

Capel y Boro
Sun 20 Feb 2022 11am

Love that wilt not let me go

**A Service to celebrate the
Love of Jesus Christ**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85405456428?pwd=NCtKeUVYTEwzclBJTGJcWWhWmcxdz09>



**Opening music:
Franz Schubert
Die Junge Nonne**

Dame Janet Baker (mezzo-soprano); Murray Perahia (piano)

Intrada

Love divine, all loves excelling
(Charles Wesley, tune William Penfro Rowlands, *Blaenwern*)

Talk by John Jones on Revd Rowland Williams, Hwfa Môn
(1823-1905)

Speaker at the Borough's first service in the new Chapel 1873

**Joseph Parry
Fetter Lane** (hymn tune)

lesu, cyfaill f'enaid I
(Jesus, lover of my soul)
(Charles Wesley cyf. D Tecwyn Evans, tune Joseph Parry, *Aberystwyth*)

Prayers

Gweddi'r Arglwydd

The King of love my shepherd is
(H W Baker, tune John Bacchus Dykes, *Dominus regit me*)

Philippians 2: 1-11

Ephesians 3:14-21

Sicrwydd bendigaid! Iesu yn rhan
(Blessed Assurance, *Jesus Is Mine*)
(Frances J van Alstyne or Fanny Crosby, cyf. Gwilym R Tilsley, tune, Phoebe Palmer Knapp. *Assurance*)

Message on Christian love

O love that wilt not let me go
(George Matheson, tune Albert Lister Peace, *St Margaret*)

Blessing

**Closing music:
Wele'n sefyll rhwng y myrtwydd**
(Ann Griffiths, tune John Hughes, *Cwm Rhondda*)



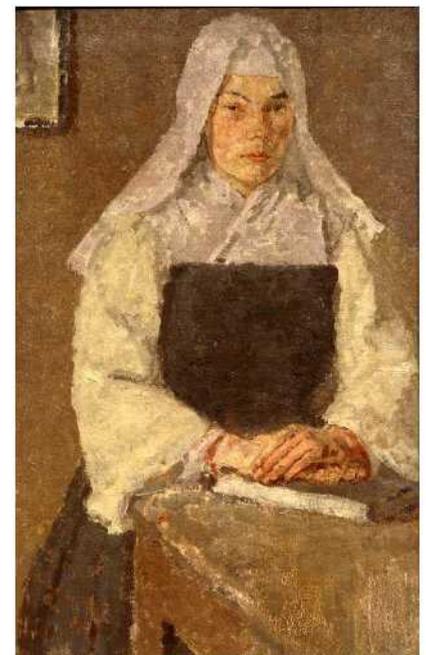
**Opening music:
Franz Schubert
Die Junge Nonne**
(Words by Jacob Nicolaus Craigher de Jachelutta)
Dame Janet Baker (mezzo-soprano); Murray Perahia (piano)



Dame Janet Baker singing *Die junge nonne*

Wie braust durch die Wipfel der heulende Sturm!
Es klirren die Balken, es zittert das Haus!

Es rollet der Donner, es leuchtet der Blitz,
Und finster die Nacht, wie das Grab!
Immerhin, immerhin, so tobt' es auch jüngst noch in mir!
Es brauste das Leben, wie jetzo der Sturm,
Es bebten die Glieder, wie jetzo das Haus,
Es flammte die Liebe, wie jetzo der Blitz,
Und finster die Brust, wie das Grab.
Nun tobe, du wilder, gewalt'ger Sturm,
Im Herzen ist Friede, im Herzen ist Ruh,
Des Bräutigams harret die liebende Braut,
Gereinigt in prüfender Glut,
Der ewigen Liebe getraut.
Ich harre, mein Heiland, mit sehndem Blick!
Komm, himmlischer Bräutigam, hole die Braut,
Erlöse die Seele von irdischer Haft.
Horch, friedlich ertönet das Glöcklein vom Turm!
Es lockt mich das süsse Getön Allmächtig zu ewigen Höh'n.
Alleluia!



