



St. John's Episcopal Church

A place to discover connections with God and one another in Christ
www.sjparish.net

Fourth Sunday in Lent

CHORAL EVENSONG

March 15, 2026

5:00 p.m.

WELCOME

We are grateful that you have chosen to spend your Sunday evening with us, participating in one of the most beautiful and ancient customs of Anglican worship – Choral Evensong. It is a service of prayer, scripture, and music offered around sunset. It originated in 16th-century England as a blend of Vespers and Compline, two ancient monastic offices. Taken from our Book of Common Prayer, the archaic, poetic language might call to mind that of William Shakespeare.

Evensong is an opportunity to reflect on our day's end and pray that Christ, the Light of the World, may "lighten our darkness." Since its origin, Evensong has been offered continuously in parishes, chapels, and cathedrals throughout the world. With its ancient prayers and traditional music, Evensong unites us with the entire Anglican communion past and present.

Your role as a participant is simply to be in a quiet space, allow the prayers of the clergy and choir to enter your soul, and sing and recite the portions indicated, as you feel comfortable.

Please turn off your portable devices upon arrival.

Your donations make these services and events possible. Thank you for your generosity.

ORDER OF SERVICE

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Fantazia of foure parts

Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625)

The people stand as the procession enters the Nave and are seated when the choir sits.

OPENING SENTENCE

Psalm 141:2

Let my prayer be set forth in thy sight as the incense, and let the lifting up of my hands ben an evening sacrifice.

THE PRECES

William Smith (1603-1645)

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.

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.

The people are seated.

PSALM 46 *Deus noster refugium*

Tone V.1

- 1 God is our hope and strength, *
a very present help in trouble.
- 2 Therefore will we not fear, though the earth be moved, *
and though the hills be carried into the midst of the sea;
- 3 Though the waters thereof rage and swell, *
and though the mountains shake at the tempest of the same.
- 4 The rivers of the flood thereof shall make glad the city of God; *
the holy place of the tabernacle of the Most Highest.
- 5 God is in the midst of her, therefore shall she not be removed; *
God shall help her, and that right early.
- 6 The heathen make much ado, and the kingdoms are moved; *
but God hath showed his voice, and the earth shall melt away.
- 7 The Lord of hosts is with us; *
the God of Jacob is our refuge.
- 8 O come hither, and behold the works of the Lord, *
what destruction he hath brought upon the earth.
- 9 He maketh wars to cease in all the world; *
he breaketh the bow, and knappeth the spear in sunder, and burneth the chariots in the fire.
- 10 Be still then, and know that I am God: *
I will be exalted among the heathen, and I will be exalted in the earth.
- 11 The Lord of hosts is with us; *
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,*
and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning is now, and will be forever,*
world without end. Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Romans 8:11-25

If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you. So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption,

the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

MAGNIFICAT from Short Service

Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625)

My soul doth magnify the Lord,
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.

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 showed 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.

SECOND LESSON

John 6:27-40

Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.' Then they said to him, 'What must we do to perform the works of God?' Jesus answered them, 'This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.' So they said to him, 'What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, "He gave them bread from heaven to eat."' Then Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.' They said to him, 'Sir, give us this bread always.' Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me.'

And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day.'

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

NUNC DIMITTIS from Short Service

Orlando Gibbons

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.

The people stand and say together:

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 RESPONSES

William Smith

Cantor The Lord be with you.

Choir And with thy spirit.

Cantor Let us pray.

The people kneel or remain standing.

Cantor Lord, have mercy upon us.

Choir 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, show thy mercy upon us.

Choir And grant us thy salvation.

Cantor O Lord, save the State.

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 COLLECTS *“Amen” is sung by the Choir.*

Of the day

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which giveth life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

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 our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee, we, being defended from the fear of all enemies, may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior.

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.

The people are seated.

ANTHEM Lord, let me know mine end

Maurice Greene (1696-1755)
Text: Psalm 39:5-8,13,15

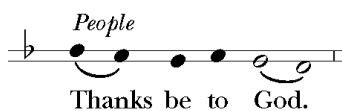
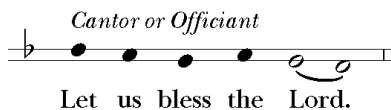
Lord, let me know mine end, and the number of my days:
that I may be certified how long I have to live.
Behold, thou hast made my days as it were a span long:
and mine age is even as nothing in respect of thee;
and verily every man living is altogether vanity.
For man walketh in a vain shadow,
and disquieteth himself in vain:
he heapeth up riches, and cannot tell who shall gather them.
And now, Lord, what is my hope:
truly my hope is even in thee.
Hear my prayer, O Lord,
and with thine ears consider my calling:
hold not thy peace at my tears.
O spare me a little, that I may recover my strength:
before I go hence, and be no more seen.

The people stand and say together:

THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we thine unworthy servants do give thee most humble and hearty thanks for all thy goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all. We bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we beseech thee, give us that due sense of all thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful; and that we show forth thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to thy service, and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

DISMISSAL



Officiant The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore.

People Amen.

HYMN 511

Abide with me

EVENTIDE

CONCLUDING VOLUNTARY

Master Tallis's Testament

Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

*The people may be seated once the procession has exited the Nave.
Please remain quiet during the Voluntary, which is the final part of our worship.*

Participants

The Reverend Margie Baker, *Officiant*

John Nowacki, *Crucifer*

Abby White and Kara Hart, *Layreaders*

Nick Capozzoli, *Director of Music*

The St. John's Schola

Soprano

Kara Hart, Sierra McElroy

Alto

Christiana Montalbano, Abby White

Tenor

Jason Cain, Mike Doran

Bass

John Nowacki, Richard Barstow

MAJOR EVENTS

Admission is always free with no tickets required. Suggested donation: \$20 for major concerts



Jazz at the Red Door Nat Reeves Trio

Friday, September 26 at 7:30pm

Join us for an evening of incredible jazz with Hartford's top bassist, Nat Reeves, legendary composer, pianist George Cables and groundbreaking, innovative drummer Mike Clark.



Candlelight Festival of Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 14 at 3:00pm

Our heartwarming Christmas event will provide you a moment of musical peace in this often-complicated world. A new composition will be commissioned for the Choir School by Michelle Horsley.



A Spring Awakening

Friday, March 20 at 7:30pm

Celebrate the first day of spring as local rising stars Jermaine Woodard Jr., Christiana Montalbano, Gregory Flower, and Sierra McElroy team up with pianist Susan Carroll for an evening of Broadway hits and art songs.



Echoes from East to West

Friday, April 17 at 7:30pm

Montreal-based ensemble C'est Donya invite you on an evocative journey through time and culture, blending Baroque masterpieces with traditional Persian songs playing rare historical instruments.



Choral Music for the Soul – Requiem for the Living

Friday, May 1 at 7:00pm

Come listen to contemporary American composer Dan Forrest's masterpiece Requiem for the Living, a cathartic journey through the gamut of human emotion, concluding with light, peace, and rest for both the departed and the living.



Kids Community Music Camp

August 17–21, 2026

A summer week-long day camp where a diverse group of children explore the joys of music with singing, violin, dance, and drum. The Camp is for kids entering grades 3, 4, and 5 in September 2026.

Registration is at:
www.reddoormusic.org/camp