



# CHORAL EVENSONG

*The Second Wednesday of Advent*

December 10th, 2025  
6:00 PM



THE CHURCH OF  
THE HOLY TRINITY  
RITTENHOUSE SQUARE

## ABOUT EVENSONG

Evensong is a sung evening service in the Anglican tradition, defined in its current usage during the Reformation. The word 'Evensong' was first documented as 'oefen-sang' c. 1000 to describe Vespers, the seventh of the eight daily offices practiced in Roman Catholic monasteries, which traditionally occurs at sunset or around 6pm. The modern Evensong service was created by Thomas Cranmer, the author of the first Book of Common Prayer in 1549. Cranmer combined the two monastic evening services of Vespers (Evening Prayer) and Compline (Night Prayer) into one liturgy, using both the *Magnificat* and *Nunc Dimittis* canticles as the heart of the service

Choral Evensong has been practiced in cathedrals, collegiate chapels, and parish churches for 450 years and is constructed from texts that are from the Bible or the Book of Common Prayer. Readings from the Old and New Testaments along with Psalms, Canticles, Hymns, and ancient prayers are woven together into a peaceful meditation as the choir and clergy exchange a sung dialogue of prayer.



### PRELUDE

*Nun komm, der heiden Heiland*, BWV 659

Johann Sebastian Bach

### INTROIT

*Prepare the Way*

Margareta Jalkeus

Prepare the way, O Zion;  
Ye awful deeps rise high;  
Sink low ye lofty mountains,  
The Lord is drawing nigh;  
The righteous King of glory,  
Foretold in sacred story.  
O blest is He that came  
in God the Father's name.

O Zion, He approaches,  
Your Lord and King for aye;  
Strew palms where He advances;  
Spread garments in His way.  
God's promise faileth never,  
Hosanna sound forever.  
O blest is He that came  
in God the Father's name.

*The People rise in body or in spirit at the entrance of the choir and clergy.*

## WELCOME AND OPENING SENTENCES

Seek him that made the Pleiades and Orion, that turneth deep darkness into the morning, and darkeneth the day into night; that calleth for the waters of the sea, and poureth them out upon the face of the earth: The Lord is his Name. *Amos 5:8*

Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. *Isaiah 40:3*

## CONFESSION OF SIN

*Officiant* Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

*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.  
But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us,  
spare thou those who confess their faults,  
restore thou those who are penitent,  
according to thy promises declared unto mankind  
in Christ Jesus 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.

*The Priest alone rises and says*

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*All rise in body or in spirit*

# THE INVITATORY & PSALTER

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## PRECES

*In a setting by Iain Quinn*

Officiant O Lord, ✠ open thou our lips.

Choir And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

Officiant O God, make speed to save us.

Choir O Lord, make haste to help us.

Officiant Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

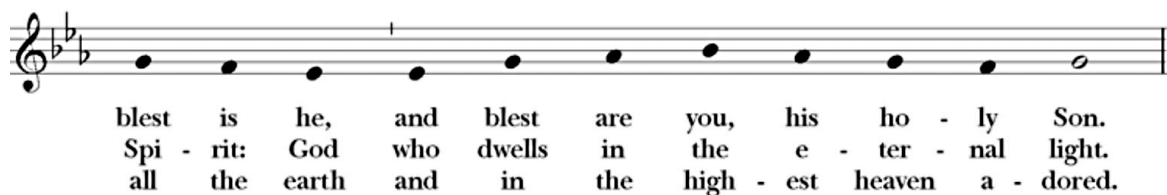
Choir As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Officiant Praise ye the Lord.

Choir The Lord's name be praised.

## PHOS HILARON - HYMN 26

*Conditor alme siderum*



*This melody may be sung in rhythmic form:*

*Please be seated for the Psalm.*

**Daleth** *Adhæsit pavimento*

My soul cleaves to the dust; \*  
 give me life according to your word.  
 I have confessed my ways, and you answered me; \*  
 instruct me in your statutes.  
 Make me understand the way of your commandments, \*  
 that I may meditate on your marvelous works.  
 My soul melts away for sorrow; \*  
 strengthen me according to your word.  
 Take from me the way of lying; \*  
 let me find grace through your law.  
 I have chosen the way of faithfulness; \*  
 I have set your judgments before me.  
 I hold fast to your decrees; \*  
 O LORD, let me not be put to shame.  
 I will run the way of your commandments, \*  
 for you have set my heart at liberty.

**He** *Legem pone*

Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes, \*  
 and I shall keep it to the end.  
 Give me understanding, and I shall keep your law; \*  
 I shall keep it with all my heart.  
 Make me go in the path of your commandments, \*  
 for that is my desire.  
 Incline my heart to your decrees \*  
 and not to unjust gain.  
 Turn my eyes from watching what is worthless; \*  
 give me life in your ways.  
 Fulfill your promise to your servant, \*  
 which you make to those who fear you.  
 Turn away the reproach which I dread, \*  
 because your judgments are good.  
 Behold, I long for your commandments; \*  
 in your righteousness preserve my life.

