

# Choral Evensong

## Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2026

### The Second Sunday In Lent



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

*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 135

1. O praise the Lord, laud ye the Name of the Lord ♦  
praise it, O ye servants of the Lord;
2. Ye that stand in the house of the Lord ♦  
in the courts of the house of our God.
3. O praise the Lord, for the Lord is gracious ♦  
O sing praises unto his Name, for it is lovely.
4. For why? the Lord hath chosen Jacob unto himself ♦  
and Israel for his own possession.
5. For I know that the Lord is great ♦  
and that our Lord is above all gods.
6. Whatsoever the Lord pleased, that did he in heaven and in earth ♦  
and in the sea, and in all deep places.
7. He bringeth forth the clouds from the ends of the world ♦  
and sendeth forth lightnings with the rain, bringing the winds out of his  
treasures.
8. He smote the first-born of Egypt ♦  
both of man and beast.
9. He hath sent tokens and wonders into the midst of thee, O thou  
land of Egypt ♦  
upon Pharaoh, and all his servants.
10. He smote divers nations ♦  
and slew mighty kings;
11. Sehon king of the Amorites, and Og the king of Basan ♦  
and all the kingdoms of Canaan;
12. And gave their land to be an heritage ♦  
even an heritage unto Israel his people.
13. Thy Name, O Lord, endureth for ever ♦  
so doth thy memorial, O Lord, from one generation to another.
14. For the Lord will avenge his people ♦  
and be gracious unto his servants.
15. As for the images of the heathen, they are but silver and gold ♦  
the work of men's hands.
16. They have mouths, and speak not ♦  
eyes have they, but they see not.

17. They have ears, and yet they hear not ♦  
neither is there any breath in their mouths.  
18. They that make them are like unto them ♦  
and so are all they that put their trust in them.  
19. Praise the Lord, ye house of Israel ♦  
praise the Lord, ye house of Aaron.  
20. Praise the Lord, ye house of Levi ♦  
ye that fear the Lord, praise the Lord.  
21. Praised be the Lord out of Sion ♦  
who dwelleth at Jerusalem.

## **The First Lesson**

<sup>4</sup> From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. <sup>5</sup>The people spoke against God and against Moses, ‘Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.’ <sup>6</sup>Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. <sup>7</sup>The people came to Moses and said, ‘We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.’ So Moses prayed for the people. <sup>8</sup>And the LORD said to Moses, ‘Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.’ <sup>9</sup>So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

*Numbers 21:4-9*

## **The Magnificat**

*Evening Service in E Minor by Henry Purcell (1659-1695)*

## **The Second Lesson**

<sup>27</sup>Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. <sup>28</sup>For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? <sup>29</sup>Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, <sup>30</sup>saying, “This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.” <sup>31</sup>Or what king, going out to

wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? <sup>32</sup>If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. <sup>33</sup>So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

*Luke 14:27-33*

## **The Nunc Dimittis**

*Evening Service in E Minor by Henry Purcell (1659-1695)*

## **The Collect**

Almighty God, who seest that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **The Anthem**

Purge me, O Lord, from all my sin, and save thou me by faith from ill, that I may rest and dwell with thee, upon thy holy blessed hill. And that done, grant that with true heart I may without hypocrisy affirm the truth, detract no man, but do all things with equity.

*Music by Thomas Tallis (c.1505-1585)*

## **The Sermon**

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

## **Hymn**

**Jesu, lover of my soul,  
let me to thy bosom fly,  
while the gathering waters roll,  
while the tempest still is high:  
hide me, O my Saviour, hide,  
till the storm of life is past;  
safe into the haven guide,  
O receive my soul at last.**

**Other refuge have I none;  
hangs my helpless soul on thee;  
leave, ah, leave me not alone,  
still support and comfort me.  
All my trust on thee is stayed,  
all my help from thee I bring;  
cover my defenceless head  
with the shadow of thy wing.**

**Thou, O Christ, art all I want;  
more than all in thee I find;  
raise the fallen, cheer the faint,  
heal the sick, and lead the blind.  
Just and holy is thy name,  
I am all unrighteousness;  
false and full of sin I am,  
thou art full of truth and grace.**

**Plenteous grace with thee is found,  
grace to cleanse from every sin;  
let the healing streams abound;  
make and keep me pure within:  
thou of life the fountain art;  
freely let me take of thee;  
spring thou up within my heart,  
rise to all eternity.**

*Words by Charles Wesley (1707-1788)  
Tune CP 96ii Aberystwyth Joseph Parry (1841-1903)*

## Lenten Organ Meditation

Performed by Liam Condon, Assistant Director of Music

*Kyrie from 'Mass for the Parishes' by François Couperin (1668-1733)*

*Vexilla Regis by Marcel Dupré (1886-1971)*

*Cantilene by Jean Langlais (1907-1991)*

Liam presents a reflective French programme which demonstrates some of the wonderful colours of the Coventry Cathedral Organ. Couperin's 'Kyrie' from *Messe pour les Paroisses* would have been intended for use in French liturgy, where verses of the sung Kyrie would be replaced with a short organ piece in alternatim with chant.

