



# **Choral Evensong Epiphany**

**St. John the Divine  
January 11, 2026  
5:00 p.m.**

## WELCOME

We warmly welcome you to evensong this afternoon. Choral Evensong, a hallmark of the Anglican/Episcopal tradition, marks the day's end and prepares us for the coming night. The service's roots come out of ancient monastic traditions of prayer and were adapted five hundred years ago for English cathedral settings. Rest, reflect, and listen: Evensong at St. John the Divine offers time and space for quiet meditation as we are each invited to pray for our own needs and the needs of the world. Through music and spoken word, sound and silence, we invite you to find a "thin space" in which to encounter the mystery and beauty of God.

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*The cover photo is of the Epiphany stained glass window located on the east side wall of the Church.*



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# CHORAL EVENSONG, RITE ONE

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5:00 pm — January 11, 2026  
The First Sunday after the Epiphany

PRELUDE      Cantabile ————— Joseph Jongen 1873-1953

INTROIT      Dirck Janzoon Sweelinck 1591-1652

How brightly beams the morning star!  
What sudden radiance from afar  
Doth glad us with its shining?  
Brightness of God, that breaks our night,  
And fills the darkened souls with light,  
Who long for truth were pining!  
Thy word, Jesus, inly feeds us,  
Rightly leads us, life bestowing.  
Praise, such love o'erflowing!

SOLEMN PROCESSION      *Congregation stands*

OPENING SENTENCE      Book of Common Prayer (BCP) 62

Officiant: Jesus said, "I am the light of the world; he that followeth me shall not walk  
in darkness, but shall have the light of life." —John 8:12

# THE INVITATORY AND PSALTER

The Preces and Responses (*Precentor and choir*)

