



*A Service of Celebration and  
Thanksgiving for  
Coventry Cathedral's  
Diamond Jubilee*



# *Welcome to Coventry Cathedral*

*It is a joy and a privilege to welcome you to this special service today. This is a great occasion in the life of the Diocese of Coventry as we celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of our Cathedral Church, and we are honoured by the presence of His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent, to set the seal on our celebrations. While Her Majesty The Queen laid the foundation stone of the Cathedral on 23rd March 1956 and was present for its Consecration on 25th May 1962, we have been delighted to welcome in turn Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother for our Silver Jubilee and Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, just ten years ago, for our Golden Jubilee celebration.*

*This magnificent building is laden with rich symbolism which speaks of the love, hope, faith and reconciliation we find in Christ. The decision to rebuild the Cathedral was taken on 15<sup>th</sup> November 1940, just hours after it had been destroyed in an overnight air-raid. Rebuilding would not be an act of defiance, but rather a sign of faith, trust and hope for the future of the world. It was this vision of Provost Richard Howard which led the people of Coventry away from feelings of bitterness and hatred and birthed the Cathedral's Ministry of Peace and Reconciliation, which has provided spiritual and practical support, in areas of conflict throughout the world. This is a ministry shared with the whole Diocese of Coventry - with our parishes, schools and chaplaincies - and with our partners in the Community of the Cross of Nails and Together for Hope.*

*Our Cathedral is a treasure - a diamond - and stands today as a continuing symbol of reconciliation and peace. As a diamond has many facets so does the Cathedral. Through our vision and ministry of hospitality, spirituality, reconciliation, creativity and the arts, risk taking and community, we pray that God will continue to hone, shape and mould us to be the people and Cathedral church he calls us to be today. We worship together today. May the beauty of the building, the scriptures, the music, colour, symbolism and prayerfulness speak to you of the things of the living God and may we all be equipped in the power of God's Spirit to serve the church and the world.*

*In this service, we invite you to join in with the words in **BOLD**. Indications of when to STAND and SIT are printed, but please do remain seated if you prefer. You are welcome to take this booklet away with you at the end. The Cathedral Choir sings under the direction of Rachel Mahon. The organist is Luke Fitzgerald.*

# *The Gathering*

*Just before the service, The Very Reverend John Witcombe, Dean, welcomes the congregation. At 11.00am, the Peace Bell is rung and we STAND to sing the opening hymn, during which the procession of choir, ministers and children enters from the Cathedral Ruins*

## **Hymn**

**Praise, my soul, the King of heaven,  
to his feet thy tribute bring;  
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
who like me his praise should sing?  
praise him, praise him,  
praise him, praise him,  
praise the everlasting King.**

**Praise him for his grace and favour  
to our fathers in distress;  
praise him still the same for ever,  
slow to chide, and swift to bless:  
praise him, praise him,  
praise him, praise him,  
glorious in his faithfulness.**

**Father-like, he tends and spares us,  
well our feeble frame he knows,  
in his hands he gently bears us,  
rescues us from all our foes:  
praise him, praise him,  
praise him, praise him,  
widely as his mercy flows.**

**Angels, help us to adore him;  
ye behold him face to face;  
sun and moon, bow down before him,  
dwellers all in time and space:  
praise him, praise him,  
praise him, praise him,  
praise with us the God of grace.**

*Words by Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847) cf. Psalm 103*

*Tune CP 555 Praise my Soul John Goss (1800-1880)*

## **Greeting**

*The Right Reverend Dr Christopher Cocksworth, Bishop of Coventry, officiating, says*

Grace, mercy and peace  
from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ  
be with you  
**and also with you.**

*The Bishop introduces the opening prayer, which we say together.*

**Almighty God,  
whose love shapes history and holds us all secure  
we give thanks for the life of this Cathedral church  
through sixty years,  
for all who have gone before us,  
for the witness of prayer and worship,  
for the hearts and minds opened to you  
through the beauty of this space  
and the challenge of its story.  
As we celebrate this day of Diamond Jubilee,  
open our eyes afresh to your vision  
and give us all needful gifts  
that we may work with you as agents of your  
reconciling love shown to us in Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
Amen.**

# *Prayers of Penitence*

*We SIT. The Dean introduces the young people participating in the service and then says*

Jesus said, 'Before you offer your gift, go and be reconciled.' As sisters and brothers in God's family, we come together to ask our Father for forgiveness.

