

SOUTHWARK
◆ CATHEDRAL ◆

CHORAL EVENSONG

WITH THE INSTALLATION OF HELEN SMEE AS DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

SUNDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2025
3.00PM



WELCOME TO SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL

A MEMBER OF THE



ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Please ensure that all electronic devices are switched to silent.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography and video recording of the Choir is not permitted.

You are welcome to take photographs of the Cathedral but please do not take any photographs or videos during the service.

HEARING LOOP

Please switch your device to 'T'.

POSTURE

The instructions in this booklet are not prescriptive. Please sit if that is more appropriate for you.

DONATIONS



There are several donation points in the Cathedral where you can make your donation, or you can simply scan or tap the QR code, or text SOUTHWARK (Amount) to 70085 (one standard rate message is also charged). Thank you very much for your generous support of the Cathedral.

You can also support the Cathedral by buying your books from the ethical online bookseller bookshop.org and designating Southwark Cathedral shop for the 30% of purchase price donation they offer us.

CHORAL EVENSONG

Wherever you are from and however you have come to be here you are so very welcome. Our service lasts about forty minutes and is led by our Choir and clergy. This gives you the opportunity to listen to some beautifully sung choral music, to be still at the end of the day and to reflect in a place where others have brought their joys and concerns to God over many centuries.

CAN I JOIN THE CONGREGATION?

Yes, of course: if you would like to stay for the whole service, you are welcome to sit in the seats beyond the stalls where the Choir is singing, or if you have only a few minutes feel free to just sit in the nave and let the space and the music communicate something of God's beauty beyond all words.

DO I HAVE TO SAY OR DO ANYTHING?

There are places where the congregation is invited to stand and you may like to do this, but it is fine if you prefer to remain seated. You will be invited to join in with some spoken parts, printed in bold in this booklet, but you don't have to.

MAY I TAKE PHOTOGRAPHS?

Please don't take photographs so we can keep the atmosphere peaceful and the space safe. We often have children singing so you can't take pictures of the service or Choir rehearsal beforehand, though you are most welcome to take pictures after the service.

MAY I COME BACK TO ATTEND THIS SERVICE ON ANOTHER DAY?

Of course! Choral Evensong usually takes place in school term time on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at 5.30pm, on some Saturdays and on Sunday at 3.00pm. Do check the Cathedral website just to be sure: sometimes we have to vary our usual routine.

WHAT'S THE AIM OF THE SERVICE?

Choral Evensong is an opportunity to worship God and experience God's loving welcome in a holy space that can feel like a window on heaven.

WHAT IS CHORAL EVENSONG?

Choral Evensong is a form of worship which is several hundred years old and is unique to the Anglican Church. To be at Choral Evensong is like dropping in on a conversation which is already in progress – a conversation between God and human beings which began long before we were born and will go on long after we are dead. So do not be surprised, or disturbed, if there are some things in the conversation which you do not understand at first. The text of the service is drawn almost entirely from the Bible. Its main purpose is to proclaim the wonderful works of God in history and in the life and death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It also invites those who worship to respond with praise and penitence, prayer and obedience.

The service is in three parts.

The first part, which is very brief, prepares us for the story which is to follow.

The second part is the story of what God has done (and continues to do) to save his people, beginning in the Old Testament (the Psalm and the First Reading), then moving to the New Testament (the Magnificat, the Second Reading and the Nunc Dimittis) and reaching its climax as we affirm our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

The third part is our human response to the God who has revealed himself in history, in Jesus Christ and in the Church.

WHY DOES THE CHOIR HAVE SO MUCH TO DO AND THE CONGREGATION SO LITTLE?

Whether it's your first language or not, music has a particular power, reaching out to express truths beyond words. In worship this can happen through the simplicity of a well-known hymn sung together, or as highly skilled musicians offer something more elaborate on behalf of everyone else. This is the pattern at Choral Evensong. The Choir and organist work in partnership with the building to point us towards the beauty of God that is our source and inspiration, and the congregation are freed to rest and rejoice in God's presence.

We are so glad that you are here and hope that you find the service enriching.

