

Choral Evensong
Sunday, 1st February, 2026



The Presentation of Christ in the Temple
commonly called
The Purification of Saint Mary the Virgin

Welcome to this service of Choral Evensong, led by the Reverend Nitano Muller, Canon for Worship and Welcome. The Reverend Su McClellan, Cathedral Associate Minister, is preaching.

The Cathedral Choir is directed by Joe Watson, Acting Director of Music. The organists are Liam Condon, Assistant Director of Music, and Adam Heron, Organ Scholar. The responses are those by Richard Ayleward (1626-1669).

*We encourage our visitors to take photographs of our beautiful cathedral, **but please no photography during the service.** Thank you.*

Introit

View me, Lord, a work of thine:
shall I then lie drown'd in night?
Might thy grace in me but shine,
I should seem made all of light.

Cleanse me, Lord, that I may kneel
at thine altar, pure and white;
they that once thy mercies feel,
gaze no more on earth's delight.

Worldly joys, like shadows, fade
when the heav'nly light appears;
but the cov'nants thou hast made,
endless, know nor days, nor years.

In thy word, Lord, is my trust,
to thy mercies fast I fly;
though I am but clay and dust,
yet thy grace can lift me high.

*Words by Thomas Campion (1567-1620)
Music by Richard Lloyd (1933-2021)*

Psalm 122

1. I was glad when they said unto me ♦
We will go into the house of the Lord.
2. Our feet shall stand in thy gates ♦
O Jerusalem.
3. Jerusalem is built as a city ♦
that is at unity in itself.
4. For thither the tribes go up, even the tribes of the Lord ♦
to testify unto Israel, to give thanks unto the Name of the Lord.
5. For there is the seat of judgement ♦
even the seat of the house of David.
6. O pray for the peace of Jerusalem ♦
they shall prosper that love thee.
7. Peace be within thy walls ♦
and plenteousness within thy palaces.
8. For my brethren and companions' sakes ♦
I will wish thee prosperity.
9. Yea, because of the house of the Lord our God ♦
I will seek to do thee good.

Psalm 132

1. Lord, remember David ♦
and all his trouble;
2. How he swore unto the Lord ♦
and vowed a vow unto the Almighty God of Jacob;
3. I will not come within the tabernacle of mine house ♦
nor climb up into my bed;
4. I will not suffer mine eyes to sleep, nor mine eye-lids to slumber ♦
neither the temples of my head to take any rest;
5. Until I find out a place for the temple of the Lord ♦
an habitation for the mighty God of Jacob.
6. Lo, we heard of the same at Ephrata ♦
and found it in the wood.

7. We will go into his tabernacle ♦
and fall low on our knees before his footstool.
8. Arise, O Lord, into thy resting-place ♦
thou, and the ark of thy strength.
9. Let thy priests be clothed with righteousness ♦
and let thy saints sing with joyfulness.
10. For thy servant David's sake ♦
turn not away the presence of thine Anointed.
11. The Lord hath made a faithful oath unto David ♦
and he shall not shrink from it;
12. Of the fruit of thy body ♦
shall I set upon thy seat.
13. If thy children will keep my covenant, and my testimonies that I
shall learn them ♦
their children also shall sit upon thy seat for evermore.
14. For the Lord hath chosen Sion to be an habitation for himself ♦
he hath longed for her.
15. This shall be my rest for ever ♦
here will I dwell, for I have a delight therein.
16. I will bless her victuals with increase ♦
and will satisfy her poor with bread.
17. I will deck her priests with health ♦
and her saints shall rejoice and sing.
18. There shall I make the horn of David to flourish ♦
I have ordained a lantern for mine Anointed.
19. As for his enemies, I shall clothe them with shame ♦
but upon himself shall his crown flourish.

The First Lesson

¹ In the second year of King Darius, in the seventh month, on the twenty-first day of the month, the word of the LORD came by the prophet Haggai, saying: ² Speak now to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and to the remnant of the people, and say, ³ Who is left among you that saw this house in its former glory? How does it look to you now? Is it not in your sight as nothing? ⁴ Yet now take courage, O Zerubbabel, says the LORD; take courage, O Joshua, son of Jehozadak, the high priest; take courage, all you people of the land, says the LORD; work, for I am with you, says the LORD of hosts, ⁵ according to the promise that I made you when you came out of Egypt. My spirit abides among you; do not fear. ⁶ For thus says the LORD of hosts: Once again, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land; ⁷ and I will shake all the nations, so that the treasure of all nations shall come, and I will fill this house with splendour, says the LORD of hosts. ⁸ The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, says the LORD of hosts. ⁹ The latter splendour of this house shall be greater than the former, says the LORD of hosts; and in this place I will give prosperity, says the LORD of hosts.

Haggai 2:1-9

The Magnificat

Magnificat and Nunc dimittis in F by George Dyson (1883-1964)

The Second Lesson

¹⁸ The Jews then said to him, 'What sign can you show us for doing this?' ¹⁹ Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' ²⁰ The Jews then said, 'This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?' ²¹ But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²² After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

John 2:18-22

The Nunc Dimittis

Magnificat and Nunc dimittis in F by George Dyson (1883-1964)

The Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, we humbly beseech thy Majesty, that, as thy only-begotten Son was this day presented in the temple in substance of our flesh, so we may be presented unto thee with pure and clean hearts, by the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Anthem

Te lucis ante terminum;
Rerum Creator, poscimus,
Ut pro tua clementia
Sis praesul et custodia.

