



INVERNESS
CATHEDRAL

CHORAL EVENSONG

Sunday 23rd August 2026
The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

Bishop

Most Revd Mark Strange

Precentor

Revd Canon Dr John Cuthbert

Preacher

Very Revd Sarah Murray

Bishop's Chaplain

Revd Katrina O'Neill

Intercessor

Revd Laura Symon

David Friel
Gordon Tocher
Hannah Spencer

Director of Music
Cathedral Organist
Organ Scholar

A warm welcome to all.

EVENSONG, n. [ME.; AS. *Aefensang*; see **EVEN**, n. & **SONG**]
a worship service said or sung at the onset of evening to mark the close of day
and to compose the mind and renew the spirit for the coming day.
(Oxford English Dictionary)

Choral Evensong is a part of the worship which is offered to God by Christian people every hour of the day and night, in every part of the world.

Evensong is drawn almost entirely from the Bible. Its primary purpose is to proclaim the wonderful works of God in history and in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Its secondary purpose is to evoke from the worshipper a response of praise, penitence, prayer, and obedience.

Much of the language of this service is the language spoken and written by our ancestors more than four hundred years ago. It may sound old-fashioned, but its meaning is not out of date.

We invite you to allow the music and words to speak to you in the peace and beauty of this place.

The organ voluntaries are:

before: Psalm Prelude, set 1 no.2 - Herbert Howells [© Novello & Co.]

after: Serenade - Derek Bourgeois [© G & M Brand Publications Ltd.]

Responses: Byrd

Psalm: 116

Setting: Magnificat & Nunc Dimittis in D - Dyson

Anthem: My eyes for beauty pine - Howells

Hymns (NEH): 466, 246, 250

Please stand as you are able as the Choir and Clergy enter.

THE OPENING SENTENCES FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

I St. John 4.16.

God is love; and whosoever abideth in love abideth in God, and God in them

Psalms 96. 9.

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness: let the whole earth stand in awe of God.

Dearly beloved, 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 sit or kneel

THE CONFESSION

The Confession and Absolution invite us to honestly acknowledge our sins before God and to receive God's forgiveness and peace through Christ.

**We confess to God Almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost,
that we have sinned in thought, word and deed,
through our own grievous fault.
Wherefore we pray God to have mercy upon us.
Almighty God have mercy upon us,
forgive us all our sins and deliver us from evil,
confirm and strengthen us in all goodness,
and bring us to life everlasting. Amen**

May the Almighty and merciful Lord grant unto you pardon and remission of all your sins, time for true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Cantor O Lord, open thou our lips
Choir and our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

Cantor O God, make speed to save us
Choir O Lord, make haste to help us.

Please stand as you are able

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.*

We remain standing to sing the hymn:

**Thou whose almighty word
Chaos and darkness heard,
And took their flight;
Hear us, we humbly pray,
And where the gospel day
Sheds not its glorious ray
Let there be light.**

**Thou who didst come to bring
On thy redeeming wing
Healing and sight,
Health to the sick in mind,
Sight to the inly blind,
O now to all mankind
Let there be light.**

**Spirit of truth and love,
Life-giving, holy Dove,
Speed forth thy flight;
Move on the water's face,
Bearing the lamp of grace,
And in earth's darkest place
Let there be light.**

**Blessèd and holy Three,
Glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, Love, Might,
Boundless as ocean's tide
Rolling in fullest pride,
Through the world far and wide
Let there be light.**

NEH 466 (MOSCOW)

Please be seated after the hymn.

THE PSALM

The psalms are prayers from the Old Testament that Jesus used and cover every mood of humanity's relationship with God and with one another.

Psalm 116

- I am well pleased : that the Lord hath heard the voice of my prayer;
2 That he hath inclined his ear unto me : therefore will I call upon him as long as
I live.
3 The snares of death compassed me round about : and the pains of hell gat
hold upon me.
4 I shall find trouble and heaviness, and I will call upon the Name of the Lord :
O Lord, I beseech thee, deliver my soul.
5 Gracious is the Lord, and righteous : yea, our God is merciful.
6 The Lord preserveth the simple : I was in misery, and he helped me.
7 Turn again then unto thy rest, O my soul : for the Lord hath rewarded thee.
8 And why? thou hast delivered my soul from death : mine eyes from tears, and
my feet from falling.
9 I will walk before the Lord : in the land of the living.
10 I believed, and therefore will I speak; but I was sore troubled : I said in my
haste, All men are liars.
11 What reward shall I give unto the Lord : for all the benefits that he hath
done unto me?
12 I will receive the cup of salvation : and call upon the Name of the Lord.
13 I will pay my vows now in the presence of all his people : right dear in the
sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.
14 Behold, O Lord, how that I am thy servant : I am thy servant, and the son of
thine handmaid; thou hast broken my bonds in sunder.
15 I will offer to thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving : and will call upon the Name
of the Lord.
16 I will pay my vows unto the Lord, in the sight of all his people : in the courts
of the Lord's house, even in the midst of thee, O Jerusalem. Praise the Lord.
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

We remain seated

THE FIRST LESSON

This reading is typically from the Old Testament (the Hebrew Scriptures), which Jesus knew and from which he often quoted.