OFFICIANT

Canon Kathryn Fleming, Precentor



CHOIR

The Cathedral Choir *directed by* **Helen Smee**



SETTING

Stanford in A
Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)



RESPONSES

Bernard Rose (1916-1996)



MUSIC BEFORE THE SERVICE

Prelude & Fugue in D major, BWV 532
J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Please stand for:

THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN

NEH 376



I heard the voice of Jesus say,
'Come unto me and rest;
Lay down, thou weary one, lay down
Thy head upon my breast.'
I came to Jesus as I was,
Weary, and worn, and sad;
I found in him a resting place,
And he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
'Behold, I freely give
The living water, thirsty one;
Stoop down, and drink, and live:
I came to Jesus, and I drank
Of that life-giving stream;
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
And now I live in him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
'I am this dark world's Light;
Look unto me, thy morn shall rise,
And all thy day be bright.'
I looked to Jesus, and I found
In him my Star, my Sun;
And in that light of life I'll walk
Till travelling days are done.

TUNE: KINGSFOLD

English folk song,
arr. R. Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

TEXT:

Horatius Bonar (1808-1889)

THE WELCOME

The Very Rev'd Dr Mark Oakley, Dean of Southwark

The Choir sings:

THE PRECES

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.

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.

Please be seated as the Choir sings:

THE PSALM

Psalm 110

The Lord said unto my Lord : Sit thou on my right hand,
until I make thine enemies thy footstool.

The Lord shall send the rod of thy power out of Sion:
be thou ruler, even in the midst among thine enemies.

In the day of thy power shall the people offer thee free-will offerings with an
holy worship: the dew of thy birth is of the womb of the morning.

The Lord sware, and will not repent :
Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedech.

The Lord upon thy right hand : shall wound even kings in the day of his wrath.

He shall judge among the heathen; he shall fill the places with the dead bodies:
and smite in sunder the heads over divers countries.

He shall drink of the brook in the way :
therefore shall he lift up his head.

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 be seated.

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 55.6-13

The First Lesson is written in the fifty-fifth chapter of the Book of the Prophet Isaiah, beginning at the sixth verse.

Seek the LORD while he may be found,
call upon him while he is near;
let the wicked forsake their way,
and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

For you shall go out in joy,
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;
and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Here ends the First Lesson.

Please remain seated for:

THE INSTALLATION OF THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

The Dean, Precentor and Director of Music-designate move to stand at the top of the Tower steps, the Director of Music and Precentor standing before the Dean. The Residentiary Canons stand on the North and South sides of the Tower Space.

The Precentor presents the Director of Music-designate to the Dean, saying:

Mr Dean, I present to you Helen Smee to be installed as Director of Music of this Cathedral Church.

The Dean replies:

I am delighted to install her.

The Dean turns to Helen and says:

Helen, is it your wish to be the Director of Music within the Foundation of this Cathedral Church?

She responds:

It is.

The Dean says:

As Director of Music, you have the privilege of leading the worship in this Cathedral. Will you do your best always to serve God in your music and in your life, and will you respect and honour this House of God, and work with those in authority in its life and witness, so that together we may build up our community as a place of faith and mission, fun and friendship?

Helen responds:

I will.

The Precentor places a surplice on the Director of Music. The Dean conducts her to her allotted stall. The Residentiary Canons follow, standing in the centre of the Quire, facing the new Director of Music as she is installed.

At the Installation the Dean says:

Helen, I install you as Director of Music of this Cathedral and Collegiate Church, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

The Director of Music responds:

Amen.

The Dean prays:

May you always make music with heart, soul and understanding;
and may you use your gifts to reach out to others,
so that the music of this place may draw many
into a fresh encounter with God,
and our singing here together echo the songs of heaven,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The Director of Music kneels. The Dean continues with the following prayer:

May the Lord enable you always
to use those gifts he has entrusted to you
to his greater glory,
and may he watch over your going out and your coming in
from this time forth and for evermore.

All Amen.

The Director of Music stands and the congregation greets her with applause; The Residuary Canons greet her, then all return to their places.

THE MAGNIFICAT

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 has 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

John 12.27-36a

The Second Lesson is written in the twelfth chapter of the Gospel according to St John, beginning 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.’

Here ends the Second Lesson.

Please stand as the Choir sings:

THE NUNC DIMITTIS

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.

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 Minister and Choir sing:

THE LESSER LITANY, LORD'S PRAYER & RESPONSES

The Lord be with you;
And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

Please be seated or kneel.

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

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.

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us;
And grant us thy salvation.

O Lord, save the King;
And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Endue thy ministers with righteousness;
And make thy chosen people joyful.

O Lord, save thy people;
And bless thine inheritance.

Give peace in our time, O Lord;
Because there is none other that fighteth for us,
but only thou, O God.

