



FREEMEN AND GUILDS OF THE CITY OF CHESTER



President's Sunday

The Order of Service
Sunday 20th June 2021
(Third Sunday after Trinity)
3pm

*Please remember to wear your mask in the building and not to
join in with singing.*

The Guild Church of St. Peter
The Church of the Mayor and Corporation of the City

Words of Welcome and Introduction

Revd Jonathan Phillips, Vicar

The Ceremony of Inauguration of the President of the Freemen and Guilds and the Chaplain to the Freemen and Guilds

Oath for the President

The Immediate Past President: I shall now install John Dodd as the President of the Freemen & Guilds of the City of Chester.

John, you have been nominated by your ancient and honourable Company for the position of President of the Freemen and Guilds of the City of Chester (and duly elected by the membership of the Freemen of the City of Chester).

Are you willing to be installed here in the ancient Church of St Peter, the Freemen's Church, with the wearing of the President's robes and the President's Jewel as President, and do you faithfully agree to maintain the customs and traditions of the ancient Guilds and Companies of the Freemen & Guilds of the City of Chester?

President: I am willing and I do agree

IPP: In that case it gives me great pleasure to robe you with your Coat of Office and even greater pleasure to install you as President.

Fellow Freemen of Chester, I present to you John Dodd, the President of the Freemen & Guilds of the City of Chester.

Oath for the Chaplain

President: I shall now install Rev Jonathan Phillips as the Honorary Chaplain to the Freemen & Guilds of the City of Chester.

Jonathan, you have been elected by the membership of the Freemen & Guilds of the City of Chester to the position of Honorary Chaplain.

Are you willing to be installed as Honorary Chaplain and to honour and support the ancient Guilds and Companies of the Freemen & Guilds of the City of Chester?

Chaplain: I am willing

President: In that case it gives me great pleasure to install you as Honorary Chaplain to the Freemen and Guilds of the City of Chester with your wearing of the Jewel of Office.

Fellow Freemen of Chester I now declare Rev Jonathan Phillips to be the Honorary Chaplain to the Freemen & Guilds of the City of Chester.

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 Freeman 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 Martyn Delaney, 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

Guide Me O My Great Redeemer

Guide me, O my great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but you are mighty;
hold me with your powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore,
feed me now and evermore.

Open now the crystal fountain,
where the healing waters flow.
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.
Strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer,
ever be my strength and shield,
ever be my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside.
Death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever sing to you,
I will ever sing to you.

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

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 His 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. Wherefore I pray and beseech you, as many as are here present, to confess your sins that we may obtain the forgiveness of the same by God's infinite goodness and mercy:

Please sit or kneel

**All: 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, who confess their faults. Restore thou them that are penitent; according to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus 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.**

The Absolution

Vicar: 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 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.**

Vicar: O Lord, open thou our lips

All: And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

Vicar: O God, make speed to save us.

All: O Lord, make haste to help us.

Vicar: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

All: As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Vicar: Praise ye the Lord.

All: The Lord's Name be praised.

Congregation remains seated for a responsive reading of the psalm

Psalm 48

¹ Great is the Lord, and most worthy of praise,
in the city of our God, his holy mountain.

² Beautiful in its loftiness,
the joy of the whole earth,
like the heights of Zaphon is Mount Zion,
the city of the Great King.

³ God is in her citadels;
he has shown himself to be her fortress.

⁴ When the kings joined forces,
when they advanced together,

⁵ they saw her and were astounded;
they fled in terror.

⁶ Trembling seized them there,
pain like that of a woman in labour.

⁷ You destroyed them like ships of Tarshish
shattered by an east wind.

⁸ As we have heard,
so we have seen
in the city of the Lord Almighty,
in the city of our God:

God makes her secure
forever.

⁹ Within your temple, O God,
we meditate on your unfailing love.

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;**

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.**

First Reading – Joshua 20.1-6

The Lord Mayor of Chester, Councillor Martyn Delaney

20 Then the Lord said to Joshua: ²“Tell the Israelites to designate the cities of refuge, as I instructed you through Moses, ³so that anyone who kills a person accidentally and unintentionally may flee there and find protection from the avenger of blood. ⁴When they flee to one of these cities, they are to stand in the entrance of the city gate and state their case before the elders of that city. Then the elders are to admit the fugitive into their city and provide a place to live among them. ⁵If the avenger of blood comes in pursuit, the elders must not surrender the fugitive, because the fugitive killed their neighbour unintentionally and without malice aforethought. ⁶They are to stay in that city until they have stood trial before the assembly and until the death of the high priest who is serving at that time. Then they may go back to their own home in the town from which they fled.”

