

CHORAL EVENSONG

THE PARISH CHURCH OF
ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, RANMOOR



AN INTRODUCTION TO CHORAL EVENSONG

Welcome to the Parish Church of St John the Evangelist and this service of Choral Evensong

Evensong is a tiny fragment of something else: it is part of the worship which is offered to God by Christian people every hour of the day and night, all over the world. When you come to Evensong, it is as if you are dropping in on a conversation between God and human beings which began long before you were born and which will continue long after your death. For a brief moment, you step into a continual stream of worship which is being offered today and which will be offered to the end of time. You join with those who worship here on earth and in heaven.

Evensong is drawn almost entirely from the Bible. Its primary purpose is to proclaim the wonderful works of God in history and in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Its secondary purpose is to evoke a response of praise, penitence, prayer, and obedience. Much of the English of the service is in the language spoken and written by our ancestors more than four hundred years ago. It may sound old-fashioned but its meaning is not out of date. At Evensong:

We prepare for worship by confessing our sins to God and receiving God's forgiveness afresh.

The Choir sings from the Psalms which speak of our relationship with God. We listen to readings from the Old and New Testaments.

We hear the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis, two songs from Luke's Gospel. We affirm our Christian faith in the Creed.

Towards the end of the service, we hear a reflection on the Bible readings we have heard. We also pray for the Church and the world and ask God's blessing on the week to come.

Evensong allows time for reflection, when the beauty of the language and music can quieten us, enabling us to hear God's voice in our lives.

Matthew Rhodes
Vicar

Before the service, the organist plays the VOLUNTARY, details of which can be found on the Sunday news sheet. Please STAND as the choir and ministers enter.

OPENING HYMN

INTRODUCTION & GENERAL CONFESSION

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 cloak 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 SIT or KNEEL.

All 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 priest pronounces the words of absolution:

May the Almighty and merciful Lord grant unto you pardon and remission of all your sins, time for amendment of life, and the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

All **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.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

The following responses are sung:

Minister O Lord, open thou our lips
Choir And our mouth shall shew forth thy
 praise.
Minister O God, make speed to save us.
Choir O Lord, make haste to help us.

Please STAND for the Gloria.

Minister Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
 and to the Holy Ghost;
Choir As it was in the beginning, is now, and
 ever shall be, world without end. Amen.
Minister Praise ye the Lord.
Choir The Lord's name be praised.

Please SIT.

PSALM

The psalm appointed for the day is sung by the choir. The text will be found in the Book of Common Prayer, and the page number will be announced by the officiating clergy.
Please stand for the gloria which is sung at the end of the psalm.

Gloria:

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.

THE FIRST LESSON

Please STAND.

THE OFFICE HYMN

Please remain STANDING.

MAGNIFICAT- The Song of Mary

This will be sung by the choir to a choral setting, details of which can be found on the Sunday news sheet.

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.

Luke 1.46-55

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.

Please SIT.

THE SECOND LESSON

Please STAND.

NUNC DIMITTIS- The Song of Simeon

This will be sung by the choir to a choral setting, details of which can be found on the Sunday news sheet.

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

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.

Please remain STANDING.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

All 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 following responses are sung by the choir:

Minister The Lord be with you.

Choir And with thy spirit.

Minister Let us pray.

Please SIT or KNEEL.

Minister Lord, have mercy upon us.

Choir Christ, have mercy upon us.

Minister Lord, have mercy upon us.

Choir 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.

Minister O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

Choir And grant us thy salvation.

Minister O Lord, save the King.

Choir And mercifully hear us when we call
upon thee.

Minister Endue thy ministers with righteousness.

Choir And make thy chosen people joyful.

Minister O Lord, save thy people.

Choir And bless thine inheritance.

Minister Give peace in our time, O Lord.

Choir Because there is none other that
fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.

Minister O God, make clean our hearts within us.

Choir And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

The minister shall sing the Collect appointed for the day followed by the Collect for Peace and the Collect for Aid Against Perils.

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 remain seated for the SERMON following which the choir will sing the ANTHEM.

SERMON

THE ANTHEM

Please sit as the choir sings a musical setting of a text suitable for the day or season, details of which can be found on the Sunday news sheet.

Please KNEEL or SIT.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSIONS

Prayers shall end with the words of the grace to which all are invited to join:

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.

Please STAND.

THE COLLECTION HYMN

THE BLESSING

THE peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord: And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Please remain standing as the choir and clergy process out. Please sit when the procession reaches the back of the church. Choir vestry prayers will usually be said around the baptismal font.

You are warmly invited to sit and listen to the Organ VOLUNTARY. If you wish to leave the church before the organ voluntary has finished, kindly do so quietly.

Regular Services at St John's

Parish Communion (choral) is on Sundays at 10.30am

All Age Services are on the first Sunday at 10.30am

Choral Evensong is sung on Sundays at 6:30 pm; and on Wednesday (fortnightly) at 5:30 pm.

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ST JOHN'S CHURCH, RANMOOR

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