



# CHURCH *of the* INCARNATION

The Thirteenth Sunday *after* Pentecost

September 7, 2025

*Choral Evensong*

## ABOUT THIS SERVICE

The origins of Choral Evensong go back many centuries, and have their roots in the ancient patterns of monastic worship, which were based on the regular singing of all 150 psalms and the systematic reading of the Bible. Brief services, or offices, were said or sung throughout the day and night, in accordance with St. Paul's instruction to 'pray without ceasing', so that the whole of the daily routine of monks and nuns could be sanctified and offered to God. In the aftermath of the Reformation in England, the first *Book of Common Prayer* (published in 1549) combined elements from a number of the monastic offices to form the dual services of Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer, or Evensong. Each has as its central feature the recitation or singing of the Psalms; readings from Scripture; and prayers for the Church, the world, and those in need. Both services have fixed songs or canticles associated with them, including the *Magnificat* (the Song of Mary from St. Luke's Gospel) and the *Nunc dimittis* (the Song of Simeon from St. Luke's Gospel) at Evensong. This format was formalized in *The Book of Common Prayer 1662* and has remained largely unchanged ever since.

## ABOUT THE MUSIC

This evening's first Evensong presents two staples of the twentieth-century Anglican repertoire: the E-major canticles of Herbert Murrill and Malcolm Boyle's anthem *Thou, O God, Art Praised in Sion*. Here, Boyle displays the full drama of the English Anthem, with a particularly memorable middle section in which the sopranos soar on the verse, "*Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace.*" The prelude by Herbert Howells reflects the plea of the psalmist in Psalm 130, "*Out of the deep have I called unto thee, O Lord.*" Its musical language grows in urgency, building toward a climax before settling into the quiet assurance of God's answer.



*Following this service, all are warmly invited to a reception in the Narthex.*

**Cover art:** *Evensong* (depicting St. Cecilia, patron saint of musicians), John Melhuish Strudwick

## SOLEMN EVENSONG

### Organ Voluntary

Psalm-Prelude Set 2, N° 1

Herbert Howells (1892–1983)

“Out of the deep have I called unto thee, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice.”

*All stand at the entrance of the procession. The Officiant reads one or more sentences of Scripture.*

### Invitatory

William Byrd (1540–1623)

*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.

*All sit.*

Psalm 103

*Benedic, anima mea*

*Chants by* G. H. Knight (1908–1979)

& Gerre Hancock (1934–2012)

**P**RAISE the LORD, O my soul : and all that is within me, praise his holy Name.

Praise the LORD, O my soul : and forget not all his benefits:

Who forgiveth all thy sin : and health all thine infirmities;

Who saveth thy life from destruction : and crowneth thee with mercy and loving-kindness;

Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things : making thee young and lusty as an eagle.

The LORD executeth righteousness and judgment : for all them that are oppressed with wrong.

He showed his ways unto Moses : his works unto the children of Israel.

The LORD is full of compassion and mercy : long-suffering, and of great goodness.

He will not alway be chiding : neither keepeth he his anger for ever.

He hath not dealt with us after our sins : nor rewarded us according to our wickednesses.

For look how high the heaven is in comparison of the earth :

so great is his mercy also toward them that fear him.

Look how wide also the east is from the west : so far hath he set our sins from us.

Yea, like as a father pitieth his own children : even so is the LORD merciful unto them that fear him.

For he knoweth whereof we are made : he remembereth that we are but dust.

The days of man are but as grass : for he flourisheth as a flower of the field.

For as soon as the wind goeth over it, it is gone : and the place thereof shall know it no more.

But the merciful goodness of the LORD endureth for ever and ever upon them that fear him :

and his righteousness upon children's children;

Even upon such as keep his covenant : and think upon his commandments to do them.

The LORD hath prepared his seat in heaven : and his kingdom ruleth over all.

*(psalm continued overleaf)*



O praise the LORD, ye angels of his, ye that excel in strength :  
ye that fulfil his commandment, and hearken unto the voice of his word.  
O praise the LORD, all ye his hosts : ye servants of his that do his pleasure.  
O speak good of the LORD, all ye works of his, in all places of his dominion :  
praise thou the LORD, O my soul.

*The People stand as the Choir sings*

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.