Gwen John *The Nun*, c.1910s © Glynn Vivian Art Gallery Collection

The Young Nun

How the raging storm roars through
the treetops!

The rafters rattle, the house
shudders!

The thunder rolls, the lightning
flashes,
and the night is as dark as the
grave.

So be it, not long ago a storm still
raged in me.

My life roared like the storm now,
my limbs trembled like the house
now,

love flashed like the lightning now,
and my heart was as dark as the
grave.

Now rage, wild, mighty storm;
in my heart is peace, in my heart is
calm.

The loving bride awaits the
bridegroom,

purified in the testing flames,
betrothed to eternal love.

I wait, my Saviour, with longing
gaze!

Come, heavenly bridegroom, take
your bride.

Free the soul from earthly bonds.
Listen, the bell sounds peacefully
from the tower!

Its sweet pealing invites me
all-powerfully to eternal heights.
Alleluia!

English Translation © Richard Wigmore

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RiejOguWbw4>

Intrada

Ysbryd y tragwyddol Dduw,
disgyn arnom ni;

Ysbryd y tragwyddol Dduw,
disgyn arnom ni:

plyg ni, trin ni, golch ni, cod ni:
Ysbryd y tragwyddol Dduw,
disgyn arnom ni.

*Spirit of the eternal God, descend
upon us;*

*Spirit of the eternal God, descend
upon us:*

*fold us, treat us, wash us, raise us:
Spirit of the eternal God, descend
upon us.*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-PleQ_zTeHA

Welcome to our Capel y

Boro service today which in the
week of St Valentine's Day
celebrates love, and the love that
Jesus give us and the love that
people have given him.

We opened our service with a
performance from the Royal
Opera House a few years ago
now of mezzo-soprano Dame
Janet Baker and pianist Murray
Perahia performing Schubert's
setting of a poem called *The
Young Nun*. Listen to the piano
accompaniment of the gathering
storm at the start of the song
and then the contrast with the
last few bars evoking the calm
after the storm when Janet Baker
sings softly the final words *Alleluia
Alleluia*.

This is a poem about placing your
love in Jesus, the heavenly
bridegroom, and this as an idea
has echoes in the work of Ann
Griffiths, Wales great hymn
writer, who also writes with a
similar fervour of passion for
Jesus and we will hear her great
hymn to *Cwm Rhondda* at the
close of our service. But first let's
sing the first of our hymns today
on the theme of Christian love
and this is *Love Divine*:

Love divine, all loves excelling,

joy of heav'n, to earth come
down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art.
Visit us with thy salvation;
enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving
Spirit
into ev'ry troubled breast.
Let us all in thee inherit,
let us find the promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be.
End of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty, to deliver,
let us all thy life receive.
Suddenly return, and never,
nevermore they temples leave.
Thee we would be always
blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without
ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

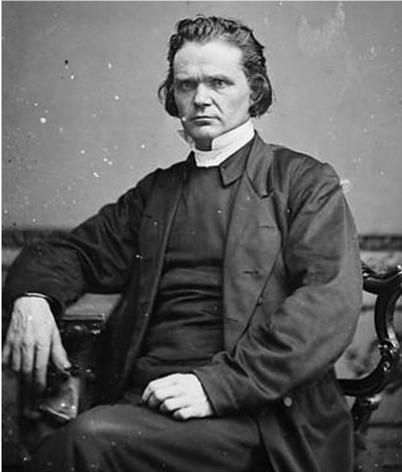
Finish, then, thy new creation;
true and spotless let us be.
Let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee.
Changed from glory into glory,
till in heav'n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before
thee,
lost in wonder, love and praise.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sw5ZCZeS32M>

Talk by John Jones on Revd Rowland Williams, Hwfa Môn (1823-1905)

Speaker at the Borough's first service in the new Chapel 1873



Rowland Williams, *Hwfa Môn*, c1875, two years after speaking at Capel y Boro

Hwfa Môn was the bardic name of Rowland Williams, a clergyman and poet born in Trefdraeth, Anglesey in 1823. He trained as a carpenter but became a lay preacher in the Independent church in Llangefni before entering the Theological college in Bala to study for the ministry. He thereafter served as a minister in the Wrexham area before being appointed minister of Fetter Lane chapel in London in 1862 where he remained until 1881 when he returned to Anglesey, moving to Llangollen where he retired. He won the chair at the National Eisteddfod in Caernarfon in 1862 and became the 1st Archdruid of the Gorsedd of Bards from 1895 to 1905 and was one of the main creators of the modern Gorsedd.

