



The Ascension of Christ (Observed)

Choral Evensong

May 11, 2024, 4:00 PM

St. John's Episcopal Church
297 Lowell Avenue, Newtonville, Massachusetts

Magnificat Boston

Founded in the Fall of 2005, and singing its first service in January 2006, Magnificat Boston is dedicated to the glorification of God by singing the Office of Anglican Choral Evensong. The singers come from parishes in the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts and beyond.

Magnificat Boston was founded by Mark Englehardt at the conclusion of his 16-year tenure as Organist and Director of Music for the Episcopal Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston.

Beginning in September 2014, Louise Munding followed Michael Salvatore and Mr. Englehardt as Director. Ms. Munding is the current Organist and Director of Music for the Episcopal Cathedral Church of St. Paul.

Magnificat Boston strives to sing the best of the repertoire of the English cathedrals and collegiate chapels and of American composers. The ensemble also promotes the composition of new music for the liturgy.

Order of Service

Organ

Prelude on "Rhosymedre"

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

All stand, as able, to sing:

Hymn 214, "Hail the day that sees him rise"

Llanfair

Opening Sentence

Presider: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!
2 Corinthians 5:17

The Preces

Richard Ayleward (1626-1669)

Precentor: O Lord, open thou our lips.

Choir: And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

Precentor: 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.

The Lord's name be praised.

Phos hilaron

Hail, gladdening light

Charles Wood (1866-1926)

Hail! gladdening Light, of His pure glory poured

Now we are come to the sun's hour of rest;

Who is th'immortal Father, heavenly, blest,

The lights of evening round us shine;

Holiest of Holies--Jesus Christ our Lord!

We hymn the Father, Sone, and Holy Spirit divine!

Worthiest are thou at all times to be sung

With undefiled tongue,

Son of our God, giver of life, alone:

Therefore in all the world thy glories, Lord, they own.

—translated by John Keble (1792-1866)

The People sit.

Psalm 47 *Omnes gentes, plaudite* (BCP, p. 650)

T. Tertius Noble (1867-1953)

The Lessons

The First Reading: Daniel 7:9-14

Reader: A reading from Daniel.

As I watched, thrones were set in place, and an Ancient One took his throne; his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames, and its wheels were burning fire. A stream of fire issued and flowed out from his presence. A thousand thousands served him and ten thousand times ten thousand stood attending him. The court sat in judgment and the books were opened.

I watched then because of the noise of the arrogant words that the horn was speaking. And as I watched, the beast was put to death and its body was destroyed and given over to be burned with fire. As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but their lives were prolonged for a season and a time. As I watched in the night visions, I saw one like a human being coming with clouds of heaven. And he came to the Ancient One and was presented before him. To him was given dominion and glory and kingship, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not pass away, and his kingship is one that shall never be destroyed.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: Thanks be to God.

All stand, as able, for

All sit for

The Second Reading: Luke 24:44-53

Reader: A reading from Luke.

Jesus said to his disciples, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you-- that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

All stand, as able for

Nunc dimittis in B-flat (BCP, p. 66)

Stanford

The Apostles' Creed

Remain standing, as able

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth;
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The Prayers

Ayleward

Precentor: *The Lord be with you.*

Choir: And with thy spirit.

Precentor: *Let us pray.*

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

**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 Responses

Ayleward

Precentor: O Lord, show thy mercy upon us.

Choir: And grant us thy salvation.

Precentor: O Lord, save the State.

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

Precentor: Endue thy ministers with righteousness.

Choir: And make thy chosen people joyful.

Precentor: O Lord, save thy people.

Choir: And bless thine inheritance.

Precentor: Give peace in our time, O Lord.

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

Precentor: O God, make clean our hearts within us.

Choir: And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

The Collect of the Day

O Almighty God, whose blessed Son our Savior Jesus Christ ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things: Mercifully give us faith to perceive that, according to his promise, he abideth with his Church on earth, even unto the end of the ages; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

A Collect for Saturdays

O God, the source of eternal light: Shed forth your unending day upon us who watch for you, that our lips may praise you, our lives may bless you, and our worship on the morrow give you glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Collect for Mission

O God, who dost manifest in thy servants the signs of thy presence: Send forth upon us the Spirit of love, that in companionship with one another thine abounding grace may increase among us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Please be seated.

A collection to support Magnificat Boston will be taken during the

Anthem

Coelos ascendit hodie

Stanford

Coelos ascendit hodie
Jesus Christus Rex Gloriam. Alleluia!
Sedet ad Patris dexteram
Gubernat coelum et terram. Alleluia!
Iam finem habent omnia
Patris Davidis carmina.
Iam Dominus cum Domino. Alleluia!
Sedit in Dei solio:
In hoc triumpho maximo. Alleluia!
Benedicamus Domino.
Laudata Sancta Trinitas.
Deo dicamus gratias, Alleluia! Amen.

Today into the heavens has ascended
Jesus Christ, the King of Glory. Alleluia!
He sits at the Father's right hand
And rules heaven and earth. Alleluia!
Now have been fulfilled all of
Father David's songs.
Now God is with God. Alleluia!
He sits upon the royal throne of God
In this his greatest triumph. Alleluia!
Let us bless the Lord.
Let the Holy Trinity be praised,
Let us give thanks to the Lord. Alleluia! Amen.

Welcome

All stand, as able.

A Collect for Ascension Day

Grant, we pray, Almighty God, that as we believe your only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ to have ascended into heaven, so we may also in heart and mind there ascend, and with him continually dwell; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

A Collect for Church Musicians and Artists

O God, whom saints and angels delight to worship in heaven: Be ever present with your servants who seek through art and music to perfect the praises offered by your people on earth; and grant to them even now glimpses of your beauty, and make them worthy at length to behold it unveiled for evermore; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The General Thanksgiving

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable 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 pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. *Amen.*

Hymn 219, "The Lord ascendeth up on high"

Ach Herr, du allerhöchster Gott

Presider: Let us bless the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Presider: May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*
Romans 15:13

Organ

Choral Song

Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810-1876)

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After the service, please join us for a reception in DiMauro Hall.



Leaders of this Evening's Service

Magnificat Boston
Louise Munding, *Director*

The Rev. Deborah Phillips, *Precentor*

The Choir of St. John's Episcopal Church
Jeffrey Mills, *Organist and Choirmaster*

Robert Barney, *Organist*

The Rev'd Michael Thompson, Esq., *Priest-in-Charge, Presider*

Tobias Gilpin, *Crucifer*

Rhys Bowen, Alec Schoeck, *Lectors*

Becky Snow, *Usher*

Saint John's Parish

297 Lowell Avenue
Newtonville, Massachusetts 02460
www.saintjohnschurch.com
admin@saintjohnschurch.com

  @saintjohnchurch

The Right Reverend Alan M. Gates, *Bishop of Massachusetts*
The Right Reverend Dr. Carol J. Gallagher, *Assistant Bishop of Massachusetts*

The Reverend Michael Thompson, Esq., *Priest-in-Charge*
rev.michael.thompson.esq@gmail.com

Kristin Knudson & Laura Brewer, *Wardens*
Betsy Blagdon, *Treasurer*
Becky Snow, *Clerk*

Alastair Battson, Nancy Bowler, Robert Main,
Sarah Moravick, Elizabeth Seaman, Alexandra Stanton
Vestry Members

Jeffrey Mills, *Organist and Choirmaster*
Cathy Richmond Robinson, *Parish Administrator*

Licensed Lay Readers/Eucharistic Ministers:
Laura Brewer, Brian Goeselt, Marina Matuzek,
Abby Strayer, Tim Strayer, Jessica Zabchuk Dion