THE COLLEGIATE CHURCH OF ST MARY
WARWICK

- Rooted in faith, reaching out in love -

An order of service for

CHORAL EVENSONG

(BCP)

CHORAL EVENSONG

Worship has been offered here at St Mary's for over 900 years by clergy and people of the community, and the service of Choral Evensong is the Anglican Church's unique gift to the whole church. 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 Choir processes in from the East, and on a Sunday the EXHORTATION TO WORSHIP calls us from our busy lives into the presence of God. We say the CONFESSION and hear words of ABSOLUTION. On a weekday the service begins with the first set of RESPONSES sung by the Choir. After the first set of RESPONSES 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. On Sundays, we sing an OFFICE HYMN which offers praise and prayer to God, before 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 or a passage of teaching from Jesus or the first Christians. The Choir responds with the NUNC DIMITTIS, the song of Simeon which 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 LESSER LITANY (the second set of 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. On Sundays, the anthem may be followed by a brief REFLECTION – thoughts for the day or time of year, often drawing on themes in the Lessons and music. This leads into the INTERCESSIONS, prayers for the needs of the world. 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.

An ORGAN VOLUNTARY is played at the end of the service, 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 or praying.

On Sundays, a collection is taken during the final hymn, but you are welcome to make a donation towards the work and ministry of St Mary's at any time, either into the donation boxes by the main doors, or via our QR code:

The congregation stands as the Choir and clergy enter. On WEEKDAYS, the service begins at the top of the next page.

On SUNDAYS the congregation remains 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.

On SUNDAYS the congregation kneels or sits for 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.**

On SUNDAYS the congregation remains kneeling or sitting

The Choir sings the RESPONSES

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.

On SUNDAYS the congregation stands

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.

The minister may welcome the congregation then announces the appointed PSALM(S), *sung by the Choir. The congregation sits, standing at the final 'Glory be to the Father…'*

The congregation sits for the FIRST LESSON, *a reading from the Old Testament*

On SUNDAYS, the congregation stands to sing the OFFICE HYMN, *announced by the minister*

The congregation stands 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.

Magnificat anima mea Dominum
et exultavit spiritus meus
in Deo salutari meo.
Quia respexit
humiltatem 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.

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.

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.

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.

Gloria Patri et Filio,
et Spiritui Sancto;
sicut erat in principio et nunc
et semper
in saecula saeculorum. Amen.

The congregation sits for the SECOND LESSON, *a reading from the New Testament*

The congregation stands 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.
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.

Nunc dimittis servum tuum, Domine,
secundum verbum tuum in pace.
Quia viderunt oculi mei
salutare tuum;
Quod parasti
ante faciem omnium populorum;
Lumen ad revelationem gentium,
et gloriam plebis tuae 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.

Gloria Patri et Filio,
et Spiritui Sancto;
sicut erat in principio et nunc
et semper,
in saecula saeculorum. Amen.

When in the Chancel, the congregation turns 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 LESSER LITANY *and* COLLECTS

Cantor The Lord be with you
Choir and with thy spirit.

Cantor Let us pray.

The congregation kneels or sits

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 King
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, with an additional Collect during Advent and Lent*

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.

The congregation sits for the ANTHEM*, sung by the Choir*

On SUNDAYS the minister may offer a short REFLECTION

The congregation kneels or sits for the INTERCESSIONS*, which conclude 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.

The congregation stands to sing the HYMN, *announced by the minister*
On SUNDAYS a collection is taken during the singing of the hymn

The congregation remains standing for the BLESSING*, to which all respond*
Amen.

The ORGAN VOLUNTARY *is played as the Choir and clergy depart*