His bardic name came from the village of Rhostrehwfa, a village where was brought up. My understanding is that Hwfa was the name of the river that passed through it.

He became the minister of Fetter Lane chapel in Clerkenwell when it experienced a period of stellar growth. But he was, by all accounts, a bit of a wind bag, with interminably long sermons that were largely lost on the younger generation. However, he was responsible for starting the literary society in Fetter Lane which remained in place for decades.

Fetter Lane chapel was mentioned in City records as early as the 14th century as a centre for its dissenting congregations. Oliver Cromwell's chaplain, Thomas Goodwin, had preached at Fetter Lane Independent church between 1600 and 1680. The Fetter Lane Society met for prayer and fellowship, involving prominent Anglicans such as John Wesley, Charles Wesley, George Whitefield and Howell Harris. And this is where the Welsh Independents built Ebenezer, that opened in 1850.

Hwfa Môn was present at the opening of the Borough chapel on Sunday the 23rd February, 1873. And the composer Joseph Parry had apparently been the organist of Fetter Lane, while studying at the Royal Academy of Music in 1868 where he wrote his hymn tune called, naturally enough, Fetter Lane:

Joseph Parry *Fetter Lane* (hymn tune)

Iesu, cyfaill f'enaid i,
Gad im ffoi i'th fynwes gref
tra bo'r tonnau'n codi'n lli
a'r ystorm yn rhwygo'r nef;
cudd fi, Geidwad, oni ddaw
terfyn y tymhestloedd maith,

dwg fi'n iach i'r hafan draw,
derbyn fi ar ben y daith.

Noddfa arall nid oes un,
wrthyt glŷn fy enaid gwan;
paid â'm gadael, bydd dy hun
imi'n gysur ac yn rhan:
ti yw gwrthrych mawr fy ffydd,
ti yw 'nghymorth, neb ond ti;
cudd fy mhen digysgod, cudd
o dan nawdd dy adain di.

Llawnder gras sydd ynot ti,
gras i guddio 'mhechod oll;
yr iachusol ffrydiau'n lli
fo'n fy mhuro yn ddi-goll;
ffynon bywyd ydwyt ti,
rho dy hunan imi nawr,
tardd o fewn fy nghalon i,
tardd i dragwyddoldeb mawr.

*Jesus, lover of my soul,
let me to Thy bosom fly,
While the nearer waters roll,
while the tempest still is high.
Hide me, O my Saviour, hide,
till the storm of life is past;
Safe into the haven guide;
O receive my soul at last.*

*Other refuge have I none,
hangs my helpless soul on Thee;
Leave, ah! leave me not alone,
still support and comfort me.
All my trust on Thee is stayed,
all my help from Thee I bring;
Cover my defenceless head
with the shadow of Thy wing.*

*Plenteous grace with Thee is found,
grace to cover all my sin; Let the
healing streams abound; make and
keep me pure within. Thou of life
the fountain art, freely let me take
of Thee; Spring Thou up within my
heart; rise to all eternity.*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gJcE5K4dMpg>

Prayers

We pray for a peaceful resolution in the Ukraine.

We pray for all of those affected by Storm Eunice.

Gracious God,
We come celebrating the awesomeness of Your love
And the wonder of Your grace.
Even though we fail You time and time again,
You never walk away and You never fail us.

Undeserving though we are,
You show us mercy.
You do not turn away in the moments our faith is feeble
in the moments when we doubt,
or when we are hesitant disciples,
reluctant to share Your word and witness with others
for fear of what that might mean for us.

God of never-ending patience,
even in the times we fail You,
You understand our weaknesses and help us to put our faults behind us.

