

Choral Evensong
Sunday, 25th January, 2026
The Third Sunday after The Epiphany



Welcome to this service of Choral Evensong, led by the Reverend Su McClellan, Cathedral Associate Minister. The Very Reverend John Witcombe, Dean of Coventry, is preaching.

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 responses are those by Humphrey Clucas (b.1941).

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

Introit

In the hour of my distress,
when temptations me oppress,
and when I my sins confess,
sweet Spirit, comfort me!

When I lie within my bed,
sick in heart and sick in head,
and with doubts discomfited,
sweet Spirit, comfort me!

When the house doth sigh and weep,
and the world is drowned with sleep,
yet mine eyes the watch do keep,
sweet Spirit, comfort me!

*Words by Robert Herrick (1591-1633)
Music by Peter Hurford (b. 1930)*

Psalm 119:41-56

41. Let thy loving mercy come also unto me, O Lord ♦
even thy salvation, according unto thy word.
42. So shall I make answer unto my blasphemers ♦
for my trust is in thy word.
43. O take not the word of thy truth utterly out of my mouth ♦
for my hope is in thy judgements.
44. So shall I alway keep thy law ♦
yea, for ever and ever.
45. And I will walk at liberty ♦
for I seek thy commandments.
46. I will speak of thy testimonies also, even before kings ♦
and will not be ashamed.
47. And my delight shall be in thy commandments ♦
which I have loved.
48. My hands also will I lift up unto thy commandments, which I have
loved ♦
and my study shall be in thy statutes.
49. O think upon thy servant, as concerning thy word ♦
wherein thou hast caused me to put my trust.
50. The same is my comfort in my trouble ♦
for thy word hath quickened me.
51. The proud have had me exceedingly in derision ♦
yet have I not shrinked from thy law.
52. For I remembered thine everlasting judgements, O Lord ♦
and received comfort.
53. I am horribly afraid ♦
for the ungodly that forsake thy law.
54. Thy statutes have been my songs ♦
in the house of my pilgrimage.
55. I have thought upon thy Name, O Lord, in the night-season ♦
and have kept thy law.
56. This I had ♦
because I kept thy commandments.

The First Lesson

¹For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

² a time to be born, and a time to die;

a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

³ a time to kill, and a time to heal;

a time to break down, and a time to build up;

⁴ a time to weep, and a time to laugh;

a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

⁵ a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;

a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

⁶ a time to seek, and a time to lose;

a time to keep, and a time to throw away;

⁷ a time to tear, and a time to sew;

a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

⁸ a time to love, and a time to hate;

a time for war, and a time for peace.

⁹ What gain have the workers from their toil? ¹⁰I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with. ¹¹He has made everything suitable for its time; moreover, he has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.

Ecclesiastes 3:1–11

The Magnificat

Magnificat and Nunc dimittis in C, Op. 115 by Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)

The Second Lesson

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸Although you

have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. ¹⁰ Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that was to be yours made careful search and inquiry, ¹¹inquiring about the person or time that the Spirit of Christ within them indicated, when it testified in advance to the sufferings destined for Christ and the subsequent glory. ¹²It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in regard to the things that have now been announced to you through those who brought you good news by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things into which angels long to look!

1 Peter 1: 3-12

The Nunc Dimittis

Magnificat and Nunc dimittis in C, Op. 115 by Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)

The Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities, and in all our dangers and necessities stretch forth thy right hand to help and defend us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Anthem

Ave verum corpus, natum
ex Maria Virgine,
vere passum, immolatum
in cruce pro homine.
Cuius latus perforatum
vero fluxit sanguine;
esto nobis praegustatum,
in mortis examine.

*Hail, true Body, born
of the Virgin Mary,
truly suffered, sacrificed
on the cross for mankind,
from whose pierced side
flowed water and blood:
Be for us a foretaste of the Heavenly banquet
in the trial of death!*

O clemens, O pie,
O dulcis Jesu, Fili Mariae.

*O sweet Jesus, O holy Jesus,
O Jesus, son of Mary.*

*Words attributed to Pope Innocent VI
Music by Sir Edward Elgar (1857-1934)*

The Sermon

Given by the Very Reverend John Witcombe, Dean of Coventry.

Hymn

**Teach me, my God and King
in all things thee to see;
and what I do in anything
to do it as for thee.**

**A man that looks on glass,
on it may stay his eye;
or, if he pleaseth, through it pass
and then the heaven espy.**

**All may of thee partake;
nothing can be so mean
which, with this tincture, For thy sake,
will not grow bright and clean.**

**A servant with this clause
makes drudgery divine;
who sweeps a room, as for thy laws,
makes that and the action fine.**

**This is the famous stone
that turneth all to gold;
for that which God doth touch and own
cannot for less be told.**

George Herbert (1593-1632)

Tune CP 583 Sandys from W. Sandy's Christmas Carols 1833

Voluntary

Please do stay for the organ voluntary, played by Adam Heron, Organ Scholar.

