and unfeignedly believe his holy gospel.
Wherefore let us beseech him to grant us true repentance, and his Holy Spirit,
that those things may please him, which we do at this present;
and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure, and holy;
so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer:

**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 Officiant and choir sing

The Responses

William Smith (1603–45)

O Lord, open thou our lips;
and our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

O God, make speed to save us;
O Lord, make haste to help us.

All stand.

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.

Praise ye the Lord.
The Lord's name be praised.

All sit. The choir sings

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd: therefore can I lack nothing.
He shall feed me in a green pasture: and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort.
He shall convert my soul: and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness, for his Name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff comfort me.
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.
But thy loving-kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

All stand.

James Turle (1802–82)

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.

All sit for

The Old Testament Lesson - Ecclesiastes 3: 1–11

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:
a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
a time to tear, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.

What gain have the workers from their toil? I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with. He has made everything suitable for its time; moreover, he has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.

All stand. The Choir sings

Magnificat

My soul doth magnify the Lord:
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
For he hath regarded: the lowliness of his hand-maiden.
For behold, from henceforth: all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me: and holy is his Name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him: throughout all generations.
He hath shewed strength with his arm:
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat:
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things:
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy: hath holpen his servant Israel:
as he promised to our forefathers: Abraham and his seed, for ever.
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.

*George Dyson (1883–1964)
Evening Service in D
St Luke 1: 46–55*

All sit for

The New Testament Lesson - Romans 15: 5–7, 13

May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.