



CHURCH *of the* INCARNATION

The Fifth Sunday *after the Epiphany*

February 8, 2026

Choral Evensong

ABOUT THIS SERVICE

The origins of Choral Evensong go back many centuries, and have their roots in the ancient patterns of monastic worship, which were based on the regular singing of all 150 psalms and the systematic reading of the Bible. Brief services, or offices, were said or sung throughout the day and night, in accordance with St. Paul's instruction to 'pray without ceasing', so that the whole of the daily routine of monks and nuns could be sanctified and offered to God. In the aftermath of the Reformation in England, the first *Book of Common Prayer* (published in 1549) combined elements from a number of the monastic offices to form the dual services of Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer, or Evensong. Each has as its central feature the recitation or singing of the Psalms; readings from Scripture; and prayers for the Church, the world, and those in need. Both services have fixed songs or canticles associated with them, including the *Magnificat* (the Song of Mary from St. Luke's Gospel) and the *Nunc dimittis* (the Song of Simeon from St. Luke's Gospel) at Evensong. This format was formalized in *The Book of Common Prayer 1662* and has remained largely unchanged ever since.

ABOUT THE MUSIC

This evening's Choral Evensong features our Choristers and adult singers. The rich tradition of children singing alongside adults, rooted in a history spanning thousands of years, initially featured only men and boys (the boys being needed to sing the higher pitched parts.) Today, choirs in the Anglican tradition worldwide have evolved to include women singers, and even more recently, girl choristers.

The experience of singing alongside adults, on an equal footing, serves as an invaluable educational tool. Beyond its musical benefits, this practice imparts essential lessons of responsibility and maturity to children. Tonight's service is a testament to and a continuation of the enduring legacy of this educational approach.

The repertoire for the evening includes compositions by Stanford and Percy Buck. Stanford was Organist at Trinity College, Cambridge in the 19th century and Buck served as Professor of Music in both Ireland and England.



Following this service, all are warmly invited to a reception in the Narthex.

Cover art: *Evensong* (depicting St. Cecilia, patron saint of musicians), John Melhuish Strudwick

SOLEMN EVENSONG

Organ Voluntary

Rhosymedre *from* 3 Preludes Founded on Welsh Hymn Tunes Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)

All stand at the entrance of the procession. The Officiant first reads one or more sentences of Scripture.

Invitatory

Richard Ayleward (1626–1669)

Officiant O Lord, open thou our lips.

Choir And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

Officiant ✠ O God, make speed to save us.

Choir O Lord, make haste to help us.

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

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

Officiant Praise ye the Lord.

Choir The Lord's Name be praised.

All sit.

Psalm 34

Benedicam Dominum

Charles South (1850–1916)

I WILL always give thanks unto the LORD : his praise shall ever be in my mouth.

My soul shall make her boast in the LORD : the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad.

O praise the LORD with me : and let us magnify his Name together.

I sought the LORD, and he heard me : yea, he delivered me out of all my fear.

They had an eye unto him, and were lightened : and their faces were not ashamed.

Lo, the poor crieth, and the LORD heareth him : yea, and saveth him out of all his troubles.

The angel of the LORD tarrieth round about them that fear him : and delivereth them.

O taste, and see, how gracious the LORD is : blessed is the man that trusteth in him.

O fear the LORD, ye that are his saints : for they that fear him lack nothing.

The lions do lack, and suffer hunger :

 but they who seek the LORD shall want no manner of thing that is good.

Come, ye children, and hearken unto me : I will teach you the fear of the LORD.

What man is he that lusteth to live : and would fain see good days?

Keep thy tongue from evil : and thy lips, that they speak no guile.

Eschew evil, and do good : seek peace, and ensue it.

The eyes of the LORD are over the righteous : and his ears are open unto their prayers.

The countenance of the LORD is against them that do evil :

 to root out the remembrance of them from the earth.

The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth them : and delivereth them out of all their troubles.

The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a contrite heart : and will save such as be of an humble spirit.

Great are the troubles of the righteous : but the LORD delivereth him out of all.

He keepeth all his bones : so that not one of them is broken.

But misfortune shall slay the ungodly : and they that hate the righteous shall be desolate.

The LORD delivereth the souls of his servants :

 and all they that put their trust in him shall not be destitute.