You dust us off when we have fallen from grace and help us to start again.
We offer so little, yet You give us so much,
our love is so weak, yet You respond richly,

Your grace defies expression too wonderful for us to fully comprehend,
and though we fail You, You never fail us.

Lord, continue to grant us, unworthy as we are, Your grace.
Amen

Loving God,
You have called us to be a living munity.
A people bound together as the body of Christ,
and a family united in love.
Yet Lord, in our broken world so many are suffering, so many are hurting.

Hear our prayers Lord
For those whose lives are ruled by hate and vengeance, rather than love and justice.

For those whose homes are not places of love or safety, but places of fear and violence.

For those who have no home to speak of and have become invisible on our streets.

For those who are stigmatised because of status, ill-health, ethnicity, religion.

Lord, You asked us to love our neighbours, all of them, not just the ones we choose.

Enable us and equip us to carry out Your command and to make a positive difference in the lives of those who are our neighbours and are struggling.

Hear our prayer

For all those in our congregations and communities who are ill at home or in hospital – bring Your healing hands and soothing balm upon them.

For all who are anxiously awaiting treatment, results, or appointments due to the impact of Covid-19 and our overwhelmed health service.

For anxious relatives and carers who are exhausted and there is no rest, and no end in sight

while the much-needed care packages are few and far between.

Lord equip us, Your servants and disciples, to assist them in their time of need.

Enable us to be beacons of light in another dark day.

Hear our prayers Lord
For all our medical, public health, nursing and ancillary staff and the difficulties they face and over-stretched work environments.

For the vaccinations to sustain us through Covid and for the variants in the virus to subside.
May we also play our part, Lord, in protecting others.

Lord, You tasked us to do good to those who hate You, which can seem difficult and to some unfair.

It's hard to love those who belittle, who shun, who exclude and who racially abuse.
When we feel we should get our own back, You ask us to turn the other cheek.
Inspire us to be willing advocates for truth, justice and reconciliation.

Hate does not lay a healthy soil that enables love to grow and flourish,
but walking in faith in the footsteps of Jesus,
You call us all to make a positive difference and to heal Your broken world of its hurt and its divisions.

For we can all make a positive difference in Jesus' name and for His sake.

Amen

Gweddi'r Arglwydd

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZzF49HPfQzM>

The King of love my shepherd is,

whose goodness faileth never.
I nothing lack if I am his,
and he is mine forever.

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.

And so through all the length of
days,
thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy
praise
within thy house forever.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MwqahDvURsQ>

Ephesians 3:14-21

A Prayer for the Ephesians

I kneel before the Father, from
whom every family in heaven and
on earth derives its name. I pray
that out of his glorious riches he
may strengthen you with power
through his Spirit in your inner
being, so that Christ may dwell in
your hearts through faith. And I
pray that you, being rooted and
established in love, may have
power, together with all the
Lord's holy people, to grasp how

wide and long and high and deep
is the love of Christ, and to know
this love that surpasses
knowledge—that you may be
filled to the measure of all the
fullness of God.

Now to him who is able to do
immeasurably more than all we
ask or imagine, according to his
power that is at work within us,
to him be glory in the church and
in Christ Jesus throughout all
generations, for ever and ever!
Amen.

Philipiaid 2: 1-11

Felly, os oes gennych yng Nghrist
unrhyw symbyliad, unrhyw apêl o
du cariad, unrhyw gymdeithas
trwy'r Ysbryd, os oes unrhyw
gynhesrwydd a thosturi,
cyflawnwch fy llawenydd trwy fod
o'r un meddwl, a'r un cariad
gennych at eich gilydd, yn unfryd
ac yn unfarn. Peidiwch â gwneud
dim o gymhellion hunanol nac o
ymffrost gwag, ond mewn
gostyngeddwrwydd bydded i bob
un ohonoch gyfrif y llall yn
deilyngach nag ef ei hun. Bydded
gofal gan bob un ohonoch, nid am
eich buddiannau eich hunain yn
unig ond am fuddiannau pobl
eraill hefyd. Amlygwch yn eich
plith eich hunain yr agwedd
meddwl honno sydd, yn wir, yn
eiddo i chwi yng Nghrist Iesu.

