

Thursday 12 May 2022

Gregory Dix



Gregory Dix was born George Eglinton Alston Dix on 4 October 1901 but took the name 'Gregory' on becoming a monk.

He was an English Benedictine monk (hence his usual designation of 'Dom'); His religious community was the Anglican Abbey of Nashdom.

Dix was hugely respected as a scholar of liturgy and his work greatly influenced the reforms of Anglican liturgy in the mid-20th century. He died on this day in 1952.

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Liturgy and prayers of intercession © 2000 The Archbishops' Council.

Bible readings © the publishers of the NRSV translation.

The liturgy assumes the service is Eucharistic. The prayers of consecration appear at the end.

The hymns are YouTube links. To hear the hymns please hover the mouse over each link, press Ctrl and then return.

To see service transcripts from previous weeks, please visit the page,
<http://www.medlockhead.co.uk/resources/index.htm>

Introduction and welcome

HYMN 1 O Lord hear my prayer

[\(click on this link to hear the hymn\)](#)

The Welcome

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

All Amen.

The Lord be with you

All And also with you.

The Preparation

**All Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:

The first commandment is this:

‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord.

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
with all your soul, with all your mind,
and with all your strength.’

And the second is this: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’

There is no other commandment greater than these.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

All Amen. Lord, have mercy.

In sorrow for our sins and with faith in his mercy,

let us turn to the Lord,

for with him there is mercy and plenteous redemption.

All Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name. Amen.

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The Gloria

This Gloria is sung to the tune of 'Cwm Rhondda'. Click [here](#) for the tune.

All Glory be to God in Heaven,
Songs of joy and peace we bring,
Thankful hearts and voices raising,
To creation's Lord we sing.
Lord we thank you, Lord we praise you,
Glory be to God our King:
Glory be to God our King.

Lamb of God, who on our shoulders,
Bore the load of this world's sin;
Only Son of God the Father,
You have brought us peace within.
Lord, have mercy, Christ have mercy,
Now your glorious reign begin:
Now your glorious reign begin.

**You O Son of God are Holy,
You we praise with one accord.
None in heav'n or earth is like you,
Only you are Christ the Lord.
With the Father and the Spirit,
Ever worshipped and adored:
Ever worshipped and adored.**

The Collect for Gregory Dix

Almighty God,
who enlightened your Church
by the teaching of your servant Gregory Dix:
enrich it evermore with your heavenly grace
and raise up faithful witnesses
who, by their life and teaching,
may proclaim the truth of your salvation;
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.

All Amen.

First reading

A reading from the book of Psalms

1 My song shall be always of the loving-kindness of the Lord: ♦
with my mouth will I proclaim your faithfulness throughout all generations.

2 I will declare that your love is established for ever; ♦
you have set your faithfulness as firm as the heavens.

20 'I have found David my servant; ♦
with my holy oil have I anointed him.

21 'My hand shall hold him fast ♦
and my arm shall strengthen him.

22 'No enemy shall deceive him, ♦
nor any wicked person afflict him.

23 'I will strike down his foes before his face ♦
and beat down those that hate him.

24 'My truth also and my steadfast love shall be with him, ♦
and in my name shall his head be exalted.

25 I will set his dominion upon the sea ♦
and his right hand upon the rivers.

26 'He shall call to me, "You are my Father, ♦
my God, and the rock of my salvation;" *Psalm 89:1-2, 20-26*

This is the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

Second reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Paul and his companions set sail from Paphos and came to Perga in Pamphylia. John, however, left them and returned to Jerusalem; but they went on from Perga and came to Antioch in Pisidia. And on the sabbath day they went into the synagogue and sat down. After the reading of the law and the prophets, the officials of the synagogue sent them a message, saying, 'Brothers, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, give it.' So Paul stood up and with a gesture began to speak:

