



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
Church of Nashville

CHORAL VESPER SERVICE

September 25, 2025

6:30 p.m. | Stanford Chapel



To know Christ, to make Him known and to exhibit His love through worship, education and service.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

VOLUNTARY

Draw Near with Faith
Malcolm Archer

WELCOME

INTROIT

Preces and Responses
John Reading

O Lord, open thou our lips. And our mouth shall show forth thy praise. O God, make speed to save us.
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.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

All: Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; let the whole earth tremble before him.

Pastor: I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel; my heart teaches me, night after night.

All: I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not fall.

*HYMN 260

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus
HYFRYDOL

PSALM 138 (CHORAL)

I will give thanks unto thee O LORD with my whole heart: even before the gods will I sing praise unto thee. I will worship t'ward thy holy temple and praise thy name because of thy loving-kindness and truth: for thou hast magnified thy name and thy word above all things. When I called upon thee, thou heardest me: and enduest my soul with much strength. All the kings of the earth shall praise thee, O LORD: for they have heard the words of thy mouth. Yea they shall sing in the ways of the LORD: that great is the glory of the LORD. For though the LORD be high yet hath he respect unto the lowly: as for the proud, he beholdeth them afar off. Though I walk in the midst of trouble, yet shalt thou refresh me: thou shalt stretch forth thy hand upon the furiousness of mine enemies and thy right hand shall save me. The Lord shall make good his loving-kindness toward me: yea thy mercy O LORD endureth forever; despise not then the works of thine own hands. 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.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Mallory Hammond

Pastor: Dear friends in Christ, here in the presence of Almighty God, let us with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, so that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

All: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry, and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.

A moment for silent confession.

MAGNIFICAT | A. Herbert Brewer

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoic'd 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 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 forever. 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.

HYMN 366

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
HYFRYDOL

PSALM 63 (CHORAL)

My soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a barren and dry land where there is no water. Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, that I might behold your power and your glory. For your loving kindness is better than life itself; my lips shall give you praise. So I will bless you as long as I live and lift up my hands in your name. My soul is content, as with fat and rich food, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips, When I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the night watches, for you have been my helper, and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice. My soul clings to you; your right hand holds me fast. May those who seek my life to destroy it go down into the depths of the earth; Let them fall upon the edge of the sword, and let them be food for jackals. But the king will rejoice in God; all those who swear by him will be glad; for the mouth of those who speak lies shall be stopped. 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.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

HOMILY

Dr. Ryan Moore

ANTHEM

Stay with Us
Egil Hovland

Stay with us, Lord Jesus, stay with us. Stay with us, it soon is evening and night is falling. Jesus Christ, the world's true light! Shine so the darkness cannot overcome it! Stay with us, Lord Jesus, it soon is evening. Stay with us, Lord Jesus, for night is falling. Let your light pierce the darkness and fill your church with its glory.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Sara Hill

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN 32

I Sing the Mighty Power of God
ELLACOMBE

*BENEDICTION

Dr. Megan Daffern

CHORAL RESPONSE

Nunc Dimittis in G
Charles V. Stanford

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.

*CLOSING VOLUNTARY

East Acklam
Francis Jackson

** Those who are able, please stand.*

PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE

Ryan Moore, PhD – *Pastor*
Megan Daffern, DPhil – *Canon Chancellor of Wells Cathedral*
Mallory Hammond, MDiv – *Parish Associate, Director of Ministry to Children and Their Families*
Sara Hill, MDiv – *Parish Associate*
Raphael Bundage, DMA – *Director of Music*
Joey Fala, MM – *Assistant Director of Music & Organist*
Rhonda Swanson, MM – *Assistant Organist*
Greg Thomas – *Tenor*
Ryan Bede – *Bass*

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COVER IMAGE: Unknown artist, *King David and his Musicians in the Vespasian Psalter*, 8th century, manuscript illumination, 240 × 190 mm. The British Library, London; Cotton MS Vespasian A I, fol. 30v. © The British Library Board (Cotton Vespasian A I, f.30v)—This early medieval illumination shows musicians gathered in praise, reflecting the psalmist's devotion and thanksgiving. It invites contemplation on how music lifts the spirit in worship, resonating with the heartfelt seeking of Psalm 63 and the gratitude of Psalm 138, and reminds us of the enduring role of song in worshipping and offering thanks to God.