



St Mary Redcliffe

Choral Evensong
Saturday 2 August 2025
4.00pm

sung by Chester Cathedral Nave Choir

Officiant: Canon Dr Stephen Spencer

Welcome to St Mary Redcliffe

***Singing the song of faith and justice
as a thriving, inclusive Christian community
as a recognised, welcoming heritage destination
as a church that makes a difference in the parish and beyond***

Welcome to this service of Evensong which brings together our congregations in church and online.

*If you are worshipping in church, please be aware that **this service is livestreamed**. Our online congregation would love to see you, as it helps us to feel together, but if this causes you difficulties, please speak to a welcomer who will assist you to find an appropriate seat.*

If you are unsure where we are in the service, please do turn and ask those around you if you wish: or let the worship carry on around you and enjoy the presence of God made known through music, colour, architecture and movement.

*May the glory of God enthrall you,
the wonder of God inspire you,
and the love of God fill you*

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We stand as the choir and ministers enter

Welcome

We sit

Preces and Responses: *Sumsion*

The minister and choir sing the opening preces and responses.

O Lord, open thou our lips.

And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

O God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

We stand, as the minister and choir continue

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.

We sit for the psalm.

Psalm 148 (p535)

O praise the Lord of heaven:

praise him in the height.

Praise him, all ye angels of his:

praise him, all his host.

Praise him, sun and moon:

praise him, all ye stars and light.

praise him, all ye heavens:

and ye waters that are above the heavens.

Let them praise the Name of the Lord:
for he spake the word, and they were made; he commanded, and
they were created.

He hath made them fast for ever and ever:
he hath given them a law which shall not be broken.

Praise the Lord upon earth:
ye dragons, and all deeps;
Fire and hail, snow and vapours:
wind and storm, fulfilling his word;

Mountains and all hills:
fruitful trees and all cedars;

Beasts and all cattle:
worms and feathered fowls;

Kings of the earth and all people:
princes and all judges of the world;

Young men and maidens, old men and children, praise the Name
of the Lord:

for his Name only is excellent, and his praise above heaven and
earth.

He shall exalt the horn of his people; all his saints shall praise him:
even the children of Israel, even the people that serveth him.

We stand at the end of the psalm as 'The Gloria' is sung

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.

We sit

Old Testament Lesson: 1 Samuel 9.15-10.1

Now the day before Saul came, the Lord had revealed to Samuel: 'Tomorrow about this time I will send to you a man from the land of Benjamin, and you shall anoint him to be ruler over my people Israel. He shall save my people from the hand of the Philistines; for I have seen the suffering of my people, because their outcry has come to me.' When Samuel saw Saul, the Lord told him, 'Here is the man of whom I spoke to you. He it is who shall rule over my people.' Then Saul approached Samuel inside the gate, and said, 'Tell me, please, where is the house of the seer?' Samuel answered Saul, 'I am the seer; go up before me to the shrine, for today you shall eat with me, and in the morning I will let you go and will tell you all that is on your mind. As for your donkeys that were lost three days ago, give no further thought to them, for they have been found. And on whom is all Israel's desire fixed, if not on you and on all your ancestral house?' Saul answered, 'I am only a Benjaminite, from the least of the tribes of Israel, and my family is the humblest of all the families of the tribe of Benjamin. Why then have you spoken to me in this way?'

Then Samuel took Saul and his servant-boy and brought them into the hall, and gave them a place at the head of those who had been invited, of whom there were about thirty. And Samuel said to the cook, 'Bring the portion I gave you, the one I asked you to put aside.' The cook took up the thigh and what went with it and set them before Saul. Samuel said, 'See, what was kept is set before you. Eat; for it is set before you at the appointed time, so that you might eat with the guests.'

So Saul ate with Samuel that day. When they came down from the shrine into the town, a bed was spread for Saul on the roof, and he lay down to sleep. Then at the break of dawn Samuel called to Saul upon the roof, 'Get up, so that I may send you on your way.' Saul got up, and both he and Samuel went out into the street.

As they were going down to the outskirts of the town, Samuel said to Saul, 'Tell the boy to go on before us, and when he has passed on, stop here yourself for a while, that I may make known to you the word of God.' Samuel took a phial of oil and poured it on his head, and kissed him; he said, 'The Lord has anointed you ruler over his people Israel. You shall reign over the people of the Lord and you will save them from the hand of their enemies all around. Now this shall be the sign to you that the Lord has anointed you ruler over his heritage:

We stand

Magnificat in C Stanford

The choir sings the Song of Mary.

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 showed 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.

Luke 1.46-55

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.

We sit

New Testament Lesson: Luke 22.14-23

When the hour came, he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. He said to them, 'I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.' Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, 'Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.' Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, 'This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. But see, the one who betrays me is with me, and his hand is on the table. For the Son of Man is going as it has been determined, but woe to that one by whom he is betrayed!' Then they began to ask one another which one of them it could be who would do this.

We stand

Nunc Dimittis in C Stanford

The choir sings the Song of Simeon.

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 2.29-32

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

We all face east to say the Creed

**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.**

Preces and Responses: *Sumsion*

The minister and choir continue to sing the preces and responses after the creed.

The Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.
Let us pray.

We kneel or sit, as the minister and choir continue

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, show 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.

Collects

The minister chants the collects and the choir sings the 'Amen'

Collect for the Day

Lord of all power and might,
who art the author and giver of all good things;
graft in our hearts the love of thy name,
increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness,
and of thy great mercy keep us in the same;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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.

We sit for the choir to sing an anthem

Anthem: Evening Hymn *Balfour Gardiner*

Prayers

The minister says

Let us pray

We kneel

At the end of the prayers we say 'The Grace' together

**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.**

We stand

The Blessing

The minister says this or another appropriate blessing

Go forth into the world in peace;
be of good courage;
hold fast that which is good;
render to no one evil for evil;
but strengthen the fainthearted;
support the weak;
help the afflicted;
honour all people;
love and serve the Lord,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit
be upon you and remain with you always. Amen.

We remain standing as the choir and ministers leave and then sit

Organ Voluntary

Retiring Collection

If you are worshipping in church, you are invited to give to the life and ministry of St Mary Redcliffe Church using our contactless donation point as you leave.

If you are worshipping online or in church, you are invited to give [here](#) via our website www.stmaryredcliffe.co.uk

If you are a regular member of our congregation, whether in church or online, you are encouraged to give regularly using the Parish Giving Scheme which you can sign up for [here](#) at www.parishgiving.org.uk or using this QR code.

