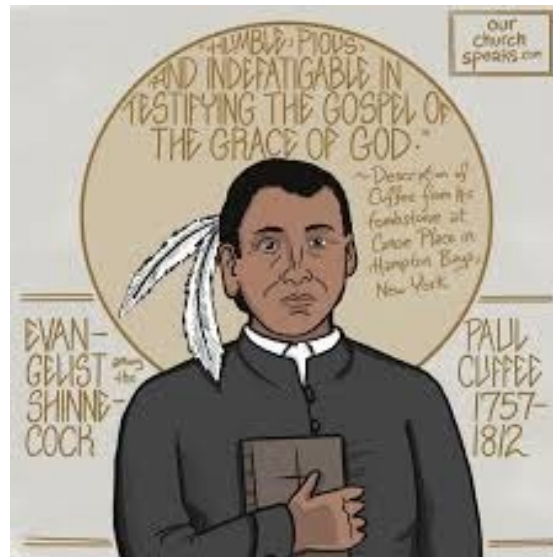


# CHORAL EVENSONG



## Paul Cuffee

*Witness to the Faith among the Shinnecock*

March 4, 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.

## PAUL CUFFEE

*Witness to the Faith among the Shinnecock, 1812*

Born a member of the Shinnecock Tribe on March 4, 1757, Paul Cuffee was converted to Christianity in his early twenties. He was ordained in the Presbyterian Church and became a famous preacher and missionary to the native communities around the present-day Mastic Beach, at Hampton Bays, and at Montauk, all on Long Island, New York. Known as “Priest Paul,” Cuffee was instrumental in working for the survival of native tribes. He demonstrated particular gifts in bringing together a strong witness to the Christian faith in dialogue with those who held traditional native beliefs. Paul Cuffee strengthened the permanent presence of Native Americans in the area by establishing prayer meeting grounds in several locations. These became safe havens for diplomatic talks and places where native people could practice spiritually. He was a faithful advocate for his people and their way of life. Among the fruits of his efforts was the development of many allies of European descent, thus helping to ensure that Native Americans on Long Island could retain what little land they had left. Part of Cuffee’s legacy can still be seen in the ceremonial “June Meeting” for the Shinnecock tribe that includes a Christian worship service, a tradition that continues to this day. Paul Cuffee is remembered for being a “most eloquent speaker” and is mentioned in *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*, the influential anti-slavery novel by Harriet Beecher Stowe. Priest Paul is buried on a tiny plot of land at Canoe Place in Hampton Bays, his historic gravesite diminished by development on the Long Island Railroad. His descendants continue mission work in the area that is a direct result of Priest Paul’s efforts. His gravestone reads, “Erected by the New York Missionary Society, in memory of the Rev. Paul Cuffee, an Indian of the Shinnecock tribe, who was employed by the Society for the last thirteen years of his life, on the eastern part of Long Island, where he labored with fidelity and success. Humble, pious and indefatigable in testifying the gospel of the grace of God, he finished his course with joy on the 7th of March, 1812, aged 55 years and 3 days.”

## PRELUDE

*Sonatina: Very Slowly*

Leo Sowerby

## INTROIT

*Christ's Garden*

Margaret Vardell Sandresky

Lord, what can grow upon this soil  
watered by your bitter tears:  
Thorns, dear heart, are kept for me  
and all flowering things for thee.  
Ah, where such tearful brooklets flow,  
Ah, will a garden ever grow?  
Yes, and know this, many wreaths of different kinds are woven there.  
Oh, my Lord, for whose adornment will these different wreaths appear?  
Those of thorns are meant for me.  
Those rich flowers I give to thee.

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

## WELCOME

### OPENING SENTENCES

Let my prayer be set forth in thy sight as the incense, and let the lifting up of my hands be an evening sacrifice. *Psalm 141:2*

If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me, and the light around me turn to night," darkness is not dark to thee, O Lord; the night is as bright as the day; darkness and light to thee are both alike. *Psalm 139:10,11*

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us; but if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *I John 1:8, 9*

### CONFESSION OF SIN

*Officiant* Dear friends in Christ, here in the presence of Almighty God, let us kneel in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, so that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

*Please kneel or sit. A period of silence is kept.*

*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 William Smith*

*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.

*Choir* 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.  
Praise ye the Lord.



1 O bright-ness of the im-mor - tal Fa - ther's face, most ho - ly,  
 2 the sun is sink - ing now, and one by one the lamps of  
 3 Worth - y art thou at all times to re - ceive our hal - lowed



heaven - ly, blest, Lord Je - sus Christ, in whom his  
 eve - ning shine; we hymn the e - ter - nal Fa - ther,  
 prais - es, Lord. O Son of God, be thou, in



truth and grace are vi - si - bly ex - pressed:  
 and the Son, and Ho - ly Ghost di - vine.  
 whom we live, through all the world a - dored.

*Please be seated for the Psalm.*

## PSALM 100

Tone VI

- 1 Be joyful in the LORD, all you lands; \*  
 serve the LORD with gladness  
 and come before his presence with a song.
- 2 Know this: The LORD himself is God; \*  
 he himself has made us, and we are his;  
 we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.
- 3 Enter his gates with thanksgiving;  
 go into his courts with praise; \*  
 give thanks to him and call upon his Name.
- 4 For the LORD is good;  
 his mercy is everlasting; \*  
 and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

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

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,\*  
 and to the Holy Spirit:  
 As it was in the beginning, is now,\*  
 and will be for ever. Amen.