At the end the reader says: Here ends the first lesson.

Congregation stands

Te Deum Laudamus

1. We praise thee O God : we acknowledge thee to be the Lord.
2. All the earth doth worship thee : the Father everlasting.
3. To thee all angels cry aloud : the Heavens and all the Powers therein.
4. To thee Cherubim and Seraphim :
continually do cry,
5. Holy Holy Holy : Lord God of Sabaoth ;
6. Heaven and earth are full of the Majesty of thy Glory.
7. The glorious company of the Apostles praise thee:
The goodly fellowship of the Prophets praise thee.
8. The noble army of Martyrs praise thee.
9. The Holy Church throughout all the world doth
acknowledge thee:
The Father of an infinite Majesty.
10. Thine honourable true and only Son :
Also the Holy Spirit the Comforter.

Congregation sits for the second reading

Second Reading – Luke 17:12-19

President of the Freemen and Guilds, John Dodd

¹² As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance ¹³ and called out in a loud voice, “Jesus, Master, have pity on us!”

¹⁴ When he saw them, he said, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were cleansed.

¹⁵ One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. ¹⁶ He threw himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan.

¹⁷ Jesus asked, “Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? ¹⁸ Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?” ¹⁹ Then he said to him, “Rise and go; your faith has made you well.”

At the end the reader says: Here ends the Second Lesson

Congregation stands to say the creed

The Creed

**All: 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 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,
And sitteth at 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 Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the
Communion of Saints, the Forgiveness of sins, the Resurrection
of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The Prayers

Minister: The Lord be with you.

All: And with thy spirit.

Minister: Let us pray.

Congregation sits or kneels

Minister: Lord, have mercy upon us.

All: Christ, have mercy upon us.

Minister: Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Lord's Prayer

**All: 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 them that 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 Versicles & Responses

Minister: O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

All: And grant us thy salvation.

Minister: O Lord, save the Queen.

All: And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Minister: Endue thy Ministers with righteousness.

All: And make thy chosen people joyful.

Minister: O Lord, save thy people.

All: And bless thine inheritance.

Minister: Give peace in our time, O Lord.

All: Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.

Minister: O God, make clean our hearts within us.

All: And take not thy Spirit from us.

The Collects

Minister: O almighty and most merciful God, of thy bountiful goodness keep us, we beseech thee, from all things that may hurt us; that we, being ready both in body and soul, may cheerfully accomplish those things that thou wouldst have done; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Almighty and eternal God, to whom we must all give account: Guide with thy Spirit the Freemen and Guilds of this ancient City, that they may be faithful to the mind of Christ, and seek in all their purposes to enrich our common life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O God, who art the author of peace and lover of concord, in knowledge of whom standeth our eternal life, whose service is perfect freedom; defend us thy humble servants in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in thy defence, may not fear the power of any adversaries, through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O Lord, our heavenly Father, Almighty and everlasting God, who hast safely brought us to the beginning of this day; defend us in the same with thy mighty power; and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger; but that all our doings may be ordered by thy governance, to do always that which is righteous in thy sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**All: 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.**

Sermon:

Revd Jonathan Phillips

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 Guilds. 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. Without God we are nothing, as Scripture reminds us: *'Except the Lord build the house they labour in vain that build it;' 'except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain'.*

Mr President, will you 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 be obedient to the Lord Mayor of this City and maintain the Franchises and Customs thereof?

President: I will

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

President: I will

Vicar: Will you 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 received 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 thy 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 thy 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, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you.

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 thy people, we humbly beseech thee to let thy 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 began 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 are 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 stand 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 Priest in charge 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 process out and muster at the Cross.

The Parish of Chester, St Peter



**President of the Freeman and Guilds of the City of Chester and
Alderman of the Worshipful Company of Cappers, Pinners,
Weirdrawers and Linnendrapers**

John Dodd

**The Right Worshipful
The Lord Mayor of the City of Chester
Councillor Martyn Delaney**

**The Vicar of Chester, St Peter and
Chaplain to the Freeman and Guilds and
Chaplain to the Lord Mayor of the City of Chester
Revd Jonathan Phillips**

**Associate Minister, St Peter
Revd Michael Leyden**

**Warden
David Hobson**

**Immediate Past President of the Freeman and Guilds of the City of
Chester and Honorary Secretary and member of
the Bakers Company
Ian Dutton**