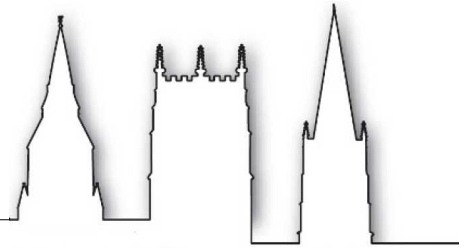


ST PETER'S CHURCH  
NOTTINGHAM

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# Order of Service for EVENSONG



Please return this booklet after the service

Edition produced March 2011

Welcome to this service of Evensong, or Evening Prayer.

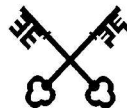
The origins of Evensong go back many centuries, and have their roots in the ancient patterns of monastic worship which were based on the regular singing of all 150 psalms and the systematic reading of the Bible. Brief services, or offices, were said or sung throughout the day and night, in accordance with St Paul's instruction to 'pray without ceasing', and so that the whole of the daily routine of monks and nuns could be sanctified and offered to God. In time, and so that worship could be made more suitable for church congregations, elements from a number of the monastic offices were combined to form Matins and Evensong. Hymns were added, and also sometimes a sermon was included. This format was formalised in the 1662 Book of Common Prayer, building on previous versions, and has remained largely unchanged ever since.

If such a traditional style of worship is unfamiliar to you, try to see it as a timeless expression of humanity's offering of prayer and praise to God. The texts used in the service are drawn largely from Scripture, often with a musical setting which enhances and enriches them. Our efforts to create worship which embodies beauty and poetry are our response to the abundant goodness, blessing and love shown to us by God, which should inspire us to give back of our best to him. There are many forms of participation in worship, and these include allowing ourselves to be open to the glimpses of the divine which can be imparted through sacred music, as well as using the serenity and calm which are characteristic of parts of the service to make one's own personal prayers to God.

The great Anglican theologian, liturgist and musician Percy Dearmer described the Book of Common Prayer as follows:

“The Divine Service is an invaluable part of the Christian life, a great safeguard against distorted ideas and weak-minded devotions, a great instrument of sobriety, peace, intelligence, and depth in religion. It is a service of quiet and thoughtful worship, of meditation, of learning, remembering, and reflection. There is much rest in it, much time to ponder, and pray, and to relax in God from the strain of mundane life, spreading our souls out in the sunshine of heaven, drinking in the atmosphere of ancient holy deeds and thoughts, strengthening our inner life by the fellowship of the Common Prayer, and lifting up tranquil hearts in piety and thankfulness to the God of our fathers.” *Everyman's History of the Prayer Book, 1912*

*Rev. CD Harrison, April 2010*



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.

## Order of Service for Evensong

*An INTROIT may be sung, or organ music played.*

*Please stand as the choir and clergy enter the church.*

### INTRODUCTION

*The congregation is welcomed to the service. The officiant may say one or more sentences of scripture, and then invites those present to confess their sins before God:*

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:

*All kneel and say together:*

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 priest, if present, says words of God's forgiveness in the Absolution:*

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.

*All* Amen.

*Or, if no priest be present, the officiant shall say the following Collect.*

Grant, we beseech Thee, Merciful Lord, to Thy faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleaned from all sins, and serve Thee with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* Amen.

*All say together:*

**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 opening **VERSICLES AND RESPONSES** are sung by the officiant and choir.*

*If no choir be present, the responses and canticles may be sung by the congregation, in which case the service continues on page 9 of this booklet.*

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.

*All 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.

*The congregation sits, and the choir sings the*  
**PSALMS**  
*as appointed for the day.*

*All sit for the*  
**OLD TESTAMENT READING**

*All stand to sing the*  
**OFFICE HYMN**

*Please remain standing as the choir sings the*  
**MAGNIFICAT**

The song of Jesus's mother Mary, which affirms God's work in history.

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.

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.

*All sit for the*  
**NEW TESTAMENT READING**

*All stand as the choir sings the*

## **NUNC DIMITTIS**

Simeon recognises that in Jesus's coming, God keeps his promise to the whole world.

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 to 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 CREED**

*All say together:*

**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 LESSER LITANY** *is sung by the officiant and choir:*

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

*The congregation kneels.*

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 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.

*There may be one or more COLLECTS set for the day.*

*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.**

*The congregation sits. The choir sings the*  
**ANTHEM**

**SERMON**

*before which notices may be given.*

*All stand to sing a*

**HYMN**

*All kneel for the*

**PRAYERS**

*which shall end with all saying 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.**

*All stand to sing the*

**OFFERTORY HYMN**

*during which a collection will be taken*

**BLESSING**

The peace of God, which passes all understanding,  
keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God,  
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**

*The following responses may be used:*

The Lord be with you:  
**And with thy spirit.**

Let us bless the Lord:                    (or)  
**Thanks be to God!**

The Lord give us his peace:  
**And life eternal. Amen.**

*Following the departure of the choir and ministers, please sit for the*

**ORGAN VOLUNTARY**

## APPENDIX

### Order of Evensong with no choir (including congregational music)

#### VERSICLES & RESPONSES

Ferial Setting (Southwell use)