*Please be seated for the readings.*

## THE LESSONS

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READING Isaiah 55:1-5

Margaret Dowling

*Lector* A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

Ho, everyone who thirsts,  
come to the waters;  
and you that have no money,  
come, buy and eat!  
Come, buy wine and milk  
without money and without price.  
Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,  
and your labour for that which does not satisfy?  
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,  
and delight yourselves in rich food.  
Incline your ear, and come to me;  
listen, so that you may live.  
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,  
my steadfast, sure love for David.  
See, I made him a witness to the peoples,  
a leader and commander for the peoples.  
See, you shall call nations that you do not know,  
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,  
because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,  
for he has glorified you.

*Lector* The word of the Lord.

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

*Please rise in body or in spirit.*

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.*

READING Colossians 3:12-17

*Margaret Dowling*

*Lector* A Reading from the Letter to the Colossians.

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

*Lector* The Word of the Lord

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

*Please rise in body or in spirit.*

**CANTICLE** *Nunc Dimittis*

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

*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

Smith

*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* Almighty God, who dost empower evangelists and preachers: Help us to proclaim thy Word with power, like thy servant Paul Cuffee, that more might come to a deeper life in thee; in the Name of thy Son Jesus Christ, who with thee and the Holy Spirit liveth and reigneth, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

*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.*

**ANTHEM** *Herr, bleib bei uns* Randall Svane

Herr, bleib bei uns, *Lord, stay with us,*  
denn es will Abend werden, *for evening is coming*  
und der Tag hat sich geneiget. *and the day is drawing to an end.*

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

## PRAYERS

*Leader* In penitence and faith let us make our prayer to God and ask for his mercy and grace. For your holy people, that they may triumph over evil and grow in grace, we pray to you, O Lord:

*People* **Lord have mercy upon us.**

*Leader* For the leaders of the nations, that you will guide them in the ways of mercy and truth, we pray to you, O Lord:

*People* **Lord have mercy upon us.**

*Leader* For the needy, that they may not be forgotten, nor the hope of the poor be taken away, we pray to you, O Lord:

*People* **Lord have mercy upon us.**

*Leader* For the sick in body, mind and spirit, that they may know your power to heal, we pray to you, O Lord:

*People* **Lord have mercy upon us.**

*Leader* For the poor in spirit, that they may inherit the kingdom of heaven and see you face to face, we pray to you, O Lord:

*People* **Lord have mercy upon us.**

*Leader* Let us commend the world, for which Christ suffered, to the mercy and protection of God. **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.*

## DIMISSION

*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.

*All* Amen.

## HYMN 46

*O Welt, ich muss dich lassen*

1 The du - teous day now clos - eth, each flower and tree re -  
2 Now all the heaven - ly splen - dor breaks forth in star-light  
3 Though long our mor - tal blind - ness has missed God's lov - ing -

pos - eth, shade creeps o'er wild and wood: let  
ten - der from myr - iad worlds un - known; and  
kind - ness and plunged us in - to strife; yet

us, as night is fall - ing, on God our Ma - ker  
we, this mar - vel see - ing, for - get our self - ish  
when life's day is o - ver, shall death's fair night dis -

call - ing, give thanks to him, the Giv - er good.  
be - ing for joy of beau - ty not our own.  
cov - er the fields of ev - er - last - ing life.

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

**POSTLUDE**

*Prelude and Fugue in B-flat Major*

Clara Schumann

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## **PARTICIPANTS THIS EVENING**

*Officiant and Preacher*  
The Rev. Rachel Wenner Gardner

*Lector*  
Margaret Dowling

*Organist*  
Wesley Parrott

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*Mark your calendars....*



## LENTEN MUSIC MEDITATIONS

Wednesdays, 12:15-12:45

**March 11**

Wesley Parrott (*Church of the Holy Trinity*)

**March 18**

James Kealey (*Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church*)

**March 25**

Andrea Boudra (*St. David's Episcopal Church, Wayne*)

## HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

Palm Sunday- March 29<sup>th</sup>

11:00 a.m.

Maundy Thursday - April 2<sup>nd</sup>

6:00 p.m.

Good Friday - April 3<sup>rd</sup>

12:00 p.m.

Holy Saturday - April 4<sup>th</sup>

9:00 a.m.

The Great Vigil of Easter - April 4<sup>th</sup>

8:00 p.m.

Easter Day - April 5<sup>th</sup>

11:00 a.m.

## CHORAL EVENSONG

*for the Eve of the Ascension*

Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>

6:00 pm



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

The Rev. Rachel Wenner Gardner, *Rector*

The Rev. John Gardner, *Rector*

Benjamin Leiby, *Organist-Choirmaster*

Robyn Schnieders, *Director of Operations & Outreach*

Demetrius Swinson, *Operations Coordinator AKA Superman*

Shawn “Shiz” Futch & Mike Whitney, *Operations Support*

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

Karen Majer, *House Manager*

Victoria Alfred-Lerew & Chiquita Anderson, *Welcome Coordinators*

Jack Baranoski, Boyden Gardner, & Jonah Shortall, *Streaming Services*

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

Dr. John French, *Organist-Choirmaster emeritus*

## **The Choir of Holy Trinity**

Aimee Pilgermayer, Gail Caruso, Stephanie DeMane, Franny Geller, Hannah Bashore, Patricia Conrad, Maiya Williams, Justine Hansen, Eddie Rubeiz, Samuel Evans, Samuel Keeler, Andrew Gutknecht, Thomas Kneeland, Alex Mathews, William Dowling, John Miles

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

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

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