

SOUTHWARK
◆ CATHEDRAL ◆

**FIRST CHORAL EVENSONG OF PETER & PAUL
WITH THE ADMISSION OF A CHORISTER**

**SUNDAY 28 JUNE 2026
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.

FIRST CHORAL EVENSONG OF PETER & PAUL WITH THE ADMISSION OF A CHORISTER

OFFICIANT

Canon Kathryn Fleming, Precentor



PREACHER

Canon Michael Rawson, Sub Dean & Pastor



CHOIR & MUSICIANS

**The Cathedral Choir
Helen Smee, Director of Music
Simon Hogan, Cathedral Organist**



SETTING

**Collegium Regale
Herbert Howells (1892-1983)**



RESPONSES

Humphrey Clucas (b. 1941)



MUSIC BEFORE THE SERVICE

**Chorale Prelude on St Peter
Harold Darke (1888-1976)**



CHORISTER TO BE ADMITTED

Micah

Please stand as the Procession enters.

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 66

O be joyful in God, all ye lands :
sing praises unto the honour of his Name, make his praise to be glorious.

Say unto God, O how wonderful art thou in thy works : through the greatness
of thy power shall thine enemies be found liars unto thee.

For all the world shall worship thee : sing of thee, and praise thy Name.

O come hither, and behold the works of God :
how wonderful he is in his doing toward the children of men.

He turned the sea into dry land :
so that they went through the water on foot; there did we rejoice thereof.

He ruleth with his power for ever; his eyes behold the people :
and such as will not believe shall not be able to exalt themselves.

O praise our God, ye people : and make the voice of his praise to be heard;

Who holdeth our soul in life : and suffereth not our feet to slip.

For thou, O God, hast proved us : thou also hast tried us, like as silver is tried.

Thou broughtest us into the snare : and laidest trouble upon our loins.

Thou sufferedst men to ride over our heads : we went through fire and water,
and thou broughtest us out into a wealthy place.

I will go into thine house with burnt-offerings: and will pay thee my vows,
which I promised with my lips, and spake with my mouth, when I was in
trouble.

I will offer unto thee fat burnt-sacrifices, with the incense of rams :
I will offer bullocks and goats.

O come hither, and hearken, all ye that fear God :
and I will tell you what he hath done for my soul.

I called unto him with my mouth : and gave him praises with my tongue.

If I incline unto wickedness with mine heart : the Lord will not hear me.

But God hath heard me : and considered the voice of my prayer.

Praised be God, who hath not cast out my prayer :
nor turned his mercy from me.

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

Ezekiel 3.4-11

The First Lesson is written in the third chapter of the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel, beginning at the fourth verse.

The LORD said to me: Mortal, go to the house of Israel and speak my very words to them. For you are not sent to a people of obscure speech and difficult language, but to the house of Israel— not to many peoples of obscure speech and difficult language, whose words you cannot understand. Surely, if I sent you to them, they would listen to you. But the house of Israel will not listen to you, for they are not willing to listen to me; because all the house of Israel have a hard forehead and a stubborn heart. See, I have made your face hard against their faces, and your forehead hard against their foreheads. Like the hardest stone, harder than flint, I have made your forehead; do not fear them or be dismayed at their looks, for they are a rebellious house. He said to me: Mortal, all my words that I shall speak to you receive in your heart and hear with your ears; then go to the exiles, to your people, and speak to them. Say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD'; whether they hear or refuse to hear.

Here ends the First Lesson.

THE ADMISSION OF A CHORISTER

The Director of Music stands before the Dean with the Chorister to be admitted and says:

I present Micah to be admitted as a Chorister of this Cathedral and Collegiate Church.

The Dean responds:

I am delighted to admit him.

The Dean addresses the Chorister before him.

Dean Is it your wish to take on this role within the Foundation of this Cathedral Church?

Chorister **It is.**

Dean 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 acknowledge those in authority in its life?

Chorister **I will.**

A Senior Chorister places a surplice over the head of the new chorister. When he is vested, the Dean admits him, saying:

I admit you as a Chorister in the Choir of this Cathedral and Collegiate Church,
in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

The new chorister is welcomed by the Precentor.

Sing, rejoice and be glad.
Praise the Lord with a cheerful voice,
and delight him with true melody in your heart.
And the Lord preserve your going out and your coming in,
from this time forth for evermore.

All Amen.

The Dean invites the congregation to pray for the new chorister.

Let us pray.

Silence is kept.

God grant that the words you sing with your lips,
you may believe in your hearts,
and what you believe in your hearts you may show forth in your life;
and may God bless you in all your work for his name, now and always.

All Amen.

The Dean invites the new chorister to face the congregation, who welcome him with applause.

Then, all except the Dean return to their places.

The Dean turns to face East and addresses the entire Choir.

As members of the Choral Foundation,
you join in leading the worship of God in this Cathedral.

May you always sing with the heart and with the understanding,
and may God give you joy in the service of this place,
to his glory and praise,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Let us pray.

Silence is kept.

Generous God, Creator Spirit,
in the making of music thou hast given us a delight for the mind
and a solace for the heart:
by the harmonies of thy grace
resolve the discord of our lives,
that we may sound forth thy praise
in all we do and all we are;
to the glory of thy great and wonderful name.

All Amen.

The Dean returns to his stall.

Please stand as the Choir sings:

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

Galatians 1.13-2.8

The Second Lesson is written in the first chapter of the Letter of St Paul to the Galatian, beginning at the thirteenth verse.