O God, make clean our hearts within us;
And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

Followed by:

THE COLLECTS

O God, whom saints and angels delight to worship in heaven: Be ever present with your servants who seek through art and music to perfect the praises offered by your people on earth; and grant to them even now glimpses of your beauty, and make them worthy at length to behold it unveiled for evermore; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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.

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 be seated as the Choir sings:

THE ANTHEM

A Hymn for St Cecilia • Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

Sing for the morning's joy, Cecilia, sing,
in words of youth and praises of the Spring,
walk the bright colonnades by fountains' spray,
and sing as sunlight fills the waking day;
till angels, voyaging in upper air,
pause on a wing and gather the clear sound
into celestial joy, wound and unwound,
a silver chain, or golden as your hair.

Sing for your loves of heaven and of earth,
in words of music, and each word a truth;
marriage of heart and longings that aspire,
a bond of roses, and a ring of fire.
Your summertime grows short and fades away,
terror must gather to a martyr's death;
but never tremble, the last indrawn breath
remembers music as an echo may.
Through the cold aftermath of centuries,
Cecilia's music dances in the skies;
lend us a fragment of the immortal air,
that with your choiring angels we may share,
a word to light us thro' time-fettered night,
water of life, or rose of paradise,
so from the earth another song shall rise
to meet your own in heaven's long delight.

THE SERMON

Canon Michael Rawson, Sub Dean & Pastor

Please remain seated or kneel for:

THE PRAYERS

The prayers conclude with:

**All 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 to sing:

THE HYMN

NEH 420



O Jesus, I have promised
To serve thee to the end;
Be thou for ever near me,
My Master and my Friend;
I shall not fear the battle
If thou art by my side,
Nor wander from the pathway
If thou wilt be my guide.

O let me hear thee speaking
In accents clear and still,
Above the storms of passion,
The murmurs of self-will;
O speak to reassure me,
To hasten or control;
O speak, and make me listen,
Thou guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, thou hast promised
To all who follow thee,
That where thou art in glory
There shall thy servant be;
And Jesus, I have promised
To serve Thee to the end;
O give me grace to follow,
My Master and my Friend.

O let me see thy footmarks,
And in them plant mine own;
My hope to follow duly
Is in thy strength alone;
O guide me, call me, draw me,
Uphold me to the end;
And then in heaven receive me,
My Saviour and my Friend.

TUNE: WOLVERCOTE

William H. Ferguson (1874-1950)

TEXT:

John Bode (1816-1874)

THE BLESSING

The Bishop of Southwark, The Rt Rev'd Christopher Chessun

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom;
in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,
singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit
be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

THE VOLUNTARY

Psalms Prelude, Set two, No. 3 • Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

'Sing unto him a new song: play skilfully with a loud noise'

Psalms 33.3

You are warmly invited to join us for refreshments in the Retrochoir.

*Please leave the Cathedral by the North West doors and the Millennium Courtyard.
Please consider supporting us by giving using the contactless donation points if you
have not set up a regular payment. Thank you for joining us. We look forward to
welcoming you back.*

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SOUTHWARK

◆ CATHEDRAL ◆

making space for love
with heart, mind, and soul

It is good to welcome you to Southwark Cathedral. Set on the south bank of the River Thames, in one of the most vibrant and diverse communities in London, this building has been a constant witness in a place of change.

The first church was built on this site around the year 606. First a convent, then a monastery, it became in 1106 the Augustinian Priory of St Mary Overie ('over-the-river'). With Westminster Abbey and St Bartholomew the Great in Smithfield, it is one of the three remaining great monastic churches of London. At the Reformation, the Priory became a parish church, and it remains so for the people of Bankside. In 1905, as south London was rapidly expanding, the church was consecrated as the Cathedral for the new Diocese of Southwark.

The Cathedral has a momentous and significant history and has had links with many famous and influential characters including St Thomas Becket, Geoffrey Chaucer, William Shakespeare and Charles Dickens. It has also been a Cathedral for those who feel on the edges of faith or society, our welcome reaching out to all people in their beautiful God-given diversity.

Here, our Christian faith is captured in our vision to 'make space for love: with heart, mind, and soul'. Faith requires our hearts to stand up for social justice, upholding integrity and kindness, and supporting the vulnerable and oppressed. It challenges our thinking, inviting our minds to be enquiring, honest, and generous. Faith also seeks to deepen our inner lives, with the arts and creativity, by sharing in the life of our community, and by learning the arts of prayer and attention. In Jesus Christ we see the human face of God, and our faith in him is our joy and our life.

We really hope you enjoy being here with us today and that we will see you again very soon.

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