



FREEMEN AND GUILDS OF THE CITY CHESTER



President's Sunday

The Order of Service

Sunday 19th June 2022

(First Sunday after Trinity)

10.30am

The Guild Church of St. Peter

The Church of the Mayor and Corporation of the City

The Arrival of the Civic Party

The congregation stands and the Civic Party gather at the front of the Church.

Warden: Reverend Jonathan, I present to you, John Dodd, President of the Freemen and Guilds of this ancient City of Chester.

Vicar: Mr Warden, I thank you for your presentation. In the name of Almighty God I welcome you, President John, to this your Guild Church of St Peter.

President: Thank you Reverend Jonathan for your welcome and the welcome you have extended to our companies.

Warden: Reverend Jonathan, I present to you Councillor John Leather, the Lord Mayor of this ancient City of Chester.

Vicar: Mr Warden, I thank you for your presentation and in the name of Almighty God I welcome you, Lord Mayor, to this ancient Church of Chester, Church of the Corporation of Chester and may God bless you in your ministry to this City.

Lord Mayor: Thank you Reverend Jonathan for your welcome. It is with joy we greet you on this occasion of celebration for the life of our City.

Vicar: The Lord preserve both of you in your coming in and your going out from this time forth and for evermore.

Processional Hymn

Be Still for the Presence of the Lord

Be still for the presence of the Lord
The holy One, is here;
Come bow before Him now
With reverence and fear
In Him no sin is found
We stand on holy ground
Be still for the presence of the Lord
The holy One, is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord,
is shining all around.
He burns with holy fire,
with splendour He is crowned.
How awesome is the sight,
our radiant King of Light!
Be still, for the glory of the Lord,
is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord,
is moving in this place.
He comes to cleanse and heal,
to minister His grace.
No work too hard for Him,
in faith receive from Him.
Be still, for the power of the Lord,
is moving in this place.

During this hymn the Guilds' Standard and Mace is presented to Revd Jonathan, to be placed on the table.

Words of Welcome and Introduction

Revd Jonathan Phillips

Prayers of Preparation

Vicar: Dearly beloved, we have come together as the Freemen and Guilds of this City, gathering with St Peter's Church in the presence of God to hear and receive His Holy Word, to bring before Him the needs of this City and the world, to ask forgiveness of our sins, and to seek His grace, that through His Son Jesus Christ we may give ourselves to His service and the service of this City. The gospel calls us to turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ. As we offer ourselves to him in penitence and faith, we renew our confidence and trust in his mercy.

**All: Lord God,
we have sinned against you;
we have done evil in your sight.
We are sorry and repent.
Have mercy on us according to your love.
Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin.
Renew a right spirit within us
and restore us to the joy of your salvation,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

The Absolution

Vicar: May the God of love and power
forgive *you* and free *you* from *your* sins,
heal and strengthen *you* by his Spirit,
and raise *you* to new life in Christ our Lord.
Amen.

First Reading – Romans 12.1-8

The Lord Mayor of Chester, Councillor John Leather

12 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

³ For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. ⁴ For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. ⁶ We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; ⁷ if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; ⁸ if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Congregation stands

Amazing Grace

Please follow the hymn in Makaton.

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,
His Word my hope secures;
He will my Shield and Portion be,
As long as life endures.

Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail,
And mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess, within the veil,
A life of joy and peace.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.

Congregation sits for the second reading

Second Reading – John 14.8-17

President of the Freemen and Guilds, John Dodd

14 ⁸ Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.”

⁹ Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰ Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. ¹¹ Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. ¹² Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

¹⁵ “If you love me, keep my commands. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Sermon:
Revd Jonathan Phillips

Short time of discussion following three questions:

- 1) What one thing in Chester or in your life would you most like to see transformed for the better?
- 2) Why should we all desire and seek to bring about transformation in the lives of others and our cities?
- 3) How did Paul envisage true transformation happening in the early church?

Congregation stands to say the creed

The Creed

*Please follow the creed in Makaton on the video.
It may go slower than you expect.*

**All: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,**

**the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

Intercessions

In this short time of prayer we will pray for the world, our nation, our city, our friends, families and colleagues and the lost, the last, the least and the lonely.

The Collect for the first Sunday after Trinity

O God,
the strength of all those who put their trust in you,
mercifully accept our prayers
and, because through the weakness of our mortal nature
we can do no good thing without you,
grant us the help of your grace,
that in the keeping of your commandments
we may please you both in will and deed;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Please follow the Lord's prayer in Makaton on the video.

It may go slower than you expect.

**All: Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

Dedication of President & Guilds

The President stands before the Vicar.