*All sit.*

### The First Lesson

1 Kings 12:21–33

**W**HEN Rehoboam came to Jerusalem, he assembled all the house of Judah and the tribe of Benjamin, one hundred eighty thousand chosen troops, to fight against the house of Israel, to restore the kingdom to Rehoboam son of Solomon. But the word of God came to Shemaiah the man of God: “Say to King Rehoboam of Judah, son of Solomon, and to all the house of Judah and Benjamin, and to the rest of the people: Thus says the LORD: You shall not go up or fight against your kindred the people of Israel. Let everyone go home, for this thing is from me.” So they heeded the word of the LORD and went home again, according to the word of the LORD. Then Jeroboam built Shechem in the hill country of Ephraim and resided there; he went out from there and built Penuel. Then Jeroboam said to himself, “Now the kingdom may well revert to the house of David. If this people continues to go up to offer sacrifices in the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, the heart of this people will turn again to their master, King Rehoboam of Judah; they will kill me and return to King Rehoboam of Judah.” So the king took counsel and made two calves of gold. He said to the people, “You have gone up to Jerusalem long enough. Here are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.” He set one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan. And this thing became a sin, for the people went to worship before the one at Bethel and before the other as far as Dan. He also made houses on high places and appointed priests from among all the people who were not Levites. Jeroboam appointed a festival on the fifteenth day of the eighth month like the festival that was in Judah, and he offered sacrifices on the altar; so he did in Bethel, sacrificing to the calves that he had made. And he placed in Bethel the priests of the high places that he had made. He went up to the altar that he had made in Bethel on the fifteenth day in the eighth month, in the month that he had selected on his own; he appointed a festival for the people of Israel, and he went up to the altar to offer incense.

*All stand.*

### Magnificat

*Service in E*

Herbert Murrill (1909–1952)

**M**Y ✠ 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.

*All sit.*

## The Second Lesson

John 10:31-42

**T**HE Jews took up stones again to stone Jesus. Jesus replied, "I have shown you many good works from the Father. For which of these are you going to stone me?" The Jews answered, "It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you but for blasphemy, because you, though only a human, are making yourself God." Jesus answered, "Is it not written in your law, 'I said, you are gods'? If those to whom the word of God came were called 'gods'—and the scripture cannot be annulled—can you say that the one whom the Father has sanctified and sent into the world is blaspheming because I said, 'I am God's Son'? If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me. But if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, so that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father." Then they tried to arrest him again, but he escaped from their hands. He went away again across the Jordan to the place where John had been baptizing earlier, and he remained there. Many came to him, and they were saying, "John performed no sign, but everything that John said about this man was true." And many believed in him there.

*All stand.*

## Nunc Dimittis

*Service in E*

Herbert Murrill

**L**ORD, ✠ 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 Apostle's Creed

*The People and Choir chant in unison*

**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.



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A - men.

## The Prayers

William Byrd

*Officiant* The Lord be with you.  
*Choir* And with thy spirit.  
*Officiant* Let us pray.

### *All kneel as the Choir sings*

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

## The Lord's Prayer

**O**UR Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

*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 Collect of the Day*

**G**RANT us, O Lord, we pray thee, to trust in thee with all our heart; seeing that, as thou dost always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so thou dost not forsake those who make their boast of thy mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

### *The Second 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 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.

*The Third Collect, for Aid against all Perils*

**L**IGHTEN 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.

**Anthem**

Malcolm Boyle (1902–1976)

**T**HOU, O God, art praised in Sion, and unto thee shall the vow be performed in Jerusalem. Thou that hearest the prayer, unto thee shall all flesh come. Blessed is the man whom thou choosest and receivest unto thee. He shall dwell in thy courts and shall be satisfied with the pleasures of thy house, e'en of thy temple. Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee. Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace because he trusteth in thee. Trust ye in the Lord for ever, for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength. Let the people praise thee, O God, yea, let all the people praise thee. Then shall the earth bring forth her increaase: and God shall give us his blessing.

*Psalm 65:1–2, 4; Isaiah 26:3–4; Psalm 67:3, 6–7*

*All kneel.*

**The General Thanksgiving**

**A**Lmighty God, Father of all mercies, we thine unworthy servants do give thee most humble and hearty thanks for all thy goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all men. We bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we beseech thee, give us that due sense of all thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful; and that we show forth thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to thy service, and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

*The Officiant then says A Prayer of St. Chrysostom, saying*

Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications unto thee; and dost promise, that when two or three are gathered together in thy Name thou wilt grant their requests; Fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants, as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. *Amen.*

*All stand.*

**The Dismissal**

*Officiant* The Lord be with you.

*Choir* And with thy spirit.

*Officiant* Let us bless the Lord.

*Choir* Thanks be to God.

*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.

*Choir*

Amen.

**Hymn 593**

Lord, make us servants of your peace

*Dickinson College*



*Sunday morning choral services: 9 a.m. & 11:15 a.m.*

*Podcasts of Evensong services are published weekly at [incarnation.org/evensong](http://incarnation.org/evensong)*



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