

**Parish of Central Windsor**

# **Choral Evensong**

**according to  
The Book of Common Prayer**



**Easter-Tide**

**19<sup>th</sup> April 2026  
5.30pm**

**A warm welcome to  
All Saints' Church  
for our service this evening**

Organ music before the service: Christ ist erstanden (JS Bach))

Please stand for:  
THE OPENING HYMN

**Come, ye faithful, raise the strain  
of triumphant gladness!  
God hath brought his Israel  
into joy from sadness:  
loosed from Pharoah's bitter yoke  
Jacob's sons and daughters,  
led them with unmoistened foot  
through the Red Sea waters.**

**'Tis the spring of souls today:  
Christ hath burst his prison,  
and from three days' sleep in death  
as a sun hath risen;  
all the winter of our sins,  
long and dark, is flying  
from his light, to whom we give  
laud and praise undying.**

**Now the queen of seasons, bright  
with the day of splendour,  
with the royal feast of feasts,  
comes its joy to render;  
comes to glad Jerusalem,  
who with true affection  
welcomes in unwearied strains  
Jesus' resurrection.**

**Alleluia now we cry  
to our King Immortal,  
who triumphant burst the bars  
of the tomb's dark portal;  
alleluia, with the Son  
God the Father praising;  
alleluia yet again  
to the Spirit raising.**

*St John of Damascus d. c. 754  
Tr J. M. Neale (1818-1866)*

*The Opening Sentence and Introduction are said:*

Dearly beloved....

*A general Confession to be said of the whole Congregation,*

**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 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 or Remission of sins to be pronounced by the Priest*

**Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desireth not the death of a sinner, but rather that he may turn from his wickedness, and live; and hath given power, and commandment, to his Ministers, to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the Absolution and Remission of their sins: He pardoneth and absolveth all them that truly repent, and unfeignedly believe his holy Gospel. Wherefore let us beseech him to grant us true repentance, and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him, which we do at this present; and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure, and holy; so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*The Lord's Prayer is said*

**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. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

*The Preces and Responses are sung*

V. O Lord, open thou our lips

R. **And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.**

V. O God, make speed to save us.

R. **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

V. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

R. **As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.**

V. Praise ye the Lord.

R. **The Lord's Name be praised.**

*The appointed Psalm is sung*

## **PSALM 48**

**1 Great is the Lord, and highly to be praised : in the city of our God, even upon his holy hill.**

**2 The hill of Sion is a fair place, and the joy of the whole earth : upon the north-side lieth the city of the great King; God is well known in her palaces as a sure refuge.**

**3 For lo, the kings of the earth : are gathered, and gone by together.**

**4 They marvelled to see such things : they were astonished, and suddenly cast down.**

**5 Fear came there upon them, and sorrow : as upon a woman in her travail.**

**6 Thou shalt break the ships of the sea : through the east-wind.**

**7 Like as we have heard, so have we seen in the city of the Lord of hosts, in the city of our God : God upholdeth the same for ever.**

**8 We wait for thy loving-kindness, O God : in the midst of thy temple.**

**9 O God, according to thy Name, so is thy praise unto the world's end : thy right hand is full of righteousness.**

**10 Let the mount Sion rejoice, and the daughters of Judah be glad : because of thy judgements.**

**11 Walk about Sion, and go round about her : and tell the towers thereof.**

**12 Mark well her bulwarks, set up her houses : that ye may tell them that come after.**

**13 For this God is our God for ever and ever : he shall be our guide unto death.**

**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.**

*A Lesson of the Old Testament is read*

The First Lesson is taken from the Book of Isaiah

Isaiah 56.1-8

56 <sup>1</sup> Thus says the Lord:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,  
for soon my salvation will come,  
and my deliverance be revealed.

<sup>2</sup> Happy is the mortal who does this,  
the one who holds it fast,  
who keeps the sabbath, not profaning it,  
and refrains from doing any evil.

<sup>3</sup> Do not let the foreigner joined to the Lord say,  
'The Lord will surely separate me from his people';  
and do not let the eunuch say,  
'I am just a dry tree.'

<sup>4</sup> For thus says the Lord:

To the eunuchs who keep my sabbaths,  
who choose the things that please me  
and hold fast my covenant,

<sup>5</sup> I will give, in my house and within my walls,  
a monument and a name  
better than sons and daughters;

I will give them an everlasting name  
that shall not be cut off.

<sup>6</sup> And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord,  
to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord,  
and to be his servants,

all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it,  
and hold fast my covenant—

<sup>7</sup> these I will bring to my holy mountain,  
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;

their burnt-offerings and their sacrifices  
will be accepted on my altar;

for my house shall be called a house of prayer  
for all peoples.

