



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

# Choral Evensong

Sunday 3 September 2023, 6.00 pm

The thirteenth Sunday after Trinity



# Welcome to St Mary's

## 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 its doors open, continue its work in the community, and maintain its buildings and outdoor spaces.

If you would like to donate to support us you can give during the service as giving plates are passed around. 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 by scanning this QR Code with your camera or by visiting [wkrk.uk/donate](https://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.

## Hearing loop available

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

## Follow the instructions of our stewards

Please follow all instructions from our stewards.



## **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.

# 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.**

**Bore it up triumphant  
With its human light,  
Through all ranks of creatures,  
To the central height,  
To the throne of Godhead,  
To the Father's breast;  
Filled it with the glory  
Of that perfect rest.**

**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: Caroline Maria Noel (1817-1877)*

*Music: William Henry 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**

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 105 verses 1-15**

O give thanks unto the Lord and call upon his Name:  
Tell the people what things he hath done.

O let your songs be of him and praise him:  
And let your talking be of all his wondrous works.

Rejoice in his holy Name:  
Let the heart of them rejoice that seek the Lord.

Seek the Lord and his strength:  
Seek his face evermore.

Remember the marvellous works that he hath done:  
His wonders and the judgements of his mouth;

O ye seed of Abraham his servant:  
Ye children of Jacob his chosen.

He is the Lord our God:  
His judgements are in all the world.

He hath been always mindful of his covenant and promise:  
That he made to a thousand generations;  
Even the covenant that he made with Abraham:  
And the oath that he sware unto Isaac;

And appointed the same unto Jacob for a law:  
And to Israel for an everlasting testament;  
Saying, 'Unto thee will I give the land of Canaan:  
'The lot of your inheritance';

When there were yet but a few of them:  
And they strangers in the land;

What time as they went from one nation to another:  
From one kingdom to another people;

He suffered no man to do them wrong:  
But reprov'd even kings for their sakes;

'Touch not mine anointed:  
'And do my prophets no harm.'

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 Mursell Garrett (1834-1897)*

## **Old Testament Lesson**

*Please sit.*

The First Lesson is from the Second Book of Kings.

Some time later King Ben-hadad of Aram mustered his entire army; he marched against Samaria and laid

siege to it. As the siege continued, famine in Samaria became so great that a donkey's head was sold for eighty shekels of silver and one-fourth of a kab of dove's dung for five shekels of silver.

But Elisha said, "Hear the word of the LORD: Thus says the LORD: Tomorrow about this time a measure of choice meal shall be sold for a shekel and two measures of barley for a shekel, at the gate of Samaria." Then the captain on whose hand the king leaned said to the man of God, "Even if the LORD were to make windows in the sky, could such a thing happen?" But he said, "You shall see it with your own eyes, but you shall not eat from it." Now there were four men with a defiling skin disease outside the city gate who said to one another, "Why should we sit here until we die? If we say, 'Let us enter the city,' the famine is in the city, and we shall die there, but if we sit here, we shall also die.

Therefore, let us desert to the Aramean camp; if they spare our lives, we shall live, and if they kill us, we shall but die." So they arose at twilight to go to the Aramean camp, but when they came to the edge of the Aramean camp there was no one there at all. For the Lord had caused the Aramean army to hear the sound of chariots and of horses, the sound of a great army, so that they said to one another, "The king of Israel has hired the kings of the Hittites and

the kings of Egypt to fight against us.” So they fled away in the twilight and abandoned their tents, their horses, and their donkeys, leaving the camp just as it was, and fled for their lives. When these diseased men had come to the edge of the camp, they went into a tent, ate and drank, carried off silver, gold, and clothing, and went and hid them. Then they came back, entered another tent, carried off things from it and went and hid them.

Then they said to one another, “What we are doing is wrong. This is a day of good news; if we are silent and wait until the morning light, we will be found guilty; therefore let us go and tell the king’s household.” So they came and called to the gatekeepers of the city and told them, “We went to the Aramean camp, but there was no one to be seen or heard there, nothing but the horses tied, the donkeys tied, and the tents as they were.” Then the gatekeepers called out and proclaimed it to the king’s household. The king got up in the night and said to his servants, “I will tell you what the Arameans have prepared against us. They know that we are starving, so they left the camp to hide themselves in the open country, thinking, ‘When they come out of the city, we shall take them alive and get into the city.’” One of his servants said, “Let some men take five of the remaining horses, since

those left here will suffer the fate of the whole multitude of Israel that have perished already; let us send and find out.” So they took two mounted men, and the king sent them after the Aramean army, saying, “Go and find out.” So they went after them as far as the Jordan; the whole way was littered with garments and equipment that the Arameans had thrown away in their haste. So the messengers returned and told the king.