A reading from the book of Exodus

Exodus 4:27 - 5:1

The Lord said to Aaron, 'Go into the wilderness to meet Moses.' So he went; and he met him at the mountain of God and kissed him. Moses told Aaron all the words of the Lord with which he had sent him, and all the signs with which he had charged him. Then Moses and Aaron went and assembled all the elders of the Israelites. Aaron spoke all the words that the Lord had spoken to Moses, and performed the signs in the sight of the people. The people believed; and when they heard that the Lord had given heed to the Israelites and that he had seen their misery, they bowed down and worshipped. Afterwards Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said, 'Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, "Let my people go, so that they may celebrate a festival to me in the wilderness."' "

Here ends the lesson.

Then please stand as you are able as the Choir sing

THE MAGNIFICAT

THE SONG OF MARY

The Magnificat is the Blessed Virgin Mary's song of thanksgiving in response to the news that she will bear the Son of God, fulfilling the promises of the Old Testament.

- +My soul doth magnify the Lord: and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
- 2 For he hath regarded: the lowliness of his hand-maiden.
- 3 For behold, from henceforth: generations shall call me blessed.
- 4 For he that is mighty hath magnified me: and holy is his Name.
- 5 And his mercy is on them that fear him: throughout all generations.
- 6 He hath shewed strength with his arm: He hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
- 7 He hath put down the mighty from their seat: and hath exalted the humble and meek.
- 8 He hath filled the hungry with good things: and the rich he hath sent empty away.
- 9 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.

Then please be seated.

THE SECOND LESSON

This reading is taken from one of the four Gospels, which depict the life, teachings, death, resurrection, and ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ.

A reading from the gospel according to Luke

Luke 13:10-17

Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, 'Woman, you are set free from your ailment.' When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, 'There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured, and not on the sabbath day.' But the Lord answered him and said, 'You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the sabbath day?' When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that he was doing.

Please stand as you are able as the Choir sing

THE NUNC DIMITTIS

THE SONG OF SIMEON

The Nunc dimittis is the song of the aged Simeon, who had been promised by the Holy Spirit that he would not die until he had seen the Messiah. Upon taking the infant Jesus into his arms, Simeon utters these words of thanksgiving.

+Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace:
according to thy word.
2 For mine eyes have seen: thy salvation;

3 Which thou hast prepared:
before the face of all people.
4 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.

Please remain standing, all facing the High Altar.

THE APOSTLE'S CREED

The Apostles' Creed grew from statements of belief made by early Christians at their baptism. The Church continues to confess this same faith in the Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**All 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 in to 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.**

Cantor The Lord be with you
Choir and with thy spirit.

Please sit or kneel

Cantor Let us pray
Lord, have mercy upon us
Choir *Christ, have mercy upon us*
Cantor Lord, have mercy upon us

**All 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**

Cantor O Lord, show 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 thy 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.*

Cantor Let us pray

Almighty and everlasting God, who art always more ready to hear
than we to pray, and art wont to give more than either we desire or
deserve: pour down upon us the abundance of thy mercy; forgiving
us those things whereof our conscience is afraid, and giving us those
good things which we are not worthy to ask, but through the merits
and mediation of Jesus Christ, thy Son, our Lord.
Choir *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 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.

Choir *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 Saviour Jesus Christ.

Choir *Amen.*

All The Lord be with you
And with thy spirit.

All Let us bless the Lord
Thanks be to God.

All May the souls of the faithful departed
through the mercy of God rest in peace
and rise in glory. Amen

The Choir sing the Anthem:
My eyes for beauty pine - Howells

My eyes for beauty pine,
My soul for Goddes grace:
No other care nor hope is mine,
To heaven I turn my face.

One splendour thence is shed
From all the stars above :
'Tis named when God's name is said,
'Tis Love, 'tis heavenly love.

And every gentle heart,
That burns with true desire,
Is lit from eyes that mirror part
Of that celestial fire.

Please continue to sit or kneel for short prayers for the world and for the church.

We now stand as you are able to sing the hymn:

**Holy Father, cheer our way
With thy love's perpetual ray;
Grant us every closing day
Light at evening time.**

**Holy Saviour, calm our fears
When earth's brightness disappears;
Grant us in our latter years
Light at evening time.**

**Holy Spirit, be thou nigh
When in mortal pains we lie;
Grant us, as we come to die,
Light at evening time.**

**Holy, blessèd Trinity,
Darkness is not dark with thee;
Those thou keepest always see
Light at evening time.**

NEH 246 (HUDDERSFIELD)

THE SERMON

Please be seated.

We now stand as are able to sing a hymn, during which an offering will be taken.

**Saviour, again to thy dear name we raise
With one accord our parting hymn of praise.
Guard thou the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,
That in this house have called upon thy name.**

**Grant us thy peace, Lord, through the coming night;
Turn thou for us its darkness into light;
From harm and danger keep thy children free,
For dark and light are both alike to thee.**

**Grant us thy peace throughout our earthly life;
Peace to thy Church from error and from strife;
Peace to our land, the fruit of truth and love;
Peace in each heart, thy Spirit from above:**

**Thy peace in life, the balm of every pain;
Thy peace in death, the hope to rise again;
Then, when thy voice shall bid our conflict cease,
Call us, O Lord, to thine eternal peace.**

NEH 250 (ELLERS)

THE BLESSING

Please remain standing as you are able.

The peace of God, which passeth 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 Ghost, be amongst you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Thank you for joining us in worship. Please enjoy the organ voluntary as our service comes to a close.



Inverness Cathedral, dedicated to St. Andrew
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