Er ei fod ef ar ffurf Duw, ni
chyfrifodd fod cydraddoldeb â
Duw yn beth i'w gipio, ond fe'i
gwacaodd ei hun, gan gymryd
ffurf caethwas a dyfod ar wedd
ddynol. O'i gael ar ddull dyn, fe'i
darostyngodd ei hun, gan fod yn
ufudd hyd angau, ie, angau ar
groes. Am hynny tra-dyrchafodd
Duw ef, a rhoi iddo'r enw sydd
goruwch pob enw, fel wrth enw

Iesu y plygai pob glin yn y nef ac
ar y ddaear a than y ddaear, ac y
cyffesai pob tafod fod Iesu Grist
yn Arglwydd, er gogoniant Duw
Dad.
Amen.

*Therefore if you have any
encouragement from being united
with Christ, if any comfort from his
love, if any common sharing in the
Spirit, if any tenderness and
compassion, then make my joy
complete by being like-minded,
having the same love, being one in
spirit and of one mind. Do nothing
out of selfish ambition or vain
conceit. Rather, in humility value
others above yourselves, not looking
to your own interests but each of
you to the interests of the others.
In your relationships with one
another, have the same mindset as
Christ Jesus:*

*Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God
something to be used to his own
advantage;
rather, he made himself nothing
by taking the very nature of a
servant,
being made in human likeness.
And being found in appearance as a
man,
he humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death—
even death on a cross!*

*Therefore God exalted him to the
highest place
and gave him the name that is
above every name,
that at the name of Jesus every
knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under
the earth,
and every tongue acknowledge that
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.*

Sicrwydd bendigaid! Iesu yn rhan,

Hyn ydyw ernes nef yn y man;
Aer iachawdwriaeth, pryniant a
wnaed,
Ganed o'r Ysbryd, golchwyd â'i
waed.

*Dyma dy stori, dyma fy nghân,
Canmol fy Ngheidwad hawddgar a
glân;
Dyma dy stori, dyma fy nghân,
Canmol fy Ngheidwad hawddgar a
glân.*

Ildio'n ddiamod, perfffaith
fwynhad,
Profi llawenydd nefol ryddhad;
Engyl yn disgyn, dygant i'm clyw
Adlais trugaredd, cariad fy Nuw.

*Dyma dy stori, dyma fy nghân,
Canmol fy Ngheidwad hawddgar a
glân;
Dyma dy stori, dyma fy nghân,
Canmol fy Ngheidwad hawddgar a
glân.*

Ildio'n ddiamod, dyna fy heddd,
Allwedd fy nghysur, Iesu a'i
medd;
Aros a disgwyl, disgwyl bob dydd
Llonni yng nghariad Arglwydd y
ffydd.

*Dyma dy stori, dyma fy nghân,
Canmol fy Ngheidwad hawddgar a
glân;
Dyma dy stori, dyma fy nghân,
Canmol fy Ngheidwad hawddgar a
glân.*

*Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine;
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His
blood.*

*Chorus: This is my story, this is
my song,
Praising my Saviour all the day
long.*

This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Saviour all the day
long.

*Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture now burst on my
sight;
Angels descending, bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.*

*Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Saviour am happy and blest;
Watching and waiting, looking
above,
Filled with His goodness, lost in His
love.*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xx9yiG0D6CI>

A Message on Christian Love: An extract from a Capel y Boro sermon by Parch Peter Dewi Richards

In the passage Rowenna read to us from Ephesians we heard these wonderful words:

'Grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ' (NIV)

Earlier this week we had St Valentine's Day.

It is a special day for many people who will be reminded of the importance of love in their life. But what is love? Is there a definitive answer to "What is love?" especially as we pause on the words of Paul who says 'Catch hold of Christ's love' Don't lose sight of God's love.'

This verse is part of Paul's prayer for the Christians of Ephesus and in this prayer he asks two things:

- i. That God might dwell in their hearts through faith
- ii. That they may be grounded in Love.

The first prayer suggests that their experience of God must be first-hand and not second hand. It must be own. Not second hand, not handed down from others. It must be our own faith and faith demands that we trust God.

