



A SERVICE OF CHORAL EVENSONG

WITH

ST. MATTHEW'S CATHEDRAL ARTS CHORAL ARTISTS

MONICA AWBREY, DIRECTOR

EUGENE LAVERY, ORGANIST

THE VERY REV. ROBERT P. PRICE

DEAN OF ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL, DALLAS

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Welcome to this service of Choral Evensong. Evensong is a contemplative offering of music and prayer, sung daily in many cathedrals and churches throughout the world. The Anglican service of Evensong dates to the 1549 *Book of Common Prayer*, where Thomas Cranmer, the first Anglican Archbishop of Canterbury, joined the evening services of Vespers and Compline. This ancient design is renewed here in the beauty of music, words and surroundings, inviting us to quiet our minds and hearts. We praise God as we offer prayers for a peaceful night and pray for the strength to embrace our vocations in the day to come. May this service be a blessing to you.

Organ Voluntaries *Trois Pièces*

Joséphine Boulay (1869-1925)

English Pastoral

Freda Swain (1902-1985)

Dr. Damin Spritzer, Cathedral Arts Artist-in-Residence

Introit *O Gracious Light*

Michael John Trotta (b. 1978)

O gracious Light,
pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven,
O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!

Now as we come to the setting of the sun,
and our eyes behold the vesper light,
we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices,
O Son of God, O Giver of life,
and to be glorified through all the worlds.

Phos Hilaron, 3rd-century Greek

Please stand as the procession enters.

The Invitatory and Psalter

Preces *Sung by the Officiant and Choir*

Janet Wheeler (b. 1957)

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.

Please be seated.

Psalm 68:1-20 *Exurgat Deus*

Chants by William Crotch (1775-1847) and Henry Smart (1813-1879)

Let God arise, and let his enemies be scattered; let them also that hate him flee before him. Like as the smoke vanisheth, so shalt thou drive them away; and like as wax melteth at the fire, so let the ungodly perish at the presence of God. But let the righteous be glad, and rejoice before God; let them also be merry and joyful. O sing unto God, and sing praises unto his Name; magnify him that rideth upon the heavens, as it were upon a horse. Praise him in his Name JAH, and rejoice before him. He is a Father of the fatherless, and defendeth the cause of the widows, even God in his holy habitation. He is the God that maketh men to be of one mind in an house, and bringeth the prisoners out of captivity, but letteth the runagates continue in scarceness. O God, when thou wentest forth before the people, when thou wentest through the wilderness, the earth shook, and the heavens

dropped at the presence of God, even as Sinai also was moved at the presence of God, who is the God of Israel. Thou, O God, sentest a gracious rain upon thine inheritance, and refreshedst it when it was weary. Thy congregation shall dwell therein; for thou, O God, hast of thy goodness prepared for the poor. The Lord gave the word; great was the company of the preachers. Kings with their armies did flee, and were discomfited; and they of the household divided the spoil. Though ye have lain among the sheep-folds, yet shall ye be as the wings of a dove that is covered with silver wings, and her feathers like gold. When the Almighty scattered kings for their sake, then were they as white as snow in Salmon. As the hill of Bashan, so is God's hill, even an high hill, as the hill of Bashan. Why hop ye so, ye high hills? This is God's hill, in the which it pleaseth him to dwell. Yea, the Lord will abide in it for ever. The chariots of God are twenty thousand, even thousands of angels; and the Lord is among them, as in the holy place of Sinai. Thou art gone up on high; thou hast led captivity captive, and received gifts for men, yea, even for thine enemies, that the Lord God might dwell among them. Praised be the Lord daily, even the God who helpeth us, and poureth his benefits upon us. He is our God, even the God of whom cometh salvation; God is the Lord, by whom we escape death.

The First Lesson: Exodus 6:28-7:2

On the day when the Lord spoke to Moses in the land of Egypt, he said to him, "I am the Lord; tell Pharaoh king of Egypt all that I am speaking to you." But Moses said in the Lord's presence, "Since I am a poor speaker, why would Pharaoh listen to me?" The Lord said to Moses, "See, I have made you like God to Pharaoh, and your brother Aaron shall be your prophet. You shall speak all that I command you, and your brother Aaron shall tell Pharaoh to let the Israelites go out of his land."

Here endeth the reading.

Please stand.

The Magnificat *Belfast Canticles*

Philip W. J. Stopford (b. 1977)

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.*

Please be seated.

The Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 14:20–25

Brothers and sisters, do not be children in your thinking; rather, be infants in evil, but in thinking be adults. In the law it is written, "By people of strange tongues and by the lips of foreigners I will speak to this people; yet even then they will not listen to me," says the Lord. Tongues, then, are a sign not for believers but for unbelievers, while prophecy is not for unbelievers but for believers. If, therefore, the whole church comes together and all speak in tongues, and outsiders or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are out of your mind? But if all prophesy, an unbeliever or outsider who enters is reprov'd by all and called to account by all. After the secrets of the unbeliever's heart are disclosed, that person will bow down before God and worship him, declaring, 'God is really among you.'

Here endeth the reading.

Please stand.

The Nunc Dimittis *Belfast Canticles*

Philip W. J. Stopford

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.*

Remain standing, and chant.

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

The Prayers

Responses *Sung by the Officiant and Choir*

Janet Wheeler

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

Choir: And with thy spirit.

Officiant: Let us pray.

Please kneel as you are able.

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

The Lord's Prayer *Sung by the Choir*

The Suffrages

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 Collects

Comfort thy people, O God of peace, and prepare a way for us in the desert, that, like thy poet and translator Catherine Winkworth, we may preserve the spiritual treasures of thy saints of former years and sing our thanks to thee with hearts and hands and voices, eternal triune God whom earth and heaven adore; for thou livest and reignest for ever and ever. *Amen.*

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.*

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.*

Please be seated.

The Anthem *Christ is the morning star*

Cecilia McDowall (b. 1951)

Christ is the morning star,
who, when the night of this world is past,
brings to his saints the promise of the light of life,
and opens everlasting day.
Christ is the star.

from a prayer of St. Bede the Venerable (672/3-735)

After the Anthem, please kneel as you are able.

A Prayer of Saint John 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.*

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

The Grace

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. *Amen.*

Please stand and sing.

Hymn 440 *Blessed Jesus, at thy word*

Liebster Jesu

Words: Tobias Clausnitzer (1619-1684)

Translated by Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878)

Please remain standing as the Choir and Officiant depart, then please be seated for the remainder of the Voluntary.

Organ Voluntary *Joie*

Germaine Labole (1896-1942)

Dr. Damin Spritzer, Cathedral Arts Artist-in-Residence

On behalf of Monica Awbrey and the Cathedral Arts Choral Artists, this Evensong service is dedicated to H. Michie Akin, Founder and Artistic Director Emeritus of St. Matthew's Cathedral Arts, the Executive Board, the Advisory Council, and the countless Cathedral Arts volunteers who encourage our mission. Visit Cathedral Arts online at cathedralartsdallas.org.