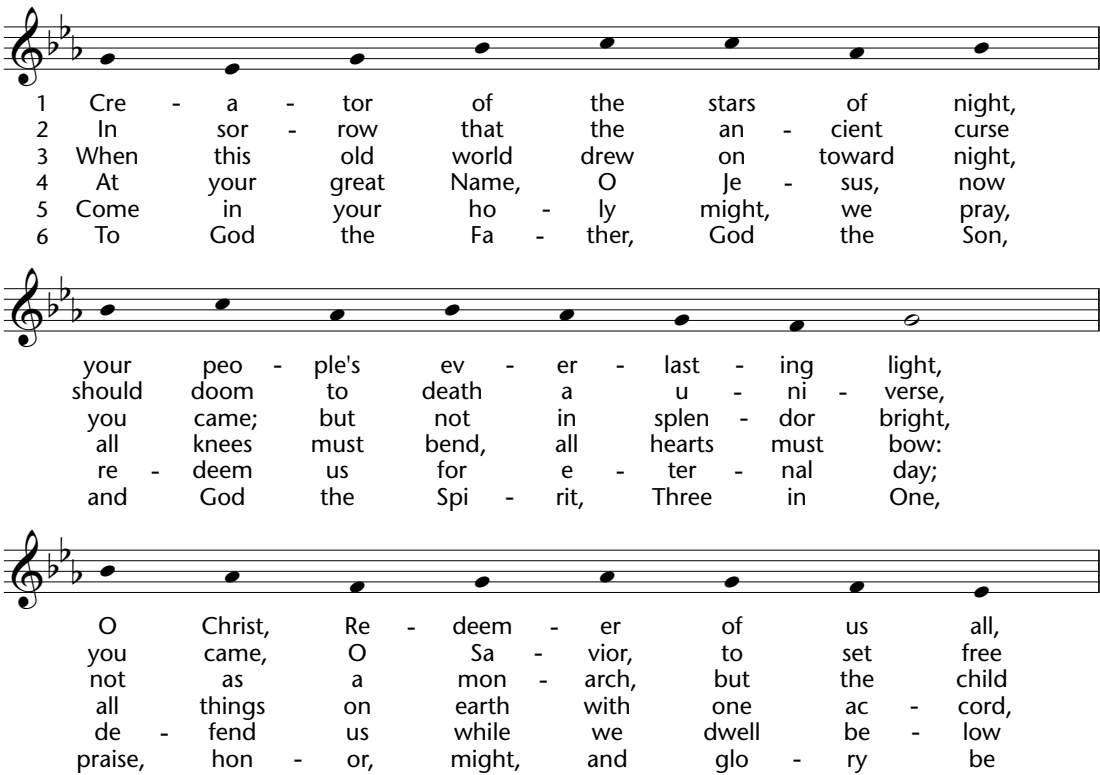
*setting by Philip Radcliffe 1905-1986*

Versicle: O Lord, open thou our lips.  
Response: And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.  
Versicle: O God, make speed to save us.  
Response: O Lord, make haste to help us.

Versicle: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
Response: As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:  
world without end. Amen.

Versicle: Praise ye the Lord.  
Response: The Lord's name be praised.

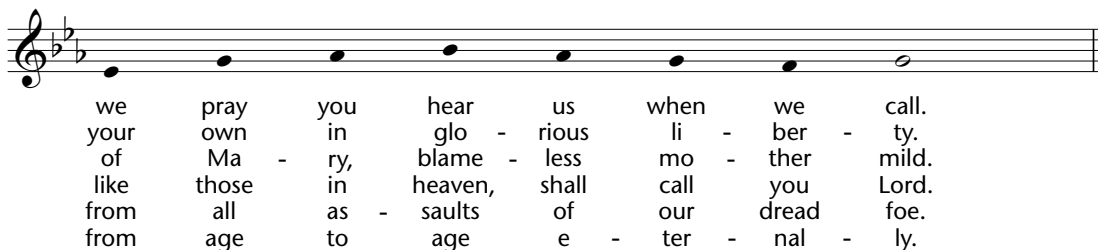
## Hymn 60



1 Cre - a - tor of the stars of night,  
2 In sor - row that the an - cient curse  
3 When this old world drew on toward night,  
4 At your great Name, O Je - sus, now  
5 Come in your ho - ly might, we pray,  
6 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son,

your should peo - ple's ev - er - last - ing light,  
you doom to death a u - ni - verse,  
you came; but not in splen - dor bright,  
all knees must bend, all hearts must bow:  
re - deem us for e - ter - nal day;  
and God the Spi - rit, Three in One,

O Christ, Re - deem - er of us all,  
you came, as a mon - arch, set free  
not as on earth with one ac - cord,  
all things on while we dwell be - low  
de - fend us might, and glo - ry be  
praise, hon - or,



Words: Latin, 9th century; Music: *Conditor alme siderum*, plainsong, Mode 4

*Congregation sits.*

## Psalm 111

*setting by Richard Woodward, Jr., 1784-1777*

- 1 I will give thanks unto the Lord with my whole heart :  
secretly among the faithful, and in the congregation.
- 2 The works of the Lord are great :  
sought out of all them that have pleasure therein.
- 3 His work is worthy to be praised and had in honour :  
and his righteousness endureth for ever.
- 4 The merciful and gracious Lord hath so done his marvellous works :  
that they ought to be had in remembrance.
- 5 He hath given meat unto them that fear him :  
he shall ever be mindful of his covenant.
- 6 He hath shewed his people the power of his works :  
that he may give them the heritage of the heathen.
- 7 The works of his hands are verity and judgement :  
all his commandments are true.
- 8 They stand fast for ever and ever :  
and are done in truth and equity.

