



Where all find a welcome and are nurtured in their journey with Christ.

Choral Evensong

Sunday 3 October 2021 at 12.00 am



What is Evensong?

Evensong is a combination of two of the seven offices (services) that made up the daily round of monastic prayer. These were the evening offices of Vespers and Compline which consisted of responses, psalms, canticles, readings and prayers. The liturgy of Evensong was first written down in 1549 in Archbishop Thomas Cranmer's *Book of Common Prayer*. Several revisions to the book were made over subsequent years with the definitive version published in 1662. Widely known for the beauty and richness of its language, including Myles Coverdale's translation of the psalms, the 1662 edition of the *Book of Common Prayer* remains the official prayer book of the Church of England.

The service of Evensong is renowned for its choral music. Several sections of the liturgy are sung by the choir though there are various ways in which everyone can participate. For example, it is an ancient custom in the *Magnificat* and the *Nunc Dimittis* as the choir sings the first two lines of the *Gloria* ('Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost') to make the sign of the cross and to bow one's head in honour of God the Holy Trinity.

Ever since its foundation this church has been a house of prayer. The first recorded priest of St Mary's Whitkirk was Paulinus who was the priest here in AD 1185. The worship we share today gives a powerful sense of connecting the present with the past and of being part of a great, and continuing, tradition. Thank you for being part of this act of worship this evening as we join our prayers and praises with those that have been offered here at St

Mary's for over eight hundred years.

The Service of Choral Evensong

Hymn

Please stand.

**Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,
Urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
Sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided:
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.**

**Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,
Speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
Teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us:
Lord of the word, receive your people's praise.**

**Lord, for our land in this our generation,
Spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care:
For young and old, for commonwealth and nation,
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.**

**Lord, for our world; when we disown and doubt you,
Loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain,
Hungry and helpless, lost indeed without you:
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.**

**Lord for ourselves; in living pow'r remake us –
Self on the cross and Christ upon the throne,
Past put beside us, for the future take us:
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.**

Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926)

Music: Michael Baughan (b. 1930) arr. David Iliff (b. 1939)

Hymn Tune: LORD OF THE YEARS

Sentences of the Scriptures

Please remain standing.

Dearly beloved brethren,
the scripture moveth us in sundry places
to acknowledge and confess
our manifold sins and wickedness;
and that we should not dissemble nor cloke them
before the face of Almighty God our heavenly Father;
but confess them with an humble,
lowly, penitent, and obedient heart;
to the end that we may obtain forgiveness of the same,
by his infinite goodness and mercy.
And although we ought at all times

humbly to acknowledge our sins before God;
yet ought we most chiefly so to do,
when we assemble and meet together
to render thanks for the great benefits
that we have received at his hands,
to set forth his most worthy praise,
to hear his most holy Word,
and to ask those things
which are requisite and necessary,
as well for the body as the soul.
Wherefore I pray and beseech you,
as many as are here present,
to accompany me with a pure heart and humble voice
unto the throne of the heavenly grace, saying after me:

General Confession

Please kneel or sit.

**Almighty and most merciful Father,
We have erred and strayed
from thy ways like lost sheep,
We have followed too much
the devices and desires of our own hearts,
We have offended against thy holy laws,
We have left undone those things
which we ought to have done,
And we have done those things**

**which we ought not to have done,
And there is no health in us:
But thou, O Lord,
have mercy upon us miserable offenders;
Spare thou them, O God,
which confess their faults
Restore thou them that are penitent,
According to thy promises
declared unto mankind
in Christ Jesu our Lord:
And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,
That we may hereafter
live a godly, righteous, and sober life,
To the glory of thy holy Name.
Amen.**

The Absolution

Said by the Priest.

