

Choral Evensong

Sunday 12th October, 2025

17th Sunday after Trinity



Welcome to this service of Choral Evensong, led by the Reverend Kate Massey, Canon for Arts and Reconciliation. The Reverend Doctor Thomas Bergholz is preaching.

The Choir is directed by Rachel Mahon, Director of Music. The organists are Liam Condon, Assistant Director of Music, and Adam Heron, Organ Scholar.

The responses are those by Ian Little.

Introit

Domine, Jesu Christe, qui me creasti, redemisti, et preordinasti ad hoc quod sum, tu scis quid de me facere vis; fac de me secundum voluntatem tuam cum misericordia. Amen.

Lord Jesus Christ, who created, redeemed, and preordained me to be this that I am, you know what you wish to do with me; do with me in accordance with your will, with mercy. Amen.

*A Prayer of King Henry VI
Music by Henry Ley (1887-1962)*

Psalm 144

1. Blessed be the Lord my strength ♦
who teacheth my hands to war, and my fingers to fight;
2. My hope and my fortress, my castle and deliverer, my defender in
whom I trust ♦
who subdueth my people that is under me.
3. Lord, what is man, that thou hast such respect unto him ♦
or the son of man, that thou so regardest him?
4. Man is like a thing of nought ♦
his time passeth away like a shadow.
5. Bow thy heavens, O Lord, and come down ♦
touch the mountains, and they shall smoke.
6. Cast forth thy lightning, and tear them ♦
shoot out thine arrows, and consume them.

7. Send down thine hand from above ♦
deliver me, and take me out of the great waters, from the hand of
strange children;
8. Whose mouth talketh of vanity ♦
and their right hand is a right hand of wickedness.
9. I will sing a new song unto thee, O God ♦
and sing praises unto thee upon a ten-stringed lute.
10. Thou hast given victory unto kings ♦
and hast delivered David thy servant from the peril of the sword.
11. Save me, and deliver me from the hand of strange children ♦
whose mouth talketh of vanity, and their right hand is a right hand of
iniquity.
12. That our sons may grow up as the young plants ♦
and that our daughters may be as the polished corners of the temple.
13. That our garners may be full and plenteous with all manner of
store ♦
that our sheep may bring forth thousands and ten thousands in our
streets.
14. That our oxen may be strong to labour, that there be no decay ♦
no leading into captivity, and no complaining in our streets.
15. Happy are the people that are in such a case ♦
yea, blessed are the people who have the Lord for their God.

The First Lesson

- ⁴ The Lord God has given me
the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.
Morning by morning he wakens—
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.
- ⁵ The Lord God has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backwards.
- ⁶ I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;

I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.

⁷ The Lord God helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
⁸ he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?

Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries?

Let them confront me.

⁹ It is the Lord God who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?
All of them will wear out like a garment;
the moth will eat them up.

¹⁰ Who among you fears the Lord
and obeys the voice of his servant,
who walks in darkness
and has no light,
yet trusts in the name of the Lord
and relies upon his God?

Isaiah 50:4-10

The Magnificat

Evening Service in A Major by C.V. Stanford (1852 – 1924)

The Second Lesson

²² Jesus went through one town and village after another, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem. ²³Someone asked him, ‘Lord, will only a few be saved?’ He said to them, ²⁴‘Strive to enter through the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able. ²⁵When once the owner of the house has got up and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, “Lord, open to us”, then in reply he will say to you, “I do not know where you come from.” ²⁶Then you will begin to say, “We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.” ²⁷But he will say, “I do not know where you come from; go away from me, all you evildoers!” ²⁸There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrown out.

²⁹Then people will come from east and west, from north and south, and will eat in the kingdom of God. ³⁰Indeed, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last.'