- <sup>9</sup> He sent redemption unto his people :  
he hath commanded his covenant for ever; holy and reverend is his Name.
- <sup>10</sup> The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom :  
a good understanding have all they that do thereafter;  
the praise of it endureth 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.*

## THE LESSONS

### The First Lesson

Isaiah 60:1-6

- <sup>1</sup> Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
- <sup>2</sup> For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,  
and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the Lord will arise upon you,  
and his glory will be seen upon you.
- <sup>3</sup> And nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your rising.
- <sup>4</sup> Lift up your eyes all around, and see;  
they all gather together, they come to you;  
your sons shall come from afar,  
and your daughters shall be carried on the hip.
- <sup>5</sup> Then you shall see and be radiant;  
your heart shall thrill and exult,  
because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you,  
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

<sup>6</sup> A multitude of camels shall cover you,  
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;  
all those from Sheba shall come.  
They shall bring gold and frankincense,  
and shall bring good news, the praises of the Lord.

Reader: Here ends the lesson.

Congregation stands.

Magnificat

Herbert Sumsion 1899-1995

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 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.*

Congregation sits.

<sup>22</sup> And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. <sup>23</sup> And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. <sup>24</sup> By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, <sup>25</sup> and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. <sup>26</sup> They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. <sup>27</sup> But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Reader: Here ends the lesson.

*Congregation stands.*

Nunc dimittis

Herbert Sumsion

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

*Standing, sung by all on one note*

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 PRAYERS *(Precentor and choir)*

*setting by Philip Radcliffe*

Versicle: The Lord be with you.

Response: And with thy spirit.

Versicle: Let us pray. *(The people kneel.)*

Response: Lord, have mercy upon us,  
Christ, have mercy upon us,  
Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Lord's Prayer *Sung by the choir.*

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 Suffrages (*Precentor and choir*)

Versicle: O Lord, show thy mercy upon us.

Response: And grant us thy salvation.

Versicle: O Lord, save the state.

Response: And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Versicle: Endue thy ministers with righteousness.

Response: And make thy chosen people joyful.

Versicle: O Lord, save thy people.

Response: And bless thine inheritance.

Versicle: Give peace in our time, O Lord.

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

Versicle: O God, make clean our hearts within us.

Response: And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

## The Collects

BCP 162

O God, who by the leading of a star didst manifest thy only-begotten Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know thee now by faith, to thy presence, where we may behold thy glory face to face; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

BCP 69

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 all enemies, may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

BCP 71

O God, who dost manifest in thy servants the signs of thy presence: Send forth upon us the Spirit of love, that in companionship with one another thine abounding grace may increase among us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## THE WELCOME

The Rev. Louise Samuelson

Come Lord, come to us,  
Enter our darkness with your light.  
Fill our emptiness with your presence,  
Come, refresh, restore, renew us.

In our sadness, come as joy,  
In our troubles, come as peace,  
In our fearfulness, come as hope,  
In our darkness, come as light,  
In our frailty, come as strength,  
In our loneliness, come as love.

Come, refresh, restore, renew us.  
Come refresh, come restore, come renew us.

*Text: David Adam 1936-2020*

*Congregation stands.*

## CLOSING PRAYERS *(congregation standing)*

BCP 71

The General Thanksgiving *(Officiant and People)*

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.

#### A Prayer of St. Chrysostom *(Officiant)*

Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication unto thee, and hast promised through thy well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name thou wilt be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. *Amen.*

#### THE GRACE

BCP 73

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.* — *Romans 15:13*

#### HYMN 496

1 How bright ap - pears the Morn-ing Star, with mer - cy beam -  
2 Though cir - cled by the hosts on high, he deigned to cast  
3 Re - joice, ye heavens; thou earth, re - ply; with praise, ye sin -

ing from a - far; the host of heaven re - joic - es;  
a pit - ying eye up - on his help - less crea - ture;  
ners, fill the sky, for this his In - car - na - tion.

O right - eous Branch, O Jes - se's Rod! Thou Son of Man  
the whole cre - a - tion's Head and Lord, by high - est ser -  
In - car - nate God, put forth thy power, ride on, ride on,

and a - Son of God! We, too, will lift our voic - es:  
a - phim a - dored, as - sumed our ve - ry na - ture;  
great Con - Quer - or, till all know thy sal - va - tion.

