



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

# Choral Evensong

Sunday 3 March 2024, 6.00 pm

The third Sunday of Lent



# 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 on 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 and thirty 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

**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*

# 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 11

In the Lord put I my trust:  
How say ye then to my soul  
that she should flee as a bird unto the hill?

For lo the ungodly bend their bow  
and make ready their arrows within the quiver:  
That they may privily shoot at them which are true of heart.

For the foundations will be cast down:  
And what hath the righteous done?

The Lord is in his holy temple:  
The Lord's seat is in heav'n.

His eyes consider the poor:  
And his eyelids try the children of men.

The Lord alloweth the righteous:  
But the ungodly and him that delighteth in wickedness  
doth his soul abhor.

Upon the ungodly he shall rain snares  
fire and brimstone storm and tempest:  
This shall be their portion to drink.

For the righteous Lord loveth righteousness:  
His countenance will behold the thing that is just.

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: James Turle (1802-1882)*

## **Old Testament Lesson**

*Please sit.*

The First Lesson is from the book of Exodus.

Afterwards Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said, 'Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, "Let my people go, so that they may celebrate a festival to me in the wilderness."' But Pharaoh said, 'Who is the Lord, that I should heed him and let Israel go? I do not know the Lord, and I will not let Israel go.' Then they said, 'The God of the Hebrews has revealed himself to us; let us go a three days' journey into the wilderness to sacrifice to the Lord our God, or he will fall upon us with pestilence or sword.'

But the king of Egypt said to them, 'Moses and Aaron, why are you taking the people away from their work? Get to your labours!' Pharaoh

continued, 'Now they are more numerous than the people of the land and yet you want them to stop working!'

That same day Pharaoh commanded the taskmasters of the people, as well as their supervisors, 'You shall no longer give the people straw to make bricks, as before; let them go and gather straw for themselves. But you shall require of them the same quantity of bricks as they have made previously; do not diminish it, for they are lazy; that is why they cry, "Let us go and offer sacrifice to our God." Let heavier work be laid on them; then they will labour at it and pay no attention to deceptive words.'

So the taskmasters and the supervisors of the people went out and said to the people, 'Thus says Pharaoh, "I will not give you straw. Go and get straw yourselves, wherever you can find it; but your work will not be lessened in the least."' So the people scattered throughout the land of Egypt, to gather stubble for straw. The taskmasters were urgent, saying, 'Complete your work, the same daily assignment as when you were given straw.' And the supervisors of the Israelites, whom Pharaoh's taskmasters had set over them, were beaten, and were asked, 'Why did you not finish the required

quantity of bricks yesterday and today, as you did before?’

Then the Israelite supervisors came to Pharaoh and cried, ‘Why do you treat your servants like this? No straw is given to your servants, yet they say to us, “Make bricks!” Look how your servants are beaten! You are unjust to your own people.’ He said, ‘You are lazy, lazy; that is why you say, “Let us go and sacrifice to the Lord.” Go now, and work; for no straw shall be given you, but you shall still deliver the same number of bricks.’ The Israelite supervisors saw that they were in trouble when they were told, ‘You shall not lessen your daily number of bricks.’ As they left Pharaoh, they came upon Moses and Aaron who were waiting to meet them. They said to them, ‘The Lord look upon you and judge! You have brought us into bad odour with Pharaoh and his officials, and have put a sword in their hand to kill us.’

Then Moses turned again to the Lord and said, ‘O Lord, why have you mistreated this people? Why did you ever send me? Since I first came to Pharaoh to speak in your name, he has mistreated this people, and you have done nothing at all to deliver your people.’

Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Now you shall see what I will do to Pharaoh: Indeed, by a mighty hand he will let them go; by a mighty hand he will drive them out of his land.'

*Exodus 5.1-6.1*

*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: Plainsong with fauxbourdons  
Giovanni Ilorio (16th century composer)*

## **New Testament Lesson**

*Please sit.*

The Second Lesson is from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want



to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

*Philippians 3.4b-14*

*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: Plainsong with fauxbourdons  
Thomas Morley (1557-1602)*

*Please remain standing.*

## **The Apostles' Creed**

**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.**

○ God, make clean our hearts within us.

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

## **The Collect of the Day**

We beseech thee, Almighty God,  
look upon the hearty desires of thy humble servants,  
and stretch forth the right hand of thy Majesty,  
to be our defence against all our enemies;;  
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.**

## **Choir Anthem**

*Please sit.*

# The Sermon

## Hymn

*Please stand.*

**Father, hear the prayer we offer:  
Not for ease that prayer shall be,  
But for strength that we may ever  
Live our lives courageously.**

**Not for ever in green pastures  
Do we ask our way to be;  
But the steep and rugged pathway  
May we tread rejoicingly.**

**Not for ever by still waters  
Would we idly rest and stay;  
But would smite the living fountains  
From the rocks along our way.**

**Be our strength in hours of weakness,  
In our wand'rings be our guide;  
Through endeavour, failure, danger,  
Father, be thou at our side.**

*Words: Maria Willis (1824-1908)*

*Music: English traditional melody*

*adapted by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)*

*Hymn Tune: SUSSEX*

# 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.*



**All for Jesus! All for Jesus!  
This our song shall ever be;  
For we have no hope nor Saviour  
If we have not hope in thee.**

**All for Jesus! thou wilt give us  
Strength to serve thee hour by hour:  
None can move us from thy presence  
Whilst we trust thy love and pow'r.**

**All for Jesus! at thine altar  
Thou dost give us sweet content;  
There, dear Saviour, we receive thee  
In thy holy sacrament.**



**All for Jesus! thou hast loved us,  
All for Jesus! thou hast died,  
All for Jesus! thou art with us,  
All for Jesus, glorified!**

**All for Jesus! All for Jesus!  
This the Church's song shall be,  
Till at last the flock is gathered  
One in love, and one in thee.**

*Words: William John Sparrow-Simpson (1859-1952)*

*Music: John Stainer (1840-1901)*

*Hymn Tune: ALL FOR JESUS*

## **The Grace**

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
And the love of God,  
And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
Be with us all evermore.  
Amen.**

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

*The next Choral Evensong at St Mary's is on Sunday 7 April 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 7 April
- Compline: Next on Thursday 7 March at 7.40 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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