

SOLEMN CHORAL EVENSONG

The Presentation of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple



February 5, 2023

Three o'clock in the afternoon



CONCERNING EVENSONG

Perhaps nothing is more peculiarly Anglican than the Order of Evensong. It has been sung daily in the Anglican Church since the sixteenth century. Originating from the monastic hours, its beauty consists of the distinctive parts of the ancient office of Vespers and Compline as set forth by Thomas Cranmer in *The Book of Common Prayer* 1549. Today's Order of Evensong is taken from *The Book of Common Prayer* 1662.

There is a formality about the service which often seems far removed from the uncertain, largely incoherent beliefs of many who attend; it is a choral service with little opportunity for the congregation to take an active part. Yet to some extent the formality is deceptive: the words used result from the long quest of generation after generation of Christians for ways to express their thanksgiving and their hope. The preface to the Order of Evensong used in King's College Chapel offers a further explanation:

If you are prepared to join in this turning towards God, you will find this is a service in which you can join, though perhaps in ways that are unfamiliar. Here is a liturgical, architectural, and musical space into which, without fretting too much about the words, you may gather the preoccupations and anxieties of your own life and hold them together with a recollection of the God whose acts we celebrate. But many have found that once they have quietly offered the preoccupations which are chattering in their minds they are free silently to go on to offer to God all that they are. The service becomes the medium for our self-offering. By that offering we become open to receive again the love and mercy of God. So we begin again in the Christian life, which is life lived in response to that love and mercy.

Michael Till, Dean of King's College, Cambridge (1970-1981)

The congregation is invited to attend carefully to the texts of the service and to join in singing the designated portions. The people's responses are in **bold**.

CHORAL EVENSONG

A brief organ prelude offered a few minutes before the hour bids us all keep silence for prayer and preparation.

PRELUDE *Andantino quasi allegretto from Symphony No. 5* C.M. Widor (1844-1937)

WELCOME

Please stand in body or in spirit as the procession enters.

HYMN

STUTTGART



1 Come, thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to
2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of
3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er; born a
4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it, rule in
set thy peo - ple free; from our fears and
all the earth thou art; dear de - sire of
child and yet a King; born to reign in
all our hearts a - lone; by thine all - suf -
sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
us for - ev - er: now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
fi - cient mer - it, raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

OPENING SENTENCES FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me, and the light around me turn to night," darkness is not dark to thee, O Lord; the night is as bright as the day; darkness and light to thee are both alike.

THE PRECES

William Byrd (1540-1623)

Officiant O Lord, open thou our lips;
Choir And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

Officiant O God, make speed to save us.
Choir O Lord make haste to help us.

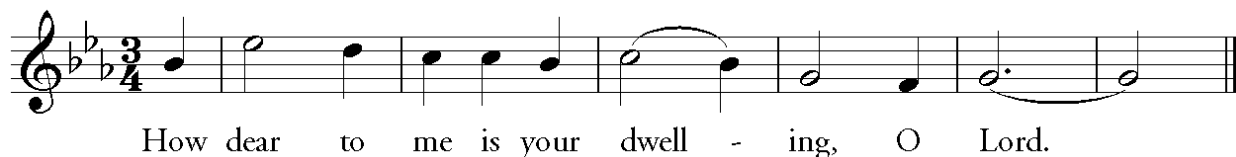
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, and is now and ever shall be;
world without end. Amen.

Praise ye the Lord.
Praise ye the Lord.

Please be seated for the Psalm.

PSALM 84 *Quam dilecta!*

The Choir sings the refrain, then all repeat.



- 1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts!
My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
- 2 The sparrow has found her a house
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young;
by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.
- 3 Happy are they who dwell in your house!
they will always be praising you.
- 4 Happy are the people whose strength is in you!
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way. *Refrain*

- 5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs,
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.
- 6 They will climb from height to height,
and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.
- 7 Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer;
hearken, O God of Jacob.
- 8 Behold our defender, O God;
and look upon the face of your Anointed. *Refrain*
- 9 For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room,
and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God
than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.
- 10 For the Lord God is both sun and shield;
he will give grace and glory;
- 11 No good thing will the Lord withhold
from those who walk with integrity.
- 12 O Lord of hosts,
happy are they who put their trust in you! *Refrain*

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 FIRST LESSON

Malachi 3:1-4

A reading from the Prophet Malachi

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Here endeth the lesson.

