



CHORAL EVENSONG FOR LENT

March 5, 2023  
5:30 p.m.



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

---

SAVANNAH

*The Truth of the Bible*

*In the Beauty of the Anglican Tradition.*

*Believe. Worship. Love. Serve.*

# WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S

---

**Mission:** St. John's Church is building a community in Christ that is grounded in historic faith and reverent worship and is committed to sharing the life transforming truth of the Gospel.

**For Guests and Visitors.** We extend a warm welcome to guests and visitors worshipping with us. If this is your first visit to Saint John's, please let us know by filling out the visitor card in the pew.

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

---

Founded in 1841, the first rector, Stephen Elliott, was also the first bishop of Georgia, and he consecrated the present church on May 7, 1853. In 1943, one of Savannah's historic mansions, the Green-Meldrim House, became its Parish House and Rectory. Later, Macon Street was closed and laid out as the present garden Mall. Cranmer Hall, the Christian Education building, was renovated and enlarged in 2004. St. John's is one of a handful of parishes in the Episcopal Church that continues to worship using the Book of Common Prayer (in its 1928 edition). We are committed to transmitting unimpaired to our posterity the historic Faith and Order it sets forth, within the fellowship of the Anglican Communion.

## A NOTE ON THE SERVICE OF EVENSONG

---

The Order of Evening Prayer, like the rest of the Prayer Book, is based on the ancient Latin liturgy of the western catholic church, but in the Reformation simplified, condensed, purified in doctrine, and rendered into plain, dignified, rhythmic English prose. In its structure it follows the Pauline gospel triad (derived from Luther's reading of the Epistle to the Romans) of repentance, faith, and works (or charity), also known as "guilt, grace, and gratitude".

First, in a *penitential preparation* - the moment of *repentance*, in which we acknowledge our *guilt* and our need of absolution to loose us from the bond of sin.

Second, and on this basis of our repentance, we are moved to *proclaim the praise of God's glory* - the doxology, "Glory be to the Father", which runs like a refrain through this part, is the key motif. This is the moment of *faith*, by which we receive God's promises of *grace* set forth in his Word, and our guilt is taken away.

Third, after confessing our faith (the Apostles' Creed), we make our *prayers* to claim the grace we have sought in repentance. These prayers are good works of *gratitude* for the grace promised by God in his Word.

When Evensong concludes with an Anthem, and closing Prayers, as it does this evening, there is a recapitulation or reprise of the second and third moments of Praise and Prayers, or Faith and Works, with Repentance presupposed.

# CHORAL EVENSONG FOR LENT

Sunday, March 5, 2023

*Please silence all electronic devices. In the hush before the service begins,  
we prepare our hearts and minds for worship.*

## 5:05 P.M. PRELUDE

Sarabande from the *First Partita* in B Flat (BWV 825)..... J. S. Bach (1685-1750)  
(Joel Paskauskas, Harpsichord)

Lenten Hymns from the *1940 Hymnal*..... Arr. Carver Blanchard  
(Carver Blanchard, Voice and Lute)

## 5:30 P.M. CHORAL EVENSONG FOR LENT

### THE PENITENTIAL PREPARATION

---

SENTENCES, CONFESSION (*said by all, kneeling*)..... Prayer Book, p. 21-23

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; And there is no health in us. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare thou those. O God, 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.*

*Continue kneeling as priest stands to pronounce the Absolution:*

ABSOLUTION ..... Prayer Book, p. 24

LORDS' PRAYER (*said by all, kneeling*)..... Prayer Book, p. 24-25

OUR Father, 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.*

# THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S PRAISE

---

OPENING PRECES ..... Godfrey Hewitt  
(*sung by choir*)

O Lord, open thou our lips.  
*And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.*

O God, make speed to save us.  
*O Lord, make haste to help us.*

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.  
*The Lord's name be praised.*

HYMN #56 *Kind Maker of the world* ..... Jesu Dulcis Memoria

PSALM 70 *Deus, in adiutorium.* (Prayer Book, p. 424) ..... Herbert Howells

PSALM 130 *De profundis* (Prayer Book, p. 507) ..... James Turle (from Purcell)

(Congregation stands for *Gloria Patri.*)

FIRST LESSON Genesis 22:1-19 *The Testing of Abraham*

MAGNIFICAT Collegium Regale ..... Herbert Howells  
(Congregation stands for *Gloria Patri.*)

SECOND LESSON Hebrews 2:6-18 *The Testing of Christ*

NUNC DIMITTIS Collegium Regale ..... Herbert Howells  
(Congregation stands for *Gloria Patri.*)

# THE PRAYERS FOR GOD'S GRACE

---

APOSTLES' CREED (*said by all, standing*)

I BELIEVE IN GOD 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.*

**RESPONSES** (*sung by choir*) ..... Godfrey Hewitt

*Minister:* The Lord be with you.

*Answer:* And with thy spirit.

*Minister:* Let us pray.

*(please kneel)*

*Minister:* Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Answer:* Christ, have mercy upon us

*Minister:* Lord, have mercy upon us.

**LORD'S PRAYER** (*sung by choir*)

O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;

*And grant us thy salvation.*

O Lord, save the state;

*And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee;*

Endue thy Ministers with righteousness,

*And make thy chosen people joyful.*

O Lord, save thy people

*And bless thine inheritance.*

Give peace in our time, O Lord;

*Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.*

O God, make clean our hearts within us;

*And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.*

**FOUR COLLECTS** ..... Prayer Book, pgs. 130, 124, 31

**BENEDICAMUS DOMINO**

*Minister:* The Lord be with you.

