December 11, 2022

Welcome! Our vision is to be an extraordinary spiritual gathering place where people of all backgrounds and ages are welcome to question and learn, pray, worship and serve; being loved by God in ways that change and improve their lives and the lives of others.

Please silence all electronic devices.
This service is also livestreamed on our Facebook page and YouTube channel.

Concerning the service

Evensong is an offering in song to God, the giver of all beauty and goodness. Based on services held daily in the medieval Church, Evensong as arranged in the Book of Common Prayer of the Anglican Church has been sung regularly since the sixteenth century, with only a few breaks (during the Commonwealth in the seventeenth century). This atmospheric and deeply personal form of worship appeals to persons of many faiths and has been adopted as an American tradition in many parishes and cathedrals of the Episcopal Church.

In Advent, the Invitatory is followed by the lighting of the appropriate candles on the Advent Wreath, and then the appointed psalm is sung by all. A lesson, usually from the Old Testament (except of Saints days and in Easter season) is read and we then sing the first of the traditional Evening Canticles, Magnificat, the song of the Blessed Virgin Mary when the promises of the Old Testament came true (Luke 1). A lesson from the New Testament proclaims the good news of Jesus Christ, and this is followed by the Nunc Dimittis, the song of the aged Simeon when he had seen our Lord in the Temple at Jerusalem (Luke 2). Nunc Dimittis is a particularly appropriate text at the end of one’s day.

All then say the Apostles’ Creed, an expression of faith of those who, generation by generation in the Christian Church, respond to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, crucified and alive. Prayers are then sung and said, ending with the Collects which collect our thoughts.

The timeless and simple liturgy of Evensong readily embraces musical expressions from many centuries. Here in the Cathedral, Evensong is offered weekly at 4:00 p.m. On the first, third, and fifth Sundays of the month, Cathedral Evensong (the service offered this afternoon) is sung by the congregation. On the second and fourth Sundays of the month, Choral Evensong is sung by one of the Cathedral choirs.

In this afternoon’s service

Officiant
The Rev’d Anthony C. Estes

Lector
Mr. Andy Anyanwun

Homilist
The Very Rev’d Dr. S. Scott Hunter

Organist
Canon Jeremy David Tarrant

Cantor
Mr. Joseph Edmonds

Technology
Dr. Sarah Simko
Please stand as you are able. The Officiant then begins with

The Invitatory

Officiant

O God, make speed to save us.

People

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Officiant and People

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Al-le-lu-ia.

Prayers at the Advent Wreath

The following is sung as the Advent wreath is lit. The Cantor sings and all repeat

Blessed are you, Sovereign Lord, just and true; to you, be praise and glory forever!

Cantor

Your prophet John the Baptist was witness to the truth as a burning and shining light. May we your servants rejoice in his light, and so be led to witness to him who is the Lord of our coming kingdom

People

Jesus our Savior and King of the ages, Blessed be God forever.
6 The LORD executes / righteousness * and judgment for all who are op-/ pressed.
7 He made his ways known to / Moses * and his works to the children of / Israel.

8 The LORD is full of compassion and / mercy, * slow to anger and of great / kindness.
9 He will not always ac-/ use us, * nor will he keep his anger for / ever.

20 Bless the LORD, you angels of his, you mighty ones who do his / bidding, *
   and hearken to the voice of his / word.
21 Bless the LORD, all you his / hosts, * you ministers of his who do his / will.
†22 Bless the LORD, all you works of his, in all places of his do-/ minion; * bless the LORD, O my / soul.

Glory to the Father, and to the / Son, * and to the Holy / Spirit:
As it was in the beginning, is / now, * and will be for ever. A-/ men.

Please be seated.
The First Lesson  Amos 9:11-15

On that day I will raise up
   the booth of David that is fallen,
and repair its breaches,
   and raise up its ruins,
and rebuild it as in the days of old;
in order that they may possess the remnant of Edom
   and all the nations who are called by my name,
says the LORD who does this.
The time is surely coming, says the LORD,
   when the one who ploughs shall overtake the one who reaps,
and the treader of grapes the one who sows the seed;
the mountains shall drip sweet wine,
   and all the hills shall flow with it.
I will restore the fortunes of my people Israel,
   and they shall rebuild the ruined cities and inhabit them;
they shall plant vineyards and drink their wine,
   and they shall make gardens and eat their fruit.
I will plant them upon their land,
   and they shall never again be plucked up
out of the land that I have given them,
says the LORD your God.
Please stand as you are able and sing

The Song of Mary  Magnificat

Words paraphrase of the Magnificat
Music Kingsfold, arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Please be seated.

The Second Lesson  John 3:22-30

Jesus and his disciples went into the Judean countryside, and he spent some time there with them and baptized. John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim because water was abundant there; and people kept coming and were being baptized—John, of course, had not yet been thrown into prison. Now a discussion about
purification arose between John’s disciples and a Jew. They came to John and said to him, “Rabbi, the one who was with you across the Jordan, to whom you testified, here he is baptizing, and all are going to him.” John answered, “No one can receive anything except what has been given from heaven. You yourselves are my witnesses that I said, “I am not the Messiah, but I have been sent ahead of him.” He who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom’s voice. For this reason my joy has been fulfilled. He must increase, but I must decrease.”

*Please stand as you are able and sing*

**The Song of Simeon**  *Nunc dimittis*

\[\text{Music: Nyland, Finnish folk melody}\]

\[\text{Words: Ernest E. Ryden, 1886-1981, alt., based on the Nunc dimittis}\]
Remaining standing, all say together
The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
    creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord.
    He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
    and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
    was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
    and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living 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 Prayers

Officiant    The Lord be with you.
People       And also with you.
Officiant    Let us pray.

Officiant and People
Our 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.
For thine is the kingdom,
    and the power, and the glory,
    for ever and ever. Amen.
The Suffrages

*Cantor or Officiant*

That this evening may be holy, good, and peaceful,

*People (sung after each petition)*

We entreat you, O Lord.

That your holy angels may lead us in paths of peace and goodwill,

That we may be pardoned and forgiven for our sins and offenses,

That there may be peace to your Church and to the whole world,

That we may depart this life in your faith and fear,

and not be condemned before the great judgment seat of Christ,

That we may be bound together by your Holy Spirit in the communion of

[all your saints, entrusting one another and all our life to Christ,
The Collect of the Day
Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

A Collect for Sunday
Lord God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ triumphed over the powers of death and prepared for us our place in the new Jerusalem: Grant that we, who have this day given thanks for his resurrection, may praise you in that City of which he is the light, and where he lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

A Collect for Mission
Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. Amen.

Please be seated.
Words of Welcome and Announcements

Please as stand you are able and sing
Hymn 68 Rejoice, rejoice, believers Llanglofian
The Homily

Prayers of Intercession and Thanksgivings

All say together
A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Almighty God,
you have given us grace at this time with one accord
to make our common supplication to you;
and you have promised through your well-beloved Son
that when two or three are gathered together in his Name
you will be in the midst of them;
Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us;
granting us in this world knowledge of your truth,
and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.

Cantor or Officiant

Let us bless the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

The Officiant then concludes with
The Gracc

Please remain standing as the procession leaves the Cathedral.
Organ Conditor alme siderum Marcel Dupré (1886-1971)