Luke 13:22-30

The Nunc Dimittis

Evening Service in A Major by C.V. Stanford (1852 – 1924)

The Collect of the Day

Lord,
we pray thee that thy grace may always prevent and follow us,
and make us continually to be given to all good works;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Anthem

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised in the city of our God,
in the mountain of His holiness.
Beautiful in elevation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion,
on the sides of the north, the city of the great King.
God hath made Himself known in her palaces for a refuge.
For lo! the kings assembled themselves, they passed by together;
they saw, then were they amazed; they were dismay'd, they hasted away;
trembling took hold of them there, pain as of a woman in travail,
as with the east wind that breaketh the ships of Tarshish.
As we have heard, so have we seen in the city of the Lord of hosts,
in the city of our God: God will establish it for ever.
We have thought on thy loving kindness, O God, in the midst of Thy
temple:
as is thy name, O God, so is Thy praise unto the ends of the earth;
Thy right hand is full of righteousness.
Let mount Zion be glad, because of Thy judgements, let the daughters
of Judah rejoice;
walk about Zion and go round about her, tell the towers thereof, mark
ye well her bulwarks,
consider her palaces, that ye may tell it to the generation following.
For this God is our God for ever and ever;
He will be our guide even unto death.
Amen.

Words from Psalm 48
Music by Sir Edward Elgar (1857-1934)

The Hymn

**O strength and stay upholding all creation,
who ever dost thyself unmoved abide,
yet day by day the light in due gradation
from hour to hour through all its changes guide;**

**Grant to life's day a calm unclouded ending,
an eve untouched by shadows of decay,
the brightness of a holy death-bed blending
with dawning glories of the eternal day.**

**Hear us, O Father, gracious and forgiving,
through Jesus Christ thy co-eternal Word,
who with the Holy Ghost by all things living
now and to endless ages art adored.**

*Words by Saint Ambrose (340-397)
translated by John Ellerton (1826-1893) and F.J.A. Hort (1828-1892)
Tune CPI8 Strength and Stay by J.B. Dykes (1823-1876)*

Voluntary

*Please do stay for the organ voluntary, played by Rachel Mahon.
Rhapsody No. 3 in C Sharp by Herbert Howells (1892 – 1983)*

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.



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:

Congregation Contact Forms

Canon Kate would like to check that the contact information that we hold for congregation members is up to date and to seek your permission to contact you in various ways. This is to comply with our GDPR policy. If you choose to allow it (and there is no obligation), you can allow the Cathedral to send you the weekly notices and any other community news by email. If you choose, you can be added to a directory given to our clergy and readers to aid them in their ministry. Consent Forms are available at the back of the Cathedral. Please place completed forms in the marked envelope in the box which is addressed to Canon Kate.

Dean John's Retirement Announcement

After many years of faithful and dedicated ministry, Dean John Witcombe has announced his retirement in May 2026. We are deeply grateful for his leadership and ministry among us, and we look forward to marking this significant moment together.

Please make a note of these two important dates:

- ***Saturday, 9 May 2026 – Farewell Celebration***
- ***Sunday, 17 May 2026 – Dean John's Farewell Service***

A full statement about the retirement can be found on the Cathedral website: www.coventrycathedral.org.uk

Do keep these dates free in your diaries so that, as a community, we may come together to give thanks and celebrate Dean John's ministry and to wish him well for the future.

COMING SOON

Coffee Morning

Wednesday, 15th October, 10am - 12noon

Come and enjoy the relaxed atmosphere of the Cathedral, with FREE refreshments. An opportunity to gather, chat with friends and friends unknown, to help us fulfil our core value of Hospitality.

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

Reconciliation in a Time of Conflict

Saturday, 18th October, 10am – 3.30pm

How can we talk about reconciliation in the midst of war? We know the Bible calls us to be reconcilers, but what does the Christian ministry of reconciliation look like in a time of conflict? What are the challenges faced by those in the context of war, and what might we learn about being reconcilers in a society increasingly characterised by cultural division and conflict? How can we pray, act and speak in these turbulent times?

Christians in Ukraine and Israel Palestine have approached this question in different ways, which will in turn help shape our understanding and action in our own contexts.

This significant day conference is hosted by the British Trust for Tantor, which supports the work of the Tantor Ecumenical institute, on the border between Jerusalem and Bethlehem. We will be welcoming their Rector, Fr. John Paul SJ, along with guests from Ukraine, to lead us in our reflection.

