

Old Town Partnership of Churches

Christ Church, Swindon

Choral Evensong

We welcome you to Christ Church for our service of Evening Prayer according to the Book of Common Prayer. Please join in singing the hymns and psalm(s) and speak boldly those words shown in bold type in this booklet. Please remain seated while the choir enters, then sings:

The Introit

Welcome & Introduction

Hymn (all join in)

The Preparation (*please sit or kneel to pray*)

Dearly beloved brethren, the Scripture moveth us in sundry places to acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness; and that we should not dissemble nor cloak them before the face of almighty God our heavenly Father; but confess them with an humble, lowly, penitent and obedient heart; to the end that we may obtain forgiveness of the same by his infinite goodness and mercy.

And although we ought at all times humbly to acknowledge our sins before God; yet ought we most chiefly so to do, when we assemble and meet together to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at his hands, to set forth his most worthy praise, to hear his most holy word, and to ask those things which are requisite and necessary, as well for the body as the soul. Wherefore I pray and beseech you, as many as are here present, to accompany me with a pure heart, and humble voice, unto the throne of the heavenly grace, saying after me:

*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

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. **Amen**

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

Preces & Responses (*sung by the 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.

Psalm, *Please stand to join in singing the psalm appointed for this evening*

Please sit for the reading of the **First Lesson**

Please remain seated as the choir sings The Magnificat

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.

Please stand:

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 for the **Second Lesson***

*Please remain seated as the choir sings the **Nunc Dimittis***

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. *Luke 2 vv29-32*

Please stand:

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

Apostles' Creed – *said by all. Please stand*

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

Versicles & Responses (*sung by the choir*)

The Lord be with you; and with thy spirit. Let us pray

Please sit or kneel to pray

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.

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us; And grant us thy salvation.

O Lord, save the King; 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.

The Collect for the Day

Collect for Peace

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**

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**

The Choir will sing an Anthem

Sermon

Hymn

Prayers

The Minister and people then say together "The Grace"...

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

Blessing and Dismissal

The Lord be with you, **and with thy spirit.**

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace; **and rise in glory. Amen**

Please remain standing while the choir and leaders depart, then sit to listen to the organ voluntary