



St James's
PICCADILLY

Choral Evensong

for Black History Month

According to the 1662 Book of
Common Prayer

Sunday 11th October 2026
at 3pm

With St James's Lay Singers and Singing Scholars
Organist and Director of Music: Harrison Knights
Associate Choral Director: Harrison Knights



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 **Striving After God**, words: after Michelangelo;
music: Undine Smith Moore (1904-1989).*

True art is made noble and religious
by the mind producing it.
For those who feel it,
nothing makes the soul so religious and pure
as the endeavour to create something perfect.
For God is perfection
And whoever strives after perfection
is striving after God.

RESPONSES: *Michael Haslam*

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 60 *chant: Samuel Wesley (1766-1837)*

The choir sings

O God, thou hast cast us out, and scattered us abroad :
thou hast also been displeased; O turn thee unto us again.

Thou hast moved the land, and divided it :
heal the sores thereof, for it shaketh.

Thou hast shewed thy people heavy things :
thou hast given us a drink of deadly wine.

Thou hast given a token for such as fear thee :
that they may triumph because of the truth.

Therefore were thy beloved delivered :
help me with thy right hand, and hear me.

God hath spoken in his holiness, I will rejoice, and divide
Sichem :
and mete out the valley of Succoth.

Gilead is mine, and Manasses is mine :
Ephraim also is the strength of my head; Judah is my law-giver;

Moab is my wash-pot; over Edom will I cast out my shoe :
Philistia, be thou glad of me.

Who will lead me into the strong city :
who will bring me into Edom?

Hast not thou cast us out, O God :
wilt not thou, O God, go out with our hosts?

O be thou our help in trouble :
for vain is the help of man.

Through God will we do great acts :
for it is he that shall tread down our enemies.

PSALM 61 *chant: Thomas Tomkins (1572-1656)*

Hear my crying, O God : give ear unto my prayer.

From the ends of the earth will I call upon thee :
when my heart is in heaviness.

O set me up upon the rock that is higher than I :
for thou hast been my hope, and a strong tower for me
against the enemy.

I will dwell in thy tabernacle for ever :
and my trust shall be under the covering of thy wings.

For thou, O Lord, hast heard my desires :
and hast given an heritage unto those that fear thy Name.

Thou shalt grant the King a long life :
that his years may endure throughout all generations.

He shall dwell before God for ever :
O prepare thy loving mercy and faithfulness,
that they may preserve him.

So will I always sing praise unto thy Name :
that I may daily perform my vows.

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

Proverbs 3.1-18

My child, do not forget my teaching,
but let your heart keep my commandments;
for length of days and years of life
and abundant welfare they will give you.

Do not let loyalty and faithfulness forsake you;
bind them round your neck,
write them on the tablet of your heart.
So you will find favour and good repute
in the sight of God and of people.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
and do not rely on your own insight.
In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make straight your paths.
Do not be wise in your own eyes;
fear the Lord, and turn away from evil.
It will be a healing for your flesh
and a refreshment for your body.

Honour the Lord with your substance
and with the first fruits of all your produce;
then your barns will be filled with plenty,
and your vats will be bursting with wine.

My child, do not despise the Lord's discipline
or be weary of his reproof,
for the Lord reproves the one he loves,
as a father the son in whom he delights.

Happy are those who find wisdom,
and those who get understanding,
for her income is better than silver,
and her revenue better than gold.
She is more precious than jewels,
and nothing you desire can compare with her.
Long life is in her right hand;
in her left hand are riches and honour.
Her ways are ways of pleasantness,
and all her paths are peace.
She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her;
those who hold her fast are called happy.

Here ends the first lesson.

Please stand.

MAGNIFICAT Short Service in the Dorian Mode

(Nicholas Strogers fl. 1560-1575)

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

1 John 3.1-15

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him.

Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous. Everyone who commits sin is a child of the devil; for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The Son of God was revealed for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil. Those who have been born of God do not sin, because God's seed abides in them;* they cannot sin, because they have been born of God. The children of God and the children of the devil are revealed in this way: all who do not do what is right are not from God, nor are those who do not love their brothers and sisters.

For this is the message you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. We must not be like Cain who was from the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous. Do not be astonished, brothers and sisters,* that the world hates you. We know that we have passed from death to life because we love one another.

Whoever does not love abides in death. All who hate a brother or sister are murderers, and you know that murderers do not have eternal life abiding in them.

Here ends the second lesson.

Please stand.

