

# Choral Evensong Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2026



## ***The Sunday called Quinquagesima or The Next Sunday Before Lent***

*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 Birmingham University Liturgical Choir is directed by Paul Rodmell. The organist is Callum Alger, and Adam Heron, Organ Scholar. The responses are the 'Morland Responses' by Graham Ellis.*

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

### **Psalm 84**

1. O how amiable are thy dwellings ♦  
thou Lord of hosts!
2. My soul hath a desire and longing to enter into the courts of the  
Lord ♦  
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
3. Yea, the sparrow hath found her an house,  
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young ♦  
even thy altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.
4. Blessed are they that dwell in thy house ♦  
they will be always praising thee.
5. Blessed is the man whose strength is in thee ♦  
in whose heart are thy ways.
6. Who going through the vale of misery use it for a well ♦  
and the pools are filled with water.
7. They will go from strength to strength ♦  
and unto the God of gods appeareth every one of them in Sion.
8. O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer ♦  
hearken, O God of Jacob.

9. Behold, O God our defender ♦  
and look upon the face of thine Anointed.
10. For one day in thy courts ♦  
is better than a thousand.
11. I had rather be a door-keeper in the house of my God ♦  
than to dwell in the tents of ungodliness.
12. For the Lord God is a light and defence ♦  
the Lord will give grace and worship, and no good thing shall he  
withhold from them that live a godly life.
13. O Lord God of hosts ♦  
blessed is the man that putteth his trust in thee.

## **The First Lesson**

<sup>29</sup> Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. <sup>30</sup> When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. <sup>31</sup> But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. <sup>32</sup> Afterwards all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the LORD had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. <sup>33</sup> When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; <sup>34</sup> but whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, <sup>35</sup> the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

*Exodus 34:29-End*

## **The Magnificat**

*Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in A flat by Basil Harwood (1859-1949)*

## **The Second Lesson**

<sup>3</sup> And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. <sup>4</sup> In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. <sup>5</sup> For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. <sup>6</sup> For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness', who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

*2 Corinthians 4:3-6*

## **The Nunc Dimittis**

*Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in A flat by Basil Harwood (1859-1949)*

## **The Collect**

O Lord, who hast taught us that all our doings without charity are nothing worth: Send thy Holy Ghost, and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of charity, the very bond of peace and all virtues, without which whosoever liveth is counted dead before thee: Grant this thine only Son Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

## **The Anthem**

O Lorde, the maker of al thing,  
We pray Thee nowe in this evening  
Us to defende through Thy mercy,  
From al deceite of our our enemy.

Let neither us deluded be,  
Good Lorde, with dreame or phantasy;  
Our hearts waking in thee thou kepe  
That we in sinne fal not on slepe.

O Father, throughe thy blessed Son,  
Grant us this oure petition,  
To whom, with the Holy Ghost alwaies,  
In heaven and yearth be laude and praise.

*Words attributed to King Henry VIII (1491-1547)*

*Music by John Joubert (1927-2019)*

## **The Sermon**

*Given by the Reverend Nitano Muller, Canon for Worship and Welcome.*

## **Hymn**

**Thy kingdom come, O God,  
thy rule, O Christ, begin;  
break with thine iron rod  
the tyrannies of sin.**

**Where is thy reign of peace  
and purity and love?  
When shall all hatred cease,  
as in the realms above?**

**When comes the promised time  
that war shall be no more,  
and lust, oppression, crime  
shall flee thy face before?**

**We pray thee, Lord, arise,  
and come in thy great might;  
revive our longing eyes,  
which languish for thy sight.**

**Men scorn thy sacred name,  
and wolves devour thy fold;  
by many deeds of shame  
we learn that love grows cold.**

**O'er lands both near and far  
thick darkness broodeth yet:  
arise, O morning star,  
arise, and never set.**

*Words by L. Hensley (1824-1905)  
Tune CP 607 St Cecilia L.G. Hayne (1836-1883)*

## Voluntary

*Postlude in D minor by Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)*

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### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](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)

## **COMING SOON**

### **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.

### **Coffee Morning**

*Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> February, 10-11.30am*

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

Any questions, please email [events@coventrycathedral.org.uk](mailto:events@coventrycathedral.org.uk)

### **Ash Wednesday Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes**

*Wednesday, 18 February at 12noon*

Join us for the Midday Eucharist with the Imposition of Ashes, as we begin the season of Lent together in prayer and reflection.

The service will be presided over by Bishop Sophie Jelley, who will also be our preacher. All are welcome to come and receive the sign of ashes and the promise of grace, as we step into this penitential season.

### **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](mailto:events@coventrycathedral.org.uk)

### **Ukrainian Vigil**

*Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> February, 6.30pm*

Join us at Coventry Cathedral for a vigil in solidarity with our Ukrainian community, marking the 4th anniversary of the war in Ukraine. Together we will pray, reflect, and stand in hope, remembering those affected and affirming our commitment to peace and support.



## Music at Lent

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March: Organ Meditation - Liam Condon**

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March: Organ Meditation - Adam Heron**  
(After Evensong)

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March: Lenten excerpts of Messiah**

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March: Pergolesi Stabat Mater**

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March: Lamentations of  
Jeremiah - Tallis**

(All start at 4pm, and will be  
preceded by a short service  
of Evening Prayer)



Coventry Cathedral, Priory St, Coventry CV1 5AB

### COMMUNITY NEWS

#### **Dean John's Farewell Celebration**

*Saturday, 9th May*

As we prepare to give thanks for Dean John's ministry among us, all members of the congregation are warmly invited to his Farewell Do on Saturday, 9 May. This will be a joyful moment to gather, share stories, and offer our appreciation for his leadership and friendship. Please register your attendance by scanning the QR code here, or by emailing your name(s) to the Dean's



Executive Assistant, at

[Meshail.Daud@Coventry.Anglican.org](mailto:Meshail.Daud@Coventry.Anglican.org)

We hope many of you will join us for this special occasion.