THE CHURCH
OF ST. MICHAEL & ST. GEORGE

The Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 16, 2025 5:00 pm

The Order for Choral Evensong

Organ Voluntary

Prelude on *Rockingham* T. Frederick H. Candlyn (1892-1964)

¶ All stand as the Choir and Ministers enter

Opening Sentence

Officiant The Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.
Isaiah 60:3

Confession of Sin

Officiant Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

¶ Officiant and People together, all kneeling

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,
spare thou those who confess their faults,
restore thou those who are penitent,
according to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus 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 Officiant alone stands and says

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution ✢ and remission of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. *People* Amen.

¶ All stand

The Invitatory Philip Moore (b.1943)

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.

¶ All are then seated as the Choir sings the appointed Psalms

The Psalmody

Psalm 19 Chant in G Robert W. Lehman (b.1960)

The heavens declare the glory of God, *
and the firmament showeth his handywork.
One day telleth another; *
and one night certifieth another.
There is neither speech nor language; *
but their voices are heard among them.
Their sound is gone out into all lands; *
and their words into the ends of the world.
In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun; *
which cometh forth as a bridegroom out of his chamber,
and rejoiceth as a giant to run his course.
It goeth forth from the uttermost part of the heaven,
and runneth about unto the end of it again; *
and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof.
The law of the Lord is an undefiled law, converting the soul; *
the testimony of the Lord is sure, and giveth wisdom unto the simple.

The statutes of the Lord are right, and rejoice the heart; *
the commandment of the Lord is pure, and giveth light unto the eyes.
The fear of the Lord is clean, and endureth forever; *
the judgments of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether.
More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold; *
sweeter also than honey, and the honeycomb.
Moreover, by them is thy servant taught; *
and in keeping them there is great reward.
Who can tell how oft he offendeth?
O cleanse thou me from my secret faults.
Keep thy servant also from presumptuous sins,
lest they get the dominion over me; *
so shall I be undefiled, and innocent from the great offence.
Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart,
be alway acceptable in thy sight, *
O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.
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.

Psalm 46 Chant in C after *Ein feste Burg* Martin Luther (1483-1546)

God is our hope and strength, *
a very present help in trouble.
Therefore will we not fear, though the earth be moved, *
and though the hills be carried into the midst of the sea.
Though the waters thereof rage and swell, *
and though the mountains shake at the tempest of the same.
There is a river, the streams whereof make glad the city of God; *
the holy place of the tabernacle of the Most Highest.
God is in the midst of her, therefore shall she not be removed; *
God shall help her and that right early.
The nations make much ado, and the kingdoms are moved; *
but God hath showed his voice, and the earth shall melt away.
The Lord of hosts is with us; *
the God of Jacob is our refuge.
O come hither, and be hold the works of the Lord, *
what destruction he hath brought upon the earth.

