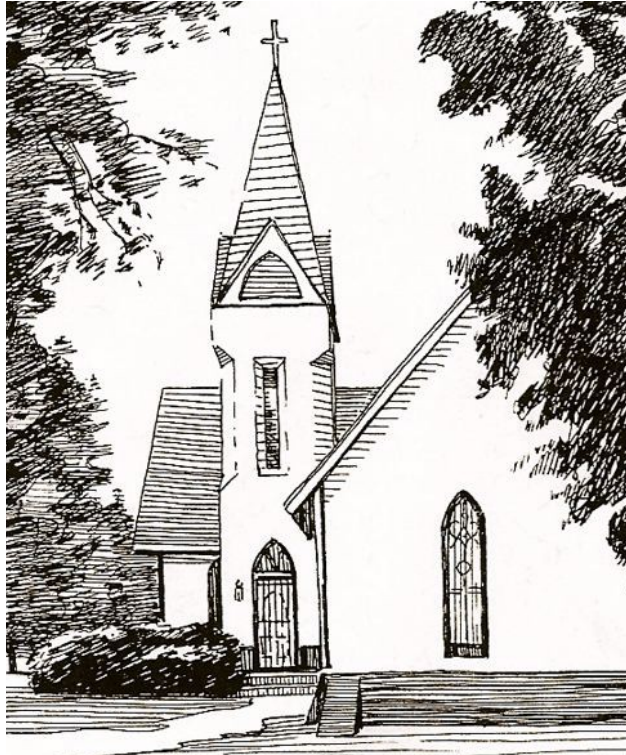


ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH



CHORISTER EVENSONG

Monday, March 31, 2025
5:45 p.m.



An Order for Evening Prayer (Rite II)

March 31, 2025
5:45 p.m.
John Donne, Priest & Poet

The People stand as they are able as the Choir enters.

Introit

A Prayer of St. Ignatius of Loyola

Barry Rose

Teach us good Lord, to serve thee as thou deservest,
To give, and not to count the cost;
To fight, and not to heed the wounds;
To toil, and not to seek for rest;
To labor, and not to ask any reward
Save that of knowing that we do Thy will. Amen.

Officiant

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Philippians 1:2

Invitatory and Psalter

- V. O God, make speed to save us.
- R. O Lord, make haste to help us.
- V. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
- R. as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

The People remain standing and sing the Phos hilaron.

Phos hilaron

O gracious Light

TALLIS' CANON

1 O gra - cious Light, Lord Je - sus Christ, in
 2 Now sun - set comes, but light shines forth, the
 3 Wor - thy are you of end - less praise, O

you the Fa - ther's glo - ry shone. Im - mor - tal, ho - ly,
 lamps are lit to pierce the night. Praise Fa - ther, Son, and
 Son of God, Life - giv - ing Lord; where - fore you are through

blest is he, and blest are you, his ho - ly Son.
 Spi - rit: God who dwells in the e - ter - nal light.
 all the earth and in the high - est heaven a - dored.

The People are seated for the Psalm and the Lessons.

- 1 Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.
- 2 I say to the Lord, 'You are my Lord; *
I have no good apart from you.'
- 3 As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble, *
in whom is all my delight.
- 4 Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows; *
their drink-offerings of blood I will not pour out
or take their names upon my lips.
- 5 The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; *
you hold my lot.
- 6 The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; *
I have a goodly heritage.
- 7 I bless the Lord who gives me counsel; *
in the night also my heart instructs me.
- 8 I keep the Lord always before me; *
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.
- 9 Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; *
my body also rests secure.
- 10 For you do not give me up to Sheol, *
or let your faithful one see the Pit.
- 11 You show me the path of life. *
In your presence there is fullness of joy;
in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

Lessons

First Lesson

Ecclesiastes 9:1-12

All this I laid to heart, examining it all, how the righteous and the wise and their deeds are in the hand of God; whether it is love or hate one does not know. Everything that confronts them is vanity, since the same fate comes to all, to the righteous and the wicked, to the good and the evil, to the clean and the unclean, to those who sacrifice and those who do not sacrifice. As are the good, so are the sinners; those who swear are like those who shun an oath. This is an evil in all that happens under the sun, that the same fate comes to everyone. Moreover, the hearts of all are full of evil; madness is in their hearts while they live, and after that they go to the dead. But whoever is joined with all the living has hope, for a living dog is better than a dead lion. The living know that they will die, but the dead know nothing; they have no more reward, and even the memory of them is lost. Their love and their hate and their envy have already perished; never again will they have any share in all that happens under the sun. Go, eat your bread with enjoyment, and drink your wine with a merry heart; for God has long ago approved what you do. Let your garments always be white; do not let oil be lacking on your head. Enjoy life with the wife whom you love, all the days of your vain life that are given you under the sun, because that is your portion in life and in your toil at which you toil under the sun. Whatever your hand finds to do, do with your might; for there is no work or thought or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol, to which you are going. Again I saw that under the sun the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, nor bread to the wise, nor riches to the intelligent, nor favor to the skillful; but time and chance happen to them all. For no one can anticipate the time of disaster. Like fish taken in a cruel net, and like birds caught in a snare, so mortals are snared at a time of calamity, when it suddenly falls upon them.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed: *
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.
He has mercy on those who fear him *
in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm, *
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *
and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
The promise he made to our fathers, *
to Abraham and his children for ever.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Second Lesson

John 5:19-24

Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, the Son can do nothing on his own, but only what he sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, the Son does likewise. The Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing; and he will show him greater works than these, so that you will be astonished. Indeed, just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whomsoever he wishes. The Father judges no one but has given all judgement to the Son, so that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. Anyone who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him. Very truly, I tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life, and does not come under judgement, but has passed from death to life.

