



Choral Evensong



*In Thanksgiving for the Life of
Canon Heather Wallace
Sunday, 3rd May, 2006 at 4pm*

A warm welcome to Choral Evensong

This Cathedral stands as a living sign of reconciliation. Through the ministry of the Community of the Cross of Nails, its calling reaches across the world, seeking healing in places of division and hope in the midst of brokenness.

Today, as we gather for Choral Evensong, we give thanks for the life and witness of the late Canon Heather Wallace. A devoted member of our congregation and much-loved stalwart of the worshipping community. Heather served as Lay Canon Theologian and through her wisdom and faith helped to deepen our common life. Through her work in the ministry of reconciliation, both here and abroad, she embodied the Cathedral's vocation with quiet courage and grace.

Much of today's service reflects Heather's own choices and words, including the hymns, music and some of the poetry and prayers.

We welcome you to join in the worship of God, to listen, to pray, and to be part of this continuing story of reconciliation, so close to Heather's heart.

The service will be led by the Very Reverend John Witcombe, Dean of Coventry. The Reverend Canon Nitano Muller, Canon for Worship and Welcome, is the cantor. The Choir is directed by Joe Watson, Acting Director of Music. The organists are Liam Condon, Assistant Director of Music, Adam Heron, Organ Scholar and Paul Leddington Wright, Former Director of Music, playing the final hymn and voluntary. The responses are those by Humphrey Clucas (born 1941) and the canticles from Collegium Regale by Herbert Howells (1892-1983).

We *STAND* as the procession enters the chancel and choir sings the *introit*.

Introit

Requiem aeternam dona eis,
Domine,
et lux perpetua luceat eis.
Te decet hymnus, Deus, in Sion,
et tibi reddetur votum in
Jerusalem.
Exaudi orationem meam: ad te
omnis caro veniet.

Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison.
Kyrie eleison.

*Give them eternal rest, Lord,
and may light perpetual shine upon
them.
A hymn becomes you, God, in Zion,
and a vow shall be paid to you in
Jerusalem.
Hear my prayer: to you all flesh shall
come.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have
mercy. Lord, have mercy.*

Music by Gabriel Fauré (1845 –1924)

The Very Reverend John Witcombe, Dean of Coventry, offers a welcome and introduces the service from the Dean's stall.

The Litany of Reconciliation

All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

The hatred which divides nation from nation, race from race, class from class,
Father, forgive.

The covetous desires of people and nations to possess what is not their own,
Father, forgive.

The greed which exploits the work of human hands and lays waste the earth,
Father, forgive.

Our envy of the welfare and happiness of others,
Father, forgive.

Our indifference to the plight of the imprisoned, the homeless, the refugee,

Father, forgive.

The lust which dishonours the bodies of men, women and children,

Father, forgive.

The pride which leads us to trust in ourselves and not in God,

Father, forgive.

Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Amen.

The Opening Responses

The Reverend Nitano Muller, Canon for Worship and Welcome, and the choir sing these versicles and responses

℣ 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.

℣ Praise ye the Lord;

℞ The Lord's name be praised.

The congregation SITS while the choir remains standing to sing the Psalm and the first reading is read.

The Word of God

Psalm 139:1-11, 17-18

1. O Lord, thou hast searched me out and known me ♦
thou knowest my down-sitting and mine up-rising,
thou understandest my thoughts long before.
2. Thou art about my path, and about my bed ♦
and spiest out all my ways.
3. For lo, there is not a word in my tongue ♦
but thou, O Lord, knowest it altogether.
4. Thou hast fashioned me behind and before ♦
and laid thine hand upon me.
5. Such knowledge is too wonderful and excellent for me ♦
I cannot attain unto it.
6. Whither shall I go then from thy Spirit ♦
or whither shall I go then from thy presence?
7. If I climb up into heaven, thou art there ♦
if I go down to hell, thou art there also.
8. If I take the wings of the morning ♦
and remain in the uttermost parts of the sea;
9. Even there also shall thy hand lead me ♦
and thy right hand shall hold me.
10. If I say, Peradventure the darkness shall cover me ♦
then shall my night be turned to day.
11. Yea, the darkness is no darkness with thee,
but the night is as clear as the day ♦
the darkness and light to thee are both alike.
17. How dear are thy counsels unto me, O God ♦
O how great is the sum of them!
18. If I tell them, they are more in number than the sand ♦
when I wake up I am present with thee.

