

Choral Evensong

Sunday, August 6, 2023 at 4:30 p.m.

The Transfiguration



Welcome to Trinity Episcopal Cathedral. We're delighted you have joined us for this beautiful, restorative service. Choral Evensong is a contemplative service of music, readings, and prayers that takes place in the late afternoon or early evening. It allows listeners time to meditate and transition from the busyness of the day to the peace and quiet of the evening. Evensong's distinguishing feature is that it consists primarily of music.

A major aspect of the Evensong service's structure is the balance between old and new, young and old, birth and death, as well as female and male through its various means of offering praise to the Lord. The congregation has the unique opportunity to listen reflectively and prayerfully as the choir offers prayer and praise on their behalf.

Prelude

Andante tranquillo from Sonata in A, Op. 65, No. 3

Felix Mendelssohn

Prelude on "Herz und Herz vereint zusammen"

Celina Kobetitsch

All stand.

Hymn 544

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun

Duke Street

Opening sentences from Holy Scripture

BCP 61

Preces *sung by the Officiant and the choir*

Kenneth Leighton

Officiant O Lord, open thou our lips.

Answer And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

Officiant O God, make speed to save us.

Answer O Lord, make haste to help us.

Officiant Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

Answer As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Officiant Praise ye the Lord.

Answer The Lord's Name be praised.

All sit.

Psalm 72 *Anglican chant by John Barnard*

BCP 685

The First Lesson

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

All stand.

Hymn 603

When Christ was lifted from the earth

St. Botolph

All sit.

Opening sentences are read by the officiant (usually a clergyperson, but not always) and are taken from scripture.

Choral Preces and Responses are one of the oldest forms of Christian prayer, where short, composed petitions are sung alternately by the officiant and the choir.

The Psalms are the ancient hymnal of God's people. At evensong, the choir sings the psalms appointed for that day. At evensongs, we conclude each psalm with the "Gloria Patri,"

"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."

An **Old Testament** lesson follows the psalm. The Old Testament shows how God prepared the way for Christ.

Magnificat: The Second Service *sung by the choir* Kenneth Leighton

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior. 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 showed 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 to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

The Second Lesson John 12:27-36a

Nunc dimittis: The Second Service *sung by the choir* Kenneth Leighton

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior. 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 showed 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 to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

The Apostles' Creed *intoned by the Officiant, sung by all, standing*

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.
I believe 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, died, and was 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.**

The Magnificat, sung by the choir, then links the Old and New Testaments. The Magnificat is the virgin Mary's song of thanksgiving after receiving news that she will bear the son of God, fulfilling the promises of the Old Testament. (Luke 1:46-55)

After the Magnificat, we hear a lesson from the **New Testament**.

The Nunc dimittis is the song of Simeon, an aged man promised by the Holy Spirit that he would not die until he had seen the Messiah. After taking the infant Jesus into his arms, he wrote these words of thanksgiving. (Luke 2:29-32)

The Apostles' Creed, the oldest creed of the Christian church, lists the primary doctrines of Christianity.

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 people stand or kneel.

The following are sung by the Officiant and the choir

Salutation

Kenneth Leighton

Lord's Prayer

Kenneth Leighton

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.

The **Lesser Litany and the Collects** are set prayers that bid God to strengthen our faith and protect us from all perils as evening falls.

Suffrages and Collects

Kenneth Leighton

Officiant O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

Answer And grant us thy salvation.

Officiant O Lord, save the State.

Answer And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Officiant Endue thy Ministers with righteousness.

Answer And make thy chosen people joyful.

Officiant O Lord, save thy people.

Answer And bless thine inheritance.

Officiant Give peace in our time, O Lord.

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

Officiant O God, make clean our hearts within us.

Answer And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

Then follow three Collects: the first of the day, the second for Peace, and the third for Aid against all Perils.

The Second 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 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 Savior. Amen.

The Third 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.

All sit.

Anthem

Blessed city, heavenly Salem

Edward Bairstow

*1. Blessed city, heavenly Salem,
Vision dear of peace and love,
Who of living stones art builded
In the height of heaven above,
And by Angel hands apparelled,
As a bride doth earthward move;*

*2. Out of heaven from God descending,
New and ready to be wed
To thy Lord, whose love espoused thee,
Fair adorned shalt thou be led;
All thy gates and all thy bulwarks
Of pure gold are fashioned.*

The **Choral Anthem** follows, meditating on Biblical texts and providing a sermon in music.

3. *Bright thy gates of pearl are shining;
They are open evermore;
And their well-earned rest attaining
Thither faithful souls do soar,
Who for Christ's dear Name in this world
Pain and tribulation bore.*

4. *Many a blow and biting sculpture
Polished well those stones elect,
In their places now compacted
By the heavenly Architect,
Nevermore to leave the Temple
Which with them the Lord hath decked.*

5. *To this Temple, where we call Thee,
Come, O Lord of hosts, today;
With Thy wonted loving kindness,
Hear Thy servants as they pray;
And Thy fullest benediction
Shed within its walls alway.*

*Text: Translation of Urbs beata Jerusalem by John Mason Neale
Soloist: Paige Cullins*

All stand.

The Prayer of St. Chrysostom **BCP 72**

The Concluding Sentences from Holy Scripture **BCP 72**

Hymn 57 Lo, he comes, with clouds descending *Helmsley*

Postlude Fantasia in G, Op. 188 *C. Hubert H. Parry*

The service comes to an end with a **blessing**, a **final hymn**, and an **organ postlude**.

PARTICIPATING THIS EVENING

Officiant The Very Rev. Amy Dafler Meaux
Music Dr. Colin MacKnight, Director of Music
Celina Kobetitsch, Associate Director of Music
Trinity Cathedral Choir

Notes on the Notes:

The second prelude piece is an original chorale prelude based on a Lutheran chorale, the title of which translates to “Heart and heart together bound.” The text focuses on the unity that we as Christians find in the sacrificial love of Christ and is very well-known throughout Germany, but the tune remains unfamiliar outside of the Lutheran church. I used the compositional style of Felix Mendelssohn (the founder of the very first music school in Germany, where I completed my master’s degree) as a basis for the composition. To demonstrate this style, the first prelude piece comes from one of Mendelssohn’s organ sonatas.