Almighty God,
the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who desireth not the death of a sinner,
but rather that he may turn
from his wickedness and live;
and hath given power
and commandment to his Ministers,

to declare and pronounce
to his people, being penitent,
the Absolution and Remission of their sins:
He pardoneth and absolveth all them that truly repent
and unfeignedly believe his holy Gospel.
Wherefore let us beseech him to grant us
true repentance and his Holy Spirit,
that those things may please him
which we do at this present,
and that the rest of our life hereafter
may be pure and holy;
so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Opening Responses (or ‘Preces’)

‘Preces’ is Latin for ‘Prayers’. These opening sentences are sung alternately by the cantor and the choir.

O Lord, open thou our lips.

And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

O God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Please stand.

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.**

Praise ye the Lord.

The Lord's Name be praised.

The Psalmody

Please remain standing.

The psalms are sacred poems from the Old Testament dating back over three thousand years. The music for the psalm is known as Anglican chant, a short repeating tune.

Psalm 125

They that put their trust in the Lord
shall be even as the mount Sion:
Which may not be removed but standeth fast for ever.
The hills stand about Jerusalem:
Even so standeth the Lord round about his people
from this time forth for evermore.
For the rod of the ungodly
cometh not into the lot of the righteous:
Lest the righteous put their hand unto wickedness.
Do well O Lord:
Unto those that are good and true of heart.
As for such as turn back unto their own wickedness
the Lord shall lead them forth with the evil-doers:
But peace shall be upon Israel.

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.

Music: John Stainer (1840-1901)

Psalm 126

When the Lord turned again the captivity of Sion:
Then were we like unto them that dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter:
And our tongue with joy.
Then said they among the heathen:
'The Lord hath done great things for them.'
Yea the Lord hath done great things for us already:
Whereof we rejoice.
Turn our captivity O Lord:
As the rivers in the south.
They that sow in tears:
Shall reap in joy.
He that now goeth on his way weeping
and beareth forth good seed:
Shall doubtless come again with joy
and bring his sheaves with him.

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.

Music: Henry T. Smart (1813-1879)

Old Testament Lesson

Joshua 3.7–end

Please sit.

At the end the reader says:

Here endeth the First Lesson.

Magnificat

Please stand.

The Magnificat is the song of praise Mary sang after learning that she would give birth to Jesus, as recounted in Luke 1.46.

My soul doth magnify the Lord:
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
For he hath regarded:
the lowliness of his hand-maiden.
For behold, from henceforth:
all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me:
and holy is his Name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him:
throughout all generations.

He hath shewèd strength with his arm:
he hath scattered the proud
in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat:
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath fillèd the hungry with good things:
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy
hath holpen his servant Israel:
as he promised to our forefathers
Abraham and his seed for ever.

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.

Music: Peter Aston (1938-2013)

New Testament Lesson

Matthew 10.1–22

Please sit.

At the end the reader says:

Here endeth the Second Lesson.

Nunc Dimittis

Please stand.

The Nunc Dimittis is also known as the Song of Simeon. Luke's gospel (2.29) tells us that old Simeon, a devout Jew, had been promised that he would not die until he had seen the promised Saviour. When Jesus was presented to him at the temple in Jerusalem, he at once recognised the Messiah and uttered these words of farewell.

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace:

according to thy word.

For mine eyes have seen: thy salvation;

Which thou hast prepared:

before the face of all people;

To be a light to lighten the Gentiles:

and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

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.

Music: George A. MacFarren (1813-1887)

The Apostles' Creed

Please remain standing.

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth:
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
Born of the Virgin Mary,
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, dead, and buried:
He descended into hell;
The third day he rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
And sitteth on the right hand
of God the Father Almighty;
From thence he shall come to judge
the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost;
The holy Catholick Church;
The Communion of Saints;
The Forgiveness of sins;
The Resurrection of the body,
And the life everlasting.
Amen.**

The Lesser Litany

These prayers bind together themes of praise, mercy and the desire for God's protection as night draws in. The Lesser Litany is sung alternately by the cantor and

the choir.

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

Please kneel or sit.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father,

**which art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive them that trespass against us;
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
Amen.**

The Responses

○ Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

And grant us thy salvation.

○ Lord, save the Queen.

And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Endue thy Ministers with righteousness.

And make thy chosen people joyful.

