

ROBERT OAKESHOTT

1933 - 2011

A MEMORIAL CELEBRATION

Welcome

from the Chaplain of Balliol College, the Revd. Douglas Dupree

Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness:
for they shall be filled . . .

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good
works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”

St Matthew, chapter 5, from the “Sermon on the Mount”

Hymn

Teach me, my God and King,
In all things thee to see;
And what I do in anything
To do it as for thee.

A man that looks on glass,
On it may stay his eye;
Or, if he pleaseth, through it pass,
And then the heaven espy.

All may of thee partake;
Nothing can be so mean
Which, with this tincture, *For thy sake*,
Will not grow bright and clean.
A servant with this clause
Makes drudgery divine;
Who sweeps a room, as for thy laws,
Makes that and the action fine.

This is the famous stone
That turneth all to gold;
For that which God doth touch and own
Cannot for less be told.

George Herbert

Jubilate Deo (said antiphonally)

Psalm 100

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

Epistle

from the letter of St James, chapter 2

read by Helena Gaunt (Robert's niece)

Listen, my dear brothers: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith, and to inherit the kingdom He promised to those who love Him?

If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbour as yourself", you are doing right ...

What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such a faith save him?

Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it?

In the same way faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds".

Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do ...

As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

Address

by Charles Keen

Hymn

The Lord will come and not be slow,
His footsteps cannot err;
Before him righteousness shall go,
His royal harbinger.

Truth from the earth, like to a flower,
Shall bud and blossom then;
And justice, from her heavenly bower,
Look down on mortal men.

The nations all whom thou hast made
Shall come, and all shall frame
To bow them low before thee, Lord,
And glorify thy name.

For great thou art, and wonders great
By thy strong hand are done:
Thou in thy everlasting seat
Remainst God alone.

John Milton

A Memorable Fancy

read by Cynthia Wakefield (Robert's niece)

The prophets Isaiah and Ezekiel dined with me, and I asked them how they dared so roundly to assert that God spoke to them, and whether they did not think at the time that they would be misunderstood, and so be the cause of imposition.

Isaiah answered: "I saw no God nor heard any, in a finite organical perception: but my senses discovered the infinite in everything; and as I was then persuaded, and remain confirmed, that the voice of honest indignation is the voice of God, I cared not for consequences, but wrote."

Then I asked: "Does a firm persuasion that a thing is so, make it so?"

He replied: "All poets believe that it does, and in ages of imagination this firm persuasion removed mountains; but many are not capable of a firm persuasion of anything."

William Blake

Address

by Margaret Elliott

Silence

(as we remember Robert, with thanks for his life and his affection for us)

Prayers

by the Chaplain

Hymn

God is working his purpose out as year succeeds to year,
God is working his purpose out, and the time is drawing near;
Nearer and nearer draws the time, the time that shall surely be,
When the earth shall be filled with the glory of God
as the waters cover the sea.

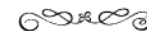
From utmost east to utmost west, where'er man's foot hath trod,
By the mouth of many messengers goes forth the voice of God.
'Give ear to me, ye continents, ye isles, give ear to me,
That the earth may be filled with the glory of God
as the waters cover the sea.'

What can we do to work God's work, to prosper and increase
The brotherhood of all mankind, the reign of the Prince of Peace?
What can we do to hasten the time, the time that shall surely be,
When the earth shall be filled with the glory of God
as the waters cover the sea?

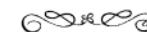
All we can do is nothing worth unless God blesses the deed;
Vainly we hope for the harvest-tide till God gives life to the seed;
Yet nearer and nearer draws the time, the time that shall surely be,
When the earth shall be filled with the glory of God
as the waters cover the sea.

A C Ainger

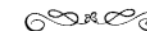
Dismissal



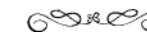
“My humanity we say is bound up with your humanity ... we all
need to live our lives in ways that ensure that others live well.”
Desmond Tutu (whom Robert greatly admired)



I know that there is nothing better for men than to be happy and
do good while they live. That everyone can eat and drink and find
satisfaction in all his toil - this is the gift of God.”
Ecclesiastes: 2;24



“A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others
will himself be refreshed.”
Proverbs: 11;25



“Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet
water and bitter?”
(verse from the *letter of St James* taken as the text of a sermon which
Robert liked to remember from his schooldays at Tonbridge.)

