



St James's
PICCADILLY

Choral Evensong for the Patronal Festival of St James

According to the 1662 Book of
Common Prayer

Sunday 20th July 2025
at 3pm

With St James's Lay Singers and Singing Scholars

Organist: Ashley Chow

Director of Music: Michael Haslam



The service of Evensong is an historic one from the foundational prayerbook of the Anglican Communion: the Book of Common Prayer 1662. This prayerbook was a key document in the English Reformation as it brought together traditions from the Roman Catholic church (for example, singing the Magnificat at Vespers) with the Protestant insistence that the Bible was to be read in the vernacular language of the people.

The architect of the Prayer Book, Thomas Cranmer, took the monastic services of Matins, Lauds, Vespers and so on and condensed them into two main services of Morning and Evening Prayer, which all clergy still undertake at their ordination to say every day. But the point of these new services was that they were not to be restricted to religious communities; they were services of the people sung or said by the people in their own language.

Evening Prayer according to the Book of Common Prayer was, in its time, a radical service, but one that acknowledged its debt to the past as well as creating something new for the future. It has been said or sung in churches ever since as a way of thanking God for the day that is past; and in cathedrals is sung often every day of the week. For the congregation it has evolved into a service that is a mixture of participation by speaking or singing and participation by meditation while the choir sings.

The congregation sing the hymns, and say the Creed, the Lord's Prayer and some of the responses. The choir sing the canticles: Magnificat (the Song of Mary from Luke's gospel) and Nunc Dimittis (the Song of Simeon from Luke's gospel) and "in quires and places where they sing" an anthem too.

ORDER OF SERVICE

INTROIT

*The choir sings **We Shall Be Known**, words and music by Karisha Longaker of MaMuse (2016)*

We shall be known by the company we keep,
By the ones who circle round to tend these fires.
We shall be known by the ones who sow and reap
the seeds of change alive from deep within the earth.

It is time now, it is time now that we thrive.
It is time we lead ourselves into the well.
It is time now, and what a time time to be alive
in this great turning we shall learn to lead in love.

OPENING HYMN

[Tune: Michael; Words: R. Bridges (1844-1930) from Joachim Neander (1650-1680) – “Meine Hoffnung stehet feste”]

**All my hope on God is founded;
he doth still my trust renew.
Me through change and chance he guideth,
only good and only true.
God unknown, he alone
calls my heart to be his own.**

**Human pride and earthly glory,
sword and crown betray God’s trust;
what with care and toil he buildeth,
tow’r and temple, fall to dust.
But God’s pow’r, hour by hour,
is my temple and my tow’r.**

God's great goodness aye endureth,
deep his wisdom passing thought;
splendour, light and life attend him,
beauty springeth out of naught.
Evermore from God's store
new-born worlds rise and adore.

Still from us to God eternal
sacrifice of praise be done,
high above all praises praising
for the gift of Christ God's Son.
Christ doth call one and all:
ye who follow shall not fall.

RESPONSES: *Joanna Forbes L'Estrange*

The minister sings

O Lord, open thou our lips.

The choir sings

And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

Minister

O God, make speed to save us.

Choir

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Here, all standing up, the minister shall sing

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.

Minister

Praise ye the Lord.

Choir

The Lord's name be praised.

Please sit.

PSALM 150 *set by Charles Stanford*

The choir sings

O praise God in his holiness:
praise him in the firmament of his power.

Praise him in his noble acts:
praise him according to his excellent greatness.

Praise him in the sound of the trumpet:
praise him upon the lute and harp.

Praise him in the cymbals and dances:
praise him upon the strings and pipe.

Praise him upon the well-tuned cymbals:
praise him upon the loud cymbals.

Let every thing that hath breath:
praise the Lord.

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.

THE FIRST LESSON

Jeremiah 26.1-15

At the beginning of the reign of King Jehoiakim son of Josiah of Judah, this word came from the Lord: Thus says the Lord: Stand in the court of the Lord's house, and speak to all the cities of Judah that come to worship in the house of the Lord; speak to them all the words that I command you; do not hold back a word. It may be that they will listen, all of them, and will turn from their evil way, that I may change my mind about the disaster that I intend to bring on them because of their evil doings. You shall say to them: Thus says the Lord: If you will not listen to me, to walk in my law that I have set before you, and to heed the words of my servants the prophets whom I send to you urgently—though you have not heeded— then I will make this house like Shiloh, and I will make this city a curse for all the nations of the earth.