Paul also prayed that that the people might be rooted, grounded in love. In other words that his love should be the foundation of life. Life without love is void, without meaning or purpose and Paul goes on to say that those who root their life in love will know the length, breadth and height of the love of God. Let us look at the aspects of love found in this verse.

1 The length of God's love.

At first glance this seems puzzling because there is no guarantee that life will be longer and we know of lives of devout Christians that have been short. What is the use of a longer life if it has no purpose or direction?

The experience of life in Christ adds another element to the length of God's love; love in one sense gives meaning to our lives; the element of eternity. The light of Jesus' Resurrection some of the most significant have been lived. Ann Griffiths the author of our final hymn and closing music today who died so young is the one of the most profound hymn writers Wales has ever known.

2. The breadth of God's love.

Paul as an Apostle fought against anything that would narrow the vision of believers and the 'Love hymn in Chapter 13 of Paul's letter to the Corinthians endorses this truth.

By reading the first verse of chapter 14 'Follow the way of love.' we learn that Love enlarges our capacity to enjoy life. Love is part of God's creation to enjoy life; it is to be fulfilling and joyous but it also gives us the capacity to face suffering.

Taken seriously such a breadth of love can transform our lives. We can believe the saying 'Love makes the world go around' if we take love seriously. Love can be the foundation of a better understanding between the nations and individuals because love accepts the worth of each person. Love accepts the opportunity given to each of us to change the world in which we live. Love is the bond that creates and sustains society and communities.

3. Paul's last dimension of love is the most significant when he speaks about its height and depth.

Christian love says each of us is precious in the eyes of God. We are called to allow His love to flow within us enriching our own lives and the life of others

Amen

O Love that will not let me go,

I rest my weary soul in thee.
I give thee back the life I owe,
that in thine ocean depths its flow
may richer, fuller be.

O Light that follows all my way,
I yield my flick'ring torch to thee.
My heart restores its borrowed ray,
that in thy sunshine's blaze its day
may brighter, fairer be.

O Joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee.
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
and feel the promise is not vain,
that morn shall tearless be.

O Cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from thee.
I lay in dust, life's glory dead,
and from the ground there blossoms red,
life that shall endless be.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nt69WDtYNLo>

Blessing

Teach us to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know as we go out into the world this week that this love surpasses knowledge—and that we may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Amen.

Closing music:

Wele'n sefyll rhwng y myrtwydd
(Ann Griffiths, tune John Hughes, *Cwm Rhondda*)

Wele'n sefyll rhwng y myrtwydd
wrthrych teilwng o'm holl fryd,
er mai o ran yr wy'n adnabod
ei fod uwchlaw gwrthrychau'r byd:
henffych fore
y caf ei weled fel y mae.

Rhosyn Saron yw ei enw,
gwyn a gwridog, teg o bryd;
ar ddeng mil y mae'n rhagori

o wrthrychau penna'r byd:
ffrind pechadur,
dyma'r Llywydd ar y môr.

Beth sydd imi mwy a wnelwyf
ag eilunod gwael y llawr?
Tystio 'rwyf nad yw eu cwmni
i'w gystadlu â'm lesu mawr:
O am aros
yn ei gariad ddyddiau f'oes.

*See he stands among the myrtles
Object worthy of my heart;
Although in part, I know
He is above the objects of the world:
Hail the morning
I saw him as he is.*

*Rose of Sharon is his name,
White and rosy, fair of heart;
Than ten thousand he is better
Of objects the world prescribes:
A sinner's Friend,
Here is his pilot on the sea.*

*What is there more for me to do
With wretched idols of the earth?
I testify that there company is not
To compete with great Jesus:
O to stay
In his love the days of my life!*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NQJqHvHMRyl>

Readers:

**Talk by John Jones on Revd
Rowland Williams, Hwfa Môn
(1823-1905)**

John Jones

Philippiaid 22: 1-11

Megan Evans

Ephesians 3:14-21

Rowenna Hughes

**Prayers; Message on Christian
Love; Blessing**

Neil Evans
