



ST. DUNSTAN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 20, 2026

4:00pm

Choral Evensong

Welcome to St. Dunstan's. It is an ancient tradition for the people of God to offer praise and prayer as the day draws to a close. Choral Evensong is a service of sung evening prayer. The text of the service is drawn almost entirely from the Bible. The main purpose is to proclaim the wonderful works of God in human history, and the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Sung psalms and canticles are interwoven with readings from the Old and New Testaments and the recitation of the Apostles' Creed and Lord's Prayer. Other prayers and hymns are drawn from the many centuries of the Christian Church. The congregation is invited to listen reflectively and prayerfully, following the text, as the choir offers inspiring settings of choral prayer and praise on their behalf.

Prelude Voluntary in A Minor
Emi Saeki, Organist

John Stanley
(1712-1786)

The people stand at the ringing of the bell.

The Invitatory and Psalter

THE PRECES

William Smith
(1603-1645)

Officiant O Lord, open thou our lips;

Choir And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

Officiant O God, make speed to save us;

Choir O Lord, make haste to help us.

Officiant Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

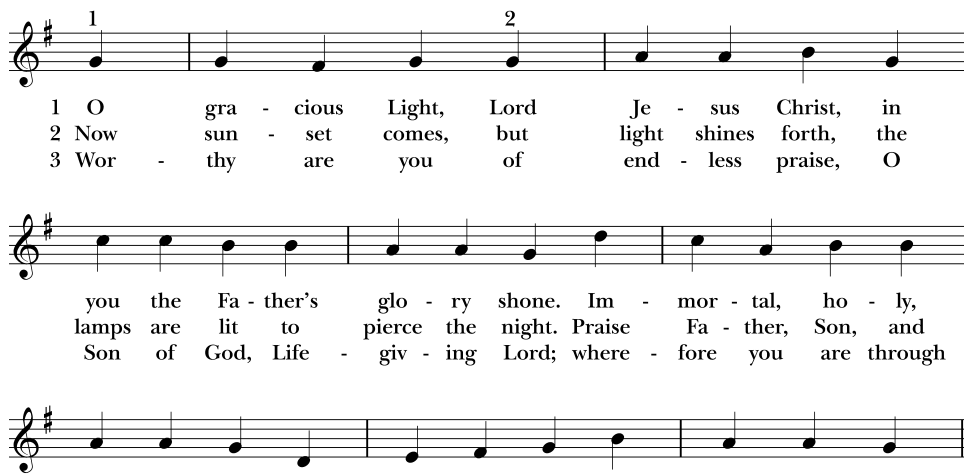
Choir As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end.
Amen.

Officiant Praise ye the Lord.

Choir The Lord's name be praised.

PHOS HILARON **Hymn 25** O gracious Light

The Eighth Tune



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.

Psalms 150 (*Anglican Chant*)

Charles Villiers Stanford
 (1852-1924)

O praise God in his holiness:
 praise him in the firmament of his power.

Praise him in his noble acts:
 praise him according to his excellent greatness.

Praise him in the sound of the trumpet:
 praise him upon the lute and harp.

Praise him in the cymbals and dances:
 praise him upon the strings and pipe.

Praise him upon the well-tun'd cymbals;
 praise him upon the loud cymbals.

Let everything that hath breath:
Praise the Lord.

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.

The First Lesson — Canticle 12, A Song of Creation

Benedicite, omnia opera Domini

II. The Earth and its Creatures

Let the earth glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.
Glorify the Lord, O mountains and hills,
and all that grows upon the earth, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O springs of water, seas, and streams, *
O whales and all that move in the waters.
All birds of the air, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O beasts of the wild, *
and all you flocks and herds.
O men and women everywhere, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

The people stand.

The Song of Mary Magnificat

Christiana Canticles

John Rutter

(b. 1945)

The Magnificat is Mary's song of thanksgiving in response to the announcement that she will bear the Son of God, fulfilling the promises of the Old Testament.

My soul doth magnify the Lord, *
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.
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.

The people sit.

The Second Lesson — Colossians 3:12-17

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

The people stand.

The Song of Simeon *Nunc dimittis*

*Christiana Canticles
John Rutter*

The Nunc dimittis is the song of the aged Simeon, who had been promised by the Holy Spirit that he would not die until he had seen the Messiah. Upon taking the infant Jesus into his arms, Simeon utters these words of thanksgiving.

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 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 Apostles' Creed *(sung by all)*

**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.**

The Prayers

Officiant The Lord be with you.

Choir And with thy spirit.

Officiant Let us pray.

The people stand or kneel.

