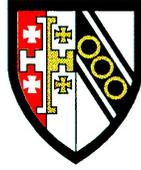


Selwyn College, Cambridge



CHORAL EVENSONG

A SERVICE OF WELCOME
FOR FRESHERS

Sunday 1 October 2023 at 5.30pm

A brief introduction to Choral Evensong

Choral Evensong is a service (or 'Office') with its roots in ancient Christian monasticism and the sixteenth-century Reformation of the English Church. The service you will take part in this evening, taken from the seventeenth-century *Book of Common Prayer*, is sung in larger parish churches and cathedrals throughout the British Isles, and especially famously in the college chapels of the universities of Oxford and Cambridge.

Choral Evensong is an ancestral treasure that continues to refresh our human spirits today. Our College Chapel Choir can draw upon a rich inheritance of music, still being added to by contemporary composers in every style, composed for or appropriate to the Evening Office. In this time out of time, we can collect ourselves, quieten our hearts, allow the beauty of the language and the music to transport us, and hear God speaking to us through the readings and songs.

Within this hallowed space may we forget the ceaseless activity of daily life, and be still.

Evensong is a combination of the medieval Offices of Vespers (Evening Prayer) and Compline (Night Prayer). At Evensong:

- We may prepare for worship by confessing our sins to Almighty God and receiving forgiveness in the Absolution
- We pray that God will help us to worship him.
- We sing the Psalms.
- We listen to readings from the Old and New Testaments.
- We hear the *Magnificat* and the *Nunc Dimittis*—two songs, taken from St Luke's Gospel, traditionally associated with Christian prayer in the later part of the day.
- We affirm our Christian faith, in the words of the ancient Baptismal Creed.
- At the end of the service, we may listen to a reflection on the scriptural readings we have heard, we pray for the needs of the Church and the world, and we ask God's blessing on the week to come.

*'Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England',
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CCLI no. 62573

Please stand at the entry of the procession.

INTROIT *(sung by the Choir)*

On Sundays, the Choir begins the service with a short piece of music which reflects the themes of the season.

Peace I leave with you

music: Amy Beach (1867-1944)

words: John 14:27

Peace I leave with you,
My peace I give unto you:
Not as the world giveth, give I unto you.
Let not your heart be troubled.

SENTENCE FROM SCRIPTURE

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness:
let the whole earth stand in awe of him.

Psalm 96.9

The service begins with an introduction and welcome from the Dean of Chapel.

THE PRECES *("The Petitions" or Prayers)*

The Choir and Officiant begin the service with the opening responses, an ancient form of prayer which is rooted in the pre-Christian worship of the Jewish Temple.

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.

Music: Philip Radcliffe (1905-1986)

PSALM 122 (sung by all)

The Psalms, an anthology of Hebrew religious hymns and poems, are central to the Jewish and Christian traditions, and they are sung at Evensong every day. In the Christian tradition, the final two lines 'Glory be to the Father' are added at the end. On Sundays we sing the psalm together, alternating between cantor and choir/congregation. You are welcome to join in the full verses or just listen.

TONE V.2



Cantor 1 I WAS GLAD when they said unto me (---):
We will go into the house of the Lord.

Full 2 Our feet shall stand in thy gates (---):
(---) O Je-ru-sa[^]lem.

Cantor 3 Jerusalem is built as a ci-ty:
that is at u[^]ni-ty in it[^]self.

Full 4 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.

Cantor 5 For there is the seat of judge-ment:
even the seat of the house of Da-vid.

Full 6 O pray for the peace of Je-ru-sa[^]lem:
they shall pros-per that love thee.

Cantor 7 Peace be within thy walls (---):
and plenteousness with-in thy pa-la[^]ces.

Full 8 For my brethren and companions' sakes (---):
I will wish thee pros-pe-ri[^]ty.

Cantor 9 Yea because of the house of the Lord our God (---):
I will seek to do thee[^]good.

Full Glory be to the Father and to the Son (---):
and to the Ho-ly[^]Ghost.

Cantor As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be:
world with-out end A-men.

Please sit.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Proverbs 2: 1-11

There are two readings, (called “lessons”) from the Bible at Evensong, the first is from the Old Testament (the Jewish Scripture). Any student, staff member or fellow is welcome to read in Chapel!

My child, if you accept my words
and treasure up my commandments within you,
making your ear attentive to wisdom
and inclining your heart to understanding;
if you indeed cry out for insight,
and raise your voice for understanding;
if you seek it like silver, and search for it as for hidden treasures—
then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.
For the LORD gives wisdom;
from his mouth come knowledge and understanding;
he stores up sound wisdom for the upright;
he is a shield to those who walk blamelessly,
guarding the paths of justice
and preserving the way of his faithful ones.
Then you will understand righteousness and justice
and equity, every good path;
for wisdom will come into your heart,
and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul;
prudence will watch over you;
and understanding will guard you.

Please stand.

THE MAGNIFICAT *(sung by the Choir)*

The Magnificat is one of two Canticles (“little songs”) at Evensong. It is the song that the Virgin Mary sang when she was pregnant with Jesus, in response to her cousin Elizabeth’s praising of Mary’s faith. The words are from the Gospel of St Luke, and in it, Mary reflects on the way in which God subverts the normal order of society by choosing her, a young, unmarried woman, to bear his son. In the Anglican tradition, of which Selwyn is a part, it is customary to stand for the singing of the canticles.