'You Israelites, and others who fear God, listen. The God of this people Israel chose our ancestors and made the people great during their stay in the land of Egypt, and with uplifted arm he led them out of it. For about forty years he put up with them in the wilderness. After he had destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan, he gave them their land as an inheritance for about four hundred and fifty years. After that he gave them judges until the time of the prophet Samuel. Then they asked for a king; and God gave them Saul son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, who reigned for forty years. When he had removed him, he made David their king. In his testimony about him he said, "I have found David, son of Jesse, to be a man after my heart, who will carry out all my wishes." Of this man's posterity God has brought to Israel a Saviour, Jesus, as he promised; before his coming John had already proclaimed a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. And as John was finishing his work, he said, "What do you suppose that I am? I am not he. No, but one is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of the sandals on his feet".' *Acts 13:13-25*

This is the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

HYMN 2 [We have a Gospel to proclaim](#) (click on this link to hear the hymn)

[Your word is a lamp unto my feet](#) (click on this link to hear the hymn)

Gospel reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

All **Glory to you O Lord.**

Jesus said, 'Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them. I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But it is to fulfil the scripture, "The one who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me." I tell you this now, before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe and whoever receives me receives him who sent me.' *John 13:16-20*

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All **Praise to you O Christ.**

Sermon

Dom Gregory Dix wove his life around scripture and liturgy. The scriptures were essential to his life because, as a monk and priest, he attended six services every day and all involved some scripture and much liturgy. And much of that liturgy derived from scripture or was directly inspired by it.

The underlying idea behind his life was for scripture and liturgy to seep below the conscious mind into the sub-conscious, where they informed the entire personality, making for a more coherent, devout discipleship.

Dom Gregory became increasingly interested in the foundations of our worship. The actual word 'worship' means 'worth-ship' and it refers to the things we give worth to. It's important that our Christian worship is built on things that genuinely merit our giving of worth: think of Jesus' parable about building a house on rock or sand in Matthew 7:24-27. Dom Gregory and his school of thought was asking this same question, using solid scholarship to assess the extent to which the elements in our worship are built on the solid authority of Jesus or are shaky. It's this same desire that prompts translators to render the Bible into ever-better English.

Everything has foundations of sorts. It's important that we know the foundations upon which our Christian lives of faith are built. Some foundations will have come from our earliest years, such as habits and opinions. As we grow in years, we also grow in terms of personality—likes, traits and habits—which build on those first foundations. But our faith becomes increasingly shaky if we build on bad foundations.

Dom Gregory became a form of historian, looking at the way liturgy has been used from the earliest days right up to his own time. He wanted to know if he could discern a seamless tradition because, in effect, he wanted people today to pray the same prayers that Jesus prayed. Clearly the language will have changed (from Aramaic to Greek, then Latin, early English, then middle English ...) through to the English we speak and understand today. He came to believe that many of the elements in today's liturgy were imported directed from New Testament times, including the use of the psalms, the sharing of bread and wine, and the Lord's Prayer.

Sadly, the history of Christianity shows a continual battle around how we choose the foundations of our faith. Dom Gregory entered this age-old discussion by saying the best way to decide if liturgy is good and worthwhile is to assess its 'pedigree': does it derive from Jesus and the earliest disciples? We should automatically retain those elements that do have such a pedigree. They have worth. We might choose to retain bits that have a lesser pedigree; but there is no mandate to retain bits that have entered our liturgy only recently. Tradition does not support them.

(It's important here to distinguish between tradition and convention. The word 'tradition' refers to the elements and substance while the word 'convention' refers to the mechanics and actions, the style. Genuine tradition refers to elements that have a strong pedigree, so by tradition a service involves prayer, Eucharist, and sometimes song. We must retain tradition because it has Jesus behind it. Convention will always accommodate changes in society and the innate character traits such a introvert or extrovert, literacy, etc., that allow a worshipper to flourish as they worship. An ancient tradition says we include the Lord's Prayer but it's mere convention that chooses between the words in the *Book of Common Prayer* and those in *Common Worship*. Dom Gregory had no time for this debate: worshippers should concentrate on tradition; mere convention was always a personal choice.)