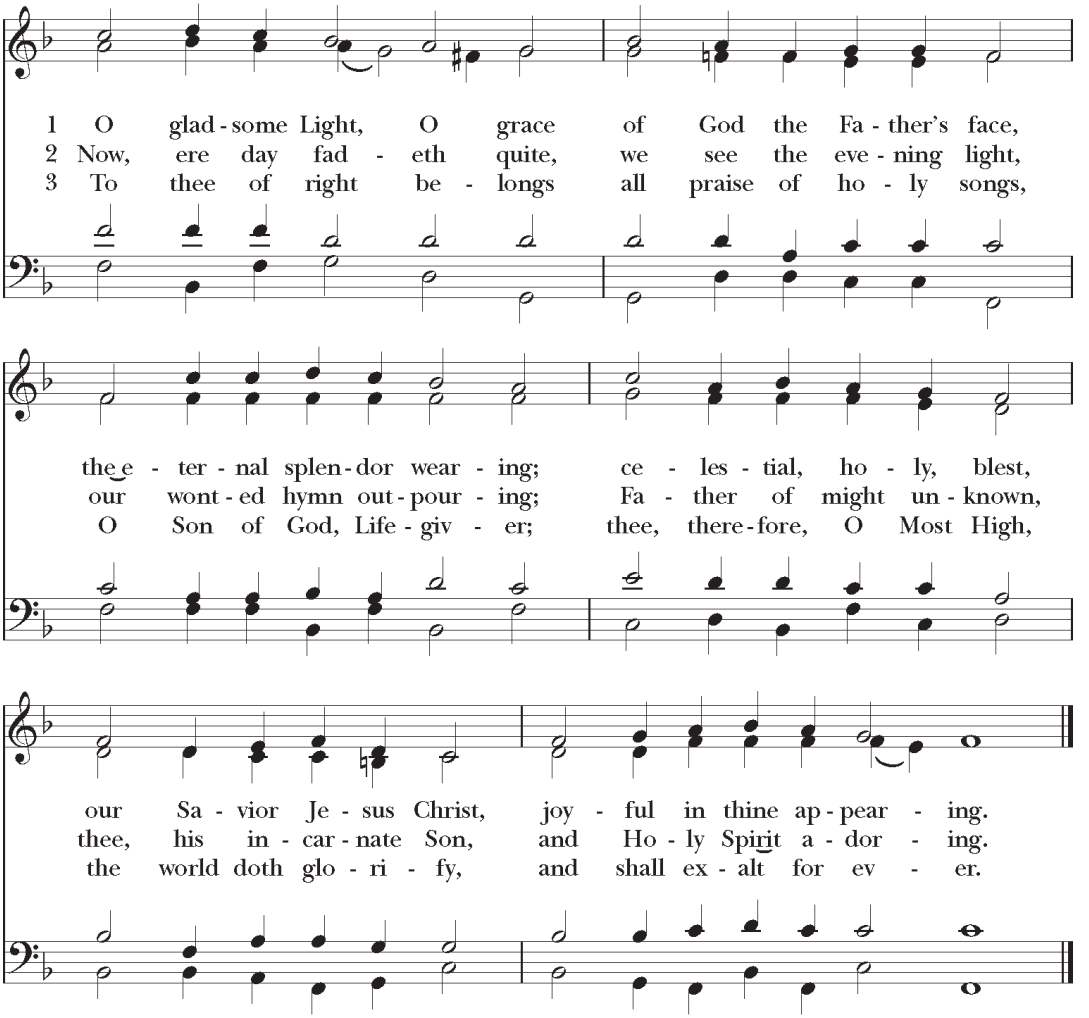
He maketh wars to cease in all the world; *
he breaketh the bow, and knappeth the spear in sunder,
and burneth the chariots in the fire.
Be still then, and know that I am God: *
I will be exalted among the nations,
and I will be exalted in the earth.
The Lord of hosts is with us; *
the God of Jacob is our refuge.
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 Lessons

The First Lesson 1 John 2:3-11

And by this we may be sure that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He who says "I know him" but disobeys his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him; but whoever keeps his word, in him truly love for God is perfected. By this we may be sure that we are in him: he who says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked. Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment which you had from the beginning; the old commandment is the word which you have heard. Yet I am writing you a new commandment, which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining. He who says he is in the light and hates his brother is in the darkness still. He who loves his brother abides in the light, and in it there is no cause for stumbling. But he who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

¶ *All stand for the singing of the Office Hymn and Magnificat*

Hymn 36

Words: Greek, 3rd century; tr. Robert Seymour Bridges (1844-1930)
Music: Le Cantique de Siméon, melody Louis Bourgeois (c.1510-c.1561)
harm. Claude Goudimel (1514-1572)

Magnificat Canticles in B minor T. Tertius Noble (1867-1953)

✢ 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 are seated following the singing of the Magnificat

The Second Lesson John 8:12-19

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." The Pharisees then said to him, "You are bearing witness to yourself; your testimony is not true." Jesus answered, "Even if I do bear witness to myself, my testimony is true, for I know whence I have come and whither I am going, but you do not know whence I come or whither I am going. You judge according to the flesh, I judge no one. Yet even if I do judge, my judgment is true, for it is not I alone that judge, but I and he who sent me. In your law it is written that the testimony of two men is true; I bear witness to myself, and the Father who sent me bears witness to me." They said to him therefore, "Where is your Father?" Jesus answered, "You know neither me nor my Father; if you knew me, you would know my Father also."