My soul doth magnify the Lord :
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
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 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.

music: Evening Canticles in D, Herbert Brewer (1865-1928)

Please sit.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Matthew 5: 1-16

The second lesson comes from the New Testament, the part of the Bible which recounts the life of Christ, and that of the early Christian Church.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

- 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- 'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
- 'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
- 'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
 for they will be filled.
- 'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
- 'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
- 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
- 'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,
 for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

'You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Please stand.

NUNC DIMITTIS *(sung by the Choir)*

The second Canticle is the song sung by the prophet Simeon when the infant Jesus was presented to him in the Temple. Simeon was assured that he would not die until he had seen the salvation which God promises throughout the Old Testament. The story is told in the Gospel of St Luke.

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.

music: Evening Canticles in D, Herbert Brewer (1865-1928)

Please remain standing and turn to face East (the altar).

At every Evensong we profess the faith of the Church, called the Creed (from Credo, Latin for "I believe"). You can join in if you like, or simply listen.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Officiant I believe in God:
All **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.**

Turn to face centre.

LESSER LITANY AND RESPONSES

Here the Officiant and the Choir pray on behalf of the whole community. This provides an opportunity for stillness and contemplation, much needed at the end of a busy day.

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

Please sit.

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.

The Collect (Prayer) for the Day

LORD, we pray thee that thy grace may always prevent and follow us, and make us continually to be given to all good works; through Jesus Christ our Lod. Amen.

The 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 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.

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.

Music: Philip Radcliffe (1905-1986)

THE ANTHEM *(sung by the Choir)*

The choir sings a piece which helps to reflect on the lessons and the themes of the service or the season.

They that go down to the sea in ships

music: Herbert Sumsion (1899-1995)

words: Psalm 107: 23-30

They that go down to the sea in ships:

and occupy their business in great waters;

These men see the works of the Lord: and his wonders in the deep.

For at his word the stormy wind ariseth: which lifteth up the waves thereof.

They are carried up to the heaven, and down again to the deep:

their soul melteth away because of the trouble.

They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man: and are at their wits' end.

So when they cry unto the Lord in their trouble:

he delivereth them out of their distress.

For he maketh the storm to cease: so that the waves thereof are still.

Then are they glad, because they are at rest:

and so he bringeth them unto the haven where they would be.

SERMON The Revd Dr Arabella Milbank Robinson, Dean of Chapel & Chaplain
On Sundays, there is a short sermon often given by a visiting preacher. Today's preacher is the Dean of Chapel and Chaplain.

PRAYERS

We pray for the world and the community. We remember the sick and those in need, and we pray for peace for the departed. At the end, we say the Grace together:

**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.

HYMN **NEH 436** – Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven

At most services, we sing a hymn together. Please feel free to join in, or just to listen.



1
Praise, my soul, the King of heaven,
to his feet thy tribute bring;
ransomed healed, restored, forgiven,
who like me his praise should sing?
Praise him, praise him,
praise the everlasting King.

2
Praise him for his grace and favour
to our fathers in distress;
praise him still the same for ever,
slow to chide and swift to bless:
Praise him, praise him,
glorious in his faithfulness.

3
Father-like, he tends and spares us,
well our feeble frame he knows;
in his hands he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes:
Praise him, praise him,
widely as his mercy flows.

4
Angels, help us to adore him;
ye behold him face to face;
sun and moon bow down before him,
dwellers all in time and space:
Praise him, praise him,
praise with us the God of grace.

Words: Psalm 103 | Music: Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847)

THE BLESSING

*The Dean of Chapel blesses us all. At the end, we respond with **Amen**.*

THE DISMISSAL *(sung by the Choir)*

The Lord be with you : And with thy spirit.
The Lord give us his peace : And life eternal. Amen.

Music: E W Naylor (1867-1934)

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Sortie in E flat – Louis-James Alfred Lefébure-Wély (1817-1869)

(played by Adam Field, Percy Young Senior Organ Scholar & third-year undergraduate)

You are welcome to stay and listen to the organ, which was built in 2004 by the renowned Québec firm, Orgues Létourneau Ltée. You are also welcome to leave during the voluntary; if you do, please do so quietly to avoid disturbing those who would like to listen or pray.

The College Prayer

O LORD, the Resurrection
and the Life of them that believe,
who didst enrich thy servant
GEORGE AUGUSTUS SELWYN
with thy manifold gifts of grace,
grant that all who serve thee here
may be taught by his example
to serve in their several callings
to the honour of thy Name,
who livest and reignest
with the Father and the Holy Ghost,
one God world without end. Amen.

Full details of what is on offer in Selwyn Chapel are on the College website at www.sel.cam.ac.uk/about/chapel-and-choir

The Chapel Facebook page is www.facebook.com/SelwynChapel

We livestream most services here: www.youtube.com/SelwynCollegeChapel

Our next services of Choral Evensong are as follows:

Thursday 5 October at 6.30pm

Sunday 8 October at 6.00pm

Thereafter, Choral Evensong is sung at 6pm on Sundays, and at 6:30pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays during Full Term. All are welcome!

Morning prayers are said at 8:45am each weekday, commencing tomorrow (Monday 2 October).

If you would like to enquire about being involved in the chapel, reading lessons, serving, handing out hymnbooks, welcoming people to chapel, please contact the Dean of Chapel, Arabella Milbank Robinson, on amm245.

If you would like to enquire about singing in the choir, please contact the Director of Music, Sarah MacDonald, on seam100.