

Choral Evensong

Sunday, 22nd February, 2026

The First Sunday in Lent



Welcome to this service of Choral Evensong, led by the Reverend Su McClellan. John Lloyd, Cathedral Lay Reader is preaching.

The University of Warwick Chamber Choir is directed by Nat Morley. The organist is Charles Matthews. 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.*

Psalm 50:1-15

1. The Lord, even the most mighty God, hath spoken ♦
and called the world, from the rising up of the sun unto the going
down thereof.
2. Out of Sion hath God appeared ♦
in perfect beauty.
3. Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence ♦
there shall go before him a consuming fire,
and a mighty tempest shall be stirred up round about him.
4. He shall call the heaven from above ♦
and the earth, that he may judge his people.
5. Gather my saints together unto me ♦
those that have made a covenant with me with sacrifice.
6. And the heavens shall declare his righteousness ♦
for God is Judge himself.
7. Hear, O my people, and I will speak ♦
I myself will testify against thee, O Israel; for I am God, even thy God.
8. I will not reprove thee because of thy sacrifices, or for thy burnt-
offerings ♦
because they were not alway before me.
9. I will take no bullock out of thine house ♦
nor he-goat out of thy folds.

10. For all the beasts of the forest are mine ♦
and so are the cattle upon a thousand hills.
11. I know all the fowls upon the mountains ♦
and the wild beasts of the field are in my sight.
12. If I be hungry, I will not tell thee ♦
for the whole world is mine, and all that is therein.
13. Thinkest thou that I will eat bulls' flesh ♦
and drink the blood of goats?
14. Offer unto God thanksgiving ♦
and pay thy vows unto the most Highest.
15. And call upon me in the time of trouble ♦
so will I hear thee, and thou shalt praise me.

The First Lesson

⁴ Hear, O Israel: The LORD is our God, the LORD alone. ⁵You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. ⁶Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. ⁷Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. ⁸Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, ⁹and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

¹⁶ Do not put the LORD your God to the test, as you tested him at Massah. ¹⁷You must diligently keep the commandments of the LORD your God, and his decrees, and his statutes that he has commanded you. ¹⁸Do what is right and good in the sight of the LORD, so that it may go well with you, and so that you may go in and occupy the good land that the LORD swore to your ancestors to give you, ¹⁹thrusting out all your enemies from before you, as the LORD has promised.

²⁰ When your children ask you in time to come, 'What is the meaning of the decrees and the statutes and the ordinances that the LORD our God has commanded you?' ²¹then you shall say to your children, 'We were Pharaoh's slaves in Egypt, but the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand. ²²The LORD displayed before our eyes great and awesome signs and wonders against Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his household. ²³He brought us out from there in order to bring us in, to

give us the land that he promised on oath to our ancestors. ²⁴Then the LORD commanded us to observe all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God, for our lasting good, so as to keep us alive, as is now the case. ²⁵If we diligently observe this entire commandment before the LORD our God, as he has commanded us, we will be in the right.'

Deuteronomy 6:4-9, 16-End

The Magnificat

Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in A by Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)

The Second Lesson

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." ³So he told them this parable: ⁴"Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbours, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' ⁷Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. ⁸"Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbours, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' ¹⁰Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

Luke 15:1-10

The Nunc Dimittis

Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in A by Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)

The Collect

O Lord, who for our sake didst fast forty days and forty nights: Give us grace to use such abstinence, that, our flesh being subdued to the Spirit, we may ever obey thy godly motions in righteousness, and true holiness, to thy honour and glory, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen.

The Anthem

Remember not, Lord, our offences, nor the offences of our forefathers; neither take thou vengeance of our sins: but spare us, good Lord, spare thy people, whom thou hast redeemed with thy most precious blood, and be not angry with us for ever. Spare us, good Lord.

*Words from the 1662 Book of Common Prayer
Music by Henry Purcell (1659-1695)*

The Sermon

Given by John Lloyd, Cathedral Lay Reader.

Hymn

**Amazing grace! how sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.**

**'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed.**

**Through many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come:
'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.**

**The Lord has promised good to me,
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.**

**When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise,
than when we first begun.**

Words by John Newton (1725-1807)
Tune CP 375 Amazing Grace arranged by Robert Gower (b. 1952)

Voluntary

*Aus tiefer Not schrei' ich zu dir (Sonata no. 6, first movement) by Gustav
Merkel (1827-1885)*

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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 <https://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/safeguarding>

Our Safeguarding Team are:



Canon Kate
Chapter
Safeguarding
Lead



Jane Williams
Cathedral
Community
Safeguarding
Officer



Jo Brake
Safeguarding
Lead for Policy
and Process

You can report a concern to our Safeguarding Team by emailing cathedral.safeguarding@coventrycathedral.org.uk or phoning 02476 52 1360

Alternatively, you can contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Team led by Sarah Price by phoning 024 7652 1345 or emailing safeguarding@coventry.anglican.org

COMMUNITY NEWS

Dean John's Farewell Celebration

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.



Dean John's final Eucharist service will be on Sunday, 17 May at 10.30am and his final Choral Evensong at 4pm, where he will preach and preside. If you wish to attend either or both of these, please scan this QR code to register your attendance.



There are lists at the back of the nave, should you prefer to register that way. We hope many of you will join us for this special occasion.

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.

To sign up, or for further details, please speak to Rob Halligan, Canon Nitano or Revd. Gillian Roberts.

Ukrainian Vigil

Tuesday, 24th February, 6.30pm

Join us 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.

Corrymeela Sunday

Sunday, 15th March

Rev'd Dr Alex Wimberly will be preaching at the 10.30am Eucharist on Corrymeela Sunday on 15th March. There will be a Bring and Share Lunch after the service, and we would be grateful if members of the congregation would consider bringing some food to that. If you might be willing to help co-ordinate this, please could you speak to Kate!

After the lunch there will be an event in the John Laing Centre called "Corrymeela: What next?" where Alex and others will consider reconciliation challenges on both sides of the Irish Sea. This will include a conversation about what it would mean for Great Britain if people voted for a united Ireland.

Passion Service

Wednesday, 18 March, 7.30pm

Step into the deep rhythms of Passiontide through our **Passion Service**, part of our monthly *Wonder* gathering. Curated and led by Dean John, this reflective and engaging service invites us to explore the passion of Christ with open hearts and questioning minds. Through scripture, silence, music and prayer, we will journey towards the cross together, creating space for wonder, honesty and transformation as we prepare for Holy Week. All are warmly welcome.



 **Music at Lent**

Sunday 1st March: Organ Meditation - Liam Condon

Sunday 8th March: Organ Meditation - Adam Heron
(After Evensong)

Sunday 15th March: Lenten excerpts of Messiah

Sunday 22nd March: Pergolesi Stabat Mater

Sunday 29th 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