NUNC DIMITTIS *Short Service in the Dorian Mode*

(Nicholas Strogers fl. 1560-1575)

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 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.**

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 NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

O God, forasmuch as without thee
we are not able to please thee;
mercifully grant, that thy Holy Spirit
may in all things direct and rule our hearts;
through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord,
who liveth and reigneth with thee,
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.

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

Let My Love Be Heard, words: Alfred Noyes (1880-1958);
music: Jake Runestad (b. 1986).

Angels, where you soar
Up to God's own light,
Take my own lost bird
On your hearts tonight;
And as grief once more
Mounts to heaven and sings,
Let my love be heard
Whispering in your wings.

THE PRAYERS

HYMN

[Tune: Franconia; Words: vs 1 & 3 John Keeble (1792-1866), vs 2 & 4 William John Hall's 'Psalms and Hymns' (1836), alt.]

**Blest are the pure in heart,
for they shall see our God;
the secret of the Lord is theirs,
their soul is Christ's abode.**

**The Lord who left the heav'ns
our life and peace to bring,
to dwell in lowliness with us,
their pattern and their King.**

**Still to the lowly soul
Christ doth himself impart,
and for his dwelling and his throne
chooseth the pure in heart.**

**Lord, we thy presence seek;
may ours this blessing be:
give us a pure and lowly heart,
a temple meet for thee.**

THE SERMON

The Reverend Dr Ayla Lepine

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: St Clement; Words: John Ellerton (1826-1893)]

**The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended,
the darkness falls at thy behest;
to thee our morning hymns ascended,
thy praise shall sanctify our rest.**

**We thank thee that thy Church unsleeping,
while earth rolls onward into light,
through all the world her watch is keeping,
and rests not now by day or night.**

**As o'er each continent and island
the dawn leads on another day,
the voice of prayer is never silent,
nor dies the strain of praise away.**

**The sun that bids us rest is waking
our brethren 'neath the western sky,
and hour by hour fresh lips are making
thy wondrous doings heard on high.**

**So be it, Lord; thy throne shall never,
like earth's proud empires, pass away;
thy kingdom stands, and grows for ever,
till all thy creatures own thy sway.**

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.



*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 use one of the tap
donation points in the church. Donations
will appear on your bank statement as
'Supported Business'.*



DONATE ONLINE

Genesis Sixteen Alumni Choral Evensong

Tuesday 13th October at 6pm

Experience the beauty and stillness of Choral Evensong as Genesis Sixteen alumni return to St James's Piccadilly for an evening of exceptional choral music.

Bringing together singers from the renowned Genesis Sixteen programme, this special service features music by Charles Villiers Stanford, Lucy Walker and Joanna Forbes-L'Estrange, conducted by Olivia Tait. The organist is Michael Haslam.

The programme includes Stanford's Evening Service in C, Lucy Walker's *Lighten Our Darkness* and *O Sing to the Lord*, alongside responses by Joanna Forbes-L'Estrange.

A chance to hear outstanding young choral voices, this Choral Evensong is open to all and forms part of St James's ongoing relationship with The Sixteen and its commitment to



celebrating and nurturing the next generation of choral musicians.

The Revd Lucy Winkett will be officiating.

This service will be recorded by BBC Radio 3 for future broadcast on Wednesday 28th October 2026.

Celebrating the Saints Together on Sunday 1st November

11am Eucharist at St Pancras, Euston Road

In church and online

For the Feast of All Saints, the congregations of St James's and St Pancras will worship as one community together.

The Eucharist will be at St Pancras, Euston Road at 11am,
The Revd Jonathan Lee will preside and The Revd Lucy Winkett will preach.

All are welcome as we celebrate the joy and the love of the saints in heaven and earth. Please note that there will be no service at 11am at St James's on that day!



Black History Month Pilgrimage

Friday 23rd October, 10am-3pm

Meet at Limehouse DLR Station, Branch Road exit

Join the Diocese of London for a Black History Month pilgrimage exploring the theme "Out of Many Cultures, One People."

On Friday 23rd October, the walk will explore Tower Hamlets from Limehouse to Cable Street, uncovering overlooked stories of migration, community and resistance, and reflecting on their significance for racial justice today.

Led by the Rt Revd Dr Anderson Jeremiah, Bishop of Edmonton and for Racial Justice, and historian Dr Robin Whitburn, the pilgrimage will include opportunities for prayer, reflection and short liturgical moments.

Register to join the pilgrimage at:

www.london.anglican.org/articles/black-history-month-pilgrimage-october-2026



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