*Matthew 5:24*

## **The Coventry Litany of Reconciliation**

*Students from Blue Coat School lead us in the litany.*

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.

## Absolution

*The Bishop says*

May almighty God have mercy on us,  
forgive us our sins,  
and bring us to everlasting life,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## Gloria

*We STAND as the choir sings*

Glory be to God on high,  
and in earth peace, good will towards men.  
We praise thee, we bless thee,  
we worship thee, we glorify thee,  
we give thanks to thee for thy great glory.  
O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.  
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesu Christ.  
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.  
Thou that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.  
Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer.  
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father,  
have mercy upon us.  
For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord;  
thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,  
art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

*From The Coventry Missa Brevis,  
Music by Matthew Martin (b. 1976)  
Commissioned for this occasion*

## Collect

*After a short time of silent prayer, the Bishop says*

Almighty God,  
to whose glory we celebrate the dedication of this house of prayer:  
we praise you for the many blessings  
you have given to those who worship you here.  
We pray that all who seek you in this place may find you,  
and, being filled with the Holy Spirit,  
may become a living temple acceptable to you;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## *The Word of God*

### Reading

*We SIT for the first reading, read by Martin R Williams, Cathedral Warden*

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

*2 Corinthians 5:16-21*

## Anthem

*The choir sings*

I was glad when they said unto me, we will go into the house of the Lord. Our feet shall stand in thy gates, O Jerusalem. Jerusalem is builded as a city that is at unity in itself. O pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee. Peace be within thy walls, and plenteousness within thy palaces.

*from Psalm 122*

*Music by C Hubert H Parry (1848-1918)*

## Reading

*We remain SEATED for the reading, led by Canon Emma Griffiths,*

*Head of Reconciliation & Education at the Cathedral, with students from our diocesan schools and academies.*

Listen, this is our story.

Jesus said, “There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, “Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.” So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need.

Listen, this is our story

So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, “How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.’” So, he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far

off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him.

Listen, this is our story

Then the son said to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.” But the father said to his slaves, “Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!” And they began to celebrate. Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, “Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.” Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, “Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!”

Listen, this is our story

Then the father said to him, “You are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.”

Celebrate, this is our story

*Cf. Luke 15:11-32*

## Hymn

*We STAND to sing*

Just as I am, without one plea  
but that thy blood was shed for me,  
and that thou bidst me come to thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about  
with many a conflict, many a doubt,  
fightings and fears within, without,  
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;  
sight, riches, healing of the mind,  
yea, all I need, in thee to find,  
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, thou wilt receive,  
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve:  
because thy promise I believe,  
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, (thy love unknown  
has broken every barrier down),  
now to be thine, yea, thine alone,  
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, of that free love  
the breadth, length, depth, and height to prove,  
here for a season, then above,  
O Lamb of God, I come.

*Words by Charlotte Elliott (1789-1871)*

*Tune CP 308i Saffron Walden A.H. Brown (1830-1926)*

## Address

*Given by The Most Reverend Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury. After a prayer of introduction, we SIT. At the end, we keep silence for reflection.*

## Anthem

*The choir sings*

My house shall be called an house of prayer for all people. The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the Lord of hosts: and in this place will I give peace, saith the Lord of hosts. My house shall be called an house of prayer for all people.