¶ Following the Lesson, all stand

Nunc dimittis Canticles in B minor T. Tertius Noble (1867-1953)

✠ 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 on a monotone

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

¶ The Cantor and Choir sing the following

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

¶ The People kneel

Cantor Lord have mercy upon us.
Christ have mercy upon us.
Lord have mercy upon us.

¶ *Then the Choir sings the short form of the 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. Amen.

¶ *Then follow these Suffrages*

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 following Collects are sung; the Choir sings "Amen."*

The Collect of the Day

O God, the strength of all those who put their trust in thee: Mercifully accept our prayers; and because, through the weakness of our mortal nature, we can do no good thing without thee, grant us the help of thy grace, that in keeping thy commandments we may please thee both in will and deed; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

A Collect for Peace

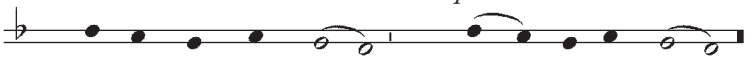
O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed: Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee, we, being defended from the fear of all enemies, may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior. 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. Amen.

Benedicamus Domino

Cantor *People*



Let us bless the Lord. Thanks be to God.

The Grace

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.

¶ *Then the Congregation is seated*

The Greeting

Anthem

Alleluia.
We have seen his Star in the East,
And are come to worship Him.
Arise, shine.
For thy light is come.
And the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

Words: Propers of the Epiphany Season
Music: John Weaver (1987-2004)

¶ *During the anthem, a collection will be received*

¶ All kneel while the Officiant offers prayers

Closing Prayers

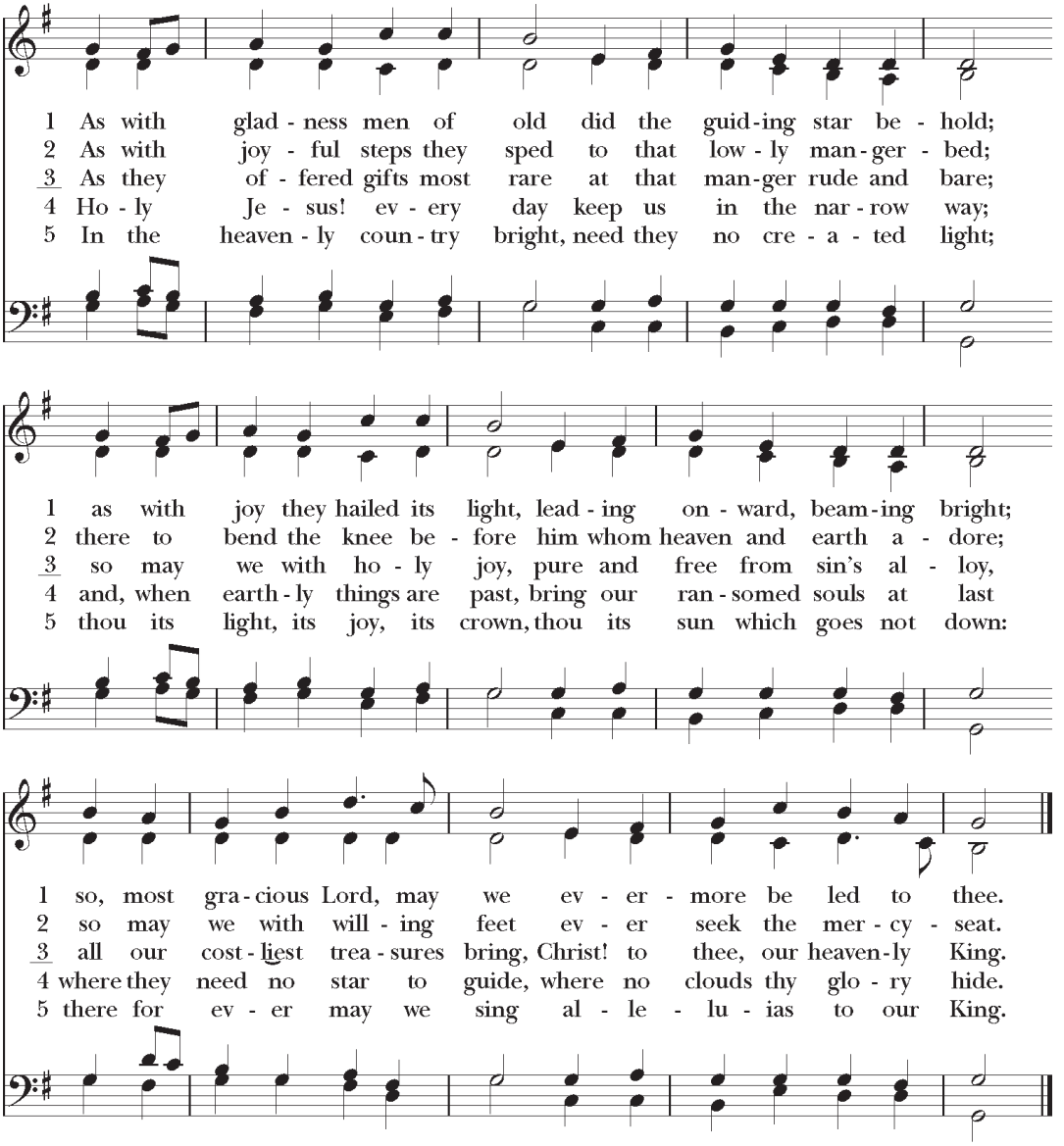
Officiant The Lord be with you.
People And with thy spirit.

