



RS  M

THE ROYAL SCHOOL OF CHURCH MUSIC

MUSIC SUNDAY

A service celebrating
the role of church music in worship
and the dedicated musicians who lead it

Sunday 30th June 2024
6.00 pm

Welcome to the Church of
St. Michael and All Angels

We are a Christian church within the Anglican tradition and we welcome people of all Christian traditions as well as people of other faiths and people of little or no faith. Christian worship has been offered to God here, in Polwatte, for over 135 years. By worshipping with us today, you become part of that living tradition. Our regular worshippers comprising of three congregations (English, Sinhala, Tamil) supported by members of staff and a large number of volunteers, make up the church community.

We are committed to the diversity, equal opportunities and personal and spiritual development of all who work and worship here because we are followers of Jesus Christ.

Holy Communion is celebrated daily at 7.00 am
and every Wednesday at 12.00 noon

On Sundays Holy Communion is celebrated at 7.30 am in English;
9.00 am in Sinhala; 10.30 am in Tamil and 12.00 noon in English.

For further information telephone 112 343 471
or email the parish secretary: secretary@stmichaelspolwatte.lk

About this Service

In a transformed landscape in the aftermath of Covid, the Royal School of Church Music, (RSCM), is reaching out with a vision to involve churches and communities around the world, to celebrate the role of church music in worship and the dedication of all church musicians.

The RSCM, as an educational charity, supports the church and church musicians to make the best of music in worship, and 'RSCM Music Sunday' is a powerful way to provide a positive solution for everyone to come together to celebrate.

As a member of the RSCM, St. Michael's is proud to be able to present this service together with over 40 churches and cathedrals around the world who are celebrating Music Sunday this month.

We are glad that you have joined us for worship this evening. Please be assured of our continuing prayers for you when you go back to your homes.

Please ensure that you have switched off your mobile phone or have it on its silent setting.

Please do not use any photographic or recording devices during the service

The service is presided by
The Venerable Christopher Balraj
Vicar, St. Michael and All Angels

The service is sung by
The Colombo Philharmonic Choir
Voice of Praise, Chamber Choir
Choir of St. Michael and All Angels, Polwatte

The choirs are conducted by
Harin Amirthanathan
Conductor, Colombo Philharmonic Choir

The organ is played by
Denham Pereira
Director of Music, St. Michael and All Angels

Please remain silent before the service begins

Music before the service

Fugue in C BWV 547	<i>J. S. Bach, 1685–1750</i>
Andante Tranquillo <i>from</i> 5 short pieces	<i>Percy Whitlock, 1909–46</i>
Chorale Prelude on ‘Lobe den Herren, o meine Seele’ Op. 65 No. 28 <i>(Praise the Lord, O my soul)</i>	<i>Sigfrid Karg-Elert, 1877–1933</i>
Imperial March	<i>Sir Edward Elgar, 1857–1932</i>

Order of Service

*Members of the congregation are requested to join in all text in **bold**.*

At 6.00 pm remain seated for the Angelus.

Remain seated as the procession of servers, choirs, and clergy enter and take their place at the West Door

Remain seated as the choir sings

Introit

O PRAISE the Lord
for it is a good thing to sing praises
to our God.
Yea, a joyful and pleasant thing
it is to be thankful.

Words: Psalm 147.1

Music: Martin How, 1931–2022

All stand to sing

Processional Hymn



PRAISE to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation;
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation:
come ye who hear,
brothers and sisters draw near,
praise him in glad adoration.

**Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth:
hast thou not seen
all that is needful hath been
granted in what he ordaineth?**

**Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work, and defend thee;
surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee;
ponder anew
all the almighty can do,
he who with love doth befriend thee.**

Choir only:

Praise to the Lord, who, when tempests their warfare are waging,
who, when the elements madly around thee are raging,
biddeth them cease,
turneth their fury to peace,
whirlwinds and waters assuaging.