This conference will run from 10.00 – 3.30pm at Coventry Cathedral, a community known for its commitment to reconciliation, and as a place to reflect and respond to these difficult questions. Tickets are now £15 (or £10 for concessions, e.g. ordinands, students). For more information and to book your place visit:

<https://tinyurl.com/wh674s7c>

**Being Seen: In Art, Words and Dance:
Including exhibition by Andy Farr**

Saturday, 18th October, 2pm - 4pm

A thought-provoking public event and exhibition inspired by testimonies of growth and recovery from trauma. Coventry Cathedral invites you to experience *Being Seen: In Art, Words and Dance* — a moving exhibition and live performance event that brings together visual art, lived experience, dance, poetry, and testimony. Inspired by real stories of trauma and transformation, this project offers a deeply human look at resilience, compassion, and hope.

Choir Talent Show

Sunday, 19th October, following the service.

Join us for a joyful afternoon as our Cathedral Choristers share their gifts beyond the usual repertoire in order to raise money for their choir activities! The show will happen straight after the morning service and comes with a light lunch. It'll be a wonderful occasion of music, laughter, and surprises. Please come along and show your support for our choristers – your presence will mean a great deal to them. Tickets are £10 and may be purchased with cash or card on the day.

Dreams of Peace and Freedom

Sunday, 19 October, 5.30pm- Free

This year is the 75th anniversary of the creation of the European Convention for Human Rights. What should be a year of celebration is a year of uncertainty as the rights this document enshrines are increasingly contested. Against this backdrop, Coventry Cathedral is hosting “Dreams of Peace and Freedom” by professional theatre company, English cabaret. This piece - through archive footage, original songs and narrative drawn from personal papers - tells the story of how the ECHR developed in the aftermath of the Nuremburg Trials. We would love it if you would consider attending this performance and sharing this information with others you know who might be interested.

Our Cathedral Evensong that evening (from 4-5pm) will also centre on this theme, and so you may wish to attend Evensong, enjoy some light refreshments after the service and then enjoy the performance. Or you are most welcome simply to arrive for 5.30pm. (If you might be willing to help SERVE these refreshments, do please speak to Kate!)

To find out more information and book your free place at the performance: [Dreams of Peace & Freedom, Celebrating the protections of ECHR75 - Coventry Cathedral](#)

Basic Skills in Reconciliation

Monday, 20th October, 7-9pm

Our Reconciliation Learning Lead, Emma Griffiths, is leading an evening of training in basic reconciliation skills on at St Nicolas Church, Vicarage Street, Nuneaton, CV11 4AZ. Places cost £5. To attend, please book a place through the Coventry Diocese Equip hub.

BIRD - Part of the Action Rayz Film Series

Thursday, 23rd October

7pm - Pay as you feel on the Chapter House door

Bailey lives with her brother Hunter and her father Bug, who raises them alone in a squat in northern Kent. Bug doesn't have much time to devote to them. Bailey looks for attention and adventure elsewhere.

Rating: 15

24 Hours of Prayer for Peace

Saturday, 1st November

We are launching our Coventry Cathedral Reconciliation Season with 24 hours of prayer for peace from 9.30am on Saturday 1st November all the way through to 9.30am on Sunday 2nd November. There will be different acts of prayer and worship throughout the 24 hours, as well as some prayer stations and other prayer resources.

We would love members of the cathedral community to volunteer to lead either create or offer a prayer resources, to help steward overnight and most of all, to commit to praying for part of the 24 hours (either in the building or at home). If you are able to help with this, please contact Kate (Kate.massey@coventry.anglican.org)

Gracious Dialogue

4th, 11th, 18th, 25th November 7.30 pm in St Michael's House

New for reconciliation season. Gracious Dialogue: A guide to listening and speaking well about Israel and Palestine

Join us for a four week small group course to help us navigate the choppy waters of differing interpretations of scripture and history. Each week we will look at two interpretations of a passage from Paul's Letter to the Romans and snapshots from the recent history of Israel and Palestine.

The course aims to equip us to deepen our understanding and to see through an other's eyes.

To register your interest or for further information talk to or email
Rev'd Su. Email: su.mcclellan@coventry.anglican.org