(psalm continues overleaf)

The People stand as the Choir sings

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.

All sit.

The First Lesson

Genesis 24:50-67

LABAN and Bethuel answered, "The thing comes from the LORD; we cannot speak to you anything bad or good. Look, Rebekah is before you, take her and go, and let her be the wife of your master's son, as the LORD has spoken." When Abraham's servant heard their words, he bowed himself to the ground before the LORD. And the servant brought out jewelry of silver and of gold and garments and gave them to Rebekah; he also gave to her brother and to her mother costly ornaments. Then he and the men who were with him ate and drank, and they spent the night there. When they rose in the morning, he said, "Send me back to my master." Her brother and her mother said, "Let the young woman remain with us a while, at least ten days; after that she may go." But he said to them, "Do not delay me, since the LORD has made my journey successful; let me go that I may go to my master." They said, "We will call the young woman and ask her." And they called Rebekah and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" She said, "I will." So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham's servant and his men. And they blessed Rebekah and said to her, "May you, our sister, become thousands of myriads; may your offspring gain possession of the gates of their foes." Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man, and the servant took Rebekah and went his way. Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi and was settled in the Negeb. Isaac went out in the evening to walk in the field, and, looking up, he saw camels coming. And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel and said to the servant, "Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?" The servant said, "It is my master." So she took her veil and covered herself. And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife, and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

All stand.

Magnificat

Service in C

Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)

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 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.

All sit.

The Second Lesson

Mark 10:13–22

PEOPLE were bringing children to Jesus in order that he might touch them, and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the children come to me; do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.” And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them. As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness. You shall not defraud. Honor your father and mother.’” He said to him, “Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.” Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, “You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

All stand.

Nunc Dimittis

Service in C

Charles Villiers Stanford

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 Apostle’s Creed

The People and Choir chant in unison

IBELIEVE 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.



... A - men.

The Prayers

Paul Spicer

Officiant The Lord be with you.

Choir And with thy spirit.

Officiant Let us pray.

All kneel as the Choir sings

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Officiant O Lord, show thy mercy upon us.

Choir And grant us thy salvation.

Officiant O Lord, save the State.

Choir And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Officiant Endue thy Ministers with righteousness.

Choir And make thy chosen people joyful.

Officiant O Lord, save thy people.

Choir And bless thine inheritance.

Officiant Give peace in our time, O Lord.

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

Officiant O God, make clean our hearts within us.

Choir And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

The Collect of the Day

SET us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins and give us, we beseech thee, the liberty of that abundant life which thou hast manifested to us in thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. 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 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 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 Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Anthem

Percy Buck (1871–1947)

O LORD God, who seest that we put not our trust in anything that we do; mercifully grant that by thy power, we may be defended against all adversity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Book of Common Prayer

All kneel.

The General Thanksgiving

ALmighty God, Father of all mercies, we thine unworthy servants do give thee most humble and hearty thanks for all thy goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all men. We bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we beseech thee, give us that due sense of all thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful; and that we show forth thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to thy service, and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

The Officiant then says A Prayer of St. Chrysostom, saying

Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications unto thee; and dost promise, that when two or three are gathered together in thy Name thou wilt grant their requests; Fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants, as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. *Amen.*

All stand.

The Dismissal

Officiant The Lord be with you.

Choir And with thy spirit.

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

Choir Thanks be to God.

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

Choir Amen.

Hymn overleaf

Hymn

Rhosymedre

1 Au - thor of life di - vine, who hast a ta - ble spread,
 2 Our need - y souls sus - tain with fresh sup - plies of love,
 fur - nished with mys - tic wine and ev - er - last - ing bread,
 till all Thy life we gain and all Thy full - ness prove,
 pre - serve the life Thy - self hast giv'n, pre - serve the life Thy -
 and strength - ened by Thy per - fect grace, and strength - ened by Thy
 self hast giv'n, and feed and train us up for heav'n.
 per - fect grace, be - hold with - out a veil Thy face.

Words: Charles Wesley, 1745

Music: John David Edwards, 1840



Sunday morning choral services: 9 a.m. & 11:15 a.m.

Podcasts of Evensong services are published weekly at incarnation.org/evensong



CHURCH *of the*
INCARNATION

3966 McKinney Avenue, Dallas, Texas 75204 ✻ 214-521-5101 ✻ info@incarnation.org