Je - sus, Je - sus! Ho - ly, ho - ly yet most low - ly,  
 Je - sus, grant us, through thy mer - it, to in - her - it  
 A - men, a - men! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

draw thou near us; great Em - man - uel, come and hear us.  
 thy sal - va - tion; hear, O hear our sup - pli - ca - tion.  
 Praise be giv - en ev - er - more, by earth and hea - ven.

Words: William Mercer (1811-1873), after Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608); Music: *Wie schön leuchtet*, melody att. Philipp Nicolai (1811-1873)

## VOLUNTARY Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern

Johann Pachelbel 1653-1706

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*Alms basins are available in the Narthex as you leave the church.  
 Your offering will help support The Choir of St. John the Divine's Residency Fund.*



*You are cordially invited to the Julia Garden immediately following the liturgy  
 for the traditional Chalking of the Door, Burning of the Greens, and reception.*

# EPIPHANY

The Feast of the Epiphany celebrates the light of Christ shining into the world. In Western Christian churches, Epiphany is marked with the arrival of the Magi from the East. These strange, foreign, pagan philosophers follow the light of a star to Bethlehem where they encounter the light of the world, Jesus. In Epiphany we remember that God's light shines out in new and surprising ways and places because of the birth of Jesus.

Following Evensong, we will participate in two Epiphany related celebrations. First, we will be chalking the front door of the church and providing you with blessed chalk to repeat this fun ceremony at home. Traditionally, the chalking is done above the lintel where this is written: 20+C+M+B+25 - The letters are the abbreviation for the Latin phrase "Christus mansionem benedicat" - "Christ bless this house" (A second meaning and mnemonic device is Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar traditional names for the Magi). The + signs represent the cross, and 20-25 is the year. (*From The Book of Occasional Services.*)

By blessing the entrance of the church and/or house, we proclaim that the light of Christ shines in this place. This old tradition reminds us that just as the holy family welcomed the Magi to bless Christ, we should also extend hospitality to all who come into our homes trusting that they will experience the light of Christ there. We bless our homes to become places of blessing for all who enter.

In addition, after the chalking of the church door, we will burn the Christmas greens. While this tradition is typically celebrated on the twelfth night of Christmas, it is fitting to celebrate the light of Christ entering the world by creating a little light ourselves with some fun (and safe) fire in our celebration of Epiphany.



# Evensong

SUNG EVENING PRAYER

NOVEMBER 2 | JANUARY 11 | FEBRUARY 1 | MARCH 1 | MAY 3 | MAY 31

5 PM IN THE CHURCH

OFFERED BY THE CHOIR OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE

THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE | 2450 RIVER OAKS BOULEVARD | [SJD.ORG/MUSIC](http://SJD.ORG/MUSIC)



## DURHAM CATHEDRAL RESIDENCY

The Choir of St. John the Divine Residency  
July 2027

## CLERGY

The Rev. Dr. R. Leigh Spruill, *Rector*  
The Rev. Reagan W. Cocke, *Senior Vice Rector*  
The Rev. John D. Sundara, *Vice Rector*  
The Rev. Louise Samuelson, *Associate Rector*  
The Rev. Trent Pettit, *Associate Rector*  
The Rev. Libby Garfield, *Associate Rector*  
The Rev. Dr. Douglas W. Richnow, *Priest Associate*  
The Most Rev. Josiah Idowu-Fearon, *Bishop in Residence*  
The Rev. Sutton Lowe, *Curate*  
The Rev. Dr. Charles M. Stiernberg, *Deacon*

## MUSIC AND WORSHIP STAFF

Steven A. Newberry, *Director of Music and Worship*  
John Meier, *Associate Director of Music*  
Anna Teagarden, *Associate Director of Music*  
Grace Jackson, *Hancock Intern for Church Music*  
Sarah Gividen, *Director of Modern Music*  
Nick Gividen, *Associate Director of Modern Music*



THE CHURCH OF  
ST JOHN THE DIVINE

CHANGING LIVES FOR GOD IN CHRIST