Congregation only:

**Praise to the Lord, who when darkness of sin is abounding,
who, when the godless do triumph, all virtue confounding,
sheddeth his light,
chaseth the horrors of night,
saints with his mercy surrounding.**

**Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!
let the Amen
sound from his people again:
gladly for ay we adore him.**

Words: J. Neander, 1650–80
tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78

Tune: Lobe den Herren
Praxis Pietatis Melica, 1668
Descant: John Scott, 1952–2015

Remain standing. The vicar leads

The Bidding

DEAR friends, welcome to St. Michael and All Angels, where we gather to join our voices in worship and to offer God the best of our service, with the voice of melody and in songs of thanksgiving, through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Here, we gather different choirs and celebrate in the company of those who care for and sustain the music within our churches. We give thanks to God for choristers, choir directors, organists, composers and musicians and pray that their creative endeavour in the sublime language of music may transform for good the lives of those who listen and who worship.

We also give thanks for the witness of Saint Cecilia, Virgin and Martyr, and for the gift of music which tunes our voices in the harmony of praise.

So now we make our offering of praise confident in the loving mercy of God and inspired that we now take our place in the community of praise.

All sit. The choir sings

Jubilate

O BE joyful in the Lord, all ye lands:
serve the Lord with gladness,
and come before his presence with a song.

Be ye sure that the Lord he is God:
it is he that hath made us,
and not we ourselves;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving,
and into his courts with praise:
be thankful unto him, and speak good of his Name.

For the Lord is gracious, his mercy is everlasting;
and his truth endureth from generation to generation.

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.

Words: Psalm 100

Music: Charles V. Stanford, 1852–1924

The Rev. Asokarajah Narasingam, Curate, St. Michael's, Polwatte, continues,

HOLY God,
to whom worship is due both day and night,
accept our humble offerings of praise,
so that our hearts may feel your godly love,
our souls be inspired by your Holy Spirit
and our minds filled with the knowledge of Christ,
for you reign, in earth and sky and sea,
Trinity in Unity.
Amen.

Derek Ross-Meredith, Organist, SS. Mary and John, Nugegoda, reads

Reading

AS God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Colossians 3. 12–17

The choir sings

Anthem

SET me as a seal upon thine heart,
as a seal upon thine arm:
for love is strong as death;
Many waters cannot quench love,
neither can the floods drown it.

Text: *from* the Song of Solomon

Music: William Walton, 1902–83

All kneel or remain seated.

The Rev. Andrew Devadason, Vicar, St. Paul's, Milagiriya, continues,

GOD of all kindness,
we thank you for the many ways
your love comes into our lives.
You have filled our mouths with laughter
and our tongues with singing.
Accept our sacrifice of song
in your Church on earth,
and grant us a part in the music
of your Church in heaven;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen



GOD is here! As we your people
meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure
what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us,
all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit
into open minds and hearts.

Here are symbols to remind us
of our lifelong need of grace;
here are table, font and pulpit;
here the cross has central place.
here in honesty of preaching,
here in silence, as in speech,
here, in newness and renewal,
God the spirit comes to each.

Lord of all, of church and kingdom,
In an age of change and doubt,
Keep us faithful to the Gospel;
help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication,
All we have to give, receive;
We, who cannot live without you,
We adore you! We believe!

All sit. Sneha Appathurai, Organist, Christ Church, Galkissa, reads

Psalm 47

CLAP your hands, all you peoples;
shout to God with loud songs of joy.
For the Lord, the Most High, is awesome,
a great king over all the earth.
He subdued peoples under us
and nations under our feet.
He chose our heritage for us,
the pride of Jacob whom he loves.
God has gone up with a shout,
the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.
Sing praises to God, sing praises;
sing praises to our King, sing praises.
For God is the king of all the earth;
sing praises with a psalm.
God is king over the nations;
God sits on his holy throne.
The princes of the peoples gather
as the people of the God of Abraham.
For the shields of the earth belong to God;
he is highly exalted.

The choir sings

Anthem

BLESSED be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
which according to his abundant mercy
hath begotten us again unto a lively hope
by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled,
that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,
who are kept by the power of God;
through faith unto salvation
ready to be revealed in the last time.