Procul recedant somnia,
Et noctium phantasmata;
Hostemque nostrum comprime,
Ne polluantur corpora.

Praesta, Pater piissime,
Patrique compar Unice,
Cum spiritu Paraclito,
Regnans per omne saeculum.
Amen.

*Before the ending of the day,
Creator of the world, we pray
that, with thy wonted favour, thou
wouldst be our guard and keeper now.*

*From all ill dreams defend our eyes,
from nightly fears and fantasies;
tread under foot our ghostly foe,
that no pollution we may know.*

*O Father, that we ask be done,
through Jesus Christ, thine only Son,
who, with the Holy Ghost and thee,
doth live and reign eternally.
Amen.*

*Office Hymn of Compline
Music by Henry Balfour Gardiner (1877-1950)*

The Sermon

Given by the Reverend Su McClellan, Cathedral Associate Minister.

Hymn

**Of the Father's love begotten
ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega,
he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been,
and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore.**

**O that birth for ever blessèd,
when the Virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,
bare the Saviour of our race,
and the babe, the world's Redeemer,
first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore.**

**O ye heights of heaven, adore him;
angel hosts, his praises sing;
powers, dominions, bow before him,
and extol our God and King:
let no tongue on earth be silent,
every voice in concert ring,
evermore and evermore.**

*Words from Prudentius (348-c.413) translated by J.M. Neale (1818-1866)
Tune CP 64 Divinum Mysterium melody from Piae Cantiones (1582)*

Voluntary

Cortege et Litanie by Marcel Dupré (1886-1971)

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 here. 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: *Choral Evensong*

JOINING OUR CHOIRS

Boys and girls between the ages of 7 and 11 are welcome to audition for our Cathedral Choir. Do you know a child who loves to sing? There are many benefits to joining the choir – new friends, a free, world-class music education, choir pay, singing services and at special events in amazing places, choir tours, broadcasts, recordings and social events too. If you or someone you know might be interested in joining the choir, please be in touch with the Acting Director of Music to arrange a meeting. Email:

Music.Administrator@CoventryCathedral.org.uk

Our Cathedral Chamber Choir

Our Cathedral Chamber Choir sing voluntarily at various services throughout the year and are currently open for auditions on all voice parts. Rehearsals usually take place on occasional Thursday evenings in the lead up to a service. If you would be interested in joining our Chamber Choir, please get in touch with Liam Condon, Assistant Director of Music, for an audition.

Email: Liam.Condon@coventry.anglican.org

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

Lenten Course: Testament

This Lent, join us for a thought-provoking course built around *Testament*, the contemporary Christian series that brings the opening chapters of the Book of Acts vividly to life. Together we will explore the first ten chapters of Acts and reflect on what the birth of the Church might mean for faith and discipleship today.

The course will meet every Tuesday evening in Lent at 7pm in St Michael's House, beginning on Shrove Tuesday, 17 February.

To sign up, or for further details, please speak to Rob or Canon Nitano.

2026 Dates for Wonder

This last Wednesday, the Wonder community met for the first time for 2026 and would warmly welcome those curious and imaginative, looking to explore what we believe through art, dance, and poetry. Wonder takes place every second Wednesday of the month, led by Canon Kate Massey.

11th February- *Dust*
18th March- *Passion*
15th April- *Encounter*
20th May- *Breathe*
17th June- *Community*
No gathering in July
12th August- *Simplicity*
16th September- *Abundance*
21st October- *Memory*
18th November- *Peace*

February's Family & Community Events

Let's Toddle! Toddler Hangout!

Wednesday, 4th February, 10-11.30am

Suitable for 18months to 3years. Let them explore the sights of the Cathedral, and enjoy a selection of toys, books and a simple craft activity.

Book your FREE space online.

Let's Chill: Baby Hangout!

Wednesday, 11th February, 10-11.30am

Let your little ones be mesmerized by the shapes and colours of the Cathedral. Book your FREE space online

Coffee Morning

Wednesday, 18th February, 10-11.30am

Come and enjoy the relaxed atmosphere of the Cathedral, with FREE refreshments.

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

Reading Corner with Children's Books!

Available all Half Term during opening hours. 10am - 4pm

Let's Play: Quiet Hour

Thursday, 19th February, 9am-10am

This FREE session is specifically for those families and children who need less bustle and noise, and the space to explore in their own unique ways

Book your FREE places online

Let's Play: Games & Crafts

Thursday, 19th February, 10:30am - 12 noon

Let's play together this Half Term Holiday in the Cathedral! Make the most out of Half Term and enjoy some games and crafts at Coventry Cathedral. FREE and suitable for families of all shapes and sizes.

Let's Watch and Make: Alice in Wonderland (1951)

Saturday, 21st February, 10am - 12 noon

Come and join us this half term for crafts and a classic kids film!

We will gather in St Michael's Gallery to do some crafts and then move to our Chapterhouse Cinema to watch Alice in Wonderland (the 1951 version)

(Book your FREE places online)

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