



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

Choral Evensong

The Choir of St Mary's Church, Whitkirk
Sunday 8 January 2023, 6.00 pm



Welcome to St Mary's



Please sanitise your hands

Please clean your hands using the provided hand sanitiser when entering and leaving the building.



Masks welcome

If you feel more comfortable wearing a face covering, please do so. If you've forgotten a face covering and would like one, please speak to a member of our team.



Keeping your distance

If you want to keep some extra space between yourself and others, we recommend sitting in our physically distanced pews at the north side of the building.



Follow the instructions of our stewards

Please follow all instructions from our stewards.



Hearing loop available

Our building is fitted with an inductive loop system which can be picked up by setting hearing aids to the "T" position.



Support our work

St Mary's is a charity which receives no funding from the government and is entirely dependent on donations and fees to keep operating.

If you would like to donate to support our work you can give during the service as giving plates are passed. Alternatively, you can place your offering in the plate by the door as you leave, or tap your contactless card or device.

You can also donate online by card or directly from your bank account by scanning this QR Code with your camera or by visiting wkrk.uk/donate.



If you'd like to give in some other way, find out more about planned giving, or learn how we use donations then please ask a member of our team.

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 1185 AD. 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 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

Our worship begins at the sound of the bell, please stand as the sacred ministers enter, during which the introit hymn is sung.

Hymn

**At the name of Jesus
Ev'ry knee shall bow,
Ev'ry tongue confess him
King of glory now;
'Tis the Father's pleasure
We should call him Lord,
Who from the beginning
Was the mighty Word.**

**Humbled for a season,
To receive a name
From the lips of sinners
Unto whom he came,
Faithfully he bore it
Spotless to the last,
Brought it back victorious
When from death he passed.**

**In your hearts enthrone him;
There let him subdue
All that is not holy,
All that is not true:
He is God the Saviour,
He is Christ the Lord,
Ever to be worshipped,
Trusted, and adored.**

Words: C. M. Noel (1817-1877)

Music: W. H. Monk (1823-1889)

Hymn Tune: EVELYNS

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.

If no priest be present the following prayer is said.

*Grant, we beseech thee, merciful Lord,
to thy faithful people pardon and peace,
that they may be cleansed from all their sins,
and serve thee with a quiet mind;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Amen.

Preces

The Preces (short petitions) are sung alternately by the cantor and the choir.

○ Lord, open thou our lips.

And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

○ God, make speed to save us.

○ 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.

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 46

God is our hope and strength:

A very present help in trouble.

Therefore will we not fear though the earth be moved:

And though the hills be carried into the midst of the sea.

Though the waters thereof rage and swell:

And though the mountains shake at the tempest of the same.

The rivers of the flood thereof shall make glad the city of God:

The holy place of the tabernacle of the Most Highest.

God is in the midst of her, therefore shall she not be removed:

God shall help her and that right early.

The heathen make much ado and the kingdoms are moved:

But God hath shewed his voice, and the earth shall melt away.

The Lord of hosts is with us:

The God of Jacob is our refuge.

O come hither and behold the works of the Lord:
What destruction he hath brought upon the earth.

He maketh wars to cease in all the world:
He breaketh the bow and knappeth the spear in sunder
and burneth the chariots in the fire.

‘Be still then and know that I am God:
‘I will be exalted among the heathen
and I will be exalted in the earth.’

*The Lord of hosts is with us:
The God of Jacob is our refuge.*

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.

Old Testament Lesson

Joshua 3.1-8, 14-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's gospel (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 shewed 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 filled 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.

New Testament Lesson

Hebrews 1.1-12

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.

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 and the Responses

These prayers bind together themes of praise, mercy and the desire for God's protection as night draws in. The Lesser Litany and the Responses are 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.**

○ Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

And grant us thy salvation.

○ Lord, save the King.

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, ○ Lord.

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

○ God, make clean our hearts within us.

And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

The Collect of the Day

Blessèd Lord,

who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning;

Grant that we may in such wise hear them,

read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them,

that by patience, and comfort of thy holy Word,

we may embrace, and ever hold fast

the blessèd hope of everlasting life,

which thou hast given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

The Collect for Peace

○ 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 sit.

‘Tomorrow shall be my dancing day’

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day:
I would my true love did so chance
To see the legend of my play,
To call my true love to my dance:

*Sing O my love, O my love, my love, my love;
This have I done for my true love.*

Then was I born of a virgin pure,
Of her I took fleshly substance;
Thus was I knit to man’s nature,
To call my true love to my dance:

*Sing O my love, O my love, my love, my love;
This have I done for my true love.*

In a manger laid and wrapped I was,
So very poor this was my chance,
Betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass,
To call my true love to my dance:

*Sing O my love, O my love, my love, my love;
This have I done for my true love.*

Then afterwards baptised I was;
The Holy Ghost on me did glance,
My Father's voice heard from above,
To call my true love to my dance:

*Sing O my love, O my love, my love, my love;
This have I done for my true love.*

*Words & Music: English traditional carol
arranged by G. H. Taylor*

The Sermon

Please remain seated.

Hymn

Please stand.

**Hail, gladdening Light, of his pure glory poured
From the immortal Father, heav'nly, blest,
Holiest of holies, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Now we are come to the sun's hour of rest,
The lights of evening round us shine,
We hymn the Father, Son and Holy Spirit divine.**

**Worthiest art thou at all times to be sung
With undefiled tongue,
Son of our God, giver of life, alone:
Therefore in all the world thy glories, Lord, they own.**

Words: Greek (3rd century or earlier)

translated by J. Keble (1792-1866)

Music: J. Stainer (1840-1901)

Hymn Tune: SEBASTE

The Prayers

Please kneel or sit.

Hymn

Please stand.

During this hymn a collection, our financial offering in support of the work of the church both at St. Mary's and across our diocese, is taken.

You can place cash or giving envelopes in the collection plates as they are passed around. If you would prefer, or if you miss the plate, you can also give by scanning this QR code, or by tapping your contactless card or device on the giving plate by the door as you leave.



**The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended,
The darkness falls at thy behest;
To thee our morning hymns ascended,
Thy praise shall sanctify our rest.**

**We thank thee that thy Church, unsleeping,
While earth rolls onward into light,
Through all the world her watch is keeping,
And rests not now by day or night.**

**As o'er each continent and island
The dawn leads on another day,
The voice of prayer is never silent,
Nor dies the strain of praise away.**

**The sun that bids us rest is waking
Our brethren 'neath the western sky,
And hour by hour fresh lips are making
Thy wondrous doings heard on high.**

**So be it, Lord; thy throne shall never,
Like earth's proud empires, pass away;
Thy kingdom stands, and grows for ever,
Till all thy creatures own thy sway.**

Words: J. Ellerton (1826-1893)

Music: C. C. Scholefield (1839-1904)

Hymn Tune: SAINT CLEMENT

The Blessing or The Grace

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

The next Choral Evensong will be on Sunday 5 February 2023 at 6.00 pm.

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Our regular services

Sung Eucharist: Every Sunday at 10.00 am
Said Eucharist: Every Wednesday at 10.00 am
Choral Evensong: First Sunday of the month at 6.00 pm

Contact us


If you'd like to talk to us, you can call us on **0113 264 5790**, send an email to **hello@whitkirkchurch.org.uk**, or find more details on our website at **whitkirkchurch.org.uk/contact**.

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