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.

The First Lesson

Read by the Reverend Kate Massey, Canon for Arts and Reconciliation.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

Philippians 4:4-8

Here ends the first lesson.

Everyone STANDS as the choir sings

The Magnificat

My soul doth magnify the Lord ♦
and my spirit hath rejoiced 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 showed 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.

Everyone SITS.

The Second Lesson

Read by Martin Williams.

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ²In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

John 14: 1-6

Here ends the second lesson.

Everyone STANDS as the choir sings

The Nunc Dimittis

Everyone STANDS and the choir sings

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.

Everyone remains STANDING.

The Apostles' Creed

Canon Nitano begins, and everyone joins in saying

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 Prayers

The Lesser Litany

The minister and choir sing

☩ The Lord be with you;
☩ And with thy spirit.

☩ Let us pray.

The congregation SITS or KNEELS.

☩ Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Lord's Prayer

The choir sings the Lord's Prayer

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.

The Responses

Canon Nitano and choir sing these versicles and responses

☩ O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;
☩ And grant us thy salvation.
☩ O Lord, save the King;
☩ And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.
☩ Endue thy ministers with righteousness;
☩ And make thy chosen people joyful.

∇ O Lord, save thy people;
℞ And bless thine inheritance.
∇ Give peace in our time, O Lord;
℞ Because there is none other that fighteth for us,
but only thou, O God.
∇ O God, make clean our hearts within us;
℞ And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

A Collect in Thanksgiving for the Life of Heather Wallace

O God, who art the author of peace and lover of concord,
we give thee humble thanks for thy servant Heather,
for her faith and steadfast witness,
and for the grace thou didst bestow upon her
in the ministry of reconciliation within thy Church and throughout
the world.
Grant, we beseech thee, that we, following her good example,
may ever seek the things that make for peace,
and be instruments of thy healing love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Collect for Peace

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.

A Prayer for Help

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.

The congregation remains seated and the choir sings the anthem.

The Anthem

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata
mundi, dona eis requiem
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata
mundi, dona eis requiem
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata
mundi, dona eis requiem
sempiternam

Lux aeterna luceat eis,
Domine
Cum sanctis tuis in aeternum
Quia pius es

Requiem aeternam dona eis,
Domine
Et lux perpetua luceat eis

*Lamb of God, who takes away the
sins of the world, grant them rest
Lamb of God, who takes away the
sins of the world, grant them rest
Lamb of God, who takes away the
sins of the world, grant them eternal
rest*

*Let eternal light shine upon them,
O Lord
With your saints forever
For you are merciful*

*Grant them eternal rest, O Lord
And let perpetual light shine upon
them*

Music by Gabriel Fauré (1845 –1924)

The congregation remains SEATED.

The Eulogy

Given by Paul Kent

Reflection

Given by the Reverend Mark Waldo.

A Poem: New Life

The sun is shining in the West
As evening comes.
The soft light bathes the new born leaves in gold;
The fields are springing back to life;
The corn is green with the promise of a harvest
In the Autumn of the year.
The hedge rows wear a festive garb of white;
The sparkling stream winds through the tree lined meadows;
The dark brown earth is patterned by the plough,

And all around is life.
And yet this life has come from seeming death.
The death of night gives way to glorious dawn;
The dead brown leaves of winter wake from sleep;
The cold hard ground begins to stir with growth ;
Through seeming death has come new life.
We all must live this death of life and life of death.
Through death we understand what living means.
Through death we rid ourselves of our worn clothes.
Through death we are reborn.
And yet we weep.
We weep for what we had and what we loved.
We weep for what has been and what can never be.
We weep because in death we are alone.
And yet this weeping must become a cry of joy.
A cry of joy for what we had and what we loved.
A cry of joy for what has been and what is still to be.
A cry of joy because by faith we know
In death, we are reborn and we shall live.

*Written by Heather many years ago on a train from Birmingham to Bristol
as a dear friend was close to death.*

Hymn

**Breathe on me, Breath of God,
fill me with life anew,
that I may love what thou dost love,
and do what thou wouldst do.**

**Breathe on me, Breath of God,
until my heart is pure;
until with thee I will one will,
to do and to endure.**

**Breathe on me, Breath of God,
till I am wholly thine;
until this earthly part of me
glows with thy fire divine.**

**Breathe on me, Breath of God:
so shall I never die,
but live with thee the perfect life
of thine eternity.**

*Words by Edwin Hatch (1835-1889)
Tune CP 248 Carlisle Charles Lockhart (1745-1815)*

We SIT or kneel.

