

# Choral Evensong

## Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2025

### The Sunday Next Before Advent



*Welcome to this service of Choral Evensong, led by the Reverend Kate Massey, Canon for Arts and Reconciliation.*

*The Reverend Emma Harrington, curate on placement, 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 William Byrd (1540-1623).*

### Introit

Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities, and in all our dangers and necessities stretch forth thy right hand to help and defend us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Words from the Collect for the 3rd Sunday after Epiphany (1552)  
Music by Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625)*

### Psalm 72

1. Give the King thy judgements, O God ♦  
and thy righteousness unto the King's son.
2. Then shall he judge thy people according unto right ♦  
and defend the poor.
3. The mountains also shall bring peace ♦  
and the little hills righteousness unto the people.
4. He shall keep the simple folk by their right ♦  
defend the children of the poor, and punish the wrong-doer.
5. They shall fear thee, as long as the sun and moon endureth ♦  
from one generation to another.
6. He shall come down like the rain into a fleece of wool ♦  
even as the drops that water the earth.
7. In his time shall the righteous flourish ♦  
yea, and abundance of peace, so long as the moon endureth.
8. His dominion shall be also from the one sea to the other ♦

and from the flood unto the world's end.

9. They that dwell in the wilderness shall kneel before him ♦  
his enemies shall lick the dust.

10. The kings of Tharsis and of the isles shall give presents ♦  
the kings of Arabia and Saba shall bring gifts.

11. All kings shall fall down before him ♦  
all nations shall do him service.

12. For he shall deliver the poor when he crieth ♦  
the needy also, and him that hath no helper.

13. He shall be favourable to the simple and needy ♦  
and shall preserve the souls of the poor.

14. He shall deliver their souls from falsehood and wrong ♦  
and dear shall their blood be in his sight.

15. He shall live, and unto him shall be given of the gold of Arabia ♦  
prayer shall be made ever unto him, and daily shall he be praised.

16. There shall be an heap of corn in the earth, high upon the hills ♦  
his fruit shall shake like Libanus, and shall be green in the city like grass upon  
the earth.

17. His Name shall endure for ever; his Name shall remain under the sun  
among the posterities ♦ which shall be blessed through him; and all the  
heathen shall praise him.

18. Blessed be the Lord God, even the God of Israel ♦  
which only doeth wondrous things;

19. And blessed be the Name of his majesty for ever ♦  
and all the earth shall be filled with his majesty. Amen, Amen.

## **The First Lesson**

<sup>4</sup>Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah, <sup>5</sup>and said to him, “You are old and your sons do not follow in your ways; appoint for us, then, a king to govern us, like other nations.” <sup>6</sup>But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, “Give us a king to govern us.” Samuel prayed to the LORD, <sup>7</sup>and the LORD said to Samuel, “Listen to the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them. <sup>8</sup>Just as they have done to me, from the day I brought them up out of Egypt to this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so also they are doing to you. <sup>9</sup>Now then, listen to their voice; only—you shall solemnly warn them, and show them the ways of the king who shall reign over them.” <sup>10</sup>So Samuel reported all the words of the LORD to the people who were asking him for a king. <sup>11</sup>He said, “These will be the ways of the king who will reign over you: he will take your sons and appoint them to his chariots and to be his horsemen, and to run before his chariots; <sup>12</sup>and he will appoint for himself commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and some to plow his ground and to reap his harvest, and to make his implements of war and the equipment of his chariots. <sup>13</sup>He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers. <sup>14</sup>He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive orchards and give them to his courtiers. <sup>15</sup>He will take one-tenth of your grain and of your vineyards and give it to his officers and his courtiers. <sup>16</sup>He will take your male and female slaves, and the best of your cattle and donkeys, and put them to his work. <sup>17</sup>He will take one-tenth of your flocks, and you shall be his slaves. <sup>18</sup>And in that day you will cry out because of your king, whom you have chosen for yourselves; but the LORD will not answer you in that day.” <sup>19</sup>But the people refused to listen to the voice of Samuel; they said, “No! but we are determined to have a king over us, <sup>20</sup>so that we also may be like other nations, and that our king may govern us and go out before us and fight our battles.”

*1 Samuel 8:4-20*

## **The Magnificat**

*Short Service by Thomas Tallis (1505-1585)*

## **The Second Lesson**

<sup>1</sup> That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. <sup>2</sup>Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. <sup>3</sup>And he told them many things in parables, saying: 'Listen! A sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup>And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. <sup>5</sup>Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. <sup>6</sup>But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. <sup>7</sup>Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. <sup>8</sup>Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. <sup>9</sup>Let anyone with ears listen!' <sup>18</sup> 'Hear then the parable of the sower. <sup>19</sup>When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. <sup>20</sup>As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; <sup>21</sup>yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. <sup>22</sup>As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. <sup>23</sup>But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.'

*Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23*

## **The Nunc Dimittis**

*Short Service by Thomas Tallis (1505-1585)*

## **The Collect of the Day**

Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may of thee be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **The Anthem**

O clap your hands together, all ye people; O sing unto God with the voice of melody. For the Lord is high, and to be feared; He is the great King of all the earth. He shall subdue the people under us, and the nations under our feet. He shall choose out an heritage for us, ev'n the worship of Jacob, whom he loved.

God is gone up with a merry noise, and the Lord with the sound of the trumpet. O sing praises unto our God: O sing praises unto the Lord our King. For God is the King of all the earth: sing ye praises with the understanding. God reigneth over the heathen: God sitteth upon his holy seat. For God, which is highly exalted, doth defend the earth, as it were with a shield.

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.

*from Psalm 47*

*Music by Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625)*

## **The Hymn**

**Glory to thee, my God, this night  
for all the blessings of the light;  
keep me, O keep me, King of kings,  
beneath thy own almighty wings.**

**Forgive me, Lord, for thy dear Son,  
the ill that I this day have done,  
that with the world, myself, and thee,  
I, ere I sleep, at peace may be.**

**Teach me to live, that I may dread  
the grave as little as my bed;  
teach me to die, that so I may  
rise glorious at the awful day.**

**O may my soul on thee repose,  
and may sweet sleep mine eyelids close,  
sleep that may me more vigorous make  
to serve my God when I awake.**

**When in the night I sleepless lie,  
my soul with heavenly thoughts supply;  
let no ill dreams disturb my rest,  
no powers of darkness me molest.**

**Praise God, from who all blessings flow,  
praise him, all creatures here below,  
praise him above, angelic host,  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

*Words by Thomas Ken (1637-1711)  
Tune CP 14 Tallis's Canon Thomas Tallis (c.1505-1585)*

## **Voluntary**

*Please do stay for the organ voluntary, played by Adam Heron.  
Voluntary for my Lady by William Byrd (1540-1623)*

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*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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:janeMLWill@aol.com)  
Alternatively, you can contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Team led by Sarah Price: 024 7652 1345 or [safeguarding@coventry.anglican.org](mailto:safeguarding@coventry.anglican.org)

## **Acting Director of Music**

We are delighted to announce that Joe Watson has been appointed Acting Director of Music during Rachel's maternity leave. Joe joins us from Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral and takes up his role from 1 December.

Joe brings a wealth of musical experience and a deep commitment to the life of our worshipping community. He will oversee the choir, music planning, and all aspects of our musical ministry throughout this period, ably assisted by Liam Condon, our Assistant Director of Music.

Please join us in welcoming Joe to this role, and in keeping Rachel, her family, and all involved in your prayers. More about Joe's appointment is available on our website: <https://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/worship-music/choirs-music/our-musicians>

## **Advent and Christmas Services**

Please visit our Cathedral website for the upcoming Advent and Christmas services and events.

Please take a copy of the Christmas program on the community table or visit the Cathedral website. [www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/christmas](http://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/christmas)

## **COMING SOON**

### **Light in Our Darkness**

*Sunday, 30 November at 5pm*

Step into the beauty and stillness of Advent at our *Advent Carol Procession*, a candlelit journey of hymns, readings, and poetry that marks the beginning of our Christmas preparation. In this moving service, the Cathedral gradually fills with light as we hear ancient words of promise and sing familiar advent hymns that guide us from darkness into hope.

Drawing together Scripture, evocative poetry, and timeless music, this service invites us to pause, reflect, and open our hearts to the coming of Christ - the light the darkness can never overcome.

Join us for one of the Cathedral's most atmospheric and beloved Advent traditions, as we welcome the season with expectation and joy.



## **Gracious Dialogue**

*Final session on 25<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:su.mcclellan@coventry.anglican.org)

## **Giving Tuesday, 2nd December, 10am – 2pm**

*Here's how you can join in:*

- Give your time – Sign up to volunteer with us in 2026.
- Donate a piece of history – Contribute an artefact to help preserve Coventry's Blitz story in our Blitz Museum or Archive.
- Keaton Slater Millennium Screen memorial – Donate towards having Keaton Slater, a young boy who was tragically killed in 2024, name engraved on the Millennium Screen.
- Donate food items – We are collecting food items for Grub Hub who provide Christmas dinners to those in need.

Come for a chat, enjoy tea and coffee from 10am to 2pm and be part of Coventry Cathedral's mission of hope this Christmas season.

To find out more, please contact [fundraising@coventrycathedral.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@coventrycathedral.org.uk)

## **Cathedral Choir Christmas Concert**

*Friday 12 December at 7:30pm*

Come hear our very own Cathedral Choir sing festive favourites with Liam Condon on the organ and the Brass Band of Central England. A fun Christmas celebration for the whole family. There will be carols to sing along to and hot drinks and refreshments available for purchase.

Tickets: £15, under 16s FREE

<https://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/events/coventry-cathedral-choir-christmas-concert/booking>