Dupre's setting of *Vexilla Regis* is a short but intense prelude which features in his tribute to Jehan Titelouze. Here are a few verses from this hymn.

*Vexilla regis prodeunt:  
Fulget crucis mysterium  
Quo carne carnis conditor,  
Suspensus est patibulo.*

The Royal Banner forward goes,  
The mystic Cross refulgent glows:  
Where He, in Flesh, flesh who made,  
Upon the Tree of pain is laid.

*O Crux ave, spes unica,  
Hoc passionis tempore  
Auge piis justitiam,  
Reisque dona veniam.*

O Cross! all hail! sole hope, abide  
With us now in this Passiontide:  
New grace in pious hearts implant,  
And pardon to the guilty grant.

*Te, summa Deus Trinitas,  
Collaudet omnis spiritus:  
Quos per crucis mysterium  
Salvas, rege per saecula.  
Amen.*

Thee, mighty Trinity! One God!  
Let every living creature laud;  
Whom by the Cross Thou dost deliver,  
O guide and govern now and ever!  
Amen.

Liam will finish with the beautifully atmospheric and meditative 'Cantilène' from Langlais' *Suite Breve*. Langlais was the organist at the Basilica of Sainte-Clotilde in Paris and was blind for most of his life.

*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: *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 <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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

### **The Millennium Screen**

A loved one, family member, or friend's name etched forever in this wonderful and inspirational chapel.

Each name carries a story, a connection to the cathedral's past, present and future. The walls become a tangible expression of the cathedral's role as a centre of faith, community, and remembrance, bridging generations and uniting individuals under a shared sense of belonging.

Names are being taken for this year's engravings.

If you would like to honour a loved one, or wish to have your own name added to the Millennium Screen, please contact Mandy

[fundraising@coventrycathedral.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@coventrycathedral.org.uk)

Your support will also help to conserve Coventry Cathedral, a place to help preserve our beautiful building for future generations to enjoy.

## **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.

### **Corrymeela Sunday**

*Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> March*

Rev'd Dr Alex Wimberly will be preaching at the 10.30am Eucharist on Corrymeela Sunday on 15<sup>th</sup> 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 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.

### **Lenten Music Offering**

*Sunday's in Lent*

During Lent, our Choral Evensong opens out into extended spaces of listening. On Sunday **1<sup>st</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> March**, following Evensong, the service is followed by meditative music to deepen the stillness of prayer and reflection.

## **HOLY WEEK AT THE CATHEDRAL**

Holy Week invites us to walk with Christ through the final days of his earthly ministry, from the joy of Palm Sunday to the light of Easter morning. Through worship, music and prayer, we enter the heart of the Christian story together.

### **PALM SUNDAY, 29 March**

#### **Cathedral Eucharist with Procession – 10.30am**

*The beginning of Holy Week, marking Christ's entry into Jerusalem and the opening of the Passion narrative.*

#### **Choral Evening Prayer with the *Lamentations of Jeremiah* – 4pm**

*A solemn and reflective service shaped by ancient words of grief and hope.*

## **HOLY MONDAY TO HOLY WEDNESDAY**

### **Compline Sermon Series – 8pm**

*Night prayer during the first days of Holy Week, with addresses by Dean John Witcombe on the “Farewell Discourses” from St John’s Gospel.*

## **MAUNDY THURSDAY, 2 April**

### **Chrism Eucharist – 10.30am**

*A diocesan celebration in which the holy oils are blessed and clergy and licenced lay ministers renew their ministerial vows.*

### **Maundy Thursday Evening Eucharist – 7.30pm**

*The Holy Eucharist with Foot-washing and the Stripping of the Altar, recalling Christ’s commandment of love and the gathering darkness of the Passion.*

## **GOOD FRIDAY, 3 April**

### **Liturgy of the Day – 9am**

*A solemn service of prayer and reflection at the foot of the Cross, this will be followed by a Walk of Witness in the City Centre (Broadgate) to Holy Trinity Church at 10.30am*

## **EASTER DAY, 5 April**

### **Dawn Eucharist – 6am**

*The Service of Light with Baptism and Confirmation, proclaiming Christ’s Resurrection at first light.*

### **Cathedral Festal Eucharist – 10.30am**

*A joyful celebration of the resurrection with word, sacrament and song.*

### **Festal Choral Evensong – 4pm**

*The Easter Day story is crowned with choral prayer and praise as the light of Resurrection lingers into the evening.*

These services offer space to pray, to watch, and to rejoice together. All are warmly invited to share in this sacred journey from the Cross to the empty tomb, and into the hope and joy of Easter.