Lector The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Song of Simeon (said in unison)

Luke 2:29-32

Lord, you now have set your servant free *
to go in peace as you have promised;
For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, *
whom you have prepared for all the world to see:
A Light to enlighten the nations, *
and the glory of your people Israel.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

The People stand as they are able for the Creed.

Apostles' Creed *(said in unison)*

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth;
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

The People may kneel or remain standing as able.

People **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. Amen.**

Suffrages

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;
R. And grant us your salvation.
V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;
R. Let your people sing with joy.
V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
R. For only in you can we live in safety.
V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;
R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.
V. Let your way be known upon earth;
R. Your saving health among all nations.
V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.
V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;
R. And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

Collects

Officiant O God of eternal glory, whom no one living can see and yet whom to see is to live; grant that with your servant John Donne, we may see your glory in the face of your Son, Jesus Christ, and then, with all our skill and wit, offer you our crown of prayer and praise, until by his grace we stand in that last and everlasting day, when death itself will die, and all will live in you, who with the Holy Spirit and the same Lord Jesus Christ are one God in everlasting light and glory.

Choir Amen.

Officiant Lord Jesus, stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past; be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts, and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love.

Choir Amen.

Officiant Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake.

Choir Amen.

General Thanksgiving

Officiant Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages.

People Amen.

The People may be seated as the Choir sings the Anthem.

Now Jesus went into the garden, the garden of Gethsemane.
 He went there sad and very weary to be alone, to pray.
 "Dear God, I am so sorrowful, is there no other way?
 Dear God, if it is possible, let this cup pass away."
 Now Jesus went into the garden, the garden of Gethsemane.
 The olive tree bent over him, and heard him sadly pray.
 "Dear God, your Son is sorrowful, but knows your way is best.
 Let love take hold of me! Help me to be bold and free to do your will, and rest.
 Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est. (Where true love is, God is there.)

The People stand as they are able.

Blessing

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Officiant The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. 2 Corinthians 13:14

People **Amen.**

The People remain standing and sing the Hymn.

Hymn

O gladsome Light

LE CANTIQUE DE SIMÉON

1. O glad-some Light, O grace of God the Fa - ther's face,
 2. Now, ere day fa - deth quite, we see the eve - ning light,
 3. To thee of right be - longs all praise of ho - ly songs,

the e - ter - nal splen - dor wear - ing; ce - les - tial, ho - ly, blest,
 our won - ted hymn out - pour - ing; Fa - ther of might un - known,
 O Son of God, Life - gi - ver; thee, there - fore, O Most High,

our Sa - vior Je - sus Christ, joy - ful in thine ap - pear - ing.
 thee, his in car - nate Son, and Ho - ly Spirit a - dor - ing.
 the world doth glo - ri - fy, and shall ex - alt for - e - ver.

After the Choristers depart the sanctuary, all are welcome to attend
 Faith & Fellowship dinner in the Parish Hall.

About John Donne

“Any man’s death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind.
And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls: It tolls for thee.”

These words are familiar to many; their author, John Donne, is one of the greatest of English poets. In his own time, he was the best-known preacher in the Church of England, but he came to that eminence by a tortuous path. Born into a wealthy and pious Roman Catholic family on January 21, 1572, in London, he was educated at both Oxford and Cambridge, and studied law at Lincoln’s Inn. Some time later he conformed to the Established Church and embarked upon a promising political career of service to the State. The revelation of his secret marriage in 1601 to the niece of his employer, the Lord Keeper of the Great Seal, brought his public career to an end. In 1615, he was persuaded by King James I and others to receive ordination. Following several brief parish pastorates, Donne rose rapidly in popularity as Dean of St. Paul’s Cathedral, London, from 1621 until his death. He drew great throngs to the cathedral and to Paul’s Cross, a nearby open-air pulpit. His sermons reflect the wide learning of the scholar, the passionate intensity of the poet, and the profound devotion of one struggling in his own life to relate the freedom and demands of the gospel to the concerns of a common humanity, on every level and in all its complexities. The hymn “Wilt thou forgive that sin where I begun” (The Hymnal 1982, #140) is one of his poetic legacies. In another famous poem, he writes:

“Batter my heart, three-person’d God, for you As yet but knock, breathe, shine,
and seek to mend; That I may rise and stand, o’erthrow me, and bend Your force
to break, blow, burn, and make me new. I, like an usurp’d town to another due,
Labor to admit you, but oh, to no end; Reason, your viceroy in me, me should de-
fend, But is captiv’d, and proves weak or untrue. Yet dearly I love you, and would
be lov’d fain, But am betroth’d unto your enemy; Divorce me, untie or break that
knot again, Take me to you, imprison me, for I, Except you enthrall me, never
shall be free, Nor ever chaste, except you ravish me.”

John Donne died in London on March 31, 1631.

The Rev. Peter W. Mayer, *Rector*
The Rev. Patti Sachs, *Associate Rector*
Jim Douglas, *Director of Music*

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