



# CHORAL EVENSONG

*The Epiphany*

January 7, 2026  
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**      *Three Preludes for Christmas: Divinum Mysterium, Forest Green*      Craig Phillips

**INTROIT**      *The Three Kings*      Peter Cornelius

Three kings from Persian lands afar  
to Jordan follow the morning star:  
And this the quest of the travelers three,  
where the newborn king of the Jews may be.  
Full royal gifts they bear for the king;  
gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.

The star shines out with steadfast ray;  
the kings to Bethlehem make their way,  
and there in worship they bend the knee,  
as Mary's child in her lap they see;  
Their royal gifts they show to the king:  
Gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.

Thou child of man, lo, to Bethlehem  
the Kings are traveling, travel with them!  
The star of mercy, the star of grace,  
shall lead thy heart to its resting place.  
Gold, incense, myrrh thou canst not bring;  
offer thy heart to the infant king,  
offer thy heart!

*How brightly shines the morning Star!  
With grace and truth from heaven afar  
our Jesse tree now bloweth.*

*Of Jacob's stem and David's line,  
for thee, my bridegroom, king divine,  
my soul with love o'erfloweth.*

*Thy word, Jesu,  
inly feeds us,  
rightly leads us,  
life bestowing.  
Praise such love o'erflowing.*

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

## WELCOME AND OPENING SENTENCES

The Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising. *Isaiah 60:3*

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world; he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." *John 8:12*

## THE INVITATORY & PSALTER

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### PRECES

*In a setting by Margaret Burk*

*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.

*Unison or harmony*

1 What star is this, with beams so bright, more beau - teous  
 2 True spake the pro - phet from a - far who told the  
 3 The guid - ing star a - bove is bright; with - in them  
 4 O Je - sus, while the star of grace im - pels us  
 5 To God the Fa - ther, heaven - ly Light, to Christ, re -

1 than the noon - day light? It shines to her - ald  
 2 rise of Ja - cob's star; and east - ern sa - ges  
 3 shines a clear - er light, and leads them on with  
 4 on to seek thy face, let not our sloth - ful  
 5 vealed in earth - ly night, to God the Ho - ly

1 forth the King, and Gen - tiles to his crib to bring.  
 2 with a - maze up - on the won - drous to - ken gaze.  
 3 power be - nign to seek the Giv - er of the sign.  
 4 hearts re - fuse the guid - ance of thy light to use.  
 5 Ghost we raise our e - qual and un - ceas - ing praise.

*Please be seated for the Psalm.*

*Deus, iudicium*

- 1 Give the King your justice, O God, \*  
and your righteousness to the King's Son;
- 2 That he may rule your people righteously \*  
and the poor with justice;
- 3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, \*  
and the little hills bring righteousness.
- 4 He shall defend the needy among the people; \*  
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
- 5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, \*  
from one generation to another.
- 6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, \*  
like showers that water the earth.
- 7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; \*  
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
- 10 The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute, \*  
and the kings of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.
- 11 All kings shall bow down before him, \*  
and all the nations do him service.
- 12 For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress, \*  
and the oppressed who has no helper.
- 13 He shall have pity on the lowly and poor; \*  
he shall preserve the lives of the needy.
- 14 He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence, \*  
and dear shall their blood be in his sight.

*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 Isaiah 60:1-6

Ali Shott

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah:

Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.  
For darkness shall cover the earth,  
and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the Lord will arise upon you,  
and his glory will appear over you.  
Nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.  
Lift up your eyes and look around;  
they all gather together, they come to you;  
your sons shall come from far away,  
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.  
Then you shall see and be radiant;  
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,  
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,  
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.  
A multitude of camels shall cover you,  
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;  
all those from Sheba shall come.  
They shall bring gold and frankincense,  
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

*Lector*     The Word of the Lord.

*All*        **Thanks be to God.**

*Please rise in body or in spirit.*

**CANTICLE** *Magnificat*

Charles Villiers Stanford  
*Canticles in B-flat*

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:

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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



*Please rise in body or in spirit.*

**CANTICLE** *Nunc Dimittis*

Stanford

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

Burk

*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.

*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.

## 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* O God, who by the leading of a star didst manifest thy only-begotten Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know thee now by faith, to thy presence, where we may behold thy glory face to face; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

*Choir* Amen.

## COLLECT FOR PEACE

*Officiant* 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.

*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.

*Please be seated.*

## THE HOMILY

### ANTHEM

*Still Journey On*

Marion

Soft the evening shadows fall, still journey on;  
darkness soon be over all, still journey on.  
Weary now, and travel worn,  
night must come before the morn:  
where will Mary's Son be born? Still journey on.