Vicar: Members of the Freemen and Guilds of this ancient City of Chester, and you, its citizens, gathered within this House of God; As Vicar of St Peter's Church Chester, today I charge you to mark this solemn occasion and to consider, with careful thought and prayer, the reason for our gathering together and the true nature and lofty purpose of the Guild. In that it is at all times our purpose to seek the highest welfare of this City and its people. We are met now, before the face of God, to pray for His Blessing upon our President as he is now halfway through his term. Without God we are nothing, as Scripture reminds us: *'Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labour in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain.'*

Mr President, will you continue to be good and true to our Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth the second and her successors in all things lawful and honest?

President: I will

Vicar: Will you continue to be obedient to the Lord Mayor of this City and maintain the Franchises and Customs thereof?

President: I will

Vicar: Will you continue to keep this City harmless and also keep the Queen's Peace in your own person?

President: I will

Vicar: Will you continue to uphold your own personal faith by word and example?

President: I will so do, the Lord being my Helper.

Vicar: Have you considered these answers carefully and with prayer?

President: I have so done. All these points and articles I will well and truly keep, according to the Laws and Customs of this City of Chester, and to the best of my power.

Vicar: On behalf of the members of the City of Chester Freemen and Guilds, I now bless you in the name of God, charging you and all Freeman and Guilds, that as John Dodd has continued in the high Office of President with its privileges that you all will discharge its duties for the well-ordering of this City of Chester, for the safety, prosperity and well-being of its citizens.

Almighty God, assist with your Holy Spirit of counsel and fortitude the President of the Freemen & Guilds of this ancient City, that his administration may be conducted in righteousness, and be useful to your people over whom he presides. May he encourage due respect for virtue and religion, may he keep the laws and customs of this City and may he keep the Queen's Peace both now and forevermore. And may Almighty God Bless you, The Father, The Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

The Guilds' Prayer

Vicar: Let us pray

All: O God our heavenly Father, who has taught us ever to bear one another's burdens and so fulfil the law of Christ, and in a spirit of comradeship to work together for the social welfare of your people, we humbly beseech You to let your Blessings rest upon our Freemen and Guilds, so that every member of the same may in the spirit of a dedicated life, devote themselves to further the objects of the Guilds, to promote its charities, and to preserve the highest traditions of this great City of Chester, that we may learn to prepare ourselves for that better commonwealth and heavenly citizenship, which begun here, awaits us hereafter, whose builder and maker is God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Closing Prayer & the Blessing of the Congregation

Vicar: Almighty Father, you are lavish in bestowing all your gifts, and we give you thanks for the favours you have given to us. In your goodness you have favoured our Freemen and Guilds and kept us safe in the past. We ask that you continue to protect our ancient City and to shelter us in the shadow of your wings. We ask this through Christ our Lord. May God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit Bless, preserve and keep you this day and forever more. Amen.

Congregation stands. During the last verse the Freemen and Guildsmen will collect the Standard.

The Hymn of the Freemen & Guilds of the City of Chester

All who're born of Guildsmen
Or prenticeship have served
The Freemanship of Chester
By Charter is reserved
As Chester City Guildsmen
We greatly ride that right
And will maintain that honour
With God's great strength and might.

They have a great tradition
So precious and so dear
Preserved throughout the ages
And kept from year to year
May God the Lord of all things
Enable us to build
Upon that long tradition
To strengthen every Guild.

We thank the Lord our Maker
For all his gifts bestowed
We always will remember
To him all life is owed
And by his grace endeavour
To use and to preserve
The wisdom and the blessings
He gives that we may serve.

TUNE: AURELIA AMENDED 1993. ORIGINAL VERSION BY H.R.J. SWINNERTON. PAINTERS, GLAZIERS, EMBROIDERERS
AND STATIONERS COMPANY. (edited, D. Kelly; D. Starbuck Edwards; J. Phillips 2018)

The Blessing of the City of Chester

The Guilds and congregation leave the Church and muster at the Cross; then the President and the Civic Party led by the Vicar and wardens process through the West Door and standing at the entrance to the Church the Vicar will bless the City.

Vicar: Almighty God, Lord of the whole earth, pour out your blessing, we pray thee, upon this City of Chester, the County of Cheshire and the Diocese of Chester. Bind all who live here in goodwill and unity, give peace, prosperity and concord to every place, and may your will be proclaimed and performed by all your people; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

Vicar: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit bless, preserve and keep you all, now and for ever.

All: Amen

The Bell rings

All are welcome back into St Peter's for refreshments.

The Parish of Chester, St Peter



President of the Freeman and Guilds of the City of Chester
John Dodd

The Right Worshipful
The Lord Mayor of the City of Chester
Councillor John Leather

The Vicar of Chester, St Peter and
Chaplain of the Freeman and Guilds
Revd Jonathan Phillips

Warden
David Hobson

Immediate Past President of the Freeman and Guilds of the City of
Chester and Honorary Secretary
Ian Dutton