*From Isaiah 56:7 and Haggai 2:9*

*Music by Herbert Howells (1892-1983)*

*Written for the service of Dedication and Consecration on the 25<sup>th</sup> May 1962*

### **Sung Affirmation of faith**

*We STAND to sing*

**We believe in God the Father,  
God almighty, by whose plan  
earth and heaven sprang to being,  
all created things began.**

**We believe in Christ the Saviour,  
Son of God in human frame,  
virgin-born, the child of Mary  
upon whom the Spirit came.**

**Christ, who on the cross forsaken,  
like a lamb to slaughter led,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
he descended to the dead.**

**We believe in Jesus risen,  
heaven's King to rule and reign,  
to the Father's side ascended  
till as judge he comes again.**

**We believe in God the Spirit;  
in one Church, below, above:  
saints of God in one communion,  
one in holiness and love.  
So, by faith, our sins forgiven,  
Christ our Saviour, Lord and friend,  
we shall rise with him in glory  
to the life that knows no end.**

*Tune CP 418 Abbots Leigh, Cyril Taylor (1907-1991)*

## **Prayers**

*We SIT or KNEEL as The Reverend Ellie Clack, representing the Chaplaincies of the Diocese, Emma Harrington, Ordinand, Delene Mark, representing the Community of the Cross of Nails, and The Reverend Father Edward Le Brun Powell, representing parish clergy, lead us in prayer*

Creator God, you who love all you have made and to whose glory this Cathedral burned: may this place, ruined and rebuilt, continue to be a sign to all peoples of the healing of the wounds of history. Inspire us with the holiness of your presence and help us to build a kinder, more just world where all can be free to live in the fulness for which You created them. We give thanks for all who have gone before us in the work of reconciliation and proclamation in this place. Grant that we may follow their example and seek justice, love mercy and walk humbly with our God.

**For all that has been, thanks.**

**For all that will be, yes.**

Redeemer of the World, who came to seek the least and the lost: teach us again to recognise your image in the face of our fellow human beings. May we welcome and celebrate those who are different from us, rejoicing in the diversity of all you have made. Guide us into your ways of truth, peace and righteousness that we may not be daunted by the enormity of the world's grief but may seek to lighten the burdens of one another. Standing in solidarity with those who suffer injustice in all its forms, we ask that your justice would flow like a river and your righteousness like a mighty stream.

**For all that has been, thanks.**

**For all that will be, yes.**

Sustainer of Life, who reconciles all things to yourself: inspire us to continue your work of reconciliation in the places where you have planted us. Teach us your ways, that we may walk in the paths of peace, showing compassion to all who suffer and pursuing that true Shalom that the world cannot give. Break down the walls that divide us, making us one in heart and mind that your kingdom may go forward in justice and peace, till the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love.

**For all that has been, thanks.**

**For all that will be, yes.**

Merciful Father, we ask all this for your glory and in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit, ever lives and reigns, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

*Father Edward introduces the Lord's Prayer. Please feel free to pray in whatever language or version is most comfortable for you. As is our custom, we particularly invite you to pray in German, if you would like. The words are printed below.*

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

Vater unser im Himmel,  
Geheiligt werde dein Name,  
dein Reich komme,  
dein Wille geschehe,  
wie im Himmel, so auf Erden.  
Unser tägliches Brot gib uns heute,  
und vergib uns unsere Schuld,  
wie auch wir vergeben unsern  
Schuldigern.  
Und führe uns nicht in Versuchung,  
sondern erlöse uns von dem Bösen.  
Denn dein ist das Reich und die Kraft  
und die Herrlichkeit,  
in Ewigkeit.  
Amen.

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin  
against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours now  
and for ever. Amen.