*Answer:* And with thy spirit.

*Minister:* Let us bless the Lord.

*Answer:* Thanks be to God.

*Minister:* May the souls of the faithful departed,  
through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

**WELCOME AND ADDRESS** ..... Father Dunbar

**ANTHEM** *Let My Prayer Come Up As The Incense* ..... Peter R. Hallock,  
Ed. Carl Crosier

Let my prayer come as the incense, and let the lifting up  
of my hands be as an evening sacrifice. (Psalm 141: 2)

**CLOSING PRAYERS** (*responses said by all*)

*Minister:* The Lord be with you;

*Answer:* And with thy spirit.

*Minister:* Let us pray.

*(please kneel)*

Vouchsafe, O Lord, we beseech thee, the help of thy grace, that being intent, as becomes us, on fasting and prayer, we may be delivered from bodily and spiritual enemies, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**BLESSING**

The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, bless and preserve you this night and for ever more. *Amen.*

*(please stand)*

**HYMN** *Dear Lord and Father of Mankind*..... Repton



- 1. Dear Lord and Fa- ther of mankind, Forgive our foolish ways! Re-
- 2. In simple trust like theirs who heard Beside the Syrian sea, The
- 3. O Sabbath rest by Galilee! O calm of hills a- bove, Where
- 4. Drop thy still dews of quietness, Till all our strivings cease; Take
- 5. Breathe through the heats of our desire Thy coolness and thy balm; Let



- 1. -clothe us in our rightful mind, In purer lives thy ser-vice find In
- 2. gracious calling of the Lord, Let us, like them, with-out a word Rise
- 3. Jesus knelt to share with thee The silence of e- tern- i- ty, In-
- 4. from our souls the strain and stress, And let our ordered lives con- fess The
- 5. sense be dumb, let flesh retire; Speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire, O



- 1. deeper reve- rence praise. In deeper reve- rence praise.
- 2. up and fol- low thee. Rise up and fol- low thee.
- 3. ter- pret- ed by love! In- ter-pret-ed by love!
- 4. beauty of thy peace. The beauty of thy peace.
- 5. still small voice of calm! O still small voice of calm!

**VOLUNTARY** *Solemn Recessional*..... Colin Mawby



*If you are not remaining to hear the voluntary, please leave quietly, so as not to disturb those who stay.*

## FEATURED MUSICIANS

---

**Carver Blanchard** is a former Lurtenist for the Smithsonian Institution and tenor in their consort. He recently retired from Wesleyan University as an instructor of guitar and lute. His compositions for guitar and lute are performed internationally and are featured on Albany Records, “Lute Unleashed” and “Heartsongs and Audubon”. He currently lives in Savannah and is Director of Carvers Barn, A 501(c)3 organization whose mission is the encouragement of new works in the performing arts.

**Joel Paskauskas** is a native of Savannah, Ga. He is a talented, young musician who recently joined St. John’s Church as a valued member and active choir member for the last year. Joel’s passion for music led him to explore various instruments, and he is excited to make his harpsichord debut during tonight’s Evensong. Joel has a particular interest in baroque period music, and his contribution to today’s service is sure to delight those who appreciate this style.

## ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP

---

- Father Gavin G. Dunbar, Rector
- Wesley Perkins, Assistant Conductor
- Mr. R. Steven Branyon, Organist and Choirmaster
- Mr. Joe Flanders, Usher
- Mrs. Angela Fisher, Assistant Organist

## NOTES ON THE SERVICE MUSIC

---

Bob Bailey wrote an insightful piece about today’s final Evensong hymn in *American Guild of Organist Magazine*.

**“Dear Lord and Father” (I Kings 19:11 2), C. Hubert H. Parry (1848–1918)**

These WORDS are from a long narrative poem, “The Brewing of Soma,” by John Greenleaf Whittier. It describes Vedic priests going into the forest and drinking themselves into a stupor with a concoction called “soma.” They try to have a religious experience and contact the spirit world. It is after setting this scene that Whittier draws his lesson: “Dear Lord, and Father of mankind, forgive our foolish ways...” The poem draws on the familiar story of Elijah and his meeting with God on the mountain in I King 19. Remember how it goes? God invites Elijah to go to the mouth of a cave so that God might pass by. Elijah goes to the mouth of the cave, and we are told that a great wind whips around him, but Elijah does not see God in the wind. And after the fire, a still small voice.

This is a turning point in Elijah’s ministry. Up until this point, the Israelites have depended heavily upon the wind, the earthquake, and the fire (see I Kings 18:20–40) to prove the power and the might of the one they hold most holy. But in this story, God is found not in the booming anthropomorphic bellow of an angry father, not in the righteous justice we demand of Him on those who have not followed Him, but in a “still small voice.” God’s power and majesty and glory are the very reasons He does not have to prove Himself to us. It is we who should listen through the earthquakes, winds, and fires of our making for this is “still small voice of calm.”

# The Music *at* St. John's Church

*Beautiful, music-filled services based on  
the classical Anglican Prayer Book*

Choral Evensong for PBS USA Conference

Friday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

(No registration required. Open to the public.)



Solemn Choral Evensong for Easter Eve

Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 4:05 p.m.



Solemn Choral Evensong for Eastertide

Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:05 p.m.



Choral Mattins for Trinity Sunday

Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m.

NO ADMISSION CHARGE

Free Parking in St. John's Church Lot on Whitaker St.



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

---

SAVANNAH

*Worship in the Anglican Tradition*

325 Bull Street, Savannah ■ [StJohnsSav.org](http://StJohnsSav.org)