○ Lord, save thy people.

And bless thine inheritance.

Give peace in our time, O Lord.

**Because there is none other that fighteth for us,
but only thou, O God.**

O God, make clean our hearts within us.

And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

The Collect of the Day

Lord, we beseech thee, grant thy people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh, and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow thee the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Collect for Peace

O God, from whom all holy desires,
all good counsels, and all just works do proceed:
Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give;
that both our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments,
and also that by thee we being defended
from the fear of our enemies
may pass our time in rest and quietness;
through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Amen.

The Collect for Aid against all Perils

Lighten our darkness,
we beseech thee, O Lord;
and by thy great mercy defend us
from all perils and dangers of this night;
for the love of thy only Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

The Anthem

Please remain seated.

God that madest earth and heaven

God that madest earth and heaven,
Darkness and light;
Who the day for toil hast given,
For rest the night;
May thine angel guards defend us,
Slumber sweet thy mercy send us,
Holy dreams and hopes attend us,
This livelong night.

Guard us waking, guard us sleeping
And, when we die,
May we in thy mighty keeping
All peaceful lie;
When the last death call shall wake us,
Do not thou, our God, forsake us,
But to reign in glory take us
With thee on high.

Words: v. 1 - Reginald Heber (1783-1826);

v. 2 - Richard Whateley (1787-1863)

Music: Welsh traditional melody arr. David Thorne (b. 1950)

The Sermon

Hymn

Please stand.

**Be thou my guardian and my guide,
And hear me when I call;
Let not my slipp'ry footsteps slide,
And hold me lest I fall.**

**The world, the flesh, and Satan dwell
Around the path I tread;
O save me from the snares of hell,
Thou quick'ner of the dead.**

**And if I tempted am to sin,
And outward things are strong,
Do thou, O Lord, keep watch within,
And save my soul from wrong.**

**Still let me ever watch and pray,
And feel that I am frail;
That if the tempter cross my way,
Yet he may not prevail.**

*Words: Isaac Williams (1802-1865)
Music: Melody by Isaac Smith (1734-1805)
Hymn Tune: ABRIDGE*

The Prayers

Please kneel or sit.

Hymn

Please stand.

**Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,
Pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
Hold me with thy pow'rful hand:
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more,
Feed me till I want no more.**

**Open now the crystal fountain
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through:
Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer,
Be thou still my strength and shield,
Be thou still my strength and shield.**

**When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death, and hell's destruction
Land me safe on Canaan's side:
Songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to thee,
I will ever give to thee.**

Words: William Williams (1717-1791)
translated by Peter Williams (1727-1796) and others
Music: John Hughes (1873-1932)
Hymn Tune: CWM RHONDDA

The Blessing or The Grace

Thank you for being part of this evening's act of worship.

Choral Evensong takes place at St Mary's Whitkirk on the first Sunday of every month at 6.00 pm. The next Choral Evensong will be on 7th November 2021.

Please do join us again.

Please follow the instructions of the stewards as you leave the building and remember to clean your hands.

Extracts from The Book of Common Prayer, the rights in which are vested in the Crown, are reproduced by permission of the Crown's patentee, Cambridge University Press. BCP 1662.

Lord, for the years
Words © Timothy Dudley-Smith
Music © Michael Baughan/Jubilate Hymns
Arrangement © David Illif/Jubilate Hymns

Preces & Responses
© The Royal School of Church Music

Chant to the Magnificat
© Kevin Mayhew Ltd

God that madest earth and heaven
© Oxford University Press

Organ Voluntary
© Kevin Mayhew Ltd

CCL licence: 668063

Generated: 2025-07-14 21:52:48
Targeting: Digital
<https://whitkirkchurch.org.uk/services/2021-10-03-evensong/>

St Mary's Church, Whitkirk

🌐 whitkirkchurch.org.uk **f** [/whitkirkchurch](https://www.facebook.com/whitkirkchurch) **🐦** [@stmaryswhitkirk](https://twitter.com/stmaryswhitkirk)