# Conclusion

## Hymn

*We STAND to sing. During this hymn, students from our diocesan schools and academies come up to the altar to light their candles. They then pass this light to the ends of the rows of seats, and we pass the light on to our neighbours as we receive it. Please take care.*

**Be in our midst, and gather us together,  
and let your loving-kindness be our guide,  
Help us discern your image in each other,  
and walk with humble footsteps by your side.  
Send us to work, O Lord, Almighty Giver,  
'til all who thirst and hunger now are filled,  
Let justice thunder like a mighty river,  
And let the storms of strife and conflict now be stilled.**

**When all the world's great sorrows overtake us,  
and we are crushed by centuries of pain,  
lend us your strength, and lovingly remake us  
that by your grace we may be whole again.  
And when the sins of passing generations  
make all the wounds of hist'ry still feel raw,  
send out your healing power among the nations,  
and fill this broken earth with heaven's peace once more.**

**And if the cross, the site of such destruction,  
a sign of violence, suffering and sin,  
can be redeemed to witness resurrection,  
and be a place where life can still begin,  
then iron and wood and stone can sing their stories:  
'Father, forgive' these very walls have prayed,  
that what was lost could birth still brighter glories,  
and what was hurt can be transfigured and remade.**

**Grant us that peace beyond the mind's discerning,  
Help us to live the truth that sets us free.  
And may the Spirit's fire within us burning  
help us become who we are called to be.  
In eager longing for your new creation,  
a world reshaped by love and hope and grace,  
with Christ the Prince of Peace as our foundation,  
we'll build your kingdom now, in this and every place.**

*Words © Ally Barrett, written for this occasion  
Tune CP 54 Londonderry, 'Air from Country Derry' in the Petrie Collection,  
harmonised by Michael Fleming (b. 1928)*

## **The Commissioning**

*Led by students from Harris Church of England Academy.*

God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself and entrusts us with the ministry of reconciliation.

Will you collaborate with God, living as reconciled and reconciling people?

**With the help of God, we will.**

Will you, as signs of the new creation, seek to learn from history, and to heal its wounds?

**With the help of God, we will.**

Will you, living in the light of God's love, strive to live with those who are different from you and celebrate the rich diversity of humanity, made in the image of God?

**With the help of God, we will.**

Will you, reconciled to God in one body by the cross, foster a culture a peace, that the world may be a kinder, gentler, more Christ-child like place?

**With the help of God, we will.**

*The Bishop concludes the Commissioning*

Let the peace of Christ dwell in you.  
Let the joy of the Holy Spirit shine through you.  
Let the love of God flow through you  
that you may work and witness for the coming of God's kingdom.  
**Amen.**

## **Blessing**

*The Bishop invites the Archbishop to give the blessing*

Our help is in the name of the Lord  
**who has made heaven and earth.**

Blessed be the name of the Lord  
**now and for ever. Amen.**

The God of hope fill us with all joy in believing,  
all peace in serving and all strength in loving;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be upon this Cathedral church,  
the whole Diocese of Coventry  
and all God's people  
now and evermore.  
**Amen.**

## **Dismissal**

*The Dean says*

Go in peace to share the reconciling love of God.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

*Students from our diocesan schools and academies lead the procession down to the West Screens and outside.*

## **Voluntary**

*Marche Pontificale (from Symphony no. 1) – Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937)*

*You will have found a piece of bunting on your chair as you came in (if not, do speak to one of the team at the end). Throughout the rest of May and June, we will be gathering stories and memories of Coventry Cathedral through the years to create celebratory festoons that chart our collective story. Please do write a memorable or favourite moment from your experiences at the Cathedral on your bunting and either place it in the basket at the West Screens, hand it in to us at another time before the 25<sup>th</sup> June, or post it to Coventry Cathedral, Priory Street, Coventry, CV1 5AB (c/o Liturgy department). We look forward very much to hearing your stories!*

## ***Thank you***

*There are many people whom we would like to thank on this occasion*

### **For their generous support in the completion of our Pavilion project, opened today:**

Arts Council England, Allchurches Trust, Barbara Whatmore Trust  
Coventry City Council, Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership, Eranda Rothschild Foundation, Eveson Charitable Trust, Friends of Coventry Cathedral, Garfield Weston Foundation, Glaziers Trust, John Armitage Charitable Trust, Laing Family Trusts, Wolfson Foundation, and a number of generous individual donors

