



The Cathedral & Metropolitan Church of St Peter in York

**CHORAL EVENSONG**  
**on the Sunday next before Advent**

**including J S Bach's Cantata BWV 140**  
*Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme*

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2025**  
**at 4.00 pm**

# Welcome

A warm welcome to York Minster for this service of Choral Evensong which includes, as the anthem, J S Bach's Cantata *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme*.

*Wachet auf* is one of Bach's best-known church cantatas, composed originally for the Twenty-Seventh Sunday after Trinity, probably in 1731. It is based around Philipp Nicolai's hymn, familiar in its English translation as *Sleepers wake*, with three movements constructed around the chorale melody. The remaining movements set, in recitative and aria (duet), texts by Nicolai which draw heavily on Biblical 'bridegroom' imagery, which in places paraphrase verses from the SONG OF SONGS. The Cantata's main Biblical focus, though, is the parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins (MATTHEW 25.1-13) in which the reader is warned of the need to be watchful for the Second Coming of the Lord. Hence the work provides an admirable preparation for the approaching season of Advent, and there is a long-standing custom that *Wachet auf* is sung in York Minster on the afternoon of the Sunday Next before Advent.



## Information about this Service

- ◆ This service is being live-streamed, but care is taken to focus on the clergy and choir and not the congregation. For licensing and safeguarding reasons, please do not record this service on your own devices.
- ◆ Please follow the directions of the stewards. Where "Sit" or "Stand" are indicated, these are given simply as a guide. Throughout the service please feel free to adopt the posture that is most comfortable for you.
- ◆ Please join in saying together the words printed in **bold** type and in singing the hymn.
- ◆ We are grateful for all who give to support the mission and ministry of York Minster. You can offer a gift, or set up regular giving, by using the following QR code. 10% of all giving offered during this service will be given to three charities York Minster supports, HOPE Africa, a charity which was initiated by our companion link dioceses in SA; Mustard Seed, a York Diocese based organisation which works in the most deprived areas of our diocese; and a variety of Refugee charities based in the City of York. Thank you for all you are able to give.
- ◆ Donations can be made via the following QR code:



# Order of Service

*A bell is rung and prayers are sung.*

## Introit

O nata lux de lumine Jesu Redemptor saeculi,  
dignare clemens supplicum laudes precesque sumere.

Qui carne quondam contegi dignatus es pro perditis,  
nos membra confer effici tui beati corporis.

*O Light born of light, Jesu Redeemer of the world:  
deign in mercy to hear the prayers and praises of those who kneel before you.  
You who once deigned to take flesh for the sake of those who were lost:  
make us members of your blessed body.*

Words Tenth-century Latin ♦ Music Thomas Tallis (c 1505–1585)

*Stand when the choir enters the Quire.*

## Preces

*Cantor* O Lord, open thou our lips;  
*Choir* And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

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

Music William Byrd (c 1540–1623)

*Sit for the singing of the psalm but stand for the Gloria.*

## Psalmody

The Lord is King, and hath put on glorious apparel ♦  
the Lord hath put on his apparel, and girded himself with strength.

He hath made the round world so sure ♦  
that it cannot be moved.

Ever since the world began hath thy seat been prepared ♦  
thou art from everlasting.

The floods are risen, O Lord, the floods have lift up their voice ♦  
the floods lift up their waves.

The waves of the sea are mighty, and rage horribly ♦  
but yet the Lord, who dwelleth on high, is mightier.

Thy testimonies, O Lord, are very sure ♦  
holiness becometh thine house for ever.

*Stand.*

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 93

*Sit.*

## First Lesson

The First Lesson is taken from the First Book of Samuel.

All the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah, and said to him, ‘You are old and your sons do not follow in your ways; appoint for us, then, a king to govern us, like other nations.’ But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, ‘Give us a king to govern us.’ Samuel prayed to the Lord, and the Lord said to Samuel, ‘Listen to the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them. Just as they have done to me, from the day I brought them up out of Egypt to this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so also they are doing to you. Now then, listen to their voice; only—you shall solemnly warn them, and show them the ways of the king who shall reign over them.’

But the people refused to listen to the voice of Samuel; they said, ‘No! but we are determined to have a king over us, so that we also may be like other nations, and that our king may govern us and go out before us and fight our battles.’

Here ends the First Lesson.

