

SOUTHWARK
◆ CATHEDRAL ◆

CHORAL EVENSONG
WITH VALEDICTION OF CHORISTERS

SUNDAY 12 JULY 2026
3.00PM



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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.

CHORAL EVENSONG

WITH CHORISTER VALEDICTIONS

OFFICIANT

Canon Kathryn Fleming, Precentor

PREACHER

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

CHOIR & MUSICIANS

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

SETTING

St Paul's Service
Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

RESPONSES

Bernard Rose (1916-1996)

MUSIC BEFORE THE SERVICE

Toccatina
John Alcock (1715-1806)

DEPARTING CHORISTERS

Mahima Arya
Arabella Badejo
Isobel Elias
Timothy Fong
Maya Gasparyan
Max Hawkins
Phoebe Lockett-Green
Destina Sahutoglu

Please stand as the Procession enters.

THE WELCOME

Canon Kathryn Fleming

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 60

O God, thou hast cast us out, and scattered us abroad :
thou hast also been displeased; O turn thee unto us again.

Thou hast moved the land, and divided it :
heal the sores thereof, for it shaketh.

Thou hast shewed thy people heavy things :
thou hast given us a drink of deadly wine.

Thou hast given a token for such as fear thee :
that they may triumph because of the truth.

Therefore were thy beloved delivered :
help me with thy right hand, and hear me.

God hath spoken in his holiness, I will rejoice, and divide Sichem :
and mete out the valley of Succoth.

Gilead is mine, and Manasses is mine :
Ephraim also is the strength of my head; Judah is my law-giver;

Moab is my wash-pot; over Edom will I cast out my shoe :
Philistia, be thou glad of me.

Who will lead me into the strong city :
who will bring me into Edom?

Hast not thou cast us out, O God :
wilt not thou, O God, go out with our hosts?

O be thou our help in trouble : for vain is the help of man.

Through God will we do great acts :
for it is he that shall tread down our enemies.

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

2 Samuel 7.18-end

The First Lesson is written in the seventh chapter of the Second Book of the Prophet Samuel, beginning at the eighteenth verse.

Then King David went in and sat before the LORD, and said, 'Who am I, O Lord GOD, and what is my house, that you have brought me thus far? And yet this was a small thing in your eyes, O Lord GOD; you have spoken also of your servant's house for a great while to come. May this be instruction for the people, O Lord GOD! And what more can David say to you? For you know your servant, O Lord GOD! Because of your promise, and according to your own heart, you have wrought all this greatness, so that your servant may know it. Therefore you are great, O Lord GOD; for there is no one like you, and there is no GOD besides you, according to all that we have heard with our ears. Who is like your people, like Israel? Is there another nation on earth whose GOD went to redeem it as a people, and to make a name for himself, doing great and awesome things for them, by driving out before his people nations and their gods? And you established your people Israel for yourself to be your people for ever; and you, O LORD, became their God. And now, O Lord GOD, as for the word that you have spoken concerning your servant and concerning his house, confirm it for ever; do as you have promised.

Thus your name will be magnified for ever in the saying, "The LORD of hosts is GOD over Israel"; and the house of your servant David will be established before you.

For you, O LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, have made this revelation to your servant, saying, "I will build you a house"; therefore your servant has found courage to pray this prayer to you. And now, O Lord GOD, you are God, and your words are true, and you have promised this good thing to your servant; now therefore may it please you to bless the house of your servant, so that it may continue for ever before you; for you, O Lord GOD, have spoken, and with your blessing shall the house of your servant be blessed for ever.'

Here ends the First Lesson.

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

Luke 19.41-20.8

The Second Lesson is written in the nineteenth chapter of the Holy Gospel according to St Luke, beginning at the forty-first verse.

As he came near and saw the city, he wept over it, saying, 'If you, even you, had only recognised on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. Indeed, the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up ramparts around you and surround you, and hem you in on every side. They will crush you to the ground, you and your children within you, and they will not leave within you one stone upon another; because you did not recognize the time of your visitation from God.'

Then he entered the temple and began to drive out those who were selling things there; and he said, 'It is written,

"My house shall be a house of prayer";
but you have made it a den of robbers.'

Every day he was teaching in the temple. The chief priests, the scribes, and the leaders of the people kept looking for a way to kill him; but they did not find anything they could do, for all the people were spellbound by what they heard.

One day, as he was teaching the people in the temple and telling the good news, the chief priests and the scribes came with the elders and said to him, 'Tell us, by what authority are you doing these things? Who is it who gave you this authority?' He answered them, 'I will also ask you a question, and you tell me: Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?' They discussed it with one another, saying, 'If we say, "From heaven", he will say, "Why did you not believe him?" But if we say, "Of human origin", all the people will stone us; for they are convinced that John was a prophet.' So they answered that they did not know where it came from. Then Jesus said to them, 'Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.'

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

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.

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

Give unto the Lord • Edward Elgar (1857-1934)

Give unto the Lord, O ye mighty,
give unto the Lord glory and strength,
give unto the Lord the glory due unto His name.
Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters:
the God of glory thundereth;
it is the Lord that ruleth the sea.
The voice of the Lord is mighty in operation;
the voice of the Lord is full of majesty;
the voice of the Lord breaketh the cedars.
yea, the breaketh the cedars of Lebanon.
The voice of the Lord divideth the flames of fire,
the voice of the Lord shaketh the wilderness
and strippeth the forests bare.

In His temple doth every one speak of His glory.

The Lord sitteth above the water-flood;

and the Lord remaineth a King for ever.

The Lord shall give strength unto His people;

the Lord shall give His people the blessing of peace.

from **Psalm 29**

THE SERMON

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

CHORISTER VALEDICTIONS

We say thank you and farewell to the following Choristers:

Mahima Arya

Arabella Badejo

Isobel Elias

Timothy Fong

Maya Gasparyan

Max Hawkins

Phoebe Lockett-Green

Destina Sahutoglu

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 373



How shall I sing that majesty
which angels do admire?
Let dust in dust and silence lie;
sing, sing, ye heavenly 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 heaven is but once begun
there alleluias be.

Enlighten with faith's light my heart,
inflare 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 everywhere.

TUNE: COE FEN

Ken Naylor (1931-1991),
Descant: David Hill (b.1957),
arr. Simon Hogan (b.1989)

TEXT:

John Mason (1646-1694)

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

Fantasia and Fugue in G • C.H.H. Parry (1848-1918)

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.

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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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