### **For their help and expertise in putting this service together:**

The Rev'd Ellie Clack, The Ven. Sue Fields, The Rev'd Craig Grocock, Emma Harrington, Matthew Murphy, The Rev'd Dr Rosalyn Murphy, The Rev'd Edward Le Brun Powell, Geoff Wilcox and Martin R Williams

# *Words for Coventry Cathedral*

*We are delighted to share some of the beautiful poetry this place has inspired since its consecration.*

## *Coventry Cathedral Parts I & II*

Sometimes

you walk in these bombed-out ruins and feel  
the edges of the past align, like fragments of  
shattered glass in the shifting sun; and somehow  
you can taste the rain that fell before the falling,  
see those who loved before the dying, know the  
beauty that's here beneath the scorching; and  
in these stones, worn with love and loss and life,  
you feel this fire - O! There was fire!

*Ruins, 'Coventry Cathedral Part I', © Jay Hulme 2021 (Used with permission)*

What you hold on to  
doesn't have to be this; heat-kissed stonework and  
fallen beams, these overthrown certainties do not  
require rebuilding.

Repair the damage  
without renewing all that has been; some losses  
must be seen to be accepted.

Let us learn to forgive,  
let us build an edifice that speaks of this; let us turn  
this shattering to sunlight, and preach a promise  
of peace.

*Reconciliation, 'Coventry Cathedral Part II', © Jay Hulme 2021 (Used with permission)*

## *Coventry Cathedral*

After the rains of metal and fire, Jock Forbes,  
stonemason, stood in The Ruins and bound two charred oak beams  
in the shape of a cross.

Grieving the endless loss,  
a priest scavenged three medieval nails  
for a crucifix. So, with their burning hands and splintered hearts,  
the forgave.

Children of Time,  
we walk from The Ruins under a canopy  
into an answer to War. The texts in the nave. Love.  
Shy alchemy; stained glass, sieving light  
for the gold of heaven.

Or hallowed by Art,  
the human, the commonplace. Or an angel made vivid  
by patience with crystal, mirror, mosaic. Music  
stored in the organ's pipes, balanced with silence.

The divine in tapestry tells of twelve,  
faithful to vision; an aura

weaved on their loom.

The boulder, rolled over land and sea, is the earth;  
palming water under the sun.

The great glass screen reasons with History.

More than reply, this plain casket of jewels,  
to the rubble of hate. An offering plate,  
passed across years. Faith  
built from its local stone again; again and again.  
Listen, A permanent Requiem.

© Carol Ann Duffy 2018 (Used with permission)

*If you would like to see the beginning of our story, do visit the free exhibition of photographs by Richard Sadler at The Old Grammar School, Hales Street, CV1 1HP:*

## **Pioneering Arts: Sadler and the Cathedral**

**Sunday 24 April to Tuesday 31 May (10 am - 4 pm)**

A look at the inspirational design and art of the Cathedral, coinciding with the 60th anniversary of the Cathedral's consecration. This exhibition will be community-curated with the Friends of Coventry Cathedral.

*We hope you will join us for worship again; our regular Sunday services are at 10.30am and 4pm, and you will receive a very warm welcome! For more information about our upcoming services, do look on our website. If you would like to find out more about our work here, and what Christians believe, please contact the Reverend Kathryn Fleming, Canon for Worship & Community on [kathryn.fleming@coventry.anglican.org](mailto:kathryn.fleming@coventry.anglican.org), or on 024 7652 1230*

## **Supporting Coventry Cathedral**

*We would be very grateful for any contribution to the work of running this beautiful place. Cash and contactless donation points can be found in the Nave, or do speak to one of the clergy about how you might be able to support us. Would you like to give to the Cathedral via your mobile phone? To find out more, please scan one of these codes:*



**One-off donation**



**Investors in hope**



**365 for 365**

*The image on the back was taken at the original service of consecration and was kindly supplied by Martin R Williams.*



