

The Cathedral Eucharist

Sunday, 14th December, 2025

The Third Sunday of Advent



The President today is the Reverend Nitano Muller, Canon for Worship and Welcome. The Deacon is the Reverend Su McClellan, Cathedral Associate Minister. John Lloyd, Cathedral Lay Reader, is sub-deacon. Our preacher today is the Reverend Kate Massey, Canon for Arts and Reconciliation.

The Cathedral Choir is directed by Joe Watson, Acting Director of Music. The organists are Liam Condon, Assistant Director of Music, and Adam Heron, Organ Scholar. The service setting is Missa brevis by William Walton (1902-1983).

*We encourage our visitors to take photographs of our beautiful cathedral, **but please no photography during the service.** Thank you.*

The Collect

O Lord Jesus Christ,

who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The First Reading

Read by Fraser Watts, representing the Cathedral community.

A Reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah.

¹ The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus ²it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. ³Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with

terrible recompense. He will come and save you.” ⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. ⁸A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God’s people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. ⁹No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Isaiah 35:1-10

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he has sent me to proclaim good news to the poor.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Isaiah 61:1

The Gospel Reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you O Lord.

²When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” ⁴Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.” ⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see?

Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' ¹¹Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Matthew 11:2-11

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Offertory Hymn

**Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.**

**Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.**

**Born thy people to deliver;
born a child and yet a king;
born to reign in us for ever;
now thy gracious kingdom bring.**

**By thine own eternal Spirit,
rule in all our hearts alone:
by thy all-sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.**

Words by Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Tune CP 24 Cross of Jesus John Stainer (1840-1901)

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Anthem

The tree of life my soul hath seen,
laden with fruit and always green.
The trees of nature fruitless be
compared with Christ the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel:
by faith I know, but ne'er can tell.
The glory which I now can see
in Jesus Christ the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought,
and pleasure dearly I have bought.
I missed of all; but now I see
'tis found in Christ the apple tree.

I'm weary with my former toil,
here I will sit and rest awhile.
Under the shadow I will be
of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,
it keeps my dying faith alive.
Which makes my soul in haste to be
with Jesus Christ the apple tree.

*Words from Divine Hymns or Spiritual Songs, compiled by Joshua Smith (1784)
Music by Elizabeth Poston (1905-1987)*

Communion Hymn

**O saving Victim, opening wide
the gate of heaven to man below,
our foes press on from every side:
thine aid supply, thy strength bestow.**

**All praise and thanks to thee ascend
for evermore, blest One in Three;
O grant us life that shall not end
in our true native land with thee. Amen.**

*Words by Saint Thomas Aquinas (1227-1274)
translated by J. M. Neale, Edward Caswell and others
Tune CP 326 Verbum Supernum Mode VIII*

Post Communion

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and forever.

Amen.

Closing Hymn

**The people that in darkness sat
a glorious light have seen;
the light has shined on them who long
in shades of death have been.**

**To hail thee, Sun of Righteousness,
the gathering nations come;
they joy as when the reapers bear
their harvest treasures home.**

**For thou their burden doest remove,
and break the tyrant's rod,
as in the day when Midian fell
before the sword of God.**

**For unto us a child is born,
to us a Son is given,
and on his shoulder ever rests
all power in earth and heaven.**

**His name shall be the Prince of Peace,
the everlasting Lord,
the Wonderful, the Counsellor,
the God by all adored.**

**His righteous government and power
shall over all extend;
on judgement and on justice based,
his reign shall have no end.**

**Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray,
and make us thine alone,
who with the Father ever art
and Holy Spirit One.**

*Isaiah 9.2-7 as in Scottish Paraphrases (1791)
arranged by John Morrison (1750-1798)
Tune CP 38 Dundee melody from the Scottish Psalter (1615)
as set in Ravenscroft's Psalter (1621)*

Voluntary

Please do stay for the organ voluntary, played by Liam Condon.

Praeludium in G minor by Nicolaus Bruhns (1665-1697)

If you would like to make a one-off donation to the Cathedral via your phone, or set up a recurring donation, please use the QR code below. There are also contactless donation points and collection boxes near the entrance.

Thank you for your support.