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

The Lord's Prayer *(sung by all)*

**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.**

THE RESPONSES

William Smith

Officiant O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;
Choir And grant us thy salvation.
Officiant O Lord, save the state;
Choir And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.
Officiant Endue thy ministers with righteousness;
Choir And make thy chosen people joyful.
Officiant O Lord, save thy people;
Choir And bless thine inheritance.
Officiant Give peace in our time, O Lord;
Choir Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.
Officiant O God, make clean our hearts within us;
Choir And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

The Collects

The officiant sings a series of prayers, appointed for the day, each followed by a choral Amen.

Almighty and everlasting God, in Christ you have revealed your glory among the nations: Preserve the works of your mercy, that your Church throughout the world may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Most holy God, the source of all good desires, all right judgments, and all just works: Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, so that our minds may be fixed on the doing of your will, and that we, being delivered from the fear of all

enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through the mercies of Christ Jesus our Savior. *Amen.*

Be our light in the darkness, O Lord, and in your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of your only Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

The people sit.

Anthem Lead me Lord

*Samuel Sebastian Wesley
(1810-1876)*

Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy righteousness, make thy way plain before my face. For it is thou, Lord, only, that makest me dwell in safety.

PSALMS 5:8, 4:9

Moment of silence

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Officiant Let us pray.

The people stand or kneel

The General Thanksgiving *(said by all)*

**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 our selves 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. Amen.

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Officiant Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

The Grace *(said by all)*

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore.
*Amen.***

Announcements

Offering

An offering is taken to support St. Dunstan's ministry, and especially the choir and music. All are invited to make a gift as the plate is passed, or online at www.stdcv.org.

Hymn

The Earth is a Sacred Home

*A Hymn for the congregation of St. Dunstan's Carmel Valley, CA
and their Rector, the Rev. Laurel Coote*

Text: Kathryn Berkana

Music: Frederick Burgomaster

1.A for - est sets a path that holds our foot - steps____ we
2.A rock stands tall and meets an o - cean's wave____ we
5 3.Moon ris - es up to greet a star - ry night____ we

walk____ on____ with - out the weight of wor - ry____ The can - o - py,____ a
feel the spray the es - sence of life.____ We won - der at____ the
10 hope____ for____ the so - lace of its light____ Then shine our gaze up

shel - ter our pro - tec - tion____ it sings with life; we step by step and
shapes of light on wa - ter____ and know our small - ness in the sun's re -
to the stars a - bove____ and feel the wis - dom of our own soul's

15 Refrain

list - en____ The earth is a sac - red home____ we're held or
flec - tion____
22 still - ness____

found or seen____ The Sky a space to know God's love a roof -

30 less em - brace____ a roof - less em - brace.____

Reflection

The Rev. Laurel Coote, Rector

Moment of silence

The people stand or kneel

Anthems *(from The Gift of Life)*

John Rutter

The tree of life

The tree of life my soul hath seen, Laden with fruit, and always green: The trees of nature fruitless be Compared with Christ the apple tree.

This beauty doth all things excel; By faith I know, but ne'er can tell The glory which I now can see In Jesus Christ the apple tree.

The tree of life . . .

For happiness I long have sought, And pleasure dearly I have bought; I missed for all, but now I see 'Tis found in Christ the apple tree.

I'm wearied with my former toil, Here I shall sit and rest awhile; Under the shadow I will be Of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

The tree of life . . .

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, It keeps my dying faith alive; Which makes my soul in haste to be With Jesus Christ the apple tree.

The tree of life . . .

O Lord, how manifold are thy works

O Lord, how manifold are thy works: in wisdom hast thou made them all; the earth is full of thy riches. Thou cover'st it with the deep like as with a garment: the waters stand in the hills. He sendeth the springs into the rivers: which run among the hills. All beasts of the field drink thereof: and the wild asses quench their thirst. Beside them shall the fowls of the air have their habitation: and sing among the branches. He bringeth forth grass for the cattle: and green herb for the service of men. The trees of₁₁

the Lord also are full of sap: even the cedars of Libanus which he hath planted; Wherein the birds make their nests: and the fir-trees are a dwelling for the stork. The high hills are a refuge for the wild goats: and so are the stony rocks for the conies. The lions roaring after their prey: do seek their meat from God. The sun ariseth, and they get them away together: and lay them down in their dens. Man goeth forth to his work, and to his labour until the evening. O Lord, how manifold are they works: in wisdom hast thou made them all; the earth is full of thy riches. The glorious Majesty of the Lord shall endure for ever: the Lord shall rejoice in his works.

PSALM 104

For all the gifts of God's creation fashioned by his mighty hand: Earth and heaven, and all things living springing up at his command; To God on high be endless glory, praise and honour to his Name, Who was, and is and ever shall be, through eternity the same. How rich and fair his works of nature, bird and beast and tree and flower; All that lives, and has its being under God's almighty power! To him who reigns in endless glory, praise and honour to his Name, Who was, and is and ever shall be, through eternity the same. Amen.