Then the people went out and plundered the camp of the Arameans. So a measure of choice meal was sold for a shekel and two measures of barley for a shekel, according to the word of the LORD. Now the king had appointed the captain on whose hand he leaned to have charge of the gate; the people trampled him to death in the gate, just as the man of God had said when the king came down to him. For when the man of God had said to the king, “Two measures of barley shall be sold for a shekel and a measure of choice meal for a shekel, about this time tomorrow in the gate of Samaria,” the captain had answered the man of God, “Even if the LORD were to make windows in the sky, could such a thing happen?” And he had answered, “You shall see it with your own eyes, but you shall not eat from it.” It

did indeed happen to him; the people trampled him  
to death in the gate.

*2 Kings 6.24-25; 7.3-end*

*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.

*Music: Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)*

## **New Testament Lesson**

*Please sit.*

The Second Lesson is from the Acts of the Apostles.

After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. There he found a Jew named Aquila from Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had ordered all Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to see them, and, because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them, and they worked together—by trade they were tentmakers. Every Sabbath he would argue in the synagogue and would try to convince Jews and Greeks.

When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul was occupied with proclaiming the word, testifying to the Jews that the Messiah was Jesus. When they opposed and reviled him, in protest he shook the dust from his clothes and said to them, “Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent.

From now on I will go to the gentiles.” Then he left the synagogue and went to the house of a man named Titius Justus, a worshiper of God; his house was next door to the synagogue. Crispus, the official of the synagogue, became a believer in the Lord, together with all his household, and many of the Corinthians who heard Paul became believers and were baptised. One night the Lord said to Paul in a vision, “Do not be afraid, but speak and do not be silent, for I am with you, and no one will lay a hand on you to harm you, for there are many in this city who are my people.” He stayed there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

But when Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews made a united attack on Paul and brought him before the tribunal. They said, “This man is persuading people to worship God in ways that are contrary to the law.” Just as Paul was about to speak, Gallio said to the Jews, “If it were a matter of crime or serious villainy, I would be justified in accepting the complaint of you Jews, but since it is a matter of questions about words and names and your own law, see to it yourselves; I do not wish to be a judge of these matters.” And he dismissed them from the tribunal.

*Acts 18.1-16*

*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: Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)*

# **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 heav'n,  
Hallowed be thy Name.  
Thy kingdom come.  
Thy will be done,  
In earth as it is in heav'n.  
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.**

O God, make clean our hearts within us.

**And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.**

## **The Collect of the Day**

Almighty and merciful God,  
of whose only gift it cometh that thy faithful people  
do unto thee true and laudable service;  
Grant, we beseech thee,  
that we may so faithfully serve thee in this life,  
that we fail not finally to attain thy heavenly promises;  
through the merits of 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.**

## Choir Anthem

*Please sit.*

### ‘God be in my head’

God be in my head,  
And in my understanding;  
God be in mine eyes,  
And in my looking;  
God be in my mouth,  
And in my speaking;  
God be in my heart,  
And in my thinking;  
God be at mine end,  
And at my departing.

*Words: From a Book of Hours (Sarum, 1514)*

*Music: Cecil Armstrong Gibbs (1889-1960)*



# The Sermon

## 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 undefilèd 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 John Keble (1792-1866)  
Music: John 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 on 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.*



**Jesus, good above all other,  
Gentle child of gentle mother,  
In a stable born our brother,  
Give us grace to persevere.**

**Jesus, for thy people dying,  
Risen Master, death defying,  
Lord in heav'n, thy grace supplying,  
Keep us to thy presence near.**

**Jesus, who our sorrows bearest,  
All our thoughts and hopes thou sharest,  
Thou to us the truth declarest;  
Help us all thy truth to hear.**

**Lord, in all our doings guide us;  
Pride and hate shall ne'er divide us;  
We'll go on with thee beside us,  
And with joy we'll persevere!**

*Words: Percy Dearmer (1867-1936) alt.*

*Music: German traditional melody (14th century)  
harmonised by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)*

*Hymn Tune: QUEM PASTORES*

## **The Blessing or The Grace**

*Thank you for being part of this evening's act of worship. The next Choral Evensong at St Mary's is on Sunday 1 October at 6.00 pm. All are welcome.*

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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  
Next on Sunday 1 October
- Compline: First Wednesday of the month at 8.30 pm  
Next on Wednesday 6 September




## 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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