But as he which hath called you is holy,
so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;
Pass the time of your sojourning here in fear.

Love one another with a pure heart fervently,
See that ye love one another.

Being born again, not of corruptible seed,
but of incorruptible, by the word of God.
For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man
as the flower of grass.
The grass withereth,
and the flower thereof falleth away:

But the word of the Lord endureth for ever.
Amen.

Words: *from* 1 Peter

Music: Samuel S. Wesley, 1810–1876

*All kneel or remain seated. The Rev. Wilson Gnanadass, Vicar, SS. Mary and John,
Nugegoda, continues*

LORD our creator,
you place us here on your earth,
and call each one of us into your presence
to minister in music, word and sacrament.
In response to your call of mercy,
we praise your holy name;
for you are our God,
who calls us, and loves us and saves us.
Amen.

All stand to sing

Hymn

during which a collection is taken in aid of the Music Fund of St. Michael's



FILL thou my life, O Lord my God,
in every part with praise,
that my whole being may proclaim
thy being and thy ways.

**Not for the lip of praise alone,
nor e'en the praising heart
I ask, but for a life made up
of praise in every part:**

All men:

**Praise in the common things of life,
its goings out and in;
praise in each duty and each deed,
however small and mean.**

**Fill every part of me with praise:
let all my being speak
of thee and of thy love, O Lord,
poor though I be and weak.**

Choir only:

So shalt thou, Lord, receive from me
the praise and glory due;
and so shall I begin on earth
the song for ever new.

All women:

**So shall each fear, each fret, each care,
be turnèd into song;
and every winding of the way
the echo shall prolong.**

**So shall no part of day or night
unblest or common be,
but all my life, in every step,
be fellowship with thee.**

Words: Horatias Bonar, 1808–89

Tune: Richmond
Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820
Descant: Andrew Nethsingha, b.1968

All sit. Nathan Koblitz, a member of Voice of Praise, Chamber Choir, reads

Reading

TWAS battered and scarred,
and the auctioneer thought it scarcely worth his while
to waste much time on the old violin,
but held it up with a smile; “What am I bidden, good folks,” he cried,
“Who’ll start the bidding for me?”
“A dollar, a dollar”; then two!” “Only two?
Two dollars, and who’ll make it three?
Three dollars, once; three dollars twice; going for three..”

But no, from the room, far back,
a gray-haired man came forward and picked up the bow;
Then, wiping the dust from the old violin,
and tightening the loose strings, he played a melody
pure and sweet as carolling angels sing.

The music ceased,
and the auctioneer, with a voice that was quiet and low,
said; “What am I bid for the old violin?”
And he held it up with the bow.
A thousand dollars, and who’ll make it two?
Two thousand! And who’ll make it three?
Three thousand, once, three thousand, twice, and going and
gone,” said he. The people cheered, but some of them cried,
“We do not quite understand what changed its worth”
Swift came the reply: “The touch of a master’s hand.”

And many a man with life out of tune,
and battered and scarred with sin,
Is auctioned cheap to the thoughtless crowd,
much like the old violin.

A “mess of pottage,” a glass of wine; a game - and he travels on.
“He is going” once, and “going twice,
He’s going and almost gone.”

But the Master comes,
and the foolish crowd never can quite understand
the worth of a soul and the change that’s wrought
by the touch of the Master’s hand.

The Touch of the Master’s Hand
Myra ‘Brooks’ Welch, 1877–1959

All stand to sing

Hymn



LORD of all power, I give you my will,
in joyful obedience your tasks to fulfil.
Your bondage is freedom, your service is song;
and, held in your keeping, my weakness is strong.

**Lord of all wisdom, I give you my mind,
rich truth that surpasses man’s knowledge to find.
What eye has not seen and what ear has not heard
is taught by your Spirit and shines from your Word.**

**Lord of all bounty, I give you my heart;
I praise and adore you for all you impart:
your love to inspire me, your counsel to guide,
your presence to cheer me, whatever betide.**

**Lord of all being, I give your my all;
If e'er I disown you, I stumble and fall;
but, sworn in glad service your word to obey,
I walk in thy freedom to the end of the way.**

Words: Jack Winslow, 1882–1974

Tune: Slane
Irish Traditional Melody

All sit. Lael Peiris, Associate Choirmaster, Holy Trinity, Wellawatte, reads

Reading

REJOICE in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!
Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.
Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition,
with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which
transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ
Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever
is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything
is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things.