We all need to worship God. That's one of the reasons why God has placed us here on earth. We should therefore build our worship on good, solid foundations because God deserves the very best and because so much depends upon it. The consequences could be eternal. Our worship must be genuine and sincere, coming from the heart yet based it on reality rather than sentiment. Our worship must be intelligent, inspired by an active mind that interrogates our faith so it can grow. And because our worship responds to a real God, it must be capable of bearing the weight of reality—responding to the situations real people encounter. It begins to look very much as though the way we worship is a litmus test of our love for God ... and Jesus tells us to love Him with *all* our heart, mind, soul, and strength.

The Creed

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
the source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?

All We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?

All We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

All We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

All This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Prayers of intercession

These prayers are inspired by Jesus' great 'I am' sayings in John's Gospel.

We pray to Jesus who is present with us to eternity.

Jesus, Lord of life,

All in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, light of the world,

bring the light and peace of your gospel to the nations ...

Jesus, Lord of life,

All in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, bread of life,

give food to the hungry ...

and nourish us all with your word.

Jesus, Lord of life,

All in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, our way, our truth, our life,
be with us and all who follow you in the way ...
Deepen our appreciation of your truth
and fill us with your life.

Jesus, Lord of life,

All in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, Good Shepherd who gave your life for the sheep,
recover the straggler,
bind up the injured,
strengthen the sick
and lead the healthy and strong to new pastures.

Jesus, Lord of life,

All in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, the resurrection and the life,
we give you thanks for all who have lived and believed in you ...
Raise us with them to eternal life.

Jesus, Lord of life,

All Amen.

Merciful Father,

**All accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

The peace

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly;
teach and admonish one another in all wisdom,
and may the peace of the Lord be always with you

All And also with you.

**HYMN 3 In Christ alone
In Christ alone
In Christ alone**

(please click on this link to hear the hymn)
(harp instrumental version)
(Celtic instrument version)

The liturgy of the Communion Service appears below

The Dismissal

God grant you grace to be good servants of Christ Jesus,
nourished on the words of the faith
and on the sound teaching that you have followed;
and the blessing of God the Almighty:
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be with you now and remain with you always.

All Amen.

HYMN 4 [Wonderfully made](#) (please click on this link to hear the hymn)
[My worship \(house upon the rock\)](#) (click on this link to hear the hymn)

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ. Amen.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Eucharistic Prayer (prayer E)

The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is truly right and good,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

For he has named his Church
the salt of the earth and light of the world;
a city set on a hill which cannot be hidden.
Within this faithful company
your servant Gregory Dix became a learned teacher
through the gifts of the Holy Spirit of Christ,
that all might welcome his teaching as your gift,
a beacon on the path of holiness
that leads to eternal life.

As now we celebrate his memory
we join with angels and archangels
and all who have served you on earth
and worship you now in heaven
to raise our voices and proclaim your glory
for ever praising you and saying:

**All Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

All Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with Gregory Dix and all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

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.

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

All **Though we are many, we are one body,**
 because we all share in one bread.

All **Lamb of God,**
 you take away the sin of the world,
 have mercy on us.

Lamb of God,
 you take away the sin of the world,
 have mercy on us.

Lamb of God,
 you take away the sin of the world,
 grant us peace.

Draw near with faith.

Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ

which he gave for you,

and his blood which he shed for you.

Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you,

and feed on him in your hearts

by faith with thanksgiving.

All **We do not presume
to come to this your table, merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness,
but in your manifold and great mercies.
We are not worthy
so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.
But you are the same Lord
whose nature is always to have mercy.
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ
and to drink his blood,
that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body
and our souls washed through his most precious blood,
and that we may evermore dwell in him,
and he in us.
Amen.**

Communion is distributed.

Prayer after Communion

God of truth,

whose Wisdom set her table

and invited us to eat the bread and drink the wine of the kingdom:

help us to lay aside all foolishness

and to live and walk in the way of insight,

that we may come with Gregory to the eternal feast of heaven;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen**

All **Almighty God,**
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work
to your praise and glory.
Amen.