

# St Mary Redcliffe



Evensong  
according to the  
*Book of Common Prayer*

DRAFT  
THIS IS NOT THE FINAL LAYOUT – PLEASE  
COMMENT ON THE CONTENT ONLY

Evensong is a service created at the time of the Reformation by Archbishop Thomas Cranmer (1489-1556). Cranmer combined the two Latin monastic offices of Vespers and Compline, to produce a service in plain English that the Church of England has used ever since. His aim in doing so was to make the daily worship of the Church accessible to all God's people.

Evensong, "evening song," forms part of the daily offering of worship in this church. In it we thank God for the day just past and ask his protection during the coming night. At the heart of the service is the Word of God, the Bible. We chant a Psalm, listen to two readings, and two Gospel canticles are sung.

For this service you will need this service booklet, a copy of the Book of Common Prayer (for the Psalm) and a hymn book. The hymns and Psalm are announced. Normally, one of the canticles (Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis) is sung by the choir and the other is chanted by choir and congregation together. The pew leaflet will say which is sung and which is chanted. Hymn and Psalm numbers and other information about the service can be found there also.

**Words in Bold Type are for us all to join in**  
Words in Plain Type are for a minister to say  
*Words in Italic Type are instructions and explanations*

## Some Prayers for use before the service

*Be still in the presence of God.*

*Consider what you are bringing to God today:*

*sins, sorrows, hopes, needs, thanksgivings ...*

*for yourself, for others, for the world ...*

My Lord and my God, take me for all that keeps me from thee.

My Lord and my God, grant me all that leads me to thee.

My Lord and my God, take me from myself and give me completely to thee.

*Nicholas of Flue, 1417-1487.*

Give us, our Father, a sense of thy presence as we gather now for worship.

Grant us gratitude as we remember thy goodness,

penitence as we remember our sins,

and joy as we remember thy love;

and enable us to lift up our hearts in humble prayer and fervent praise;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Frank Colquhoun*

## **Introit**

*Sung by the choir*

*Please stand*

## **Processional hymn**

## **Introduction**

*A sentence from Scripture may be read*

Dearly beloved, the Scripture moveth us in sundry places to acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness; and that we should not dissemble nor cloke 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:

*Please kneel*

**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.**

*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.**

*Or, if no priest be present, another minister may say:*

Grant we beseech thee, merciful Lord,  
to thy faithful people pardon and peace,  
that they may be cleansed from all their sins,  
and serve thee with a quiet mind;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**  
**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, the power and the glory,**  
**for ever and ever. Amen.**

## The Preces

○ Lord, open thou our lips.  
**And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.**

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

*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.**

Praise ye the Lord.  
**The Lord's Name be praised.**

## Psalm

*This is chanted by choir and congregation together.*

*It can be found in the Book of Common Prayer.*

*The Psalm ends with the Gloria:*

**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. | A-| men.**

*Please sit*

## Old Testament Lesson

*All stand*

### **Magnificat (or the Song of the Blessed Virgin Mary)**

*This may be sung by the choir or chanted by congregation and choir together.*

- 1 My soul doth | magnify · the | Lord :  
and my spirit hath re- | joiced in | God my | Saviour.
- 2 For he | hath re- | garded :  
the | lowli · ness | of his | handmaiden.
- 3 For be- | hold, from | henceforth :

- all gene- | rations · shall | call me | blessed.  
 4 For he that is mighty hath | magni · fied | me :  
 and | holy | is his | Name.  
 5 And his mercy is on | them that | fear him :  
 through- | out all | gene- | rations.  
 6 He hath shew-ed | strength · with his | arm :  
 he hath scattered the proud \* in the imagi- | nation | of their | hearts.  
 7 He hath put down the mighty | from their | seat :  
 and hath ex- | alted · the | humble · and | meek.  
 8 He hath fill-ed the hungry with | good | things :  
 and the rich he | hath sent | empty · a- | way.  
 9 He re- | membering · his | mercy:  
 Hath | holpen · his | servant | Israel.  
 10 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. | A-| men.

*Please sit*

## **New Testament Lesson**

*Please stand*

### **Nunc Dimittis (or the Song of Simeon)**

*This may be sung by the choir or chanted by congregation and choir together.*

- 1 Lord \* now lettest thou thy servant de- | part in | peace:  
 Ac- | cording | to thy | word.  
 2 For mine eyes have | seen thy · sal- | vation:  
 which thou hast prepared before the | face of | all | people;  
 3 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. | A-| men.

## **The Apostles' Creed**

*We all face East – the direction of Jerusalem – 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 Catholick Church;  
The Communion of Saints;  
The Forgiveness of sins;  
The Resurrection of the body,  
And the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **The Responses**

The Lord be with you.

**And with thy spirit.**

Let us pray.

*All kneel*

Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Christ, have mercy upon us.**

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**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.**

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

O Lord, save the Queen.  
**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 Collects**

*The Collect of the Day is chanted.*

*The 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.**

*The 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.**

*All sit*

## **Welcome and Notices**

### **Anthem**

*Sung by the choir*

*Please kneel*

### **Prayers**

*The prayers may end with 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.**

*2 Corinthians 13.*

*All stand*

### **Hymn**

*All stand.*

### **Offertory Hymn**

*During this hymn a collection is taken.*

## **The Blessing**

*This or another appropriate blessing is used:*

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 everyone;  
love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;  
and the blessing of God the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit  
be upon you and remain with you always. Amen.

## **Organ Voluntary**

## Some prayers for use after the service

O Lord Jesus Christ, who received the children who came to thee,  
receive also from me, thy child, this evening prayer.  
Shelter me under the shadow of thy wings,  
that in peace I may lie down and sleep;  
and waken me in due time that I may glorify thee,  
for thou alone art righteous and merciful. Amen.

Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time  
to make our common supplications unto thee;  
and dost promise that when two or three  
are gathered together in thy Name thou wilt grant their requests:  
Fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants,  
as may be most expedient for them;  
granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth,  
and in the world to come life everlasting. Amen.

*St John Chrysostom c. 347-407*

O Lord Jesus Christ,  
who hast said that thou art the way, the truth, and the life:  
suffer us not at any time to stray from thee, who art the way;  
nor to distrust thy promises, who art the truth;  
nor to rest in any other thing than thee, who art the life;  
beyond which there is nothing to be desired,  
neither in heaven, nor in earth;  
for they name's sake. Amen.

*Christian Prayers, 1578 (based on Erasmus, 1467-1536)*

**PLEASE LEAVE THIS BOOK FOR OTHERS TO USE**

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