



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

Choral Evensong

The Sunday next before Lent

Sunday 2 March 2025, 6.00 pm



Welcome to St Mary's

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

Accessible for everyone

We aim to be accessible for everyone. For more information on accessibility at St Mary's please see wkrk.uk/access or ask any member of our team.



Follow the instructions of our stewards

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Safeguarding

Our Parish Safeguarding team can be contacted at any time. You can talk to Rev'd Claire or to Janet Blenkinsop, our Parish Safeguarding Officer, you can email safeguarding@whitkirkchurch.org.uk, or you can find more information and contact details at wkrk.uk/safe.



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

**Thou, whose almighty word
chaos and darkness heard,
and took their flight;
hear us, we humbly pray,
and where the gospel-day
sheds not its glorious ray,
let there be light.**

**Thou, who didst come to bring
on thy redeeming wing
healing and sight;
health to the sick in mind,
sight to the inly blind,
O now to all mankind
let there be light.**

**Spirit of truth and love,
life-giving, holy Dove,
speed forth thy flight;
move on the water's face,
bearing the lamp of grace,
and in earth's darkest place
let there be light.**

**Holy and blessed Three,
glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, Love, Might;
boundless as ocean's tide,
rolling in fullest pride,
through the earth far and wide
let there be light.**

Words: J. Marriott (1780-1825)

Music: melody from Madan's 'Collection' (1769)

adapted by F. de Giardini

Hymn Tune: MOSCOW

Sentences of the Scriptures

Enter not into judgement with thy servant, O Lord; for in thy sight shall no man living be justified.

Psalm 143.2

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;

Please kneel or sit.

The General Confession

**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.

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.

The Preces

The Preces (short petitions) 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 Choir sings the psalm appointed for today.

Please sit.

Psalm 89 verses 5-12

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.

O Lord the very heavens shall praise thy wondrous works :
and thy truth in the congregation of the saints.

For who is he among the clouds :
that shall be compared unto the Lord?

And what is he among the gods :
that shall be like unto the Lord?

God is very greatly to be feared in the council of the saints :
and to be had in reverence of all them that are round about him.

O Lord God of hosts, who is like unto thee :
thy truth most mighty Lord is on every side.

Thou rulest the raging of the sea :
thou stillest the waves thereof when they arise.

Thou hast subdued Egypt and destroyed it :
thou hast scattered thine enemies abroad with thy
mighty arm.

The heavens are thine, the earth also is thine :
thou hast laid the foundation of the round world
and all that therein is.

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.

Old Testament Lesson

Please sit.

The First Lesson is taken from the third chapter of the book of Exodus, beginning to read at the first verse.

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, 'I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up.' When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, 'Moses, Moses!' And

he said, 'Here I am.' Then he said, 'Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.' He said further, 'I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Exodus 3.1-6

At the end the reader says:

Here endeth the First Lesson.

After a short silence, please stand.

Magnificat

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

Choir 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.

Luke 1.46-55

Choir 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.

Please sit.

New Testament Lesson

The Second Lesson is taken from the twelfth chapter of Saint John's gospel beginning to read at the twenty-seventh verse.

'Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say - "Father, save me from this hour"? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.' Then a voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, 'An angel has spoken to him.' Jesus answered, 'This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.' He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die. The crowd answered him, 'We have heard from the law that the Messiah remains for ever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?' Jesus said to them, 'The light is with you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness may

not overtake you. If you walk in the darkness, you do not know where you are going. While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light.’ After Jesus had said this, he departed and hid from them.

John 12.27-36a

At the end the reader says:

Here endeth the Second Lesson.

After a short silence, please stand.

Nunc Dimittis

The Nunc Dimittis is also known as the Song of Simeon. Luke’s gospel 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.

Choir 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.

Luke 2.29-32

Choir **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.

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 catholic 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, the Lord's Prayer 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

O Lord,
who hast taught us that all our doings
without charity are nothing worth;
send thy Holy Ghost,
and pour into our hearts
that most excellent gift of charity,
the very bond of peace and of all virtues,
without which whosoever liveth
is counted dead before thee:
grant this for thine only Son Jesus Christ's sake.

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.

Please sit as the Choir sings the anthem.

Holy Father, cheer our way
with thy love's perpetual ray;
grant us every closing day
light at evening time.

Holy Saviour, calm our fears
when earth's brightness disappears;
grant us in our latter years
light at evening time.

Holy, blessed Trinity,
darkness is not dark with thee;
those thou keepest always see
light at evening time.

Words: R. H. Robinson (1842-1892)

Music: W. Parratt (1841-1924)

Anthem arrangement: G. H. Taylor

Please remain seated.

Sermon

Hymn

Please stand.

**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 dread call shall wake us,
do not thou our God forsake us,
but to reign in glory take us
with thee on high.**

Words: First verse: R. Heber (1783-1826)

Second verse: R. Whately (1787-1863)

Music: Welsh traditional melody

arranged by R. Vaughan Williams

Hymn Tune: AR HYD Y NOS

Prayers

Please kneel or sit.

Offertory 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 card reader by the door as you leave.



**How shall I sing that majesty
which angels do admire?
let dust in dust and silence lie;
sing, sing, ye heav'nly choir.
Thousands of thousands stand around
thy throne, O God most high;
ten thousand times ten thousand sound
thy praise; but who am I?**

**Thy brightness unto them appears,
whilst I thy footsteps trace;
a sound of God comes to my ears,
but they behold thy face.
They sing because thou art their sun;
Lord, send a beam on me;
for where heav'n is but once begun
there alleluias be.**

**Enlighten with faith's light my heart,
in flame it with love's fire;
then shall I sing and bear a part
with that celestial choir.
I shall, I fear, be dark and cold,
with all my fire and light;
yet when thou dost accept their gold,
Lord, treasure up my mite.**

**How great a being, Lord, is thine
which doth all beings keep!
Thy knowledge is the only line
to sound so vast a deep.
Thou art a sea without a shore,
a sun without a sphere;
thy time is now and evermore,
thy place is ev'rywhere.**

*Words: J. Mason (c. 1645-1694)
Music: K. N. Naylor (1931-1991)
Hymn Tune: COE FEN*

The Grace

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost,
be with us all evermore.
Amen.**

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

Please join us again for Choral Evensong on Sunday 6 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
Compline:	First Wednesday of the month at 8.30 pm
Sacred Space:	Last Thursday of the month at 6.00 pm
Daily Prayers:	Tuesday to Saturday at 8.30am and 5.30pm

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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