O Lord, open thou our lips: **And our mouths shall shew forth Thy praise.**

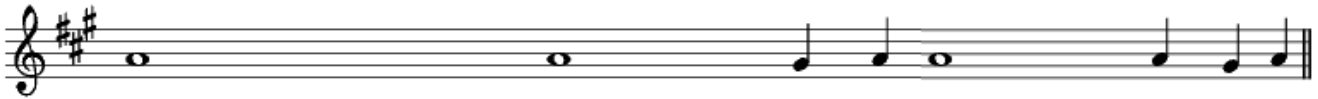


O God, make speed to save us: **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

*All 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, A - men.**



Praise ye the Lord: **The Lord's name be prais'd.**

*Remain standing to sing the*  
**PSALM** (see service sheet)

*All sit for the*  
**OLD TESTAMENT READING**

*All stand to sing the*  
**OFFICE HYMN**

Remain standing to sing the

**MAGNIFICAT**

J Turle



*mf* My soul doth / magnify the / Lord :  
and my spirit hath re-/ joiced in / God my / Saviour.  
For / he hath re-/ garded :  
the / lowliness of / his hand-/ maiden.

*f* For be-/ hold from / henceforth :  
all gener-/ ations shall / call me / blessèd.  
For he that is mighty hath / magni-fied / me :  
*dim.* and / ho-ly / is his / Name.

*mp* And his mercy is on / them that / fear him :  
through-/ out all / gener-/ ations.

*f* He hath shewed / strength with his / arm :  
he hath scattered the proud in the imagin-/ a-tion /  
of their / hearts.

*mf* He hath put down the / mighty · from their / seat :  
and hath ex-/ alted the / humble and / meek.

*dim.* He hath filled the hungry with / good / things :  
and the / rich he · hath sent / empty a-/ way.

*mp* He re-/ memb'ring his / mercy :  
hath / holpen his / ser-vant / Israel.  
As he / promised · to our / forefathers :  
Abraham / and his / seed for / ever.

*f* Glory / be · to the / Father :  
and to the Son, / and · to the / Ho-ly / Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now and / e-ver / shall be :  
world without / end. \* A- / - - / men.

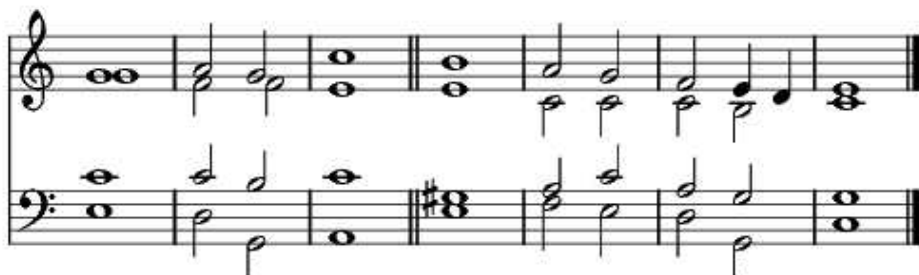
All sit for the

**NEW TESTAMENT READING**

All stand to sing the

**NUNC DIMITTIS**

H Baker



*mp* Lord, now lettest thou thy servant de-/ part in / peace :  
a-/ ccording / to thy / word.

For mine eyes have / seen thy sal-/ vation;  
Which thou hast pre-/ pared be·fore the / face of all / people;

*cres.* To be a light to / lighten the / Gentiles :  
*mf* and to be the / glory · of thy / peo-ple / Israel.

*mp* Glory / be · to the / Father :  
and to the Son, / and · to the / Ho-ly / Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now and / e-ver / shall be :  
world without / end. \* A- / - - / men.

## THE CREED

All say together:

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 LESSER LITANY

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

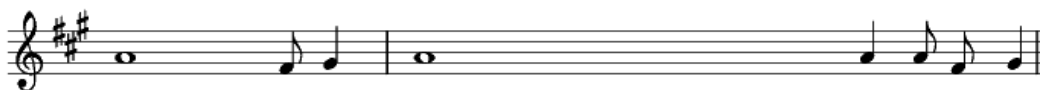
*All kneel.*

Lord, have mercy upon us.  
Christ, have mercy upon us.  
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Our Father, 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 salva-tion.**



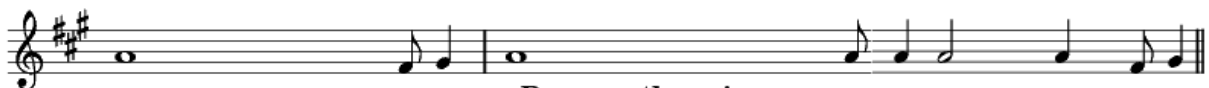
O Lord, save the Queen. **And mercifully hear us when we call u - pon thee.**



Endue Thy ministers with righteousness: **And make Thy chosen people joyful.**



O Lord, save Thy people: **And bless Thine inherri-tance.**



Give peace in our time, O Lord: **Because there is none other than fighteth** for us, but only thou, O God.



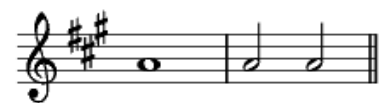
O God, make clean our hearts within us: **And take not Thy holy spirit from us.**

## THE COLLECTS

*The collect of the day is said or sung, along with the following:*

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.

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.



**A - men.**

*The service continues on page eight.*