**Waw** *Et veniat super me*

Let your loving-kindness come to me, O LORD, \*  
and your salvation, according to your promise.  
Then shall I have a word for those who taunt me, \*  
because I trust in your words.  
Do not take the word of truth out of my mouth, \*  
for my hope is in your judgments.  
I shall continue to keep your law; \*  
I shall keep it for ever and ever.  
I will walk at liberty, \*  
because I study your commandments.  
I will tell of your decrees before kings \*  
and will not be ashamed.  
I delight in your commandments, \*  
which I have always loved.  
I will lift up my hands to your commandments, \*  
and I will meditate on your statutes.

*All rise in body or in spirit for the Gloria Patri.*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

*Please be seated for the readings.*

## THE LESSONS

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**READING** Revelation 1:17-2:7

*Sally Griffith*

A reading from the Revelation to John:

When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he placed his right hand on me, saying, 'Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, and the living one. I was dead, and see, I am alive for ever and ever; and I have the keys of Death and of Hades. Now write what you have seen, what is, and what is to take place after this. As for the mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

'To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands:

‘I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance. I know that you cannot tolerate evildoers; you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them to be false. I also know that you are enduring patiently and bearing up for the sake of my name, and that you have not grown weary. But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. Remember then from what you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent. Yet this is to your credit: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches. To everyone who conquers, I will give permission to eat from the tree of life that is in the paradise of God.

*Lector*     The Word of the Lord.  
*All*         **Thanks be to God.**

*Please rise in body or in spirit.*

**CANTICLE** *Magnificat*

Gabriel Jackson  
*Truro Service*

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.

*Please be seated.*

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew:

Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, ‘The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses’ seat; therefore, do whatever they teach you and follow it; but do not do as they do, for they do not practice what they teach. They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on the shoulders of others; but they themselves are unwilling to lift a finger to move them. They do all their deeds to be seen by others; for they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long. They love to have the place of honor at banquets and the best seats in the synagogues, and to be greeted with respect in the market-places, and to have people call them rabbi. But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all students. And call no one your father on earth, for you have one Father—the one in heaven. Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Messiah. The greatest among you will be your servant. All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted.

Lector     The Word of the Lord  
All         **Thanks be to God.**

*Please rise in body or in spirit.*

CANTICLE *Nunc Dimittis*

Jackson

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



*Following the Canticle, all chant the Creed together on a single note.*

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

*Officiant* I believe in God,  
*All* 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 PRAYERS

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### SALUTATION & LESSER LITANY

Quinn

*Officiant* The Lord be with you.

*Choir* And with thy spirit.

*Officiant* Let us pray.

*All may kneel or sit.*

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

Officiant Our Father,  
All 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.

## SUFFRAGES

Officiant O Lord, show thy mercy upon us.  
Choir And grant us thy salvation.  
Officiant O Lord, save the State.  
Choir And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.  
Officiant Endue thy ministers with righteousness.  
Choir And make thy chosen people joyful.  
Officiant O Lord, save thy people.  
Choir And bless thine inheritance.  
Officiant Give peace in our time, O Lord.  
Choir Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.  
Officiant O God, make clean our hearts within us.  
Choir And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

*Then follows three Collects.*

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

Officiant Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.  
Choir Amen.

## COLLECT FOR AID AGAINST PERILS

*Officiant* 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 Savior Jesus Christ.

*Choir* Amen.

## COLLECT FOR THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

*Officiant* Lord Jesus, stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past; be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts, and awaken hope, that we may know thee as thou art revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of thy love.

*Choir* Amen.

*Please be seated.*

## THE HOMILY

### ANTHEM

*People, Look East*

Richard Shephard

People, look East, the time is near  
Of the crowning of the year.  
Make your house fair as you are able,  
Trim the hearth and set the table.  
People, look East and sing today:  
Love, the Guest, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim  
One more light the bowl shall brim,  
Shining beyond the frosty weather,  
Bright as sun and moon together.  
People, look East and sing today:  
Love, the Star, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,  
One more seed is planted there:  
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,  
That in course the flower may flourish.  
People, look East and sing today:  
Love, the rose, is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth  
Christ who brings new life to earth.  
Set every peak and valley humming  
With the word, the Lord is coming.  
People, look East and sing today:  
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

*Following the anthem, please kneel or remain seated for the Prayers.*

## PRAYERS

*Officiant:* In this holy season of Advent, as we watch and wait for the coming of Christ, let us offer our prayers for the Church, the world, and all who long for God's light.

*Officiant:* For the holy Church of God, that we may be faithful witnesses to the hope that is ours in Christ, and bear his light in a world longing for redemption.

*People:* **Come, Lord Jesus, and shine in our darkness.**

*Officiant:* For all bishops, priests, deacons, and ministers of your Word and Sacraments, that they may proclaim your truth with courage and compassion.