JOHN RUTTER

The people stand or kneel

Closing Prayer and Blessing

Officiant What if the darkness covers us and the day around us turns to night?
Darkness is not too dark for God to whom dark and light are one.

Let us pray

You never sleep, God.

You are always awake, always watching, always willing the world
and its people to turn in the right direction.

So tonight, will you comfort those who cannot sleep because of illness,
or worry, or fear; or for reasons they cannot understand.

(pause)

God be near them.

All

God be near them.

Officiant And tonight, will you be close to those who wait patiently or impatiently
for a birth,
or a death,
for a visit,
or for the pieces of their life's jigsaw to fit together.

(pause)

God be near them.

All God be near them.

Officiant And tonight will you be close to those who wonder,
who look for inspiration,
who long to be with the one or ones they love,
who hope to recognize the right time when they can say, 'I'm sorry,'
or 'I love you,'
or even, 'Enough is enough.'

(pause)

God be near them.

All God be near them.

Officiant And God, listen to us as we share with you whatever
joys or sorrows, discoveries or questions we will take with us into
the night.

(pause)

God be near us.

All God be near us.

**All Into your hands we commit ourselves—our souls, our bodies,
our minds, our futures—for all things come from you and are
best kept in your care. Amen.**

Blessing

The peace of the ocean wave be with you.
The peace of the ocean breeze surround you.
The peace of the quiet earth be in you.
The peace of the night stars cover you.
And the deep peace of the Son of Peace, and of God almighty,
sustain you, shield you, and guide you on your way. **Amen.**

Postlude Paeon

*Kenneth Leighton
(1929-1988)*

Guest Organist: Emi Saeki

We welcome Emi Saeki as our guest organist for today's evensong service. Emi has given organ concerts throughout Europe and the USA, as well as her native Japan, and is known for her diverse music repertoire, ranging from Renaissance to Contemporary. She received a pipe organ diploma from ArtEZ Conservatory University of the Arts in the Enschede, Netherlands. She is presently resident organist and pianist at the First Presbyterian Church of Monterey.

EVENSONG MUSIC NOTES

Today's service music spans five centuries of composers writing music for choirs and organs in various cathedrals and parish churches throughout England. The rector of St. Dunstan's, the Rev. Laurel Coote, has just returned from a sabbatical in the UK, where she experienced wonderful liturgy and music in many of the cathedrals and college chapels represented by today's evensong composers.

Our earliest composer is **William Smith** (1603-1645), who was composing in the late Renaissance (Tudor) period, and spent most of his life in the northern England city of Durham, where he was a Minor Canon in that magnificent Norman cathedral. John Stanley (1712-1786) represents the Baroque era, the same time as Handel and Bach, and spent most of his life in London, where he became organist at the ancient Temple Church. He was a brilliant organist, and it is said that Handel frequently visited the church to hear him play. **Samuel Sebastian Wesley** (1810-1876), active in the Romantic era, was also born in London, but spent most of his life in other great cathedrals, including Exeter, Winchester, and Gloucester. He was famous in his lifetime and composed almost exclusively for the Anglican church. He wrote many hymns, one especially popular in the USA, "The Church's one Foundation." **Charles Villiers Stanford** (1852-1924), born in Dublin, represents the late Victorian era and early 20th century, when many composers were writing music for the Church of England. Early in his career he was Organist at Trinity College Chapel in Cambridge, and then moved on to London, where he was one of the founding professors of the Royal College of Music. Among his pupils were Gustav Holst and Ralph Vaughan Williams. The composer of the postlude is **Kenneth Leighton** (1929- 1988), whose sacred and liturgical music is performed widely in the UK, especially in cathedrals. He was particularly active in Oxford, and later became Reid Professor of Music at Edinburgh University. Paean was first performed by Simon Preston in the Royal Festival Hall, London. **John Rutter** (b. 1945) is our featured composer for this service of evensong. Born in London, he went on to study music and sing in the chapel choir at Clare College, Cambridge, where he later became Director of Music. In 1981 he founded his own choir, the Cambridge Singers, and made many recordings of sacred choral repertoire. His music has become quite popular, especially in the USA, with many of his anthems sung by choirs throughout the Episcopal church, as well as in a variety of Protestant denominations and Roman Catholic churches.

Today's evensong theme is Creation and finding God in nature. This is particularly exemplified in John Rutter's The Gift of Life, as well as in the hymn composed especially for this occasion. The inspiration for the composing of this hymn came from the poetry of our daughter, Kathryn Berkana. The melody is simple, and is intended to give the singer a feeling of "walking through the woods." I thought the phrase "a roofless embrace" was particularly poignant, so I have it repeated twice. This creative effort completes the five centuries of composers and poets.

St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church

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