Please stand in body or in spirit.

OFFICE HYMN

RUSTINGTON

1 Sing we of the bless - ed Mo - ther who re - ceived the an - gel's
2 Sing we, too, of Ma - ry's sor - rows, of the sword that pierced her
3 Sing a - gain the joys of Ma - ry when she saw the ris - en
4 Sing the chief - est joy of Ma - ry when on earth her work was

word, and o - be - dient to the sum - mons bore in
through, when be - neath the cross of Je - sus she his
Lord, and in prayer with Christ's a - pos - tles, wait - ed
done, and the Lord of all cre - a - tion brought her

love the in - fant Lord; sing we of the joys of
weight of suf - fering knew, looked up - on her Son and
on his prom - ised word; from on high the blaz - ing
to his heaven - ly home; where, raised high with saints and

Ma - ry at whose breast the child was fed who is
Sa - vior reign - ing from the aw - ful tree, saw the
glo - ry of the Spi - rit's pres - ence came, heaven - ly
an - gels, in Je - ru - sa - lem a - bove, she be -

Son of God e - ter - nal and the ev - er - last - ing Bread.
 price of our re - demp-tion paid to set the sin - ner free.
 breath of God's own be - ing, man - i - fest in wind and flame.
 holds her son and Sa - vior reign-ing as the Lord of love.

Please remain standing as the Choir sings the Magnificat.

THE MAGNIFICAT *Evening Service in A flat* Sarah MacDonald (b. 1968)

My soul doth magnify the Lord: and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For he hath regarded: the lowliness of his handmaiden. 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.

Please be seated.

THE SECOND LESSON

Luke 2:22-40

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, “Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.”

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed - and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

Here endeth the lesson.

Please stand in body or in spirit as the Choir sings the Nunc Dimittis.

THE NUNC DIMITTIS *Evening Service in A flat*

Sarah MacDonald

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.

Please remain standing.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Monotone

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

William Byrd

Officiant The Lord be with you.
Choir And with thy spirit.
Officiant Let us pray.
Choir Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Monotone

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 SUFFRAGES

William Byrd

Officiant O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.
Choir And grant us thy salvation.
Officiant O Lord, save the King.
Choir And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.
Officiant Endue thy ministers with righteousness.
Choir And make thy chosen people joyful.
Officiant O Lord, save thy people.
Choir And bless thine inheritance.
Officiant Give peace in our time, O Lord.
Choir Because there is none other that fighteth for us,
but only thou, O God.
Officiant O God, make clean our hearts within us.
Choir And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty and everliving God, we humbly beseech thee that, as thy only-begotten Son was this day presented in the temple, so we may be presented unto thee with pure and clean hearts by the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

A 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 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.

A COLLECT FOR AID AGAINST 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 BLESSING OF CANDLES

Dear people of God, forty days ago we celebrated the joyful feast of the incarnation of Jesus. Today we recall the day on which he was presented in the temple, fulfilling the law of Moses. Led by the Spirit, Simeon and Anna came to the temple, recognized the child as the Christ, and proclaimed him with joy. United by the same Spirit, we now gather in the house of God, where we recognize Christ revealed in Word and Sacrament.

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, who didst present thine only-begotten Son in thy holy temple to be received in the arms of blessed Simeon: we humbly entreat thy mercy, that thou wouldst vouchsafe to bless, hallow, and kindle with the light of thy heavenly benediction these candles which we thy servants desire to light in honour of thy holy Name. By offering them to thee, our Lord and God, may we be inflamed with the fire of thy love and made worthy to be presented in the holy temple of thy glory. Through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, liveth and reigneth God, world without end. **Amen.**

THE OFFERTORY

During the anthem, the congregation is invited to make an offering to support music at St. John's, Shaughnessy, as an expression of gratitude for God's generosity. A QR code is provided for those who prefer to donate online.



AT THE OFFERTORY: ANTHEM

O Lux Beatissima

Howard Helvey (b. 1968)

O lux beatissima, reple cordis intima tuorum fidelium.
Sine tuo numine, nihil est in homine, nihil est innoxium.

O blessed Light of life Thou art; fill with Thy light the inmost heart of those who hope in Thee. Without Thy Godhead nothing can have any price or worth in man, nothing can harmless be.

