

— EVENTIDE —

Why We're Here

This human and important—in fact, it is essential—to ask questions about the meaning and purpose of life; about what exists beyond us, what came before us, and what happens after this life; about what is right and wrong, and how to be reconciled to our own failures and those of others; about beauty and truth and their role in our lives; and about community, tradition, ritual, and rootedness. These questions are especially pressing in a world which seems detached from questions of meaning, and increasingly focused on institutions, power, and conformity instead of the things that make us human.

In generations past the church has been a place for people to explore these questions. But today, on top of the practical difficulty of getting to church while juggling family and work, many people feel like church isn't for them. The church has too often forgotten the big questions and focused too much on preserving itself as an institution.

But the church still has a lot to offer. The church is for you, and for everyone. It has a rich heritage of poetry, art, ritual, and spiritual teaching, which is just as relevant today as in the past. We can embrace these traditions together, and be a community of people living in the mysteries of what it means to be human and what it means to know God.

EVENTIDE is for you if you are hungry for deeper roots than contemporary culture can give you. It's for you if ritual and "old ways" seem more appealing than the recent trends. It's for you if you're seeking a spirituality that moves yourself out of the centre and is open to transcendence. It's for you if you are tired of individualism and are ready to be part of a community. It's for you if you see the beauty of art, of nature, and of God as neglected but essential parts of life. It's for you if you want your kids to have a spiritual practice.

This service uses Christian prayers and rituals. Specifically, this is a service of "Evening Prayer" or "Evensong." We know that Christian rituals are unfamiliar to most people. If you don't know how to follow along, feel free to either ask someone to guide you, or just relax and let it all wash over you. We're glad that you're here.



EVENTIDE
The Service of Solemn Evensong



Welcome. We're glad that you're here in God's house.

This booklet will guide you through the service. If Anglican services are unfamiliar to you, that's okay. Prioritize taking it all in with an open heart. Children of all ages are welcome at Christ Church. Feel free to move around the church with your children during the service if that is helpful.

— Part 1: Approach —

We enter God's house with praise, penitence, and prayer.

PROCESSION & BEATITUDES

Refrain { O Lord, remember us when thou comest into thy kingdom.

CANDLE LIGHTING



GRACIOUS Light, Lord Jesus Christ, in you the Father's glory shone; immortal, holy, blest is he, and blest are you, his only Son.

Now sunset comes, but light shines forth; the lamps are lit to pierce the night. Praise Father, Son, and Spirit: God who dwells in the eternal light.

Worthy are you of endless praise, O Son of God, life-giving Lord; wherefore you are through all the earth and in the highest heaven adored.

CONFESSION



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.

Then the Priest pronounces God's Absolution.

Next column →

VERSICLES & 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.* 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.*

— Part 2: Service of the Word —

The reading of holy scripture gathers us into a community of faith.

HYMN from the blue hymnal. → READING

MAGNIFICAT

Refrain { Let my prayer arise, O Lord, as incense; and the lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice.

ALLELUIA & GOSPEL → ADDRESS

APOSTLES' CREED



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.

Next column →

— Part 3: Prayers —

We bring the needs of the church and the world to our heavenly Father.

LORD'S PRAYER



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.

LITANY

Response { Lord, have mercy.

COLLECTS → BLESSING → RECESSION

— Questions You Might Be Asking Yourself —

Q: *How did I get here? Why am I at a prayer service?* **A:** God has called you. God initiates a relationship with us by drawing us into circumstances where we can meet him.

Q: *Can this really be prayer if it's all written down?* **A:** That depends on you. Prayer is a turning of the heart to God. It doesn't matter whether the words are written down or not; the question is whether you can say these words from your heart, even a little.

Q: *How can I participate if I'm not a Christian?* **A:** Just the same as anyone else: by orienting your inmost self to God. Try it. If you approach prayer with openness, you may find it more meaningful than you expected. You can sort out difficulties you have with the text of the prayers later. (Hint: ask the priest.)

Q: *What's with the incense?* **A:** We use it to pray in a symbolic language. It rises to God as a burnt sacrifice and a purifying odour.