



GUILDFORD
CATHEDRAL



CATHEDRAL
MUSIC TRUST

CHORAL EVENSONG

The Cathedral choir with Godalming College Chamber Choir

Friday 6 March 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.

GODALMING COLLEGE CHAMBER CHOIR

We are delighted to welcome the members of Chamber Choir of Godalming College who are joining our girl choristers, changed voice singers (former boy choristers) and lay clerks to sing Choral Evensong this evening. We are grateful to Paul Clifford, their Head of Music and Music Technology and director of the Chamber Choir, and Jane Masters for their work with Katherine Dienes-Williams and Asher Oliver in preparation for the service, and for being part of our Schools' Evensong Project supported by The Cathedral Music Trust.

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

PRECES AND RESPONSES

Philip Radcliffe (1905-1986)

CANTICLES

Evening Service in B flat *Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)*

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 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 : f

or 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.

Chant: George Guest (1924-2002)

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.

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** Jeremiah 10.1-12

The first lesson is written in the tenth chapter of the prophecy of Jeremiah, beginning at the first verse.

Hear the word that the Lord speaks to you, O house of Israel.
Thus says the Lord:
Do not learn the way of the nations,
or be dismayed at the signs of the heavens;
for the nations are dismayed at them.
For the customs of the peoples are false:
a tree from the forest is cut down,
and worked with an axe by the hands of an artisan;
people deck it with silver and gold;
they fasten it with hammer and nails
so that it cannot move.

Their idols are like scarecrows in a cucumber field,
and they cannot speak;
they have to be carried,
for they cannot walk.
Do not be afraid of them,
for they cannot do evil,
nor is it in them to do good.
There is none like you, O Lord;
you are great, and your name is great in might.
Who would not fear you, O King of the nations?
For that is your due;
among all the wise ones of the nations
and in all their kingdoms
there is no one like you.
They are both stupid and foolish;
the instruction given by idols
is no better than wood!
Beaten silver is brought from Tarshish,
and gold from Uphaz.
They are the work of the artisan and of the hands of the goldsmith;
their clothing is blue and purple;
they are all the product of skilled workers.
But the Lord is the true God;
he is the living God and the everlasting King.
At his wrath the earth quakes,
and the nations cannot endure his indignation.
Thus shall you say to them: The gods who did not make the heavens and
the earth shall perish from the earth and from under the heavens.
It is he who made the earth by his power,
who established the world by his wisdom,
and by his understanding stretched out the heavens.

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** John 7.14-24

The second lesson is written in the seventh chapter of the gospel of John, beginning at the fourteenth verse.

About the middle of the Festival of Booths Jesus went up into the temple and began to teach. The Jews were astonished at it, saying, 'How does this man have such learning, when he has never been taught?' Then Jesus

answered them, 'My teaching is not mine but his who sent me. Anyone who resolves to do the will of God will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own. Those who speak on their own seek their own glory; but the one who seeks the glory of him who sent him is true, and there is nothing false in him. Did not Moses give you the law? Yet none of you keeps the law. Why are you looking for an opportunity to kill me?' The crowd answered, 'You have a demon! Who is trying to kill you?' Jesus answered them, 'I performed one work, and all of you are astonished. Moses gave you circumcision (it is, of course, not from Moses, but from the patriarchs), and you circumcise a man on the sabbath. If a man receives circumcision on the sabbath in order that the law of Moses may not be broken, are you angry with me because I healed a man's whole body on the sabbath? Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgement.'

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.

○ Lord, save thy people.
And bless thine inheritance.

Give peace in our time, ○ Lord.
Because there is none other that fighteth for us,
but only thou, ○ God.

○ God, make clean our hearts within us.
And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God,
who showest to them that be in error the light of thy truth,
to the intent that they may return into the way of righteousness:
grant unto all them that are admitted
into the fellowship of Christ's religion,
that they may eschew those things
that are contrary to their profession,
and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same;
through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who liveth and reigneth with thee,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

THE COLLECT OF ASH WEDNESDAY

Almighty and everlasting God,
who hatest nothing that thou hast made
and dost forgive the sins of all them that are penitent:
create and make in us new and contrite hearts
that we, worthily lamenting our sins
and acknowledging our wretchedness,
may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy,
perfect remission and forgiveness;
through Jesus Christ thy Son 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

Hide not thou thy face from us, O Lord,
and cast not off thy servants in thy displeasure;
for we confess our sins unto thee,
and hide not our unrighteousness.
For thy mercy's sake deliver us from all our sins

Music: Richard Farrant (c.1525-1580)

Text: Psalms 27 and 32

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.**

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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