¶ The Officiant then offers prayers for mission and for the world

The Blessing

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant: Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight; and the blessing ✠ of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. *¶ People* Amen.

¶ All stand and join in the singing of the Hymn overleaf

Hymn 119

Words: William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898)
Music: Dix, melody Conrad Kocher (1786-1872); arr. William Henry Monk (1823-1889)
harrm. The English Hymnal, 1906

Organ Voluntary

Marche Solennelle — Felix Borowski (1872-1956)

Holy Eucharist will be offered in St. George's Chapel immediately following this service.
All are invited into the Great Hall following the service for wine and cheese.

Participants in the Service

The Rev. Thomas Roy Albinson, Officiant
Joseph Arndt, Choirmaster
The Choir of St. Michael & St. George
David Sinden, Organist

This Evening's Liturgy

† **T. Tertius Noble** (1867-1953) was an English-born organist and composer. He served as organist/choirmaster at Ely Cathedral and York Minster before emigrating to the United States. He is remembered for his Anglican choral compositions and his work in founding the Saint Thomas Choir School in New York City.

† **John Weaver** (1987-2004) had an important career as an organ recitalist and as chairman of the organ departments at The Curtis Institute and The Juilliard School. Also active as a Presbyterian Church musician, he composed choral music as well as works for solo organ.

† Colors play an important part in the worship of the Church. The colors which bedeck the altar and are worn by the clergy are colors worn in England before the Reformation. They change according to the seasons of the church year and the liturgical tasks at hand. The vestments worn in the season after Epiphany are traditionally green. Green is a color that naturally reminds us of hope and growth, and reflects the seasons of Spring and Summer in the natural world. The Church clothes herself in green vestments to express her joyous, lively hope of the ever lovely and eternally lush meadows of the Kingdom of God.

† The Office of **Evensong** is sung at the close of each day in cathedrals, collegiate chapels, monastic communities, and parish churches throughout the Anglican Communion. Derived from the ancient offices of Vespers and Compline, it is a service of rare beauty offered through the singing of psalms and canticles, the reading of scripture, and prayer. This liturgy of sung prayer has been offered daily throughout the Christian era and it enables us to join with all those who have gone before, those today who offer their evening prayers, and those who will continue their sung praise, petitions, and thanksgivings in times to come.

† The worshipper offers praise through association with the choir and sits awash in sung prayer as it resonates throughout this sacred space. Natural time is suspended as word and music combine to capture the holy rhythms of the spheres and the worshipper is transported beyond chronological time to a place where creation and eternity coalesce into one.

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The Rev. Peter James Speropulos	*Assistant Rector*
The Rev. Thomas Roy Albinson	*Assistant Rector*
The Rev. Dr. Stewart Douglas Clem	*Priest Associate; Theologian in Residence*
The Rev. Anne Hunter Kelsey	*Priest Associate*
Mr. Joseph Andrew Arndt	*Organist and Director of Music*
Mrs. Heather Martin Cooper	*Associate Organist*