The priests and the prophets and all the people heard Jeremiah speaking these words in the house of the Lord. And when Jeremiah had finished speaking all that the Lord had commanded him to speak to all the people, then the priests and the prophets and all the people laid hold of him, saying, 'You shall die! Why have you prophesied in the name

of the Lord, saying, "This house shall be like Shiloh, and this city shall be desolate, without inhabitant"?' And all the people gathered around Jeremiah in the house of the Lord.

When the officials of Judah heard these things, they came up from the king's house to the house of the Lord and took their seat in the entry of the New Gate of the house of the Lord. Then the priests and the prophets said to the officials and to all the people, 'This man deserves the sentence of death because he has prophesied against this city, as you have heard with your own ears.'

Then Jeremiah spoke to all the officials and all the people, saying, 'It is the Lord who sent me to prophesy against this house and this city all the words you have heard. Now therefore amend your ways and your doings, and obey the voice of the Lord your God, and the Lord will change his mind about the disaster that he has pronounced against you. But as for me, here I am in your hands. Do with me as seems good and right to you. Only know for certain that if you put me to death, you will be bringing innocent blood upon yourselves and upon this city and its inhabitants, for in truth the Lord sent me to you to speak all these words in your ears.'

Here ends the first lesson.

Please stand.

MAGNIFICAT *Charles Stanford setting in C*

The choir sings

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.

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.

THE SECOND LESSON

Mark 1.14-20

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee,
proclaiming the good news of God, and saying,
'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near;
repent, and believe in the good news.'

As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake—for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, ‘Follow me and I will make you fish for people.’ And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

Here ends the second lesson.

Please stand.

NUNC DIMITTIS *Charles Stanford setting in C*

The choir sings

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.

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 shall be said the Apostles' Creed, by the minister and the people standing.

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 catholic Church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

THE LESSER LITANY

The minister says

The Lord be with you.

All say

And with thy spirit.

Please sit or kneel.

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Then the minister, clerks, and people shall say the Lord's Prayer
with a loud voice.*

**Our Father, which 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 them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
Amen.**

Then the minister standing up shall sing

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

Choir

And grant us thy salvation.

Minister

O Lord, save the King.

Choir

And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Minister

Endue thy Ministers with righteousness.

Choir

And make thy chosen people joyful.

Minister

O Lord, save thy people.

Choir

And bless thine inheritance.

Minister

Give peace in our time, O Lord.

Choir

Because there is none other that fighteth for us,
but only thou, O God.

Minister

O God, make clean our hearts within us.

Choir

And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

*Then shall follow three Collects; the first of the day; the second
for Peace; the third for Aid against all Perils.*

THE COLLECT FOR THE FEAST OF SAINT JAMES

Grant, O merciful God,
that as thine holy Apostle Saint James,
leaving his father and all that he had, without delay was
obedient unto the calling of thy Son Jesus Christ,
and followed him:
so we, forsaking all worldly and carnal affections,
may be evermore ready to follow thy holy commandments;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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.

In quires and places where they sing, here followeth the anthem:

O Love, words: George Matheson (1842-1906) adapted,
music: Elaine Hagenberg (b.1979)

O Love that will not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee.
I give thee back the life I owe,
that in thine ocean depths its flow
may richer, fuller be.
O Joy that seeks me through the pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee.
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
and feel the promise is not vain,
that morn shall tearless be.

THE PRAYERS

HYMN

[Tune: Luckington; Words: George Herbert (1593-1633)]

**Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing,
my God and King!
The heav'ns are not too high,
his praise may thither fly;
the earth is not too low,
his praises there may grow.
Let all the world in every corner sing,
my God and King!**

**Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing,
my God and King!
The church with psalms must shout,
no door can keep them out;**

**but, above all, the heart
must bear the longest part.
Let all the world in every corner sing,
my God and King!**

THE SERMON

The Reverend Dr Ivan Khovacs

During the final hymn, a collection will be taken. If you have cash, please fill in a Gift Aid envelope.