Postlude in D minor by Charles Villiers Stanford (1852–1924)

*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 here. There are also contactless
donation points and collection boxes near the entrance.*

Thank you for your support.



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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

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: *Choral Evensong*

JOINING OUR CHOIRS

Boys and girls between the ages of 7 and 11 are welcome to audition for our
Cathedral Choir. Do you know a child who loves to sing? There are many
benefits to joining the choir – new friends, a free, world-class music
education, choir pay, singing services and at special events in amazing places,
choir tours, broadcasts, recordings and social events too. If you or someone
you know might be interested in joining the choir, please be in touch with the
Acting Director of Music to arrange a meeting. Email:

Music.Administrator@CoventryCathedral.org.uk

Our Cathedral Chamber Choir

Our Cathedral Chamber Choir sing voluntarily at various services throughout the year and are currently open for auditions on all voice parts. Rehearsals usually take place on occasional Thursday evenings in the lead up to a service. If you would be interested in joining our Chamber Choir, please get in touch with Liam Condon, Assistant Director of Music, for an audition.

Email: Liam.Condon@coventry.anglican.org

COMING SOON

“How did we get here?”: An Itinerant’s Musical

Saturday, 31st January 2026, 7:30pm

In 2001, Rob Halligan lost his father in the 9/11 terror attacks. A week later he found himself in New York City on the start of a journey, trying to make sense of what he’d seen. From a dysfunctional childhood and life on the streets, to being an ambassador for vulnerable children and an acclaimed songwriter, Rob’s journey whistles hope into a hopeless world and invites us to do the same. Through songs and stories, “How Did We Get Here” takes us down a road underpinned by a simple faith and the belief that love is bigger.

Tickets £10 general admission

For any access questions or queries please contact

events@coventrycathedral.org.uk

Lenten Course: Testament

This Lent, join us for a thought-provoking course built around *Testament*, the contemporary Christian series that brings the opening chapters of the Book of Acts vividly to life. Together we will explore the first ten chapters of Acts and reflect on what the birth of the Church might mean for faith and discipleship today.

The course will meet every Tuesday evening in Lent at 7pm in St Michael’s House, beginning on Shrove Tuesday, 17 February.

To sign up, or for further details, please speak to Rob or Canon Nitano.

2026 Dates for Wonder

This last Wednesday, the Wonder community met for the first time for 2026 and would warmly welcome those curious and imaginative, looking to explore what we believe through art, dance, and poetry. Wonder takes place every second Wednesday of the month, led by Canon Kate Massey.

11th February- *Dust*, 18th March- *Passion*, 15th April- *Encounter*, 20th May- *Breathe*, 17th June- *Community*, No gathering in July, 12th August- *Simplicity*, 16th September- *Abundance*, 21st October- *Memory*, 18th November- *Peace*.

February's Family & Community Events

Let's Toddle! Toddler Hangout!

Wednesday, 4th February, 10-11.30am

Suitable for 18months to 3years. Let them explore the sights of the Cathedral, and enjoy a selection of toys, books and a simple craft activity.

Book your FREE space online.

Let's Chill: Baby Hangout!

Wednesday, 11th February, 10-11.30am

Let your little ones be mesmerized by the shapes and colours of the Cathedral. Book your FREE space online

Coffee Morning

Wednesday, 18th February, 10-11.30am

Come and enjoy the relaxed atmosphere of the Cathedral, with FREE refreshments.

Any questions, please email events@coventrycathedral.org.uk

Reading Corner with Children's Books!

Available all Half Term during opening hours. 10am - 4pm

Let's Play: Quiet Hour

Thursday, 19th February, 9am-10am

This FREE session is specifically for those families and children who need less bustle and noise, and the space to explore in their own unique ways

Book your FREE places online

Let's Play: Games & Crafts

Thursday, 19th February, 10:30am - 12 noon

Let's play together this Half Term Holiday in the Cathedral! Make the most out of Half Term and enjoy some games and crafts at Coventry Cathedral.

FREE and suitable for families of all shapes and sizes.

Let's Watch and Make: Alice in Wonderland (1951)

Saturday, 21st February, 10am - 12 noon

Come and join us this half term for crafts and a classic kids film!

We will gather in St Michael's Gallery to do some crafts and then move to our Chapterhouse Cinema to watch Alice in Wonderland (the 1951 version)

(Book your FREE places online)

Any questions, please email events@coventrycathedral.org.uk