

Choral Evensong

Sunday, 4th January, 2026

The Feast of The Epiphany



Welcome to this service of Choral Evensong, led by the Reverend Nitano Muller, Canon for Worship and Welcome. Donald Parr, Cathedral Lay Reader, is preaching.

The Lay Clerks are directed by Joe Watson, Acting Director of Music. The responses are those by Frikki Walker. (b. 1960).

Introit

Three kings from Persian lands afar
To Jordan follow the pointing star:
And this the quest of the travellers three,
Where the new-born King of the Jews may be.
Full royal gifts they bear for the King;
Gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.

*How brightly shines the morning star!
With grace and truth from heaven afar
Our Jesse tree now bloweth.*

The star shines out with a steadfast ray;
The kings to Bethlehem make their way,
And there in worship they bend the knee,
As Mary's child in her lap they see;
Their royal gifts they show to the King;
Gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.

*Of Jacob's stem and David's line,
For thee, my Bridegroom, King divine,
My soul with love o'erfloweth.*

Thou child of man, lo, to Bethlehem
The kings are travelling, travel with them!
The star of mercy, the star of grace,
Shall lead thy heart to its resting place.
Gold, incense, myrrh thou canst not bring;
Offer thy heart to the infant King.

*Thy word, Jesu, inly feeds us,
Rightly leads us, life bestowing.
Praise, O praise such love o'erflowing.*

Words and music by Peter Cornelius (1824-1874)

Psalm 98

1. O sing unto the Lord a new song ♫
for he hath done marvellous things.
2. With his own right hand, and with his holy arm ♫
hath he gotten himself the victory.
3. The Lord declared his salvation ♫
his righteousness hath he openly shewed in the sight of the heathen.
4. He hath remembered his mercy and truth toward the house of Israel ♫
and all the ends of the world have seen the salvation of our God.
5. Shew yourselves joyful unto the Lord, all ye lands ♫
sing, rejoice, and give thanks.
6. Praise the Lord upon the harp ♫
sing to the harp with a Psalm of thanksgiving.
7. With trumpets also and shawms ♫
O shew yourselves joyful before the Lord the King.
8. Let the sea make a noise, and all that therein is ♫
the round world, and they that dwell therein.
9. Let the floods clap their hands, and let the hills be joyful together
before the Lord ♫
for he is come to judge the earth.
10. With righteousness shall he judge the world ♫
and the people with equity.

Psalm 100

1. O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands ♫
serve the Lord with gladness, and come before his presence with a song.
2. Be ye sure that the Lord he is God ♫
it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people,
and the sheep of his pasture.

3. O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise •
be thankful unto him, and speak good of his Name.

4. For the Lord is gracious, his mercy is everlasting •
and his truth endureth from generation to generation.

The First Lesson

²¹Set forth your case, says the LORD; bring your proofs, says the King of Jacob. ²²Let them bring them, and tell us what is to happen. Tell us the former things, what they are, so that we may consider them, and that we may know their outcome; or declare to us the things to come. ²³Tell us what is to come hereafter, that we may know that you are gods; do good, or do harm, that we may be afraid and terrified. ²⁴You, indeed, are nothing and your work is nothing at all; whoever chooses you is an abomination. ²⁵I stirred up one from the north, and he has come, from the rising of the sun he was summoned by name. He shall trample on rulers as on mortar, as the potter treads clay. ²⁶Who declared it from the beginning, so that we might know, and beforehand, so that we might say, “He is right”? There was no one who declared it, none who proclaimed, none who heard your words. ²⁷I first have declared it to Zion, and I give to Jerusalem a herald of good tidings. ²⁸But when I look there is no one; among these there is no counsellor who, when I ask, gives an answer. ²⁹No, they are all a delusion; their works are nothing; their images are empty wind.

^{42:1} Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. ²He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; ³a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. ⁴He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

Isaiah 41:21 – 42:4

The Magnificat

Evening Service in E by Charles Wood (1866-1926)

The Second Lesson

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, ²To the saints and faithful brothers and sisters in Christ in Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

³In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁴for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, ⁵because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. You have heard of this hope before in the word of the truth, the gospel ⁶that has come to you. Just as it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world, so it has been bearing fruit among yourselves from the day you heard it and truly comprehended the grace of God. ⁷This you learned from Epaphras, our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, ⁸and he has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

⁹For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. ¹¹May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully

¹²giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Colossians 1:1-14

The Nunc Dimittis

Evening Service in E by Charles Wood (1866-1926)

The Collect

O God, who by the leading of a star didst manifest thy only-begotten Son to the Gentiles: Mercifully grant, that we, which know thee now by faith, may after this life have the fruition of thy glorious Godhead; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Anthem

Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum;

benedicta tu in mulieribus,
et benedictus fructus ventris tui,
Jesus.

Sancta Maria, Mater Dei,
ora pro nobis peccatoribus,
nunc et in hora mortis nostrae.
Amen.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee;

*blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.*

*Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death.
Amen.*

Music by Mervyn Cousins

The Sermon

Given by the Donald Parr, Cathedral Lay Reader.

Hymn

**Earth has many a noble city;
Bethl'em, thou dost all excel:
out of thee the Lord from heaven
came to rule his Israel.**

**Fairer than the sun at morning
was the star that told his birth,
to the world its God announcing
seen in fleshly form on earth.**

**Eastern sages at his cradle
make oblations rich and rare;
see them give in deep devotion
gold and frankincense and myrrh.**

**Sacred gifts of mystic meaning:
incense doth their God disclose,
gold the King of kings proclaimeth,
myrrh his sepulchre foreshows.**

**Jesu, whom the Gentiles worshipped
at thy glad Epiphany,
unto thee with God the Father
and the Spirit glory be.**

Words by Prudentius (348-c.413) translated by Edward Caswall (1814-1878)
Tune CP 85 Stuttgart adapted from a melody in C.F. Witt's *Harmonia Sacra Gotha*
(1715)

Voluntary

*Please do stay for the organ voluntary, played by Joe Watson.
Serenade by Derek Bourgeois (1941–2017)*

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Thank you for your support.



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

COMING SOON

Reconciliation Pathway.

The Cathedral will be hosting the Reconciliation Pathway, an opportunity to engage with stories of history, faith, art and lived experience. The course starts on *Tuesday, 14 January at 7pm*. The cost is £25 for the course. All are welcome to participate. If you have any questions, please contact Pathways@Coventry.Anglican.org or speak to Canon Kate or Dean John for further information.

Four Choirs Festival at Derby Cathedral.

Saturday, 17 January at 5.30pm

Derby Cathedral will host the Four Choirs Festival, bringing together the choirs from Derby, Coventry, Leicester and Southwell Cathedral for a service of Choral Evensong. Please speak to Joe or Liam if you wish to support the choir.

Epiphany Carols.

Sunday, 18 January at 4pm

Epiphany Carols is a service of thoughtful readings and exciting music for the season of Epiphany. The service celebrates the revelation of Christ to the nations and all welcome.