If you don't have cash, please use the tap donate device in the collection plate, which is set to £5, or the QR code on page 17.

HYMN

[Tune: Old Hundredth; Music: melody from *Genevan Psalter*; arr. Vaughan Williams; Words: William Kethe (d. 1594)]

**All people that on earth do dwell,
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
Him serve with fear, his praise forth tell,
Come ye before him, and rejoice.**

**The Lord, ye know, is God indeed,
Without our aid he did us make;
We are his folk, he doth us feed,
And for his sheep he doth us take.**

**O enter then his gates with praise,
Approach with joy his courts unto;
Praise, laud, and bless his name always,
For it is seemly so to do.**

**For why? The Lord our God is good:
His mercy is for ever sure;
His truth, at all times firmly stood,
And shall from age to age endure.**

**To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
The God whom heaven and earth adore,
From all and from the Angel-host,
Be praise and glory evermore.
Amen.**

THE BLESSING

The minister says

Go forth into the world in peace;
be of good courage, hold fast that which is good,
render to no one evil for evil.
Strengthen the fainthearted, support the weak,
help the afflicted, honour all people.
Love and serve God,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit,
and the blessing of God;
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.



DONATE ONLINE

In addition to the physical collection, if you do not have cash with you, please scan this QR code with your smartphone to make a one-off or regular donation.

Alternatively, please visit sjp.org.uk/donate, or us one of the tap donation points in the church.

Choral Evensong from St James's Piccadilly

BBC Radio 3 - Wednesday 13th August at 3pm



Tune into BBC Radio 3 on Wednesday 13th August for Choral Evensong from St James's, with Genesis Sixteen, singing Palestrina with The Revd Lucy Winkett officiating and Michael Haslam organist.

London Trans Pride

Saturday 26th July at 1pm

Join us on Saturday 26th July as we share our love and support for London Trans Pride. The trans community needs support and care this year more than ever – your presence makes a difference.

Marchers will gather in front of All Souls, Langham Place from 1pm, before setting off down Regent Street towards Piccadilly



Circus and then on to Green Park and Wellington Arch for community speeches at 4pm.

How you can help:

- Come and hold signs of welcome as marchers pass by St James's.
- Bring cake and help us to offer hospitality (tea, cordial and cake)
- Spread the word and invite others to join.

All are welcome!

Thanksgiving for the Marriage of Georgina Elsey and James Anson at St James's

Saturday 9th August at 1pm

Many from SJP will remember Georgina who was an active member of the congregation between 2011 and 2016. She left London to train and be ordained, and after her curacy and growing her hair, became an army chaplain.

Along the way, she met James, fell in love, and first she proposed, then he proposed as well. They booked to get



married at our beautiful church this summer, but due to illness in the family, Lucy officiated their marriage service at a hospice in September last year.

They are still doing the big day as planned (just not the legal bit!) and they would be delighted to invite those who remember Georgina fondly to attend the service. Big hats optional!

St James's Parish Retreat

Friday 17th to Sunday 19th October 2025

After the great success of the retreat last year, we are planning to return to Wychcroft House, in the Surrey countryside, for our 2025 Parish Retreat from 17th to 19th October. In this beautiful and peaceful setting, you will get to meet other St James's folk, both socially and spiritually. It's both restful and enjoyable.



Since applications opened last week, we've experienced heavy demand for places on the retreat.

Bookings to include accommodation are now full, but we are accepting

applications to add to a waiting list as cancellations do sometimes happen. There are still spaces available for daytime participants (i.e. without overnight stay).

Please register as soon as possible. The online registration form can be found at:

<https://sjp.churchsuite.com/-/forms/c5029m1a>

Paper copies of the form are available from Sarah Gillett or Trevor Lines after the service on Sunday.

We would like to ensure that financial circumstances are not a barrier to attendance, so if you need support to come, in the first instance, please contact Trevor Lines at:

trevord986@gmail.com

If you would like to make a donation towards supporting others on retreat, this would be very gratefully received.