



CHORAL EVENSONG

The Church of St. John the Divine

5:00 pm — March 1, 2026



## 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.

This evening, we welcome guest conductor, Richard Webster, who has led our singers in a series of rehearsals over the last five days including leading the music this morning at 9:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. for Choral Eucharist. Richard is a highly sought-after composer, church musician, conductor, and organist. Webster currently is a Lecturer in the Institute of Sacred Music (ISM) at Yale University. He retired in 2022 as Director of Music and Organist at Trinity Church, Copley Square, Boston after 17 years. Richard's enthusiasm is infectious. We have learned a lot and have been inspired by him these last several days.

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*The cover photo is stained glass of Jesus praying in the garden found on the east side of the church. Photo by the Rev. Greg Buffone.  
Used by permission.*

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# CHORAL EVENSONG

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5:00 pm — March 1, 2026  
The Second Sunday in Lent

PRELUDE      Prelude      César Franck 1822-1890  
Fantasia on *Wondrous Love*      David Hurd b. 1950

*Congregation stands.*

## SOLEMN PROCESSION

INTROIT      Guy de Lioncourt 1886-1964

Quid retribuam Domino, pro omnibus quae retribuit mihi?	<i>What shall I render unto the Lord, for all his benefits toward me?</i>
Calicem salutaris accipiam, Et nomen Domini invocabo,	<i>I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord.</i>
Dirupisti vincula mea, Tibi sacrificabo hostiam laudis, et nomen Domini invocabo.	<i>Thou has loosed my bonds. I will offer to thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the Lord.</i>

*Text: Psalm 116:12-13, 16b-17*

OPENING SENTENCE      Book of Common Prayer (BCP) 38

Officiant:      Rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God;  
for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and of great kindness, and  
repenteth him of the evil. — *Joel 2:13*

## THE CONFESSION OF SIN AND ABSOLUTION

BCP 62

Officiant: Dear friends in Christ, here in the presence of Almighty God, let us kneel in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, so that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

*Congregation kneels.*

*People: 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.  
But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us,  
spare thou those who confess their faults,  
restore thou those who are penitent,  
according to thy promises declared unto mankind  
in Christ Jesus 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.*

Officiant: The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. Amen.

*Congregation stands.*

## THE INVITATORY AND PSALTER

The Preces and Responses (*Precentor and choir*)

*setting by William Smith 1603-1645*

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.

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.

Congregation sits.

Psalm 8

setting by Gerre Hancock 1934-2012

- 1 O Lord our Governor, how excellent is thy Name in all the world;  
thou that hast set thy glory above the heavens!
- 2 Out of the mouth of very babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength,  
because of thine enemies,  
that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger.
- 3 When I consider thy heavens, even the works of thy fingers;  
the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained.
- 4 What is man, that thou art mindful of him?  
and the son of man, that thou visitest him?
- 5 Thou madest him lower than the angels,  
to crown him with glory and worship.
- 6 Thou makest him to have dominion of the works of thy hands;  
and thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet;
- 7 All sheep and oxen;  
yea, and the beasts of the field;
- 8 The fowls of the air, and the fishes of the sea;  
and whatsoever walketh through the paths of the seas.
- 9 O Lord our Governor,  
how excellent is thy Name in all the world!

*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

Romans 6:3-14

<sup>3</sup> Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup> We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

<sup>5</sup> For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. <sup>6</sup> We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. <sup>7</sup> For one who has died has been set free from sin. <sup>8</sup> Now if we have

died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup> We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. <sup>10</sup> For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. <sup>11</sup> So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

<sup>12</sup> Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. <sup>13</sup> Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. <sup>14</sup> For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

Reader: Here ends the lesson.

*Congregation stands.*

Magnificat

Joanna Forbes L'Estrange *b. 1971*

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>19</sup> So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise. <sup>20</sup> For the Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing. And greater works than these will he show him, so that you may marvel. <sup>21</sup> For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will. <sup>22</sup> For the Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, <sup>23</sup> that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him. <sup>24</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.