Philippians. 4.4–8

Remain seated. The choir sings

Anthem

BŌGŌRODITSE Dyevo, raduissya
Blagōdatnaya Mariye,
Gospod s'Toboyu
Blagōslōvenna Tyi v'zhenakh.
i blagōslōven Plod chryeva Tvōyego
yako Spassa rōdila yessi dush nashikh.

*Rejoice, virgin, God-bearer
Mary, full of grace,
the Lord be with you.
Blessed are you amongst women
and blessed is the Fruit of your Womb
for you have borne the Saviour of our souls.*

Words: *from* the Liturgy of Vespers

Music: Sergei Rachmaninov, 1873–1943



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.

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.

Words: John G. Whittier, 1807–92

Tune: Repton
Charles H. Parry, 1848–1918

All kneel or remain seated. Rev. Chintha Polgampola, Curate, St. Michael's, Polwatte, leads

The Prayers

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ,
let us pray to the Father.

GOD of beauty and holiness,
we give you thanks for the gift of music,
and for the creative talent and inspiration that
you have given to those who compose and perform.
Help us always to use your gifts for your honour and glory,
so that we may be sustained by their beauty,
and that our hearts and minds might be lifted to you,
the source of all that is good.

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

GOD of truth,
inspire with wisdom and discernment
all those who teach the art of music.
Fill them with gentleness and patience,
and grant them zeal for the hidden mysteries which music can reveal
as they lead others into an ever greater understanding of the beauty
and complexity of your creation.

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

GOD of mercy and compassion,
look with love upon all who are distressed in body,
mind, or spirit, and especially upon those musicians
who are suffering from sickness, anxiety, or adverse circumstances.
Fill them, we pray, with the strength of your Holy Spirit,
support them with your healing power,
and comfort them with your peace.

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

GOD of grace, you have created all things,
and fill them with life and goodness.
Grant harmony and peace to our broken world,
and help us to work tirelessly for that justice
which is in accordance with your will,
that all your children might be free
to enjoy the gift of life in all its fullness.
Help us to follow the good examples
of those who have gone before us,
especially those who devoted their lives
to uphold church music in worship.

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Uniting our praises and petitions with all who sing before God's throne in
heaven, let us pray as Jesus Christ has taught us:

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.

All sit. The choir sings

Anthem

*L*ET the people praise thee, O God:
yea, let all the people praise thee.

O let the nations rejoice and be glad;
For thou shalt judge the folk righteously,
And govern the nations upon earth.

Then shall the earth bring forth her increase:
And God, even our own God, shall give us his blessing.
God shall bless us: and all the ends of the world shall fear him.

God be merciful unto us, and bless us:
And shew us the light of his countenance,
and be merciful unto us.
That thy way may be known upon earth:
thy saving health among all thy nations.

Glory be to 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.

Words: Psalm 67

Music: William Mathias, 1934–92

All stand as the vicar gives

The Blessing

MAY the songs of the angels sustain you,
may the praises of the saints inspire you,
may the silent music of the Unseen Trinity be in your heart,
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

All sing

Hymn



CHRIST triumphant, ever reigning,
Saviour, Master, King!
Lord of heaven, our lives sustaining,
hear us as we sing:

*Yours the glory and the crown,
the high renown, the eternal name.*

**Word incarnate, truth revealing,
Son of Man on earth!
power and majesty concealing
by your humble birth:**

All women:

**Suffering servant, scorned, ill - treated,
victim crucified!
death is through the cross defeated,
sinners justified: *(all sing the refrain)***

All men:

**Priestly king, enthroned for ever
high in heaven above!
sin and death and hell shall never
stifle hymns of love: *(all sing the refrain)***

**So, our hearts and voices raising
through the ages long,
ceaselessly upon you gazing,
this shall be our song:**

Words: Michael Saward, b.1932

Tune: Guiting Power
John Barnard, b.1952
Descant: John Barnard

*All remain standing as the procession moves to the west end of the church, then sit.
You are invited to be seated for the playing of the organ voluntary or to leave quietly at this point.*

Organ Voluntary

Toccata *from* Symphony No. 5

Charles Widor, 1844–1937

Thank you for worshipping with us.
Please take this order of service away with you to reflect upon
the music, readings and prayers, and as a reminder of your visit.

