

The Cathedral Church of the Holy Trinity
commonly called

**CHRIST CHURCH
DUBLIN**



CHORAL EVENSONG

Sunday 8 September 2024 - The Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary

15.30 Choral Evensong

Sung by the Cathedral Choir

Choral Evensong is essentially a service of reflection – of leaving ourselves open that God may speak to us through the psalms, readings and canticles, which are the core of the service.

We welcome you to share with us in worship that has been offered here for nearly a thousand years. Cathedrals with a great 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 office of Evensong, a combination of the medieval offices of Vespers and Compline. Here beauty in language and music can speak to us of God in a rich and diverse way. Within this hallowed space you may forget the ceaseless activity of daily life and be still.

There are no announcements during services. Please join strongly in all spoken parts and in the singing of hymns (where these are appointed). To aid reflection you are invited to *sit* during the psalmody and canticles.

The recording of any part of the service is strictly prohibited

Introit

Ave Maria gratia plena, Dominus tecum:

Hail, Mary, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee:

benedicta tu in mulieribus et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus.

blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Sancta Maria, Mater Dei, ora pro nobis,

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us we beseech you, Amen

Jacob Arcadelt (1500-1568)

The Angelic Salutation

Please stand when the choir and clergy enter.

Following the reading of the sentence, the Priest introduces the 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 cloke them before the face of almighty God; but confess them with an humble, lowly, penitent and obedient heart; to the end that we may obtain forgiveness of the same, by their 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 their hands, to set forth their most worthy praise, to hear their 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, as we sit or kneel and humbly confess our sins unto almighty God.

The Confession

Almighty and most merciful God; **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 humankind in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful God, for their sake; That we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, To the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.**

The Absolution

Almighty God, who desireth not the death of a sinner, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness, and live; and hath given power, and commandment, to their Ministers, to declare and pronounce to their people, being penitent, the Absolution and Remission of their sins: They pardoneth and absolveth all them that truly repent, and unfeignedly believe their holy Gospel. Wherefore let us beseech them to grant us true repentance, and their Holy Spirit, that those things may please them 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 their eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Preces

Richard Ayleward (1626-1669)

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.
Cantor Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Spirit;
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

The Choir sings the psalm(s) appointed for the day, Psalm 132

Please sit

Lord remember David :
and all his trouble;
How he sware unto the Lord :
and vowed a vow unto the Almighty God of Jacob;
I will not come within the tabernacle of mine house :
nor climb up into my bed;
I will not suffer mine eyes to sleep, nor mine eye-lids to slumber :
neither the temples of my head to take any rest;
Until I find out a place for the temple of the Lord :
an habitation for the mighty God of Jacob.
Lo, we heard of the same at Ephrata :
and found it in the wood.
We will go into his tabernacle :
and fall low on our knees before his footstool.
Arise, O Lord, into thy resting-place :
thou, and the ark of thy strength.
Let thy priests be clothed with righteousness :
and let thy saints sing with joyfulness.
For thy servant David's sake :
turn not away the presence of thine Anointed.
The Lord hath made a faithful oath unto David :
and he shall not shrink from it;
Of the fruit of thy body :
shall I set upon thy seat.
If thy children will keep my covenant, and my testimonies that I shall learn them :
their children also shall sit upon thy seat for evermore.
For the Lord hath chosen Sion to be an habitation for himself :
he hath longed for her.
This shall be my rest for ever :
here will I dwell, for I have a delight therein.
I will bless her victuals with increase :
and will satisfy her poor with bread.
I will deck her priests with health :
and her saints shall rejoice and sing.
There shall I make the horn of David to flourish :
I have ordained a lantern for mine Anointed.
As for his enemies, I shall clothe them with shame :
but upon himself shall his crown flourish.
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 sit*

Please stand

The First Lesson – Song of Solomon 2: 1-7

The Magnificat *The song of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

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. 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. *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. *Please sit*

George Dyson (1883-1964) Evening Service in D

The Second Lesson – Luke 11: 27-28

The Nunc Dimittis *The song of Simeon*

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. *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.

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 Spirit,
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 Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the Communion of Saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.

The Lesser Litany and Responses

Cantor The Lord be with you
Choir and with thy spirit.
Cantor Let us pray

Please kneel or 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.

Cantor O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us;
Choir and grant us thy salvation.
Cantor O Lord, guide and defend our rulers;
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 Collect of the Day

Almighty and everlasting God, who stooped to raise fallen humanity through the child-bearing of blessed Mary: grant that we, who have seen your glory revealed in our human nature and your love made perfect in our weakness, may daily be renewed in your image and conformed to the pattern of your Son, Jesu Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of 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 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.

Anthem

Ave Maria gratia plena, Dominus tecum:
Hail, Mary, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee:
benedicta tu in mulieribus et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus.
blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Sancta Maria, Mater Dei, ora pro nobis peccatoribus,
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners,
nunc et in hora mortis nostrae. Amen.
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Anton Bruckner (1824-96)

The Angelic Salutation

The Prayers

Following the Prayers, we say together

**The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the Love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all for evermore. Amen**

Please stand

The Hymn *during which a collection will be taken in support of the Cathedral's mission*



**Shall we not love thee, Mother dear,
Whom Jesus loves so well,
And to his glory year by year
Thy praise and honour tell?**

**Thee did he choose from whom to take
True flesh, his flesh to be;
In it to suffer for our sake,
And by it make us free.**

**O wondrous depth of love divine,
That he should bend so low;
And, Mary, O what joy was thine
The Saviour's love to know.**

**Joy to be Mother of the Lord,
Yet thine the truer bliss,
In every thought and deed and word
To be for ever his.**

**Now in the realm of life above
Close to thy Son thou art,
While on thy soul glad streams of love
Flow from his sacred heart.**

**Jesu, the Virgin's holy Son,
Praise we thy Mother blest;
Grant when our earthly course is run,
Life with the saints at rest.**

Tune: Beatitudo
J.B. Dykes (1823-76)

H.W. Baker (1821-77)

The Blessing

*The service concludes with the procession of the clergy and choir.
Please sit for the Organ voluntary*

