

ST PETER'S CHURCH

LUTTON PLACE, EDINBURGH

The Diocese of Edinburgh • The Scottish Episcopal Church •
The Anglican Communion



Choral Evensong

A warm welcome to St Peter's for this service of Choral Evensong.

A very warm welcome to you as you join us for worship at St Peter's this evening. We hope that all who join us for worship feel comfortable and included.

Everything you need for the service you will find in this booklet, and usually a hymnbook and service sheet as well. Hymn numbers are found on the boards and will be announced and repeated at the relevant part of the service. We say the words in **bold** together.

Throughout this booklet there is guidance on sitting and standing at various points. Please feel free to adopt the posture you find most comfortable.

Wearing a face mask/covering is optional. Please be considerate and give space to those who wish to continue wearing one. Thank you.

No collection will be taken during the service. If you wish to give to support God's work through our church, a collection plate is at the back of church. Alternatively, details of how to give can be found through our website: <https://stpetersedinburgh.org.uk>

We look forward to sharing in worship with you.



Rev
Sue
Whitehouse

Rev
Nick
Wills

Bishop
Donald
Allister

About Evensong

The service of Evensong was established by Archbishop Thomas Cranmer (1489-1556), and is based on the medieval monastic offices of Vespers and Compline.

Usually held near sunset and drawn almost entirely from the Bible, Evensong provides a restful, peaceful and contemplative time when we can commit ourselves to God. During the service we praise and thank God, ask God to be with those in need, and for his blessing to rest upon all who have come together in prayer. It is as if one is dropping in on a continuing evening conversation between God and his people, which began many centuries ago, and that will continue for centuries to come.

Following the Order in the Scottish Prayer Book of 1929, the congregational participation is primarily prayerful with attentive listening. The music and texts, whether sung by all or sung by the choir on behalf of all, is offered to God, lifting our prayers, meditation and praise to God.

Written by our ancestors more than four hundred years ago, much of the English language in the service may sound old-fashioned but its meaning is not out of date.

The service is in three parts:

To begin, worshippers are invited to confess their sins, and the Minister declares God's forgiveness. They are then prepared for the story that will follow.

The second part contains the story of God's redeeming love. Beginning with a Psalm and a Bible reading from the Old Testament, it then continues to the New Testament with the Magnificat, otherwise known as the 'Song of Mary', a New Testament reading, and the Nunc Dimittis or 'Song of Simeon'. This second section reaches its climax with the Creed - the affirmation of what Christians believe.

To finish, our prayerful response is to God who has revealed himself in history, in Jesus Christ, and in the Church.

*Please stand when the choir and Minister process in to organ music. All are encouraged to join in singing the hymns and Psalm, and say any text written in **Bold**.*

Sentences from Scripture.

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness:

Let the whole earth stand in awe of him.

Psalm 96: 9

OPENING HYMN

THE INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Dearly beloved,
the Scripture moveth us in sundry places
to acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness;
and that we should not dissemble
nor cloak them before the face of Almighty God our heavenly Father;
but confess them with an humble, lowly, penitent, and obedient heart;
to the end that we may obtain forgiveness of the same,
by his infinite goodness and mercy.

And although we ought at all times
humbly to acknowledge our sins before God;
yet ought we most chiefly so to do,
when we assemble and meet together
to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at his
hands, to set forth his most worthy praise,
to hear his most holy word,
and to ask those things which are requisite and necessary,
as well for the body as the soul.

Wherefore I pray and beseech you,
as many as are here present,
to accompany me with a pure heart and humble voice
unto the throne of the heavenly grace,
saying with me:

(Please sit.)

THE CONFESSION

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,
And there is no health in us:
But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us miserable offenders;
Spare thou them, O God, which confess their faults,
Restore thou them that are penitent,
According to thy promises
declared unto mankind in Christ Jesu 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.

*The congregation
are invited to
confess their sins.*

THE ABSOLUTION

Almighty God,
the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who desireth not the death of a sinner,
but rather that he may turn from his wickedness and live;
and hath given power and commandment to his Ministers,
to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent,
the Absolution and Remission of their sins:
He pardoneth and absolveth all them that truly repent
and unfeignedly believe his holy Gospel.
Wherefore let us beseech him
to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit,
that those things may please him which we do at this present,
and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy;
so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*God's forgiveness
is declared.*

OPENING VERSICLES AND RESPONSES

Cantor O Lord, open thou our lips;
Choir And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.
Cantor O God, make speed to save us;
Choir O Lord, make haste to help us.

(Please stand)

Cantor 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.
Cantor Praise ye the Lord;
Choir The Lord's Name be praised.

PSALM *This is on the separate sheet
and sung by all who wish.*

(Please sit after the Psalm.)

*The 150 Psalms in the Bible
have always been used by
Christians in daily prayer.
Each closes with the Gloria.*

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

At the end of the reading:

Here endeth the Lesson.

MAGNIFICAT *(Sung by the choir.)
(Please remain seated.)*

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.

***Magnificat:** The prayer
Mary said when she
heard that she was going
to bear God's Son.
Luke 1: 46-55*

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.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

At the end of the reading:

Here endeth the Lesson.

NUNC DIMITTIS *(Sung by the choir.)*

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.

Nunc Dimittis:
*The Song of
Simeon. The prayer
Simeon said when
he first saw the
newborn Jesus.
Luke 2: 29-32*

APOSTLES' CREED, *said by All*

(Please stand.)

**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.**

*A statement of belief,
written in the 2nd and
3rd centuries.*

THE RESPONSES

Cantor The Lord be with you;

Choir And with thy spirit.

Cantor Let us pray.

(Please sit.)

Choir 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's Prayer:
Matthew 6: 9-13*

Cantor O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us;
Choir And grant us thy salvation.
Cantor O Lord, save the King;
Choir And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.
Cantor Endue thy Ministers with righteousness;
Choir And make thy chosen people joyful.
Cantor O Lord, save thy people;
Choir And bless thine inheritance.
Cantor Give peace in our time, O Lord;
Choir Because there is none other that fighteth for us,
but only thou, O God.
Cantor O God, make clean our hearts within us;
Choir And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

THE COLLECTS

(These will be said.)

Minister Let us pray.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

(The text is on the separate sheet.)

*The Minister prays the
week's prayer.*

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.

COLLECT FOR AID AGAINST ALL PERILS

**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.**

ANTHEM *(Sung by the choir.)*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

CLOSING HYMN

BLESSING

To God the Father who loved us,
and made us accepted in the Beloved;
to God the Son,
who loved us,
and loosed us from our sins by his own blood;
to God the Holy Ghost
who sheddeth the love of God abroad in our hearts;
to the one true God
be all love and all glory for time and for eternity.
Amen.

The Almighty and merciful God
bless and keep us this night,
and for evermore.
Amen.

CHORAL AMEN *(Sung by the choir.)*

*Choral Evensong is usually held at 6.30pm
on the last Sunday of each month.
For more information, please see the posters or our website,
<https://stpetersedinburgh.org.uk>*

CCL Licence 43554 St Peter's Church

New members to choir are always very welcome!

Choir rehearsals are held each Thursday evening in church,
6.15pm-7pm *Voice for Life* for Junior Choristers
7pm-8pm Junior Choir
7.45pm-9.30pm Adult Choir
and at 10am each Sunday morning.

*If you or your child are interested in joining the
Choir, please email via the office either our*

Director of Music Rupert Forbes

Organist / Voice for Life Sheila Chisholm

office@stpetersedinburgh.org



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