Shepherds, hasten from the fold: this God has done.  
Here in human form behold this God has done.  
Christ the Lord of David's line,  
born a Savior and a sign,  
King, immortal, Child divine, this god has done.

Kings who from the east afar still journey on,  
seeking Christ beneath a star, still journey on.  
For his worship incense bring,  
gold to crown an infant King,  
myrrh to mark his suffering, still journey on.

So the Christmas story tell, still journey on.  
At the last shall all be well; still journey on.  
Love be ours, and joy and praise,  
one with Christ to walk his ways,  
in his service all our days still journey on.

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

## PRAYERS

*Officiant* Let us offer our prayers to God, who has made known the light of Christ to all the nations of the earth.

Eternal God, you revealed your Son to the world as its true light: Guide your holy Church, that it may faithfully bear that light in word and deed. Bless all bishops, priests, deacons, and lay ministers, and all who sing, serve, and pray in this place. May the Church shine with humility, wisdom, and love, drawing all people toward Christ.

*Officiant* Light of the world,  
*People* **Shine upon us.**

*Officiant* God of all nations, you led the Magi by a star to worship the Christ-child: Guide the leaders of the peoples of the earth, that justice may flourish, Peace may be pursued, and the dignity of every human life upheld. We pray especially for places of conflict, oppression, and fear, That your light may overcome all darkness.

*Officiant* Light of the world,  
*People* **Shine upon us.**

*Officiant* Compassionate God, your light seeks out the lost, the weary, and the forgotten: Be near to all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit— The sick, the poor, the lonely, the grieving, and those who feel unseen. Grant healing where there is pain, hope where there is despair, And comfort to all who long for your presence.

*Officiant* Light of the world,  
*People* **Shine upon us.**

*Officiant* Bless this community and all who dwell within it. May our lives reflect the grace we have received, That we may serve one another with generosity and joy, And bear witness to Christ in our daily lives.

*Officiant* Light of the world,  
*People* **Shine upon us.**

*Officiant* God of glory, you gather your faithful into the radiance of your eternal kingdom: We remember before you those who have died, Trusting that they now see Christ face to face. May they rest in peace, and may light perpetual shine upon them.

*Officiant* Light of the world,  
*People* **Shine upon us.**

*Officiant* O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your Son to the peoples of the earth: Receive the prayers of your Church, and grant that we, who know you now by faith, May one day behold your glory face to face; 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* The Lord be with you.

*Choir* And with thy spirit.

*Officiant* Let us bless the Lord.

*Choir* 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.**

## HYMN

*Was lebet*

1. O wor - ship the Lord in the beau - ty of ho - li - ness;  
2. Low at his feet lay thy bur - den of care - ful - ness:  
3. Fear not to en - ter his courts in the slen - der - ness  
4. These, though we bring them in trem - bling and fear - ful - ness,  
5. O wor - ship the Lord in the beau - ty of ho - li - ness;  
bow down be - fore him, his glo - ry pro - claim;  
high on his heart he will bear it for thee,  
of the poor wealth thou wouldst re - ckon as thine:  
he will ac - cept for the name that is dear;  
bow down be - fore him, his glo - ry pro - claim;  
with gold of o - be - dience, and in - cense of low - li - ness,  
com - fort thy sor - rows, and an - swer thy prayer - ful - ness,  
truth in its beau - ty, and love in its ten - der - ness,  
morn - ings of joy give for ev - 'nings of tear - ful - ness,  
with gold of o - be - dience, and in - cense of low - li - ness,  
kneel and a - dore him: the Lord is his name.  
guid - ing thy steps as may best for thee be.  
these are the off - 'rings to lay on his shrine.  
trust for our trem - bling and hope for our fear.  
kneel and a - dore him: the Lord is his name.

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

## POSTLUDE

*Star Fantasy*

Kristina Arakelyan

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## PARTICIPANTS THIS EVENING

*Officiant and Preacher*

The Rev. Rachel Wenner Gardner

*Lectors*

Ali Shott & Margaret Dowling

*Ushers*

Brian Conroy & Margaret Dowling

*Assisting Organist*

Wesley Parrott

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*Mark your calendars....*



## LENTEN ORGAN MEDITATIONS

**Wednesdays, 12:15-12:45**

February 25, March 4, 11, 18, 25

## CHORAL EVENSONG

**Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>**

**6:00pm**

**Wednesday, May 13<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, Gail Caruso, Patricia Conrad, Stephanie DeMane, Will Dowling, Samuel Evans, Franny Geller, Andrew Gutknecht, Samuel Keeler, Thomas Kneeland, Alex Mathews, John Miles, 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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