

## Choral Evensong

The Third Sunday in Lent

March 23, 2025 • 4 p.m.

St. Alfred's Episcopal Church, Palm Harbor, Florida

---

### THE TRADITION OF CHORAL EVENSONG

Welcome to St. Alfred's Episcopal Church. 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 in 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 as the choir offers prayer and praise on their behalf. Many find this frees them to offer to God their own thoughts and prayers.

*The people's responses are in **bold**.*

### ORGAN VOLUNTARY

*Psalm-Prelude II*

Herbert Howells

*The people stand as able as the procession enters.*

### PRECES

Rachael Aarons

*Cantor* O Lord, open thou our lips.

*Choir* And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

*Cantor* O God, make speed to save us.

*Choir* O Lord, make haste to help us.

*Cantor* 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.

*Cantor* Praise ye the Lord.

*Choir* The Lord's Name be praised.

*The people are seated as the choir sings the Invitatory and Psalm 34.*

**INVITATORY**

*Let Thy Merciful Ears, O Lord*

Thomas Mudd

Let thy merciful ears, O Lord,  
be open unto the prayers of thy humble servants;  
and that they may obtain their petitions,  
make them to ask such things as shall please Thee.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

**PSALM 34**

chant: Thomas Norris

- 1 I will bless the LORD at all times; \*  
his praise shall ever be in my mouth.
- 2 I will glory in the LORD; \*  
let the humble hear and rejoice.
- 3 Proclaim with me the greatness of the LORD; \*  
let us exalt his Name together.
- 4 I sought the LORD, and he answered me \*  
and delivered me out of all my terror.
- 5 Look upon him and be radiant, \*  
and let not your faces be ashamed.
- 6 I called in my affliction and the LORD heard me \*  
and saved me from all my troubles.
- 7 The angel of the LORD encompasses those who fear him, \*  
and he will deliver them.
- 8 Taste and see that the LORD is good; \*  
happy are they who trust in him!
- 9 Fear the LORD, you that are his saints, \*  
for those who fear him lack nothing.
- 10 The young lions lack and suffer hunger, \*  
but those who seek the LORD lack nothing that is good.
- 11 Come, children, and listen to me; \*  
I will teach you the fear of the LORD.
- 12 Who among you loves life \*  
and desires long life to enjoy prosperity?
- 13 Keep your tongue from evil-speaking \*  
and your lips from lying words.

- 14 Turn from evil and do good; \*  
seek peace and pursue it.
- 15 The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, \*  
and his ears are open to their cry.
- 16 The face of the LORD is against those who do evil, \*  
to root out the remembrance of them from the earth.
- 17 The righteous cry, and the LORD hears them \*  
and delivers them from all their troubles.
- 18 The LORD is near to the brokenhearted \*  
and will save those whose spirits are crushed.
- 19 Many are the troubles of the righteous, \*  
but the LORD will deliver him out of them all.
- 20 He will keep safe all his bones; \*  
not one of them shall be broken.
- 21 Evil shall slay the wicked, \*  
and those who hate the righteous will be punished.
- 22 The LORD ransoms the life of his servants, \*  
and none will be punished who trust in him.
- Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

### **The First Lesson: Jeremiah 6:9-15**

*Reader* A Lesson from the prophet Jeremiah.

This is what the LORD Almighty says: “Let them glean the remnant of Israel as thoroughly as a vine; pass your hand over the branches again, like one gathering grapes.” To whom can I speak and give warning? Who will listen to me? Their ears are closed so they cannot hear. The word of the LORD is offensive to them; they find no pleasure in it. But I am full of the wrath of the LORD, and I cannot hold it in.

“Pour it out on the children in the street and on the young men gathered together; both husband and wife will be caught in it, and the old, those weighed down with years. Their houses will be turned over to others, together with their fields and their wives, when I stretch out my hand against those who live in the land,” declares the LORD.

“From the least to the greatest, all are greedy for gain; prophets and priests alike, all practice deceit. They dress the wound of my people as though it were not serious.

‘Peace, peace,’ they say, when there is no peace. Are they ashamed of their detestable conduct? No, they have no shame at all; they do not even know how to blush. So they will fall among the fallen; they will be brought down when I punish them,” says the LORD.

*Reader*     The Word of the Lord.

*People*     **Thanks be to God.**

*The people remain seated as the choir sings the Magnificat.*

### **MAGNIFICAT**

Robert Lehman *(after Croft and Purcell)*

*The Magnificat is the Blessed Virgin Mary’s song of thanksgiving in response to the fact 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 to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be world without end. Amen.

