

Choral Evensong

Sunday, 28th December, 2025

The Feast of the Holy Innocents



Welcome to this service of Said BCP Evening Prayer, led by the Reverend Nitano Muller, who is also preaching.

The Choir and musicians are on a well-deserved break following a busy Advent season and Christmas Day.

The organist today is Liam Condon, Assistant Director of Music.

Psalm

Psalm 128

- ¹ Blessed are all those who fear the Lord, ♦
and walk in his ways.
- ² **You shall eat the fruit of the toil of your hands; ♦
it shall go well with you, and happy shall you be.**
- ³ Your wife within your house
shall be like a fruitful vine; ♦
your children round your table,
like fresh olive branches.
- ⁴ **Thus shall the one be blest ♦
who fears the Lord.**
- ⁵ The Lord from out of Zion bless you, ♦
that you may see Jerusalem in prosperity
all the days of your life.
- ⁶ **May you see your children's children, ♦
and may there be peace upon Israel.'**

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.**

First Lesson

¹⁴ Then I looked, and there was the Lamb, standing on Mount Zion! And with him were one hundred forty-four thousand who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads. ² And I heard a voice from heaven like the sound of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder; the voice I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps, ³ and they sing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and before the elders. No one could learn that song except the one hundred forty-four thousand who have been redeemed from the earth. ⁴ It is these who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins; these follow the Lamb wherever he goes. They have been redeemed from humankind as first fruits for God and the Lamb, ⁵ and in their mouth no lie was found; they are blameless

Revelation 14.1-5

The Magnificat

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord:
unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of his word;
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name:
make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;
his holy name, the Lord, the Mighty One.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might:
powers and dominions lay their glory by;
proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.**

**Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word:
firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and for evermore.**

Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926)

Tune CP 362 Woodlands Walter Greatorex (1877-1949)

The Second Lesson

¹³ Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” ¹⁴ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

¹⁶ When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. ¹⁷ Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

¹⁸ “A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”

Matthew 2.13–18

The Nunc Dimittis

**Lord bid your servant go in peace;
your word is now fulfilled.
These eyes have seen salvation's dawn,
this child so long foretold.
This is the Saviour of the world,
the Gentiles' promised light;
God's glory dwelling in our midst,
the joy of Israel.**

**Behold this child will pierce your heart,
his Word will be a sword,
a sign opposed to hearts concealed
and grace for heaven's adored.
Almighty Father, hear our cry
through Christ the only Son,
whom in the Spirit we adore
for ages without end.**

*James J. Quinn (1919-2010)
Tune CP 469 Kingsfold English folksong from English
Country Songs (1893)*

The Collect

O Almighty God, who out of the mouths of babes and sucklings hast ordained strength, and madest infants to glorify thee by their deaths; Mortify and kill all vices in us, and so strengthen us by thy grace, that by the innocency of our lives, and constancy of our faith, even unto death, we may glorify thy holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Office Hymn

**O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home;**

**Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received her frame,
from everlasting thou art God,
to endless years the same.**

**Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all of us away;
we fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the opening day.**

**O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
be thou our guard while troubles last,
and our eternal home.**

Words from Psalm 90 arranged by Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

Tune CP 537 St Anne Melody and bass

from A Supplement to the New Version (1708)

probably by William Croft (1678-1727)

Voluntary

Please do stay for the organ voluntary, played by Liam Condon.

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Thank you for your support.

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Saturday, 3rd January 2025 are 11am – 3pm.
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