THE SERMON

Prof. Diana Lary, Ph.D.
*Professor Emerita of History
University of British Columbia*

Please stand in body or in spirit.

THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING


Almighty God,
Father of all mercies,
we, thine unworthy servants,
do give thee most humble and hearty thanks
for all thy goodness and loving-kindness
to us, and to all men;
We bless thee for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all, for thine inestimable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we beseech thee,
give us that due sense of all thy mercies,
that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful;
and that we shew forth thy praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to thy service,
and by walking before thee
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost,
be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

HYMN

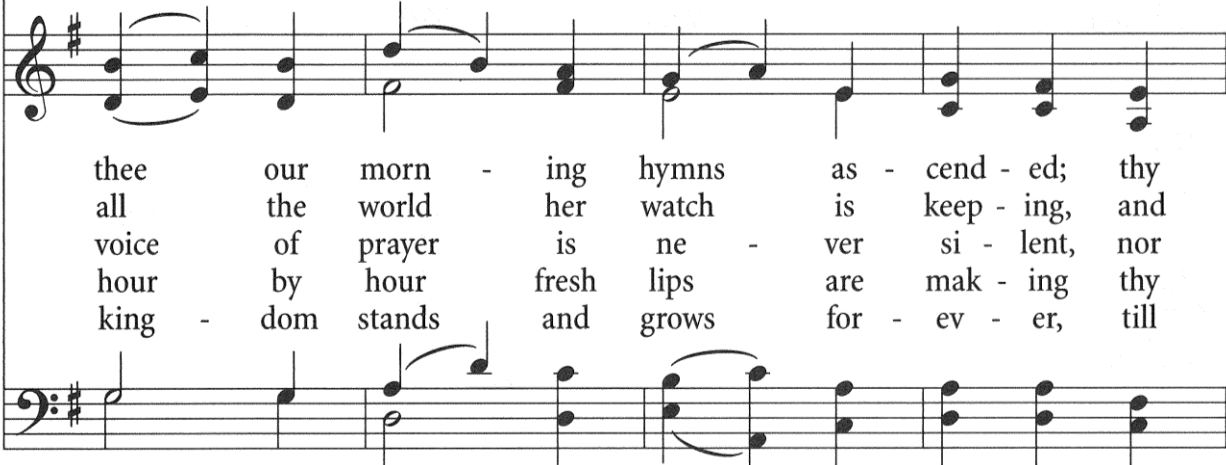
ST. CLEMENT



1 The day thou gav - est, Lord, is end - ed; the
 2 We thank thee that thy church un - sleep - ing, while
 3 As o'er each con - ti - nent and is - land the
 4 The sun that bids us rest is wak - ing thy
 5 So be it, Lord! Thy throne shall nev - er, like



dark - ness falls at thy be - hest. To
 earth rolls on - ward in - to light, through
 dawn leads on an - oth - er day, the
 faith - ful 'neath the west - ern sky, and
 earth's proud em - pires, pass a - way; thy



thee our morn - ing hymns as - cend - ed; thy
 all the world her watch is keep - ing, and
 voice of prayer is ne - ver si - lent, nor
 hour by hour fresh lips are mak - ing thy
 king - dom stands and grows for - ev - er, till

praise shall sanc - ti - fy our rest.
 rests not now by day or night.
 dies the strain of praise a - way.
 won - drous do - ings heard on high.
 all thy crea - tures own thy sway.

THE FINAL RESPONSES

Cantor or Officiant

Let us bless the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

VOLUNTARY *Toccata from Symphony No 5.*

C.M. Widor

ST. JOHN'S, SHAUGHNESSY STAFF AND LEADERSHIP

Please contact the parish office if you would like to be added to our mailing list, so that we may let you know about upcoming events.

Clergy and Staff

The Reverend Terry Shields Dirbas, *Rector* terry.dirbas@sjs.net
The Reverend James Hwang, *Curate* jhwang@sjs.net
The Reverend Dr. Marilyn Hames, *Honorary Assisting Priest*
The Reverend Karin Fulcher, *Deacon*
The Reverend Pitman Potter, *Deacon*
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Trustees

Ken Pepin, *Rector's Warden*
Maggie Sanders, *People's Warden*
Mike Dezell, *Property Trustee*
Donald Wood, *Treasurer*



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