*People:* **Come, Lord Jesus, and shine in our darkness.**

*Officiant:* For the peace of the world, and for all who labor for justice and reconciliation among nations and peoples.

*People:* **Come, Lord Jesus, and shine in our darkness.**

*Officiant:* For our community and all our neighbors—especially those from diverse backgrounds whom you gather in this place—that we may walk together in unity, mercy, and love

*People:* **Come, Lord Jesus, and shine in our darkness.**

*Officiant:* For the poor, the hungry, and the homeless; for the sick and the suffering; and for all who feel lost or alone.

*People:* **Come, Lord Jesus, and shine in our darkness.**

*Officiant:* For those who grieve, remembering especially those for whom the holidays bring sorrow, that they may know your comfort and peace.

*People:* **Come, Lord Jesus, and shine in our darkness.**

*Officiant:* For the departed, and all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, that they may rejoice in the light of your eternal kingdom.

*People:* **Come, Lord Jesus, and shine in our darkness.**

*Officiant:* O God of hope, who kindled the flame of expectation in the hearts of your people of old: Grant that we, who await the coming of Christ, may be strengthened by your grace to shine with his love, now and in the days to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING

*Officiant* Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
*All* we thine unworthy servants  
do give thee most humble and hearty thanks  
for all thy goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom thou hast made.  
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.

## A PRAYER OF ST. CHRYSOSTOM

*Officiant* Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication unto thee; and hast promised through thy well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name thou wilt be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting.

*All* Amen.

*Please rise in body or in spirit.*

## DIMISSAL

*Officiant* Let us bless the Lord.

*All* Thanks be to God.

## GRACE

*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. Amen.

1. Hills of the North, re - joice, ri - ver and mount-ain spring,  
 2. Isles of the South - ern seas, sing to the listen - ing earth,  
 3. Lands of the East, a - rise, he is your bright - est morn,  
 4. Shores of the ut - most West, lands of the set - ting sun,  
 5. Shout, as you jour - ney home, songs be in ev - ery mouth,

hark to the ad - vent voice; val - ley and low - land, sing. Christ  
 car - ry on ev - ery breeze hope of a world's new birth: In  
 greet him with joy - ous eyes, praise shall his path a - dorn: your  
 wel - come the heaven - ly guest in whom the dawn has come: he  
 lo, from the North they come, from East and West and South: in

comes in right - eous - ness and love, he brings sal - va - tion from a - bove.  
 Christ shall all be made a - new, his word is sure, his pro - mise true.  
 seers have longed to know their Lord; to you he comes, the fi - nal word.  
 brings a nev - er - end - ing light who tri - umphed o'er our dark - est night.  
 Je - sus all shall find their rest, in him the un - i - verse be blest.

*Following the hymn, please remain as you are as the clergy and choir depart.  
 You are invited to be seated for the Postlude.*

## POSTLUDE

*People, Look East*

*Wayne Wold*

## PARTICIPANTS THIS EVENING

*Officiant and Preacher*  
The Rev. Rachel Wenner Gardner

*Lectors*  
Sally Griffith & Shreve Simpson

*Organist*  
Wesley Parrott

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*Mark your calendars....*



**CARILLON RECITAL**  
Saturday, December 13, 12:00 p.m.  
Lisa Lonie, Carillonneur

**ADVENT ORGAN MEDITATIONS**  
Wednesdays, 12:15-12:45  
December 17 – Kathleen Scheide

**THE FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS**  
*Christmas Eve*

Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>  
8:00pm

**CHORAL EVENSONG**  
*for the Feast of the Epiphany*

Wednesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>  
6:00pm



## **The Church of the Holy Trinity - Clergy and Staff**

The Rev. Rachel Wenner Gardner, *Rector*

The Rev. John Gardner, *Rector*

Chiquita Anderson, Therese Tiger, *Welcome Coordinators*

Benjamin Leiby, *Organist-Choirmaster*

Karen Majer, *Rentals & Events Manager*

Inaara Neal-Shiraz, *Director of Development & Communications*

Robyn Schnieders, *Director of Operations & Outreach*

Jonah Shortall, *Streaming Services*

Demetrius Swinson, *Assistant to the Director of Operations AKA Superman*

Dr. Stephen Framil, *Musician-in-Residence*

Dr. John French, *Organist-Choirmaster emeritus*

## **The Choir of Holy Trinity**

Hannah Bashore, Nathaniel Bear, Gail Caruso, Patricia Conrad, Stephanie DeMane, Will Dowling, Franny Geller, Andrew Gutknecht, Samuel Keeler, Thomas Kneeland, Alex Mathews, John Miles, Mike O'Bryan, Aimee Pilgermayer, Eddie Rubeiz, Erica Rose Smith, and Julianna Smith

## **The Church of the Holy Trinity - Vestry**

Brian Conroy, Phillip Duffy, Alyssa Force, Monica Heuer, Margaret Hughes, Simson Hui, Susan Leidy, Jeff McEldowney, James Otwell, Ali Shott, Daniel Tancredi, Karen Vannasdall

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