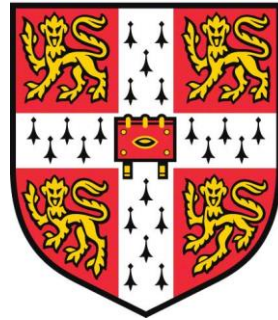


GREAT ST MARY'S, THE UNIVERSITY CHURCH,  
CAMBRIDGE



## UNIVERSITY SERMON

'A More Excellent Way?'

Dr Eeva John

Sunday 30 January 2022

10am

## WELCOME

Welcome to this University Sermon. As with so many other Cambridge institutions and customs 'Sermons before the University' (to give them their proper title) have a very long history but have been adapted with the passing of time, as circumstances have changed. Today, these Sermons are an opportunity for leading clergy and lay members of different churches to provide comment on current issues from a religious perspective and to explore aspects of the Christian faith.

The practice of Sermons in the University Church dates back at least to the year 1300 and was recognized in the earliest University Statutes. Then, and for many years afterwards, there were many more Sermons than there are today: one must remember that in a world without newspapers and where books were scarce, the Sermon played a very different role. It was not until the latter part of the twentieth century that Sermons ceased to be delivered weekly during Term. There are now five University Sermons in Great St Mary's each year. A sermon is also preached at Mere's Commemoration in St Bene't's Church, and a Sermon before the University is preached in King's College.

Today's Preacher is **Dr Eeva John**. Born in Finland, Eeva has had a fairly itinerant life growing up in Finland, the USA and Switzerland, and working in Ethiopia and Sudan before eventually making her home in the UK with her husband, Rob.

Her career is best described as a multi-coloured patchwork: from being a lecturer and researcher in organic chemistry to relief and development work, it was the experience of leading a community regeneration project that eventually drove her to her first love, namely the study of theology, which she pursued part time over a number of years at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford, and the London School of Theology.



Eeva has worked in three other theological colleges – Wycliffe Hall, Trinity College, Bristol, and Westcott House – as well as for the Ministry Division of the Church of England.

Eeva studied chemistry at Oxford University, where she also did her doctorate on the biosynthesis of penicillin. Much later, she completed a Diploma in Biblical and Theological Studies at Wycliffe Hall and a Masters in Biblical Interpretation at the London School of Theology. She also has completed qualifications in Group Facilitation Methods and Participatory Strategic Planning.

Eeva's interest is in the pedagogy of theological education in its widest sense. She hopes to stimulate the church in exploring creative and transformational approaches to learning for discipleship and ministry.

In 2021 Eeva was awarded a Lambeth Doctorate of Divinity in recognition of her work as Enabling Officer for *Living in Love and Faith*.

## STAYING COVID-SECURE

- Please do not attend if you, or members of your household, have coronavirus symptoms or have been asked to self-isolate.
- Please consider wearing a face covering inside the church.
- Please follow the direction of the stewards, particularly when leaving the church.

## TODAY'S MUSICIANS

The Choir of Gonville and Caius College is directed by Matthew Martin, Precentor and Director of Music; and the organist is Kyoko Canaway.

## MUSIC BEFORE THE SERVICE

Andante sostenuto *from* Symphonie Gothique

Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937)

## ORDER OF SERVICE

*The Congregation is asked to STAND as the Procession enters the Church.*

*The Vicar of the University Church, The Reverend Canon Adrian Daffern, Fellow of Lucy Cavendish College, and member of Trinity College, welcomes everyone and introduces the service.*

### HYMN

**Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation;  
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation:  
    all ye who hear,  
    now to his temple draw near,  
joining in glad adoration.**

**Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,  
shieldeth thee gently from harm, or when fainting sustaineth:  
    hast thou not seen  
    how thy heart's wishes have been  
granted in what he ordaineth?**

**Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;  
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend thee:  
    ponder anew  
    what the Almighty can do,  
if to the end he befriend thee.**

**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.**

Joachim Neander (1650-80)  
tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-78)  
Tune LOBEN DEN HERREN German 17<sup>th</sup> century melody

*Please SIT for*

## THE LESSON

*read by The Reverend Dr Cally Hammond,  
Dean and Fellow, Gonville and Caius College*

1 Corinthians 12.12-13.13

## THE BIDDING PRAYER

*Please STAND as the preacher reads the Bidding Prayer; after which please SIT for*

## THE SERMON

*Dr Eeva John*

*Please REMAIN SEATED for*

## THE ANTHEM

The King of love my shepherd is,  
whose goodness faileth never;  
I nothing lack if I am his  
and he is mine for ever.

Where streams of living water flow  
my ransomed soul he leadeth,  
and where the verdant pastures grow  
with food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,  
but yet in love he sought me,  
and on his shoulder gently laid,  
and home rejoicing brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill  
with thee, dear Lord, beside me;  
thy rod and staff my comfort still,  
thy cross before to guide me.

Thou spread'st a table in my sight;  
thy unction grace bestoweth;  
and O what transport of delight  
from thy pure chalice floweth!

And so through all the length of days  
thy goodness faileth never:  
good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise  
within thy house for ever.

H.W. Baker (1821-77)  
music by Sir Edward Bairstow (1874-1946)

*Please STAND to sing*

## HYMN

**Come down, O Love divine,  
seek thou this soul of mine,  
and visit it with thine own ardour glowing;  
O Comforter, draw near,  
within my heart appear,  
and kindle it,  
thy holy flame bestowing.**

**O let it freely burn,  
till earthly passions turn  
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;  
and let thy glorious light  
shine ever on my sight,  
and clothe me round  
the while my path illuming.**

**Let holy charity  
mine outward vesture be,  
and lowliness become mine inner clothing:  
true lowliness of heart,  
which takes the humbler part,  
and o'er its own shortcomings  
weeps with loathing.**

**And so the yearning strong,  
with which the soul will long,  
shall far outpass the power of human telling;  
for none can guess its grace,  
till they become the place  
wherein the Holy Spirit  
makes his dwelling.**

Bianco da Siena (d.1434) tr. R.F. Littledale (1833-90)  
Tune DOWN AMPNEY Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

*Please REMAIN STANDING as the Vicar gives*

## **THE BLESSING**

*Please REMAIN STANDING as the procession leaves.*

*Then please SIT and remain seated until directed by a steward.*

## **ORGAN VOLUNTARY**

Prelude in C Major BWV 547

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

*You are invited to take this Order of Service home with you.*

[www.greatstmarys.org](http://www.greatstmarys.org)



[youtube.com/c/greatstmarys](https://youtube.com/c/greatstmarys)

CCLI 785960

Streaming License 160968