You have heard, no doubt, of my earlier life in Judaism. I was violently persecuting the church of God and was trying to destroy it. I advanced in Judaism beyond many among my people of the same age, for I was far more zealous for the traditions of my ancestors. But when God, who had set me apart before I was born and called me through his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son to me, so that I might proclaim him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with any human being, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were already apostles before me, but I went away at once into Arabia, and afterwards I returned to Damascus.

Then after three years I did go up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and stayed with him for fifteen days; but I did not see any other apostle except James the Lord's brother. In what I am writing to you, before God, I do not lie! Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia, and I was still unknown by sight to the churches of Judea that are in Christ; they only heard it said, 'The one who formerly was persecuting us is now proclaiming the faith he once tried to destroy.' And they glorified God because of me.

Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus along with me. I went up in response to a revelation. Then I laid before them (though only in a private meeting with the acknowledged leaders) the gospel that I proclaim among the Gentiles, in order to make sure that I was not running, or had not run, in vain. But even Titus, who was with me, was not compelled to be circumcised, though he was a Greek. But because of false believers secretly brought in, who slipped in to spy on the freedom we have in Christ Jesus, so that they might enslave us— we did not submit to them even for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might always remain with you. And from those who were supposed to be acknowledged leaders (what they actually were makes no difference to me; God shows no partiality)—those leaders contributed nothing to me. On the contrary, when they saw that I had been entrusted with the gospel for the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been entrusted with the gospel for the circumcised (for he who worked through Peter making him an apostle to the circumcised also worked through me in sending me to the Gentiles).

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, the protector of all that trust in thee, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us thy mercy; that, thou being our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we finally lose not the things eternal: Grant this, O heavenly Father, for Jesus Christ's sake 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

For Io, I raise up • C. V. Stanford (1852-1924)

For Io I raise up that bitter and hasty nation,
Which march thro' the breadth of the earth,
To possess the dwelling places that are not theirs.
They are terrible and dreadful,
Their judgment and their dignity proceed from themselves.
Their horses also are swifter than leopards,
And are more fierce than the evening wolves.
And their horsemen spread themselves,
Yea, their horsemen come from far.
They fly as an eagle that hasteth to devour,
They come all of them for violence;
Their faces are set as the east-wind,
And they gather captives as the sand.
Yea, he scoffeth at kings,
And princes are a derision unto him.
For he heapeth up dust and taketh it.
Then shall he sweep by as a wind that shall pass over,
And be guilty,
Even he, whose might is his God.

Art not Thou from everlasting,
O Lord, my God, mine Holy One?
We shall not die.
O Lord, thou hast ordained him for judgment,
And thou, O Rock hast established him for correction.
I will stand upon my watch and set me upon the tower,
And look forth to see what he will say to me,
And what I shall answer concerning my complaint.
And the Lord answered me and said:
The vision is yet for the appointed time,
And it hasteth toward the end, and shall not lie,
Tho' it tarry, wait for it, because it will surely come.
For the earth shall be filled
with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord,
As the waters cover the sea.
But the Lord is in his holy temple:
Let all the earth keep silence before Him.

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 225ii



Give me the wings of faith to rise
 Within the veil, and see
The saints above, how great their joys,
 How bright their glories be.

Once they were mourning here below,
 And wet their couch with tears;
They wrestled hard, as we do now,
 With sins and doubts and fears.

I ask them whence their victory came;
 They, with united breath,
Ascribe their conquest to the Lamb,
 Their triumph to his death.

They marked the footsteps that he trod,
His zeal inspired their breast,
And, following their incarnate God,
Possess the promised rest.

Our glorious Leader claims our praise
For his own pattern given;
While the long cloud of witnesses
Show the same path to heaven.

TUNE: SAN ROCCO

Derek Williams (1945-2007)

TEXT:

Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

THE BLESSING

The Dean of Southwark

The love of the Lord Jesus
draw you to himself,
the power of the Lord Jesus
strengthen you in his service,
the joy of the Lord Jesus fill your hearts;
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

Marche Episcopale • David Briggs (b. 1962)

Thank you for joining us. 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. We look forward to welcoming you back.

◆ WHAT'S ON ◆

A RETREAT ON THE ISLE OF IONA

7-12 SEPTEMBER 2026

The Dean will be leading a retreat on Iona next September entitled: '**Astonished by Love: with poetry as our guide**'. The retreat is shaped by four human themes - love of creation, love of justice, love of God, and love of love. We will encounter classic poets such as Hafiz, John Donne, George Herbert, WH Auden, Emily Dickinson, RS Thomas, and Seamus Heaney, and be introduced to more contemporary ones such as Raymond Antrobus, Jen Hadfield, Kei Miller, Zaffar Kunial, and Carol Ann Duffy. No prior knowledge of poems or poets is required.

For more information:

<https://www.stcolumba-hotel.co.uk/groups-retreats/mark-oakley>

GIVING TO THE CATHEDRAL

We are encouraging everyone to join the Parish Giving Scheme. If you need any help signing up online or if you would prefer to have a paper copy of the application form please speak with our wardens, Linda and Kristin or contact Canon Michael Rawson.

The Cathedral is keen to change to a more ethical and environmentally friendly bank and the move from many standing orders to one monthly transfer from the Parish Giving Scheme makes this aspiration achievable.

You can sign up at: <https://tinyurl.com/bdzdpuhp>. You will need your personal bank account details; the name of our parish: **Southwark Cathedral**; the PGS code for our parish: **370637001**; and whether you are eligible for Gift Aid.

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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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