The Choir

Sopranos

Amasha Saraph
Anagi Perera
Cherine Amarasinghe
Dianne Daniel
Dinali David
Dushy Perera
Emily Windsor
Jeshreen Balraj
Kishani Mayan
Melony Nanayakkara
Nikita Meikle
Raneesha Perera
Rashmi Devaraj
Rushani Soysa-Talwatte
Sashyani Rodrigo
Satheesh Appathurai
Shalonica Jeevanantham
Sharmila Panditaratne

Altos

Birgitte Wimaladharm
Catherine Mack
Christina Perera
Deekshya Illangasinghe
Juanita Arulanantham
Koshala Mayan
Marina Daniel
Neluka Silva
Parshene Rodrigo
Pravaan Hensman
Sharmini Wikramanayake

Tenors

Charith Dharmabandu
Krishan Devasagayam
Nathan Koblintz
Rehan Perera
Shamil Appathurai
Shevaan Dayaratne
Vindula Perera

Basses

Avishka Wikramanayake
Joseph Jeevanantham
Krishan Wickramasinghe
Pranith Wirasinha
Ravi Ratnasabapathy
Shadwell Weerasinghe
Shanaka Amarasinghe

About the RSCM

THE Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) is the heart and home of church music. The RSCM is an educational charity that promotes the best use of music in worship, church life, and the wider community. The RSCM also publishes music and training resources and organises courses, short workshops, and other activities. RSCM is an international network, with over 8,500 affiliates, members and friends in over 40 countries, supported by over 650 volunteers and a small team of staff based throughout the UK.

About the Music Fund

AT the heart of St. Michael and All Angels, Polwatte, lies a vibrant music tradition that enriches our worship and community life. The Music Fund plays a crucial role in sustaining this tradition by supporting musicians' fees, printed sheet music, orders of service, and publicity.

As a community that receives no external funding, we rely wholeheartedly on the kindness and generosity of visitors and church music enthusiasts who attend our services. Your support not only helps us maintain our musical offerings but also ensures that the beauty of music continues to resonate within these sacred walls.

Every donation, no matter the size, makes a difference and is deeply appreciated. Your generosity helps us keep the spirit of music alive at St. Michael and All Angels, uniting us in harmony and praise. Together, let us continue to uplift and inspire others who worship through the power of music.

Thank you for supporting our Music Fund and being a vital part of our musical journey.



Cecilia (1606) | Guido Reni (1545–1642)

Saint Cecilia

According to legend, Saint Cecilia was a Roman woman of noble birth who was martyred for her Christian faith around the year 230 AD. Having resolved to live a chaste existence, a crisis occurred when, without her consent, Cecilia's father betrothed her to Valerian. The wedding day arrived and, while musical instruments were playing, Cecilia is said to have 'sung in her heart to God alone', saying: "Make my heart and my body pure that I be not confounded".

Cecilia's evangelical zeal converted her husband, and together they preached the gospel until they were captured and executed for their faith. Cecilia, having been arrested after her husband's death, refused to renounce her religion and was condemned to death by three blows to the neck. Cecilia remained alive for three days, during which time she gave all her possessions to the poor.

The fifth-century 'acts' which first told of her life recalls her singing to the Lord as she was married to her then pagan husband. For this reason she was chosen as patron saint of church music in the sixteenth century. This patronage has led to many poems and songs being written in her honour, including compositions by Purcell, Handel and Britten. Chaucer used her legend in his *Canterbury Tales* (The second Nun), and Cecilia is also depicted in many paintings and mosaics.

