Christ Church Cathedral
OXFORD

CHORAL EVENSONG
on
SUNDAYS
A warm welcome to Christ Church. Founded in 1546, Christ Church is both a college of the University of Oxford and the cathedral church of the diocese of Oxford. It is the only dual foundation of this kind in the world. We are proud of our many traditions, including our tradition of fine choral music and the continuing pattern of daily sung and said worship.

Choral Evensong follows the order of the Book of Common Prayer, which itself draws on medieval patterns of chanted psalms, songs from scripture and prayers.

Our service is largely sung by the choir. There is not so much active participation as you may find in other service styles. As the congregation, our participation is by prayerful, attentive listening. This allows the music and text to lift our prayers, praise and meditation to God.

Please note that Cathedral services begin five minutes later than British Standard Time because the Cathedral keeps the old ‘Oxford Time’ (five minutes west of Greenwich).
The Officiant begins with a **Sentence of Scripture** and welcomes the Congregation.

**Prayers of Penitence**

*Minister*  
Beloved, we are come together in the presence of almighty God and of the whole company of heaven to offer unto him through our Lord Jesus Christ our worship and praise and thanksgiving; to make confession of our sins; to pray, as well for others as for ourselves, that we may know more truly the greatness of God’s love and shew forth in our lives the fruits of his grace; and to ask on behalf of all such things as their well-being doth require.

Wherefore let us kneel in silence, and remember God’s presence with us now.

*Please kneel or sit.*

*All*  
Almighty and most merciful Father, 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 mankind in Christ Jesu our Lord:
and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.

Minister The Almighty and merciful God grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

All 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. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.
The Opening Versicles and Responses

Minister O Lord, open thou our lips and our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

Choir O God, make speed to save us.

Minister O Lord, make haste to help us.

Choir 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.

Psalms

The Choir sings the psalms appointed for this service.

Old Testament Reading
The Choir sings, in Latin or in English, the Magnificat

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.

(Luke 1:46–55)

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.
New Testament Reading

The Choir sings, in Latin or in English, the Nunc Dimittis

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.  

(Luke 2:29–32)

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

All

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 and Responses

Minister

The Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.

Choir

Let us pray.

Minister

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Choir

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.

Minister

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

Choir

And grant us thy salvation.

Minister

O Lord, save the Queen.

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.
The Collect of the Day

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 Collect for Aid against 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.

Please sit.

Anthem

The Officiant announces the Anthem, sung by the Choir.

Prayers

The Prayers are led by the Canon in Residence and conclude with the Grace. Please join in with this prayer.

All

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

*The Clergy depart in procession.*