



GUILDFORD  
CATHEDRAL



CATHEDRAL  
MUSIC TRUST

# CHORAL EVENSONG

The Cathedral Choir with Farnborough College Chamber Choir

Friday 6 February 2026

5.30 pm



# WELCOME

## **CHORAL EVENSONG**

Choral Evensong from the *Book of Common Prayer* is steeped in the Scriptures. The sung responses are short prayers taken from the psalms, and there are five other passages from the Bible. Two are read for us and three - the Psalmody, the *Magnificat* (Mary's Song) and the *Nunc Dimittis* (Simeon's Song) - are sung by the choir. The ministry of the musicians gives us space for reflection, adds inspirational texture to the words, and raises our hearts to join in the worship of heaven. We all join together in saying the Creed, in praying for one another with the words of the Grace at the conclusion of the Prayers, and in singing the hymns. At times posture is indicated in the order of service. Please do whatever is most comfortable for you.

## **GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL CHOIR**

The Cathedral Choir sang for the first time at the service of consecration in May 1961. Since that date, under the direction of five organists and masters of the choristers, it has established an impressive international reputation. This reputation for excellence has been founded on the tremendous commitment, energy and enthusiasm of parents, choristers and adult singers alike. In 2002 the establishment of the Girl Choristers augmented the Cathedral's music foundation.

## **FARNBOROUGH COLLEGE CHAMBER CHOIR**

Chamber Choir is the College's classical vocal ensemble, established to give more experienced vocalists the opportunity to perform challenging, smaller-scale vocal repertoire. It is open to all college students. Chamber Choir has sung evensong performances at sacred venues across the country, including the cathedrals of Salisbury, Christ Church Oxford, Southwark, Salisbury and Winchester. In January 2024, we held a joint-Evensong with Guildford Cathedral choir at the Cathedral itself, which is currently a yearly collaboration. It was also the first state-education vocal ensemble to give choral evensong at St Paul's Cathedral. The Chamber Choir and has previously performed in some of Europe's finest venues, including singing Mass at the Basilico St Marco, Venice

and a programme of Bach Cantatas at Leipzig's Thomaskirche and Nikolaikirche. More recent performances have included singing more ambient compositions by composers such as Ola Gjeilo and Billy Joel at the Wind Tunnels Project, Farnborough in a collaboration with Weydon School. The Chamber Choir has also collaborated with Royal Holloway University Chapel Choir at the Farnborough Wind Tunnels and at their chapel for a joint-Evensong.

The Schools' Evensong project is supported generously by the Cathedral Music Trust.

## **PRECES AND RESPONSES**

*Philip Radcliffe (1905-1986)*

## **CANTICLES**

*in A Herbert Sumsion (1899-1995)*

*Please stand as the procession enters to organ music.*

## **OPENING VERSICLES AND RESPONSES**

○ Lord, open thou our lips  
and our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

○ God, make speed to save us.  
○ 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.

**WELCOME** The Reverend Canon Rachel Young

## **PSALMS 32, 33, 34**

Blessed is he whose unrighteousness is forgiven :  
and whose sin is covered.

Blessed is the man unto whom the Lord imputeth no sin :  
and in whose spirit there is no guile.

For while I held my tongue :  
my bones consumed away through my daily complaining.

For thy hand is heavy upon me day and night :  
and my moisture is like the drought in summer.

I will acknowledge my sin unto thee :  
and mine unrighteousness have I not hid.

I said, I will confess my sins unto the Lord :  
and so thou forgavest the wickedness of my sin.

For this shall every one that is godly make his prayer unto thee,  
in a time when thou mayest be found :

but in the great water-floods they shall not come nigh him.

Thou art a place to hide me in, thou shalt preserve me from trouble :  
thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance.

I will inform thee, and teach thee in the way wherein thou shalt go :  
and I will guide thee with mine eye.

Be ye not like to horse and mule, which have no understanding :  
whose mouths must be held with bit and bridle,  
lest they fall upon thee.

Great plagues remain for the ungodly :  
but whoso putteth his trust in the Lord,  
mercy embraceth him on every side.

Be glad, O ye righteous, and rejoice in the Lord :  
and be joyful, all ye that are true of heart.

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.

*Chant: George Mursell Garrett (1834–1897)*

Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous :  
for it becometh well the just to be thankful.

Praise the Lord with harp :  
sing praises unto him with the lute, and instrument of ten strings.

Sing unto the Lord a new song :  
sing praises lustily unto him with a good courage.

For the word of the Lord is true :  
and all his works are faithful.

He loveth righteousness and judgement :  
the earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.

By the word of the Lord were the heavens made:  
and all the hosts of them by the breath of his mouth.

He gathereth the waters of the sea together, as it were upon an heap :  
and layeth up the deep, as in a treasure-house.

Let all the earth fear the Lord :  
stand in awe of him, all ye that dwell in the world.