*(Luke 1:46-55)*

## THE SECOND LESSON: MARK 5:1-20

*Reader* A Lesson from the Gospel according to Mark.

They came to the other side of the lake, to the country of the Gerasenes. And when he had stepped out of the boat, immediately a man out of the tombs with an unclean spirit met him. He lived among the tombs; and no one could restrain him any more, even with a chain; for he had often been restrained with shackles and chains, but the chains he wrenched apart, and the shackles he broke in pieces; and no one had the strength to subdue him. Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always howling and bruising himself with stones. When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and bowed down before him; and he shouted at the top of his voice, 'What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me.' For he had said to him, 'Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!' Then Jesus asked him, 'What is your name?' He replied, 'My name is Legion; for we are many.' He begged him earnestly not to send them out of the country. Now there on the hillside a great herd of swine was feeding; and the unclean spirits begged him, 'Send us into the swine; let us enter them.' So he gave them permission. And the unclean spirits came out and entered the swine; and the herd, numbering about two thousand, rushed down the steep bank into the lake, and were drowned in the lake.

The swineherds ran off and told it in the city and in the country. Then people came to see what it was that had happened. They came to Jesus and saw the demoniac sitting there, clothed and in his right mind, the very man who had had the legion; and they were afraid. Those who had seen what had happened to the demoniac and to the swine reported it. Then they began to beg Jesus to leave their neighbourhood. As he was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed by demons begged him that he might be with him. But Jesus refused, and said to him, 'Go home to your friends, and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and what mercy he has shown you.' And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him; and everyone was amazed.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*The people remain seated as the choir sings the Nunc Dimittis.*

## NUNC DIMITTIS

Robert Lehman (*after Croft and Purcell*)

*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 Spirit: \*

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

*(Luke 2:29-32)*

*The people stand as they are able.*

## **THE APOSTLES' CREED *Said by All.***

*The Apostles' Creed grew from statements of belief made by early Christians at their baptism. The Church continues to confess this same faith in the Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

**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 was 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 people remain standing as the cantor and choir sing.*

**THE PRAYERS**

Rachael Aarons

*Cantor* The Lord be with you.

*Choir* And with thy spirit.

*Cantor* Let us pray.

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

**THE LORD'S PRAYER** *Said 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.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,**

**for ever and ever. Amen.**

**THE SUFFRAGES**

Rachael Aarons

*Cantor* O Lord, show thy mercy upon us.

*Choir* And grant us thy salvation.

*Cantor* O Lord, save the state.

*Choir* And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

*Cantor* Endue thy Ministers with righteousness;

*Choir* And make thy chosen people joyful.

*Cantor* O Lord, save thy people.

*Choir* And bless thine inheritance.

*Cantor* Give peace in our time, O Lord.

*Choir* Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.

*Cantor* O God, make clean our hearts within us.

*Choir* And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

## THE COLLECTS

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

*The Collect for the Third Sunday in Lent*

Almighty God, who seest that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

*Choir Amen.*

*A Collect for Aid against 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 Savior Jesus Christ.

*Choir Amen.*

*Prayer for Mission*

O God and Father of all, whom the whole heavens adore: Let the whole earth also worship thee, all nations obey thee, all tongues confess and bless thee, and men and women everywhere love thee and serve thee in peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Choir Amen.*

*The people are seated.*

## WELCOME

The Reverend Peter Lane, Rector

## OFFERING

*An offering is received to support the music ministry at St. Alfred's Episcopal Church. All are invited to make a gift as the plate is passed.*

## ANTHEMS

***Blessed Be the Lord, My Rock***

Abbie Betinis

Blessed be the Lord, my rock, my fortress, my stronghold, my deliverer, my shield and he in whom I take refuge. We are like breath; our days are like a passing shadow. Bow thy heav'ns, O Lord, come down! Stretch forth thy hand from on high, Rescue me, deliver me. I will sing a new song to thee, O God.

*(Psalm 144)*



***Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God***

Michael Bedford

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. O cast me not away from thy presence, and take not thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation, and uphold me with thy free Spirit. Create in me a clean heart, O God.

*(Psalm 51:11-13)*

*The people stand as they are able.*

**THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING** *Said by All.*

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we thine unworthy servants  
do give thee most humble and hearty thanks  
for all thy goodness and loving-kindness  
to us and to all mankind.**

**We bless thee for our creation, preservation,  
and all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for thine inestimable 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 beseech thee,  
give us that due sense of all thy mercies,  
that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful;  
and that we show forth thy praise,  
not only with our lips, but in our lives,  
by giving up ourselves to thy service,  
and by walking before thee  
in holiness and righteousness all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost,  
be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.**

**A PRAYER OF ST. CHRYSOSTOM**

*Officiant*

Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication unto thee, and hast promised through thy well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name thou wilt be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants as may be best for us; granting us in this world the knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting.

