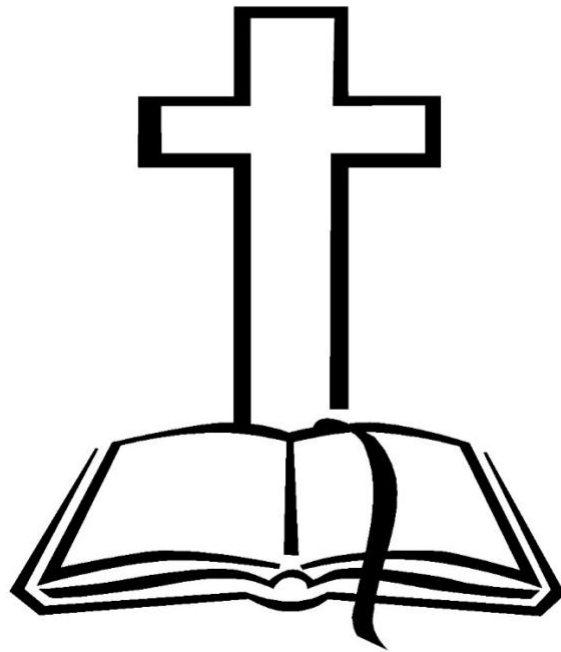


The Downs Benefice

Choral Evensong from the Book of
Common Prayer



*'Let us sing to the LORD;
a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!'*

Psalm 95: 1

Welcome and Notices

Please stand

Hymn

Introductory Sentence(s)

These or seasonal alternatives may be used by the Minister.

Minister: O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness: let the whole earth stand in awe of him.

Psalm 96.9

God is Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

John 4.24

Introduction to Confession

Minister: Beloved, we are come together in the presence of almighty God and of the whole company of heaven to offer unto Him through our Lord Jesus Christ our worship and praise and thanksgiving; to make confession of our sins; to pray, as well for others as for ourselves, that we may know more truly the greatness of God's love and shew forth in our lives the fruits of His grace; and to ask on behalf of all people such things as their well-being doth require.

Wherefore let us kneel in silence, and remember God's presence with us now.

Please sit or kneel for the Confession

The Confession

**All: 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.**

The Absolution

**Minister: Grant, we beseech Thee, merciful Lord,
to Thy faithful people pardon and peace,
that they may be cleansed from all their sins,
and serve Thee with a quiet mind;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

All: Amen.

Please stand

Responses and Versicles

May be said or sung

Minister: O Lord, open Thou our lips

All: **and our mouth shall shew forth Thy praise.**

O God, make speed to save us.

All: **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

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

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

Praise ye the Lord.

All: **The Lord's name be praised.**

Psalmody

The Psalm for the evening is now said

At the end of the Psalm these words are said

All: **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.**

Please sit for the first Reading

Old Testament Reading

Reader: The First Lesson is taken from ...

Reader: Here ends The First Lesson.

Please stand to sing the Magnificat

Magnificat *Luke 1: 46-55*

1 **My soul doth magnify the Lord:**
 and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

2 **For He hath regarded:**
 the lowliness of His handmaiden.

3 **For behold, from henceforth:**
 all generations shall call me blessed.

4 **For He that is mighty hath magnified me:**
 and holy is His Name.

5 **And His mercy is on them that fear Him:**
 throughout all generations.

6 **He hath shewed strength with His arm:**
 He hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

7 **He hath put down the mighty from their seat:**
 and hath exalted the humble and meek.

8 **He hath filled the hungry with good things:**
 and the rich He hath sent empty away.

9 **He remembering His mercy hath holpen His servant Israel:**
 as He promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for
 ever.

All: **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.

Please sit for the second Reading

New Testament Reading

Reader: The Second Lesson is taken from ...

Reader: Here ends The Second Lesson.

Please stand to sing the Nunc Dimittis

Nunc Dimittis *Luke 2: 29-32*

1 **Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace: according
to Thy word.**

2 **For mine eyes have seen: Thy salvation;**

3 **Which Thou hast prepared:**

before the face of all people;

4 **To be a light to lighten the Gentiles:**

and to be the glory of Thy people Israel.

All: **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.**

Please remain standing and face the Altar to say the Creed

The Apostles' Creed

**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.**

Minister: The Lord be with you.

All: **And with thy spirit.**

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

All: **Christ, have mercy upon us.**

Lord, have mercy upon us.

All: **Our Father, which art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name;
Thy kingdom come;
Thy will be done,
in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil. Amen.**

Please remain standing

Responses and Versicles

May be said or sung

Minister: O Lord, shew Thy mercy upon us.

All: **And grant us thy salvation.**

O Lord, save the Queen.

All: **And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.**

Endue thy ministers with righteousness.

All: **And make thy chosen people joyful.**

O Lord, save thy people.

All: **And bless thine inheritance.**

Give peace in our time, O Lord.

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

O God, make clean our hearts within us.

All: **And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.**

Please sit or kneel

The Collect for the Day

The Collect for Peace

Minister: 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 both, our hearts may be set to obey Thy commandments,
and also that, by Thee, we being defended from the fear of our enemies,
may pass our time in rest and quietness;
through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

All: **Amen.**

The Collect for Aid against all Perils

Minister: 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 Saviour, Jesus Christ.

All: **Amen.**

Please stand for the second Hymn

Hymn

Please sit

The Address

Please stand for the third Hymn

Hymn

Please sit or kneel for a time of Prayer

The Prayers

Please stand for the final Hymn, during which a collection may be taken

Hymn

Please remain standing for the final Blessing

The Blessing or Grace

Priest: The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord: And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

All: **Amen.**

Or

LLM/LWL: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and evermore.

All: **Amen.**



Please feel free to sit for a time of personal prayer and reflection as this evening's worship draws to a close. Please ask if you would like a member of the Ministry Team to pray with you.

May the Lord be with you and those you love, this night and always.