<sup>8</sup> Thus says the Lord God,  
who gathers the outcasts of Israel,

I will gather others to them  
besides those already gathered.

Here endeth the Lesson: **Thanks be to God**

## The Magnificat (Stanford in C) *is sung by the choir*

My soul doth magnify the Lord:  
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.  
For he hath regarded:  
the lowliness of his hand-maiden.  
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.

## *A Lesson of the New Testament is read*

The Second Lesson is taken from the letter of Paul to the Philippians

### **Philippians 3.7-21**

<sup>3</sup> <sup>7</sup> Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. <sup>8</sup> More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup> and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. <sup>10</sup> I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup> if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. <sup>12</sup> Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. <sup>13</sup> Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. <sup>15</sup> Let those of us then who are mature be of the same mind; and if you think differently about anything, this too God will reveal to

you. <sup>16</sup>Only let us hold fast to what we have attained. <sup>17</sup>Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. <sup>18</sup>For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. <sup>19</sup>Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. <sup>20</sup>But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>21</sup>He will transform the body of our humiliation so that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself.

Here endeth the Lesson: **Thanks be to God**

**The Nunc Dimittis** *is sung*

**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.**

**The Apostles' Creed** *is said*

**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 Catholick Church;  
The Communion of Saints;  
The Forgiveness of sins;  
The Resurrection of the body,  
And the Life everlasting. Amen.**

*V.* Lord be with you.

*R.* And with thy spirit.

*V.* Let us pray. Lord, have mercy upon us.

*R.* Christ, have mercy upon us.

*V.* 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.**

*V.* O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

*R.* And grant us thy salvation.

*V.* O Lord, save the King.

*R.* And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

*V.* Endue thy Ministers with righteousness.

*R.* And make thy chosen people joyful.

*V.* O Lord, save thy people.

*R.* And bless thine inheritance.

*V.* Give peace in our time, O Lord.

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

*V.* O God, make clean our hearts within us.

*R.* And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

## **The Collect for Second Sunday after Easter**

Almighty God, who hast given thine only Son to be unto us both a sacrifice for sin, and also an ensample of godly life; Give us grace that we may always most thankfully receive that his inestimable benefit, and also daily endeavour ourselves to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

## **The Second Collect at Evening Prayer**

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. **Amen.**

## **The Third Collect, for Aid against all Perils**

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. **Amen.**

**Anthem:** Blessed be the Lord and Father (SS Wesley)

**Prayers of Intercession are said, ending with**

**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 before sermon*

**Now the green blade riseth from the buried grain,  
wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;  
love lives again, that with the dead has been:  
love is come again like wheat that springeth green.**

**In the grave they laid him, Love whom men had slain,  
thinking that never he would awake again,  
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:  
love is come again like wheat that springeth green.**

**Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,  
he that for three days in the grave had lain;  
quick from the dead my risen Lord is seen:  
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.**

**When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,  
thy touch can call us back to life again,  
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:  
love is come again like wheat that springeth green.**

*J. M. C. Crum (1872-1958)*

**SERMON**

*Hymn after sermon*

**Ye choirs of new Jerusalem,  
your sweetest notes employ,  
the Paschal victory to hymn  
in strains of holy joy.**

**How Judah's Lion burst his chains,  
and crushed the serpent's head;  
and brought with him, from death's domains,  
the long-imprisoned dead.**

**From hell's devouring jaws the prey  
alone our Leader bore;  
his ransomed hosts pursue their way  
where he hath gone before**

**Triumphant in his glory now  
his sceptre ruleth all,  
earth, heaven, and hell before him bow,  
and at his footstool fall.**

**While joyful thus his praise we sing,  
his mercy we implore,  
into his palace bright to bring  
and keep us evermore.**

**All glory to the Father be,  
all glory to the Son,  
all glory, Holy Ghost, to thee,  
while endless ages run. Alleluia! Amen.**

*St Fulbert of Chartes d.1028  
Tr Robert Campbell (1814-1868)*

**FINAL BLESSING**

**Voluntary: Prelude & Fugue in G (JS Bach)**

**You are welcome to take this service sheet away with you for private  
reflection or to give to a friend.**

If you are visiting today or attending for the first time, we hope that you have felt “at home” here, that you will be refreshed by today’s service of worship and that you will return in the future.

We shall be delighted if you decide to make our church community your spiritual home.



If you would like to know more about the Christian faith, please ask! You can also find out more by following the “Faith & Life” section on the Church of England website: [churchofengland.org/faith-life/what-we-believe](https://www.churchofengland.org/faith-life/what-we-believe)

If you don’t already, would you like to receive an email with details of next Sunday’s service, including the order of service? You can send a request by scanning the QR code or visiting our website and selecting the icon to the bottom right of the home screen.

[windsorchurches.org.uk](https://www.windsorchurches.org.uk)



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