I SAMUEL 8.4–9, 19–20

*Stand.*

## Magnificat

My soul doth magnify the Lord:  
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.  
For he hath regarded:  
the lowliness of his hand-maiden.  
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 shewed 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.

*Words* LUKE I. 46–55

*Music* THE SECOND SERVICE, William Byrd (c 1540–1623)

*Sit.*

## Second Lesson

The Second Lesson is taken from the Gospel of John.

Pilate asked Jesus, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' Jesus answered, 'Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?' Pilate replied, 'I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?' Jesus answered, 'My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.' Pilate asked him, 'So you are a king?' Jesus answered, 'You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.'

Here ends the Second Lesson.

JOHN 18.33b–37

*Stand.*

## Nunc Dimittis

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.

*Words* LUKE 2. 29–32

*Music* THE SECOND SERVICE, William Byrd (c 1540–1623)

*Remain standing and turn to face east.*

## The Apostles' Creed

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 Lesser Litany and Responses

*Cantor* The Lord be with you.

*Choir* And with thy spirit.

*Cantor* Let us pray.

*Kneel or sit.*

*Choir* Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

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.

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

*Choir* And grant us thy salvation.

*Cantor* O Lord, save the King.

*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

Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may of thee be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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. Amen.

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. Amen.

*Music* William Byrd

*Sit.*

## Anthem

**Cantata: Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme (J S Bach)**

### Chorus

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme  
der Wächter sehr hoch auf der Zinne,  
wach auf, du Stadt Jerusalem!  
Mitternacht heißt diese Stunde;  
sie rufen uns mit hellem Munde:  
Wo seid ihr klugen Jungfrauen?  
Wohlauf, der Bräutigam kommt;  
steht auf, die Lampen nehmt!

Alleluja!

Macht euch bereit zu der Hochzeit,  
ihr müsset ihm entgegen gehn!

*Wake up, cries the watchmen's voice  
high up on the battlements,  
wake up, city of Jerusalem!  
This is the midnight hour;  
they call to us with ringing voices:  
Where are you, wise virgins?  
Make haste, the bridegroom comes;  
rise up, and take your lamps!*

*Alleluia!*

*Prepare yourselves for the wedding,  
you must set out to meet him.*

## Recitative (Tenor)

Er kommt, der Bräut'gam kommt!  
Ihr Töchter Zions, kommt heraus,  
sein Ausgang eilet aus der Höhe  
in euer Mutter Haus.  
Der Bräut'gam kommt, der einem Rehe  
und jungen Hirschen gleich  
auf denen Hügeln springt  
und euch das Mahl der Hochzeit bringt.  
Wacht auf, ermuntert euch!  
den Bräut'gam zu empfangen!  
Dort, sehet, kommt er hergegangen.

*He comes, the bridegroom comes!  
Go forth, O daughters of Zion,  
the daystar hastens from on high  
into your mother's house.  
The bridegroom comes, like a roe  
or a young hart  
skipping upon the hills  
and bringing you the wedding feast.  
Awaken, be of good cheer,  
to welcome the bridegroom here!  
There, see, behold him coming!*

## Aria (Duet: Soprano and Bass)

SEELE: Wann kommst du, mein Heil?  
JESUS: Ich komme, dein Teil.  
SEELE: Ich warte mit brennendem Öle.  
JESUS: Ich öffne den Saal,  
SEELE: eröffne den Saal—  
BEIDE: zum himmlischen Mahl!  
SEELE: Komm, Jesu!  
JESUS: Ich komme, liebliche Seele.

SOUL: *When wilt thou come, my salvation?*  
JESUS: *I am coming, [to be] a part of you.*  
SOUL: *I wait, my lamp lit with burning oil.*  
JESUS: *I open the hall,*  
SOUL: *open the hall—*  
BOTH: *for the heavenly feast!*  
SOUL: *Come, Jesus!*  
JESUS: *I come, beloved soul!*

## Chorale

Zion hört die Wächter singen,  
das Herz tut ihr vor Freuden springen,  
sie wachet und steht eilend auf.  
Ihr Freund kommt vom Himmel prächtig,  
von Gnaden stark, von Wahrheit mächtig,  
ihr Licht wird hell, ihr Stern geht auf.  
Nun komm, du werthe Kron',  
Herr Jesu, Gottes Sohn.  
Hosianna!  
Wir folgen all zum Freudensaal  
und halten mit das Abendmahl.

