

The Parish Church of St John-at-Hampstead

Choral Evensong



Sunday

5 pm

Thank you for joining us for today's service.

Details of our regular services throughout the week
can be found at the end of this service booklet.

To receive updates about upcoming special services, events,
and news from the parish, you are warmly invited
to subscribe to our **Weekly Newsletter**.

To subscribe, please email:

vestry@hampsteadparishchurch.org.uk



CHORAL Evensong is a service (or ‘Office’) with its roots in the Christian monastic movement and in the sixteenth century Reformation of the English Church. Today, this service, taken from the seventeenth-century *Book of Common Prayer* is commonly celebrated in parish churches and cathedrals in the English tradition. Parish churches with a choral tradition draw upon a rich inheritance of music, much of it sung by the choir alone. In the Anglican tradition this music finds its natural setting in the Evening Office.

For this reason, the service of Choral Evensong offers us a time of reflection – a time when we can allow the beauty of the language and the music to quieten us, that we might hear God speaking to us in the psalms and readings and canticles taken from Scripture. Within this hallowed space may we forget the ceaseless activity of daily life, and be still.

Evensong is a combination of the medieval Offices of Vespers (Evening Prayer) and Compline (Night Prayer). At Evensong:

- ❖ We prepare for worship by confessing our sins to Almighty God and receiving anew the forgiveness which was given to us in Baptism, a forgiveness which flows from the Cross of Christ.
- ❖ We pray that God will help us to worship him.
- ❖ We sing the Psalms.
- ❖ We listen to readings from the Old and New Testaments.
- ❖ We hear the Magnificat and the Nunc Dimittis – two songs, taken from St Luke’s Gospel, which are traditionally associated with Christian prayer in the later part of the day.
- ❖ We affirm our Christian faith, in the words of the ancient Baptismal Creed.
- ❖ At the end of the service, we may listen to a reflection of the scriptural readings we have heard, we pray for the needs of the Church and the world, and we ask God’s Blessing on the week to come.

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Images by Br Martin Erspamer O.S.B.

If you are able, please stand at the entrance of the choir and clergy

THE INTROIT

The choir sings the Introit

INTRODUCTION

DEARLY beloved brethren,
the Scripture moveth us in sundry places
to acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness;
and that we should not dissemble nor cloke 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.

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 after me:

Please be seated or kneel

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.

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.**

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.

**For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,
For ever and ever. Amen.**

THE PRECES

Sung by the Minister and the Choir

O Lord, open thou our lips.

And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

O God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Please 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.

Praise ye the Lord.

The Lord's Name be praised.

PSALMODY

Please be seated for the Psalmody and stand for the final Gloria

FIRST LESSON

Please be seated as the Lesson is read

*After the First Lesson, please stand if you are able for the first
Gospel Canticle, the Song of Mary*

MAGNIFICAT

Sung by the Choir

MY SOUL doth magnify the Lord :
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

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 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.

Luke 1.46-55

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.

SECOND LESSON

Please be seated as the Lesson is read

At the end of the Lesson, please stand if you are able for the second Gospel Canticle, the Song of Simeon

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.

Luke 2.29-32

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 face the High Altar to say

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 Catholick Church,

the Communion of Saints:

The forgiveness of sins:

The Resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.

Sung by the Minister and the Choir

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

Please be seated or kneel

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Our Father, which art in heaven...

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

And grant us thy salvation.

O 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 Minister reads the Collects, normally three, but four in Advent & Lent

THE FIRST COLLECT, OF THE DAY

The Collect of the Day is read

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 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 THIRD 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.

THE ANTHEM

Please be seated as the Choir sing the Anthem

THE SERMON

THE PRAYERS

HYMN

Please stand for the hymn

This or another blessing may be used

The peace of God
which passeth all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds
in the knowledge and love of God,
and of his Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be with you this night and always.
Amen.

On the first Sunday of the month, you are warmly invited to join us for refreshments at the back of the church following Evensong, courtesy of the Friends of the Music.

Please return this booklet at the end of the service

GIVING TO THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST JOHN-AT-HAMPSTEAD

You can give using the **contactless machines** at the back of church,
or by using this **QR Code**,
or use a **blue envelope** to give by cash or cheque.



REGULAR SERVICES

Sunday

8am Holy Communion
Book of Common Prayer



10.30am Holy Communion
with Junior Church in term time



5pm Choral Evensong

Wednesday

10.15am Quiet Holy Communion

Morning & Evening Prayer

Please check the Weekly Newsletter for details