*If you would like to revisit this morning's sermon, please visit this page:
<https://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/worship-music/services/sermons>*

*We serve refreshments at the back of the Nave after this service, so
please feel free to stay for a chat over a cup of tea or coffee!*

Clergy Preaching Away:

Dean John Witcombe- St Chad, Wood End

DAILY SERVICES AT THE CATHEDRAL

Regular services at the Cathedral follow this pattern. For special services and up-to-date information about one-off cancellations of the services below, please check the calendar on the Cathedral website:

<https://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/full-calendar>

Monday - Friday

8:30 – 9:00am: *Morning Prayer & Holy Communion*

12 – 12:10pm: *The Litany of Reconciliation*

(followed on Thursdays by BCP Holy Communion)

4 – 4:30pm: *Evening Prayer*

(or Wednesday and Thursday during school terms: Choral Evensong, 5:15 - 6pm)

Saturday

12 – 12:10pm: *The Litany of Reconciliation*

Sunday

10:30 – 11:45am: *The Cathedral Eucharist*

4 – 5pm: *BCP Evening Prayer (Choral Evensong during term time)*

JOINING OUR CHOIRS

Do you know a child who loves to sing? Boys and girls between the ages of 7 and 10 are welcome to audition for the Cathedral Boys' and Girls' Choirs. They sing an average of four times per week during term time in recordings, services and concerts. Children receive a world-class music education completely free and even receive scholarship payments. Please get in touch with the Director of

Music to learn more:

rachel.mahon@coventrycathedral.org.uk

SAFEGUARDING AT COVENTRY CATHEDRAL

We are committed to the safeguarding of all people. For details, please visit www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/about-us/safeguarding

You can report a concern using the same link or by contacting Jane Williams, Cathedral Safeguarding Officer, calling 024 7650 2349 or by emailing janeMLWill@aol.com

Alternatively, you can contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Team led by Sarah Price: 024 7652 1345 or safeguarding@coventry.anglican.org

COMMUNITY NEWS

Advent and Christmas Services

Please visit our Cathedral website for the upcoming Advent and Christmas services and events.

Please take a copy of the Christmas program on the community table or visit the Cathedral website. www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/christmas

Rest In Peace

We remember with gratitude those connected to the Cathedral who have died in recent days.

We give thanks for Geoffrey Holroyde, a founding member of the Cathedral Chapterhouse Choir for former robed choristers; for Debbie Colby, a cherished member of the Wonder community; and for Folasade Adaoye, mother of the Revd Modupe Adeoye, formerly of this Cathedral community, now serving in Nuneaton.

Please hold their families and friends in your prayers. The funeral for Folasade Adaoye will take place here on *Monday 15 December at 11am*.

May they rest in the peace and kindness of God.

COMING SOON

Blue Christmas

TODAY - Sunday, 14 December at 6pm, Lady Chapel

It can be hard to feel joyful at Christmas. Join us for this service formed with care for those who find this time of year difficult, and those who wish to pray for them.

Britten's Ceremony of Carols

Thursday, 18 December, 5.30pm

The Cathedral Girls' Choir and Harpist Cecily Beer perform Benjamin Britten's much-loved Christmas gem, weaving Christmas texts to memorable music that will remain in your ears and your heart throughout the Christmas Season.

Composed in 1942, this is a twenty-minute, eleven-movement work scored for 3-part treble choir, soloists and harp. The words, from The English Galaxy of Shorter Poems, are in Latin and Middle English.

This meditative performance begins at 5:30pm.

Tickets £10 (Under 16s free) can be purchased on the cathedral website.

The Snowman

Saturday, 20 December, Various shows.

With a live Orchestra and a solo from the Cathedral's Choristers, this magical screening with live performance will be an experience that can't be missed.

The Snowman was first shown in the UK on 26 December 1982 and has since been shown every year on Channel 4; it has also delighted audiences across the world.

In keeping with the book, the film of *The Snowman* is wordless and free of dialogue, except for the now iconic, "Walking in the Air" which features as part of a now timeless musical score.

Book your tickets now and help us fill the Cathedral with joy and wonderment this Christmas!

Carols by Candlelight

Sunday, 21 December at 5pm

Our traditional carol service lit by hundreds of candles in the Cathedral. A chance to sing your favourite carols and hear stunning singing from the Cathedral Choirs with a sequence of Christmas readings.

La Nativité du Seigneur – Messiaen

Monday, 22 December at 5pm

Richard Lea will perform one of the greatest organ works of all time, Olivier Messiaen's festive masterpiece *La Nativité du Seigneur*. The work features 9 movements that meditate on the mystery of Christ's birth and these will be interspersed with reflective readings.

Carols for Families

Wednesday, 24 December at 2.30pm

A fun, interactive retelling of the Christmas story with singalong carols. A lighter take on Christmas, children are welcome to come dressed as nativity characters and everyone is welcome!

Form of A Servant

Wednesday, 24 December at 7pm

The Cathedral's unique reflection on the Christmas story with peace at its heart, a sequence of moving music, readings and prayers.