

✠WARWICK TEAM MINISTRY✠

ST MARY'S CHURCH



An order of service for

**CHORAL
EVENSONG**

(BCP)

CHORAL EVENSONG

Welcome to this service of Choral Evensong. Worship has been offered here at St Mary's for over 900 years by clergy and lay people – first in a monastic community, and since the Reformation by members of the present foundation.

In Choral Evensong the Choir leads our worship, and the weaving together of the music, readings, and prayers creates a setting in which you – whatever your own faith – may unite with others to offer worship. We invite you to join in saying the words printed in **bold** type, to respond to the prayers, and to sing the hymns with us.

The service opens in one of two ways: on a weekday (when the service is usually held in the Chancel) the Choir processes in from the East, and the service begins with a welcome from the member of clergy taking the service. On a Sunday (when the service is usually held in the Nave), a member of clergy will welcome the congregation and announce the opening HYMN, which is sung as the Choir processes through the Church. On Sundays, the EXHORTATION TO WORSHIP calls us from our busy lives into the presence of God. We say the CONFESSION and hear words of ABSOLUTION. In all services, after the PRECES the Choir sings one or more PSALMS: these are songs from the Hebrew scriptures, during which our minds may meditate on words and ideas that come to us.

The Christian faith always looks both backward to its roots and forward to God's action. This is represented by the two readings and the responses to them. The **FIRST LESSON** is from the Old Testament, the books recording God's dealings with his ancient people, the Jews. Theirs is the tradition into which Jesus was born. In response the Choir sings the **MAGNIFICAT**, the song of Jesus' mother, Mary, which affirms God's work in history.

The **SECOND LESSON** is from the New Testament, and is a story of a passage of teaching from Jesus or the first Christians. The Choir responds with the **NUNC DIMITTIS**, the song of Simeon that recognises that in Jesus' coming God keeps his promise to the whole world. In the **APOSTLES' CREED** we affirm that the Christian faith is founded on this story, after which the Choir offers further sung prayers in the **RESPONSES**.

The Choir sings an **ANTHEM**, a piece of music that reflects the time of the Church's Year or the themes of the two Lessons. It gives us time and space to meditate on God, God's word and creation, and on ourselves. This leads into the **INTERCESSIONS**: prayers for the needs of the world. On Sundays, the **SERMON** will often reflect on themes in the Lessons and music. The service concludes with a **HYMN** and a declaration of God's **BLESSING** upon us before we return to God's service in the world.

At the end of the service, an **ORGAN VOLUNTARY** is played, offering an opportunity to collect our thoughts and prayers. Feel free to sit and listen to this. If you need to leave before the voluntary is finished, please leave quietly, aware that others may be listening.

The Nave is served by a hearing loop; users should put hearing aids to the setting marked T.

On SUNDAYS, the Order of Service begins here:

WELCOME *and* NOTICES

All stand to sing the PROCESSIONAL HYMN as the Choir and clergy enter

Remain standing for the EXHORTATION TO WORSHIP

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.

All kneel or sit

THE CONFESSION

Minister Almighty and most merciful Father,

All **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.**

THE ABSOLUTION

Minister May the Almighty and merciful Lord grant unto you pardon and remission of all your sins, time for amendment of life, and the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

All remain kneeling or sitting as the Choir sings the PRECES, standing at 'Glory be to the Father...'

On WEEKDAYS, the Order of Service begins on the following page:

On WEEKDAYS the Office begins here:

All stand as the Choir and clergy enter

The minister welcomes the congregation and introduces the service

THE PRECES

Cantor O Lord, open thou our lips

Choir and our mouth shall shew 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.

All sit as the Choir sings the appointed PSALMS, standing at the final 'Glory be to the Father...'

All sit for the FIRST LESSON, a reading from the Old Testament

All stand for the MAGNIFICAT, sung by the Choir

Luke 1.46-55

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.
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.

*Magnificat anima mea Dominum
et exultavit spiritus meus in Deo salutari meo.
Quia respexit
humilitatem ancillae suae.
Ecce enim ex hoc
beatam me dicent omnes generationes.
Quia fecit mihi magna qui potens est,
et sanctum nomen eius.
Et misericordia eius a progenie
in progenies timentibus eum.
Fecit potentiam in bracchio suo,
dispersit superbos mente cordis sui.

Deposuit potentes de sede
et exaltavit humiles.
Esuientes implevit bonis
et divites dimisit inanes,
Suscepit Israel puerum suum recordatus
misericordiae suae,
sicut locutus est ad patres nostros,
Abraham et semini eius in saecula.
Gloria Patri et Filio,
et Spiritui Sancto;
sicut erat in principio et nunc
et semper
in saecula saeculorum. Amen.*

All sit for the SECOND LESSON, a reading from the New Testament

All stand for the NUNC DIMITTIS, sung by the Choir

Luke 2.29-32

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace:
according to thy word.

*Nunc dimittis servum tuum, Domine,
secundum verbum tuum in pace.*

For mine eyes have seen:
thy salvation;

*Quia viderunt oculi mei
salutare tuum;*

Which thou hast prepared:
before the face of all people;

*Quod parasti
ante faciem omnium populorum;*

To be a light to lighten the Gentiles:
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

*Lumen ad revelationem gentium,
et gloriam plebis tuae Israel.*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:
and to the Holy Ghost;

*Gloria Patri et Filio,
et Spiritui Sancto;*

as it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be:

*sicut erat in principio et nunc
et semper,*

world without end. Amen.

in saecula saeculorum. Amen.

On WEEKDAYS, all turn East to face the High Altar

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Minister 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 RESPONSES, LORD'S PRAYER, and COLLECTS

Cantor The Lord be with you

Choir and with thy spirit.

Cantor Let us pray.

All kneel or sit

Lord, have mercy upon us.
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, shew thy mercy upon us
Choir and grant us thy salvation.

Cantor O Lord, save the Queen
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 COLLECT FOR THE DAY *is sung, followed by*

THE COLLECT FOR PEACE

Cantor 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.
Choir Amen.

THE COLLECT FOR AID AGAINST ALL PERILS

Cantor 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.
Choir Amen.

All sit for the ANTHEM, sung by the Choir

All kneel or sit for the INTERCESSIONS, which may end with

THE GRACE

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.**

All stand to sing the HYMN

On SUNDAYS all sit for the SERMON, after which all stand to sing the HYMN, during which a collection is taken.

All remain standing for the BLESSING, to which all respond
Amen.

The ORGAN VOLUNTARY is played as the Choir and clergy depart





January 2020