Reader: Here ends the lesson.

*Congregation stands.*

Nunc dimittis

Joanna Forbes L'Estrange

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 William Smith*

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 all on one note)*

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 166

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from thy ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of thy Word, Jesus Christ thy Son; who with thee and the Holy Spirit liveth and reigneth, one God, for ever and 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.

*Congregation sits.*

## THE WELCOME

The Rev. Louise Samuelson

Anthem

William Harris 1883-1973

Faire is the heaven where happy soules have place  
In full enjoyment of felicitie;  
Whence they do still behold the glorious face  
Of the Divine, Eternall Majestie;

Yet farre more faire be those bright Cherubins  
Which all with golden wings are overdight.  
And those eternall burning Seraphins  
Which from their faces dart out fiery light;

Yet fairer than they both and much more bright  
Be the Angels and Archangels  
Which attend on God's owne person without rest or end.  
These then in faire each other farre excelling  
As to the Highest they approach more neare,  
Yet is that Highest farre beyond all telling

Fairer than all the rest which there appeare  
Though all their beauties joynd together were;  
How then can mortal tongue hope to expresse  
The image of such endlesse perfectnesse?

*Text: Edmund Spenser (c. 1552-1599)*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *Congregation stands.*

Officiant: We pray to Jesus who is present with us to eternity, saying

Jesus, Lord of life

*People: In your mercy, hear us.*

Officiant: Jesus, light of the world, bring the light and peace of your gospel to the nations.

Jesus, Lord of life

*People: In your mercy, hear us.*

Officiant: Jesus, bread of life, give food to the hungry and nourish us all with your word.

Jesus, Lord of life

*People: In your mercy, hear us.*

Officiant: Jesus, our way, our truth, our life, be with us and all who follow you in the way; deepen our appreciation of your truth and fill us with your life.

Jesus, Lord of life

*People: In your mercy, hear us.*

Officiant: Jesus, good shepherd who gave your life for the sheep, recover the straggler, bind up the injured, strengthen the sick and lead the healthy and strong to play.

Jesus, Lord of life

*People: In your mercy, hear us.*

Officiant: Jesus, the resurrection and the life, we give you thanks for all who have lived and believed in you; raise us with them to eternal life.

Jesus, Lord of life

*People: In your mercy, hear us, accept our prayers, and be with us always. 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 28

1 O blest Cre - a - tor, source of light, you gave the  
 2 You joined the morn and eve - ning ray; you found it  
 3 Lest we, be - set by doubt and strife, for - get your  
 4 E - ter - nal Fa - ther, help us rise and strive to  
 5 De - fend us, Fa - ther, through the night, and with your  
 day with splen - dor bright, when on the new and  
 good and called it 'day.' But now the threat - ening  
 bless - ed gift of life, and an - guished and in  
 gain the heaven - ly prize; for you a - lone can  
 Son, and Spi - rit bright the Tri - ni - ty whom  
 liv - ing earth you brought all things to glo - rious birth.  
 dark - ness nears - we pray you, Fa - ther, calm our fears.  
 mind dis - tressed, be crushed by guilt, by sin op - pressed.  
 make us strong to turn from sin and cease from wrong.  
 we a - dore - be with us now and ev - er - more.

Words: Latin, 6th cent.; tr. Anne K. LeCroy (1930-2016); Music: *Bromley*, Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809).

VOLUNTARY Pastorale

Alec Rowley 1892-1958

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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.*



*Please join us following the liturgy for a reception in Sumners Hall  
 and to greet our guest conductor, Richard Webster.*





**DURHAM CATHEDRAL RESIDENCY**  
The Choir of St. John the Divine Residency  
July 2027

# *Evensong Series*

SUNG EVENING PRAYER

**MAY 3 - Eastertide**  
**MAY 31 - Trinity Sunday**  
**5 PM IN THE CHURCH**

## 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