*People*      **Amen.**

*Officiant* Let us bless the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

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

*People* **Amen.**

**HYMN 692**

*I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*

*Kingsfold*



1. I\_\_ heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest; and  
2. I\_\_ heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give the  
3. I\_\_ heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I\_\_ am this dark world's light; look



in your wea - ri - ness lay down your head up - on\_\_ my breast." I\_\_  
liv - ing wa - ter; thirst - y one, stoop down and drink, and live." I\_\_  
un - to me, your morn shall rise, and\_\_ all your day be bright." I\_\_



came to Je - sus as I was, so\_\_ wea - ry\_\_ worn, and sad; I\_\_  
came to Je - sus, and I drank of\_\_ that life - giv - ing stream; my  
looked to Je - sus, and I found in\_\_ him my\_\_ Star, my Sun; and



found in him\_\_ a\_\_ rest - ing place and he has made me glad.  
thirst was quenched my\_\_ soul re - vived, and now I live in him.  
in that light of\_\_ life I'll walk till\_\_ pil - grim days are done.

*You are invited to remain seated for the Organ Voluntary.*

**ORGAN VOLUNTARY**

*Reflection on Kingsfold*

Maureen Howell



*Thank you for joining us in worship.*

*Please know that your participation with us today has been a blessing.*

## **PARTICIPANTS**

### **OFFICIANT**

The Reverend Peter A. Lane, Rector

### **ACOLYTE**

Tara Knauss-Wilga

### **CANTOR**

Scott Garrett

### **LECTOR**

Anne Bagley

### **USHER**

Barb Christian

## **ST. ALFRED'S PARISH CHOIR OF ADULTS**

### **Soprano**

Laurel Bennett

Adeline Collins

Vivienne Hee

Kathy Raker

### **Alto**

Susan Broward

Lyn Lund

Joyce Oldmixon

### **Tenor**

Scott Garrett

Samuel Henderson

### **Bass**

Robert Adams

Ian Stroud

### **ORGANIST-CHOIRMASTER**

Kevin V. Johnson, AAGO

## PERMISSIONS

*Psalm Prelude II* - Herbert Howells, Novello & Co.

*Psalm Chant* - Thomas Norris, Church Publishing, Inc.

*Blessed Be the Lord, My Rock* - Abbie Betinis, Graphite Publishing

*Reflection on Kingsfold* - Maureen Howell

One License number A-735961

*St. James Responses* - Rachael Aarons, *Let Thy Merciful Ears, O Lord* - Thomas Mudd

*Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis* - Robert Lehman, *Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God* - Michael Bedford

St. James Music Press, ID number 8970

Hymn 692 *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say* and the tune *Kingsfold*

Permission to reprint by Rite Song, a one-time use reprint license for congregational use.

## Come Worship with Us

Saturdays at 5 p.m. - The Holy Eucharist : Rite One  
Sunday, 10 a.m. - The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two  
Thursday, 12 p.m. - The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two with Healing

## Holy Week and Easter Services



**April 13 Palm Sunday**

**Saturday, 5 p.m., The Holy Eucharist: Rite I**

**Sunday, 10 a.m., The Holy Eucharist: Rite II**

The Blessing of the Palms and the Dramatic Reading of the Passion at all services.

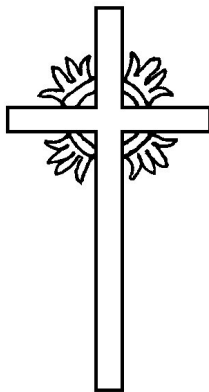
**April 17 Maundy Thursday**

**12 p.m., The Holy Eucharist with Healing**

**7 p.m., The Holy Eucharist: Rite II**

**8 p.m., All-Night Prayer Vigil**

**April 18 Good Friday Liturgy, Noon**



**April 19 The Great Vigil of Easter, 8 p.m.**

The Lighting of the New Fire,

The Lighting of the Paschal Candle,

The Renewal of Baptismal Vows and

The First Eucharist of Easter

**April 20 Easter Day**

**9:45 a.m. Pre-service Music: Organ and Handbells**

**10 a.m. Festival Choral Eucharist: Rite II**

## St. Alfred's Episcopal Church

1601 Curlew Road, Palm Harbor, FL 34683

(727) 785-1601

[www.stalfredschurch.com](http://www.stalfredschurch.com)