*Zion hears the watchmen singing,  
her heart leaps for joy,  
she wakens and rises with haste.  
Her friend descends from heaven in splendour,  
strong in mercy, mighty in truth,  
her light grows bright, her star ascends.  
Come, now, thou worthy crown,  
Lord Jesus, the Son of God!  
Hosanna!  
We shall all follow to the hall of rejoicing  
and join the Lord's Supper.*

### Recitative (Bass)

So geh herein zu mir,  
du mir erwählte Braut!  
Ich habe mich mit dir  
von Ewigkeit vertraut.  
Dich will ich auf mein Herz,  
auf meinen Arm gleich wie ein Siegel setzen  
und dein betrübtes Aug' ergötzen.  
Vergiß, o Seele, nun  
die Angst, den Schmerz,  
den du erdulden müssen;  
auf meiner Linken sollst du ruhn,  
und meine Rechte soll dich küssen.

### Aria (Duet: Soprano and Bass)

SEELE: Mein Freund ist mein!  
JESUS: Und ich bin dein!  
BEIDE: Die Liebe soll nichts scheiden.  
SEELE: Ich will mit dir,  
JESUS: Du sollst mit mir,  
BOTH: in Himmels Rosen weiden,  
da Freude die Fülle,  
da Wonne wird sein.

### Chorale

Gloria sei dir gesungen  
mit Menschen und mit englischen Zungen,  
mit Harfen und mit Zymbeln schon.  
Von zwölf Perlen sind die Pforten  
an deiner Stadt; wir sind mit Konsorten  
der Engel hoch um deinen Thron.  
Kein Aug' hat je gespürt,  
kein Ohr hat je gehört solche Freude.  
Des sind wir froh, i-o, i-o!  
Ewig in dulci jubilo.

*Kneel or sit.*

### Reflection

*Stand.*

*So, enter in to me,  
You, my chosen bride!  
I have wedded myself to you  
for all eternity.  
I would set you on my heart  
and on my arm as a seal  
and gladden once more your troubled eye.  
Forget now, O soul  
the fear and grief  
you have had to bear;  
on my left hand shall you rest,  
and my right hand shall embrace you.*

SOUL: *My friend is mine,*  
JESUS: *and I am his!*  
BOTH: *Nothing shall divide this love.*  
SOUL: *You shall partake with me*  
JESUS: *I shall partake with thee*  
BOTH: *of heaven's rosy pastures,  
where there will be joy in abundance,  
and bliss.*

*Glory now be sung to thee  
with tongues of angels and mankind,  
with harps and with cymbals.  
The portals are made of twelve pearls,  
in thy city we are consorts  
of the angels high about thy throne.  
No eye has ever seen,  
no ear has ever heard such joy.  
Therefore we are glad, io, io!  
Eternally in dulci jubilo.*

## Hymn



1. Lo, he comes with clouds descending,  
    once for favoured sinners slain;  
thousand thousand saints attending  
    swell the triumph of his train:  
Alleluya! Alleluya! Alleluya!  
    God appears, on earth to reign.
2. Every eye shall now behold him  
    robed in dreadful majesty;  
those who set at nought and sold him,  
    pierced and nailed him to the tree,  
deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing,  
    shall the true Messiah see.
3. Those dear tokens of his passion  
    still his dazzling body bears,  
cause of endless exultation  
    to his ransomed worshippers:  
with what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture,  
    gaze we on those glorious scars!
4. Yea, Amen! let all adore thee,  
    high on thine eternal throne;  
Saviour, take the power and glory;  
    claim the kingdom for thine own:  
O come quickly! O come quickly! O come quickly!  
    Alleluya! Come, Lord, come!

*Words* NEH 9, Charles Wesley (1707–1788)

*Tune* HELMSLEY, NEH 9, melody attributed to Thomas Olivers (1725–1799) in  
*Select Hymns with Tunes Annexed* (second edition, 1765)  
edited by John Wesley (1703–1791)

*Remain standing.*

## **The Blessing**

*Remain as quiet as possible as the choir processes out and sings the final prayer; this is followed by the orchestral voluntary which concludes the service.*

## **Orchestral Voluntary**

Orchestral Suite No 1, BWV 1066 (selected movements) J S Bach (1685–1750)

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