The Prayers of Intercession

The prayers are led by Canon Margaret Sedgwick.

Let us pray.

Loving God,
you call your Church to be a place of reconciliation and peace.
We thank you for Heather,
for her wisdom, her faithfulness,
and for all that you did through her life
in this Cathedral and far beyond.
Help us to follow her example,
to seek peace where there is division
and hope where there is despair.
Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for your Church throughout the world;
for unity among Christians,
and for all who work for justice and peace.
We remember especially the Community of the Cross of Nails,
and all places marked by conflict and broken relationships.
Make your Church a living sign of your reconciling love.
Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for this Cathedral community,
for all who mourn Heather's death,
and for all whose lives were touched by her friendship and care.
Be close to them in their sorrow,
give them strength and hope,
and help them to entrust her into your loving care.
Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God our Father,
we thank you that you have made each of us
in your own image,
and given us gifts and talents with which to serve you.
We thank you for Heather,
the years we shared with her,
the good we saw in her,
the love we received from her.
Now give us the strength and courage to leave her in your care,
confident in your promise of eternal life;
Lord, in your mercy:
Hear our prayer.

Bring us, O Lord God, at our last awakening into the house and gate
of heaven, to enter into that gate and dwell in that house, where
there shall be no darkness nor dazzling, but one equal light; no noise
nor silence, but one equal music; no fears, nor hopes, but one equal
possession; no ends nor beginnings, but one equal eternity; in the
habitations of thy glory and dominion, world without end.
Amen.

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost,
be with us all evermore.
Amen.**

We *STAND*.

Hymn

**All my hope on God is founded;
he doth still my trust renew.
Me through change and chance he guideth,
only good and only true.
God unknown, he alone
calls my heart to be his own.**

**Human pride and earthly glory,
sword and crown betray his trust;
what with care and toil he buildeth,
tower and temple, fall to dust.
But God's power, hour by hour,
is my temple and my tower.**

**God's great goodness aye endureth,
deep his wisdom, passing thought:
splendour, light, and life attend him,
beauty springeth out of naught.
Evermore from his store
new-born worlds rise and adore.**

**Daily doth th'Almighty giver
bounteous gifts on us bestow;
his desire our soul delighteth,
pleasure leads us where we go.
Love doth stand at his hand;
joy doth wait on his command.**

**Still from all to God eternal
sacrifice of praise be done,
high above all praises praising
for the gift of Christ his Son.
Christ doth call one and all:
ye who follow shall not fall.**

*Words by Robert Bridges (1844-1930)
Tune CP 368 Michael Herbert Howells (1892-1983)*

We remain STANDING as the Dean pronounces the blessing.

The Blessing

May the strength of the wind and the light of the sun,
The softness of the rain and the mystery of the moon,
Reach us and fill us.

May beauty delight us and happiness uplift us.

May wonder fulfil us and Love surround us.

May our steps be steady and our arms be strong.

May our hearts be peaceful and our word be true.

May we seek to learn,

May we learn to live,

May we live to love,

Till life's end has come.

Amen

The Procession of the Choir and Ministers

The congregation remains STANDING as the choir and ministers leave the Chancel.

The Organ Voluntary

Placare Christe Servulis by Marcel Dupré (1886-1971)

*And He smiled at me and said:
'Grasp hold this hand
For it is here beside you
And will lead you through the
darkness
Of the time ahead.
It's warmth will warm you,
And from its strength will flow your
strength,
And from its gentle power will
come your courage,
For this is the hand of love,
Though wounded it is unharmed and
strong
And waits your touch to guide you
To the sunlight of the morning.'*

Philip Kent

**All are warmly invited to share in refreshments
and conversation at the back of the nave following
the service.**

The Cathedral held a special place in Heather's heart and we invite you to contribute to the work and ministry we do here. Please use the cash or contactless donation points anywhere in the building, or the QR code below. This will take you to the Cathedral's page for the Parish giving Scheme which will enable you to make a one-off donation, or set up a regular gift should you wish. Thank you so much for your support and generosity.

