



ALL SAINTS PARISH CHURCH,
CARSHALTON

CHORAL EVENSONG

CANDLEMAS
2 FEBRUARY 2025

A warm welcome to Choral Evensong, whether you're here in person or worshipping online. There has been a church on this site since Saxon times and worship has been offered to God here since then; from the mid 12th century until the Reformation in the 16th century, this parish was held by the Augustinian Canons of Merton Priory and the clergy here kept the monastic Offices. The service today is part of that long tradition; our prayers tonight are joined with those which have been offered on this patch of holy ground across the millennia.

This service, taken from the Book of Common Prayer (1662), is sung jointly by the clergy and choir and offered to God on behalf of the whole congregation. Choral Evensong is not a concert, but an opportunity to quietly offer our own worship through the music offered to God on our behalf. Evensong developed at the English Reformation from the monastic offices of Vespers (Evening Prayer) and Compline (Night Prayer); in a sense, the clergy and choir in singing Choral Evensong are the inheritors of the tradition of monastic communities singing their daily offices seven times each day. Choral Evensong is sung daily in most Cathedrals and many Major Churches such as ours; it is a wonderful repository of mainly English choral music.

Music tonight:

Responses: *Humphrey Clucas*

Canticles: *Ernest Moeran, Evening Service in D*

Psalms: 122 (*Herbert Howells*)

132 (*John Henry Maunder & Edwin Edwards*)

Anthem: *Herbert Howells, O pray for the peace of Jerusalem*

Please STAND for the entry of the choir and clergy. After a few words of welcome, the minister introduces the 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 cloke 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:

The general Confession is said by the whole Congregation, all kneeling.

**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 Absolution is prayed for by the minister, standing: the people still kneeling:

ALMIGHTY God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desireth not the death of a sinner, but rather that he may turn from his wickedness, and live; and hath given power, and commandment, to his ministers, to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the Absolution and Remission of their sins: ✠ He pardoneth and absolveth all them that truly repent, and unfeignedly believe his holy Gospel. Wherefore let us beseech him to grant us true repentance, and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him, which we do at this present; and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure, and holy; so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Then the minister and People shall say the Lord's Prayer:

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.

Please STAND. The minister and choir sing the Preces and Responses:

O Lord, open thou our lips;
And our mouth shall show 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 SIT as the choir sings Psalms 122 & 132, but STAND for the final Gloria Patri:

I was glad when they said unto me : We will go into the house
of the Lord.

Our feet shall stand in thy gates : O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is built as a city : that is at unity in itself.

For thither the tribes go up, even the tribes of the Lord : to
testify unto Israel, to give thanks unto the Name of the Lord.

For there is the seat of judgement : even the seat of the house
of David.

O pray for the peace of Jerusalem : they shall prosper that love
thee.

Peace be within thy walls : and plenteousness within thy
palaces.

For my brethren and companions' sakes : I will wish thee
prosperity.

Yea, because of the house of the Lord our God : I will seek to
do thee good.

Lord, remember David : and all his trouble;

How he sware unto the Lord : and vowed a vow unto the
Almighty God of Jacob;

I will not come within the tabernacle of mine house : nor climb
up into my bed;

I will not suffer mine eyes to sleep, nor mine eye-lids to slumber: neither the temples of my head to take any rest;

Until I find out a place for the temple of the Lord : an habitation for the mighty God of Jacob.

Lo, we heard of the same at Ephrata : and found it in the wood.

We will go into his tabernacle : and fall low on our knees before his footstool.

Arise, O Lord, into thy resting-place : thou, and the ark of thy strength.

Let thy priests be clothed with righteousness : and let thy saints sing with joyfulness.

For thy servant David's sake : turn not away the presence of thine Anointed.

The Lord hath made a faithful oath unto David : and he shall not shrink from it;

Of the fruit of thy body : shall I set upon thy seat.

If thy children will keep my covenant, and my testimonies that I shall learn them : their children also shall sit upon thy seat for evermore.

For the Lord hath chosen Sion to be an habitation for himself : he hath longed for her.

This shall be my rest for ever : here will I dwell, for I have a delight therein.

I will bless her victuals with increase : and will satisfy her poor with bread.

will deck her priests with health: and her saints shall rejoice and sing.

There shall I make the horn of David to flourish : I have ordained a lantern for mine Anointed.

As for his enemies, I shall clothe them with shame : but upon himself shall his crown flourish.

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.

SIT for the First Lesson, from the Old Testament: Haggai 2:1-9

STAND to sing the Office Hymn:

**Virgin-born, we bow before thee;
Blessèd was the womb that bore thee;
Mary, mother meek and mild,
Blessèd was she in her child.**

**Blessèd was the breast that fed thee;
Blessèd was the hand that led thee;
Blessèd was the parent's eye
That watched thy slumbering infancy.**

**Blessèd she by all creation,
Who brought forth the world's Salvation
Blessèd they, for ever blest,
Who love thee most and serve thee best.**

**Virgin-born, we bow before thee;
Blessèd was the womb that bore thee;
Mary, mother meek and mild,
Blessèd was she in her child.**

Words, Ronald Heber 1783-1826

Tune, *Quem Pastores*, German 14th cent carol

Remain STANDING, as the choir sings Magnificat, the Song of Mary (Luke 1.46), during which the officiant censes the High Altar:

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 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.

SIT for the Second Lesson, from the New Testament: John 2:18-22

STAND as the Choir sings Nunc Dimittis, the Song of Simeon (Luke 2.29):

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 TURN to face the High Altar to recite the Apostles' Creed:

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 Catholick 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, Suffrages and Responses:

The Lord be with you;
And with thy spirit.
Let us pray.

Please KNEEL or SIT

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

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. Amen.

O Lord, show 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, O God.

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

The minister and Choir intone the Collects:

THE COLLECT FOR CANDLEMAS:

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

THE COLLECT FOR PEACE:

Almighty 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 we, being defended by thee from the fear of our enemies, may pass our time in rest and quietness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.

THE GRACE

The grace
of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost,
be with us all evermore. Amen.

Please sit for the choir anthem:

O pray for the peace of Jerusalem. They shall prosper that love thee. Peace be within thy walls And plenteousness within thy palaces.

Text: Psalm 122: 6,7

Music: Herbert Howells 1892-1983

The Prayers of Intercession follow. Any notices follow at this point, then please STAND to sing the final hymn:

**Songs of thankfulness and praise,
Jesu, Lord, to thee we raise,
Manifested by the star
to the sages from afar;
Branch of royal David's stem
in thy birth at Bethlehem;
Anthems be to thee address,
God in Man made manifest.**

**Manifest at Jordan's stream,
Prophet, Priest, and King supreme;
And at Cana wedding-guest
in thy Godhead manifest;
Manifest in power divine,
changing water into wine;
Anthems be to thee address,
God in Man made manifest.**

**Manifest in making whole
palsied limbs and fainting soul;**

**Manifest in valiant fight,
quelling all the devil's might;
Manifest in gracious will,
ever bringing good from ill;
Anthems be to thee address,
God in Man made manifest.**

**Grant us grace to see thee, Lord,
mirrored in thy holy word;
May we imitate thee now,
and be pure, as pure art thou;
That we like to thee may be
at thy great Epiphany,
And may praise thee, ever blest,
God in Man made manifest.**

Words, Christopher Wordsworth, 1807-85

Tune, *St Edmund*, Charles Steggall, 1826-1905

The minister and Choir sing the Dismissal:

The Lord be with you;
and with thy spirit.
Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The Organ Voluntary follows, during which the Choir and Clergy depart.

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