

Choral Evensong

Sunday 19th October, 2025

18th Sunday after Trinity



Welcome to this service of Choral Evensong, led by the Very Reverend John Witcombe, Dean of Coventry. The Reverend Nitano Muller, Canon for Worship and Welcome, 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 Humphrey Clucas (born 1941).

Introit

God be in my head and in my understanding.
God be in mine eyes and in my looking.
God be in my mouth and in my speaking.
God be in my heart and in my thinking.
God be at mine end and at my departing.

*Words from the Sarum Primer (1558)
Music by Henry Walford Davies (1869-1941)*

Psalms 149

1. O sing unto the Lord a new song ♦
let the congregation of saints praise him.
2. Let Israel rejoice in him that made him ♦
and let the children of Sion be joyful in their King.
3. Let them praise his Name in the dance ♦
let them sing praises unto him with tabret and harp.
4. For the Lord hath pleasure in his people ♦
and helpeth the meek-hearted.
5. Let the saints be joyful with glory ♦
let them rejoice in their beds.
6. Let the praises of God be in their mouth ♦
and a two-edged sword in their hands;
7. To be avenged of the heathen ♦
and to rebuke the people;

8. To bind their kings in chains •
and their nobles with links of iron.

9. That they may be avenged of them, as it is written •
Such honour have all his saints.

The First Lesson

⁹And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, “This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep.” For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. ¹⁰Then he said to them, “Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.” ¹¹So the Levites stilled all the people, saying, “Be quiet, for this day is holy; do not be grieved.” ¹²And all the people went their way to eat and drink and to send portions and to make great rejoicing, because they had understood the words that were declared to them.

¹³On the second day the heads of ancestral houses of all the people, with the priests and the Levites, came together to the scribe Ezra in order to study the words of the law. ¹⁴And they found it written in the law, which the LORD had commanded by Moses, that the people of Israel should live in booths during the festival of the seventh month, ¹⁵and that they should publish and proclaim in all their towns and in Jerusalem as follows, “Go out to the hills and bring branches of olive, wild olive, myrtle, palm, and other leafy trees to make booths, as it is written.” ¹⁶So the people went out and brought them, and made booths for themselves, each on the roofs of their houses, and in their courts and in the courts of the house of God, and in the square at the Water Gate and in the square at the Gate of Ephraim. ¹⁷And all the assembly of those who had returned from the captivity made booths and lived in them; for from the days of Jeshua son of Nun to that day the people of Israel had not done so. And there was very great rejoicing. ¹⁸And day by day, from the first day to the last day, he read from the book of the law of God. They kept the festival seven days; and on the eighth day there was a solemn assembly, according to the ordinance.

Nehemiah 8:9-End

The Magnificat

Collegium regale by Herbert Howells (1892 –1983)

The Second Lesson

¹I have said these things to you to keep you from stumbling. ²They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, an hour is coming when those who kill you will think that by doing so they are offering worship to God. ³And they will do this because they have not known the Father or me. ⁴But I have said these things to you so that when their hour comes you may remember that I told you about them. 'I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. ⁵But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, "Where are you going?"' ⁶But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. ⁷Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgement: ⁹about sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; ¹¹about judgement, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

John 16:1-11

The Nunc Dimittis

Collegium regale by Herbert Howells (1892 –1983)

The Collect of the Day

Lord, we beseech thee, grant thy people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh, and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow thee the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Anthem

Blessed city, heavenly Salem,
vision dear of peace and love,
who of living stones art builded
in the height of heaven above,
and by angel hands apparelled
as a bride doth earthward move.

Out of heaven from God descending,
new and ready to be wed
to thy Lord, whose love espoused thee,
fair adorned shalt thou be led;
all thy gates and all thy bulwarks
of pure gold art fashioned.

Bright thy gates of pearl are shining,
they are open evermore;
and their well earned rest attaining
thither faithful souls do soar.
Who for Christ's dear name in this world
pain and tribulation bore.

Many a blow and biting sculpture
polished well those stones elect,
in their places now compacted,
by the heavenly architect,
nevermore to leave the temple
which with them the Lord hath decked.

To this temple, where we call thee,
come, O Lord of Hosts, today;
with thy wonted loving kindness,
hear thy servants as they pray;
and thy fullest benediction:
shed within its walls alway. Amen.

*Words from Urbs beata Jerusalem, 7th Century
translated by J.M. Neale (1818-1866)
Music by Edward Bairstow (1874-1946)*

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 Adam Heron.
Master Tallis' Testament 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:

RIP Former Dean John Irvine

Our former Dean, John Irvine, died on Saturday 11th October. The funeral will take place at Bishop Hannington Memorial Church in Hove on Monday, 10 November at 2 pm (time tbc). Our prayers are with Andy and all the family.

RIP Pauline Lawrence

Funeral: Monday, 27 October 2025 at 11.15am, followed by a Private Cremation.

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 Season of Reconciliation

Sunday, 2 November to Sunday, 23 November

Theme: “Remembering well to move forward together”

Here at Coventry Cathedral, the month of November is a season of reconciliation; an opportunity to focus on the heart of our calling here at the Cathedral. At each Sunday Eucharist in November we will explore what it means to remember well in a sermon series delivered by local and guest preachers.

Date:	Preacher:	Theme:
Sunday, 2 November <i>(All Saints’ Day)</i>	The Revd Su McClellan	<i>“Remembering the saints to be inspired in our peace-making”</i>
Sunday, 9 November <i>(Remembrance Day)</i>	The Revd Canon Kate Massey	<i>“Remembering the war to seek peace with justice”</i>
Sunday, 16 November	The Very Reverend Jay Ruka, Dean of Taranaki	<i>“Remembering well: Exploring colonial legacy and Māori heritage in the hope of reconciliation”</i>
Sunday, 24 November <i>(Feast of Christ the King)</i>	The Revd Canon Nitano Muller	<i>“Remember well the reign of Christ: a kingdom of peace”</i>

COMING SOON

Dreams of Peace and Freedom

TODAY, 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.

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:

<https://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/events/dreams-of-peace-freedom-celebrating-the-protections-of-echr75>

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.

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)

Requiem Mass – Fauré's Requiem

All Souls Day, Sunday, 2 November, 4pm

Join us for a solemn and beautiful All Souls Day Commemoration featuring Gabriel Fauré's *Requiem*, performed under the direction of Rachel Mahon, with Liam Condon and Adam Heron at the organ.

During the service, we will include the traditional reading of the names of those who have died.

If you would like a loved one's name to be read aloud, please hand it to one of the Churchwardens before the service.

All are warmly welcome as we remember the faithful departed and commend them to God's eternal care.

City Praise and Prayer at Coventry Cathedral

Sunday, 9 November, 6.30pm

Christians from across Coventry are invited to gather at the Cathedral for an evening of "City Praise and Prayer" - a time of charismatic worship, powerful prayer ministry, and unity in Christ.

Join with followers of Jesus from every tradition as we lift our voices in praise and pray together for our city, the church, and the world.

This event is free to attend - so come in your numbers and be part of what God is doing in Coventry!

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 Revd Su. Email: su.mcclellan@coventry.anglican.org