For he spake, and it was done :  
    he commanded, and it stood fast.  
The Lord bringeth the counsel of the heathen to nought :  
    and maketh the devices of the people to be of none effect,  
    and casteth out the counsels of princes.  
The counsel of the Lord shall endure for ever :  
    and the thoughts of his heart from generation to generation.  
Blessed are the people, whose God is the Lord Jehovah :  
    and blessed are the folk,  
    that he hath chosen to him to be his inheritance.  
The Lord looked down from heaven, and beheld all the children of men :  
    from the habitation of his dwelling he considereth  
    all them that dwell on the earth.  
He fashioneth all the hearts of them :  
    and understandeth all their works.  
There is no king that can be saved by the multitude of an host :  
    neither is any mighty man delivered by much strength.  
A horse is counted but a vain thing to save a man :  
    neither shall he deliver any man by his great strength.  
Behold, the eye of the Lord is upon them that fear him :  
    and upon them that put their trust in his mercy;  
To deliver their soul from death :  
    and to feed them in the time of dearth.  
Our soul hath patiently tarried for the Lord :  
    for he is our help and our shield.  
For our heart shall rejoice in him :  
    because we have hoped in his holy Name.  
Let thy merciful kindness, O Lord, be upon us :  
    like as we do put our trust in thee.  
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.

*Chant: George Guest (1924-2002)*

I will alway 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.

*Stand* 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.

*Chant: Sydney Watson (1903-1991)*

*Sit* **OLD TESTAMENT** Hosea 13.1-11

The first lesson is written in the thirteenth chapter of the prophet Hosea, beginning at the first verse.

When Ephraim spoke, there was trembling;  
he was exalted in Israel;  
but he incurred guilt through Baal and died.  
And now they keep on sinning  
and make a cast image for themselves,  
idols of silver made according to their understanding,  
all of them the work of artisans.  
'Sacrifice to these', they say.  
People are kissing calves!  
Therefore they shall be like the morning mist  
or like the dew that goes away early,

like chaff that swirls from the threshing-floor  
or like smoke from a window.  
Yet I have been the Lord your God  
ever since the land of Egypt;  
you know no God but me,  
and besides me there is no saviour.  
It was I who fed you in the wilderness,  
in the land of drought.  
When I fed them, they were satisfied;  
they were satisfied, and their heart was proud;  
therefore they forgot me.  
So I will become like a lion to them,  
like a leopard I will lurk beside the way.  
I will fall upon them like a bear robbed of her cubs,  
and will tear open the covering of their heart;  
there I will devour them like a lion,  
as a wild animal would mangle them.  
  
I will destroy you, O Israel;  
who can help you?  
Where now is your king, that he may save you?  
Where in all your cities are your rulers,  
of whom you said,  
'Give me a king and rulers?'  
I gave you a king in my anger,  
and I took him away in my wrath.

Here ends the first lesson.

*Stand* **MAGNIFICAT**

My soul doth magnify the Lord :  
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.  
For he hath regarded :  
the lowliness of his hand-maiden.

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.

*Text: Luke 1.46-55*

*Sit*     **NEW TESTAMENT** I Corinthians 16.1-9

The second lesson is written in the sixteenth chapter of Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, beginning at the first verse.

Now concerning the collection for the saints: you should follow the directions I gave to the churches of Galatia. On the first day of every week, each of you is to put aside and save whatever extra you earn, so that collections need not be taken when I come. And when I arrive, I will send any whom you approve with letters to take your gift to Jerusalem. If it seems advisable that I should go also, they will accompany me. I will visit you after passing through Macedonia - for I intend to pass through Macedonia - and perhaps I will stay with you or even spend the winter,

so that you may send me on my way, wherever I go. I do not want to see you now just in passing, for I hope to spend some time with you, if the Lord permits. But I will stay in Ephesus until Pentecost, for a wide door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.

Here ends the second lesson.

*Stand*    **NUNC DIMITTIS**

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.

*Text: Luke 2. 29-32*

**APOSTLES' CREED**

**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 catholick Church;  
the communion of saints;  
the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

### **THE LESSER LITANY, LORD'S PRAYER AND PRECES**

The Lord be with you.  
And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

*Sit or  
kneel* 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.

○ Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.  
And grant us thy salvation.

○ 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 OF THE DAY**

Almighty and ever-living God,  
we humbly beseech thy majesty,  
that, as thy only-begotten Son  
was this day presented in the Temple,  
in substance of our flesh,  
so we may be presented unto thee  
with pure and clean hearts,  
by thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord,  
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 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 PROTECTION

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.

*Sit*     **ANTHEM**

Set me as a seal upon your heart,  
as a seal upon your arm,  
for love is strong as death.  
Many waters cannot quench love,  
Neither can the floods drown it.  
If you keep my commandments,  
you shall abide in my love,  
Love one another as I have loved you,  
then shall be your joy be complete.

*Words: Solomon 8,6,7 and John 15.10, 12, 11  
Music: Eleanor Daley (b. 1955)*

## THE PRAYERS

*The prayers conclude with*

**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.**

## HYMN



Go forth and tell! O Church of God, awake!  
God's saving news to all the nations take:  
proclaim Christ Jesus, Saviour, Lord and King,  
that all the world his glorious praise may sing.

Go forth and tell! God's love embraces all,  
he will respond in grace to all who call:  
how shall they call if they have never heard  
the gracious invitation of his word?

Go forth and tell! The doors are open wide:  
share God's good gifts - let no one be denied;  
live out your life as Christ your Lord shall choose,  
your ransomed powers for his sole glory use.

Go forth and tell! O Church of God, arise!  
Go in the strength which Christ your Lord supplies;  
go till all nations his great name adore  
and serve him, Lord and King for evermore.

*Words: James E. Seddon (1915-1983)*

*Music: CP 362 Woodlands, Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926-2024)*

## **BLESSING**

The peace of God,  
which passes all understanding,  
keep your hearts and minds  
in the knowledge and love of God,  
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

## **ORGAN VOLUNTARY**

*All remain standing as the choir and clergy process out.*

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