

Choral Evensong

Sunday, 8th March, 2026

The Third Sunday In Lent



Welcome to this service of Choral Evensong, led by the Reverend Nitano Muller, Canon for Worship and Welcome. The Reverend Gillian Roberts 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

God be in my head and in my understanding.
God be in mine eyes and in my looking.
God be in my mouth and in my speaking.
God be in my heart and in my thinking.
God be at mine end and at my departing.

*Words from the Sarum Primer (1558)
Music by Henry Walford Davies (1869-1941)*

Psalm 40

1. I waited patiently for the Lord ♦
and he inclined unto me, and heard my calling.
2. He brought me also out of the horrible pit, out of the mire and clay ♦
and set my feet upon the rock, and ordered my goings.
3. And he hath put a new song in my mouth ♦
even a thanksgiving unto our God.
4. Many shall see it, and fear ♦
and shall put their trust in the Lord.

5. Blessed is the man that hath set his hope in the Lord ♦
and turned not unto the proud, and to such as go about with lies.

6. O Lord my God,
great are the wondrous works which thou hast done,
like as be also thy thoughts which are to us-ward ♦
and yet there is no man that ordereth them unto thee:

7. If I should declare them, and speak of them ♦
they should be more than I am able to express.

8. Sacrifice and meat-offering thou wouldest not ♦
but mine ears hast thou opened.

9. Burnt-offerings, and sacrifice for sin, hast thou not required ♦
then said I, Lo, I come,

10. In the volume of the book it is written of me,
that I should fulfil thy will, O my God ♦
I am content to do it; yea, thy law is within my heart.

11. I have declared thy righteousness in the great congregation ♦
lo, I will not refrain my lips, O Lord, and that thou knowest.

12. I have not hid thy righteousness within my heart ♦
my talk hath been of thy truth and of thy salvation.

13. I have not kept back thy loving mercy and truth ♦
from the great congregation.

14. Withdraw not thou thy mercy from me, O Lord ♦
let thy loving-kindness and thy truth always preserve me.

15. For innumerable troubles are come about me;
my sins have taken such hold upon me that I am not able to look up ♦
yea, they are more in number than the hairs of my head,
and my heart hath failed me.

16. O Lord, let it be thy pleasure to deliver me ♦
make haste, O Lord, to help me.

17. Let them be ashamed and confounded together,
that seek after my soul to destroy it ♦
let them be driven backward and put to rebuke, that wish me evil.

18. Let them be desolate, and rewarded with shame ♦
that say unto me, Fie upon thee, fie upon thee.

19. Let all those that seek thee be joyful and glad in thee ♦
and let such as love thy salvation say alway, The Lord be praised.

20. As for me, I am poor and needy ♦
but the Lord careth for me.

21. Thou art my helper and redeemer ♦
make no long tarrying, O my God.

The First Lesson

¹After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD spoke to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying, ²'My servant Moses is dead. Now proceed to cross the Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the Israelites. ³Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, as I promised to Moses. ⁴From the wilderness and the Lebanon as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, to the Great Sea in the west shall be your territory. ⁵No one shall be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you. ⁶Be strong and courageous; for you shall put this people in possession of the land that I swore to their ancestors to give them. ⁷Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to act in accordance with all the law that my servant Moses commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, so that you may be successful wherever you go. ⁸This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth; you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to act in accordance with all that is written in it. For then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall be successful. ⁹I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.'

Joshua 1:1-9

The Magnificat

Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in Fauxbourdons by William Byrd (1540-1623)

The Second Lesson

¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹²For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. ¹⁵As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. ¹⁶With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. ¹⁹Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

Ephesians 6:10-20

The Nunc Dimittis

Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in Fauxbourdons by William Byrd (1540-1623)

The Collect

We beseech thee, Almighty God, look upon the hearty desires of thy humble servants, and stretch forth the right hand of thy Majesty, to be our defence against all our enemies; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The Anthem

And with His stripes we are healed.

Words from Isaiah 53:5

Music from 'Messiah' by George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

The Sermon

Given by the Reverend Gillian Roberts.

Hymn

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
'Come unto me and rest;
lay down, thou weary one, lay down
thy head upon my breast.'
I came to Jesus as I was,
weary and worn and sad;
I found in him a resting-place,
and he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
'Behold, I freely give
the living water, thirsty one;
stoop down and drink and live.'
I came to Jesus, and I drank
of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
and now I live in him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
'I am this dark world's light;
look unto me, thy morn shall rise,
and all thy day be bright.'
I looked to Jesus, and I found
in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I'll walk
till travelling days are done.

Words by H. Bonar (1808-1889)

Tune CP 469 Kingsfold harmonized by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Organ Meditation

Performed by Adam Heron, Organ Scholar

Adam presents a programme of varied organ music based upon the penitential text of Psalm 130.

Aus Tiefer not schrei ich zu dir BWV 686 - Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

De Profundis (from *Neuf Pièces*) - Jean Langlais (1907-1991)

Psalm Prelude Set 2 No. 1 "De Profundis" - Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

"*Aus Tiefer not schrei ich zu dir*" is a 16th Century German hymn, written by Martin Luther as a paraphrase of Psalm 130. Bach's contrapuntal mastery is immediately apparent in this chorale prelude, as lines of the chorale melody are presented one after another in a dense 6-part imitative texture featuring two independent lines in the pedals.

De Profundis by the 20th Century composer Jean Langlais is titled after the Latin incipit of Psalm 130 and sets the same chorale melody, "*Aus Tiefer not*", within the composer's unique sound-world of pungent poly-modal harmony.

Herbert Howells wrote six Psalm Preludes, each of which is a short tone-poem inspired by verses from the Psalms. Set 2 No. 1 is based upon Psalm 130. The piece opens with the organist's hands at opposite ends of the keyboard, chromatically crawling inward. It continues to move through various distant key centres before a gradual to crescendo to full organ, before subsiding again and finally resolving into a comforting wash of rather jazzy D major harmony.

Psalm 130 ("De Profundis")

1. *Out of the deep have I called unto thee, O Lord: Lord, hear my voice.*
2. *O let Thine ears consider well: the voice of my complaint.*
3. *If thou, Lord, wilt be extreme to mark what is done amiss: O Lord, who may abide it?*
4. *For there is mercy with Thee: Therefore shalt Thou be feared.*
5. *I look for the Lord; my soul doth wait for Him: in His Word is my trust.*
6. *My soul fleeth unto the Lord before the morning watch: I say, before the morning watch.*
7. *O Israel, trust in the Lord; for with the Lord there is mercy: and with Him is plenteous redemption.*
8. *And He shall redeem Israel: from all his sins.*

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

Cathedral Chamber Choir

The 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

Coventry Cathedral Chorus

The Chorus is one of the Midlands' leading amateur choirs, bringing together around 60 singers to perform a wide range of choral music in and beyond Coventry. Founded shortly after the consecration of Coventry Cathedral in 1963, the Chorus continues a rich tradition of singing in notable venues across the UK and Europe.

Rehearsals take place at the Cathedral on Tuesday evenings, 7.15–9.30pm. New singers are always welcome. To find out more or arrange to attend a rehearsal, visit coventrycathedralchorus.com or contact the Membership Secretary at membership@coventrycathedralchorus.com. Follow Coventry Cathedral Chorus on Facebook and [@CovCathChorus](https://www.x.com/CovCathChorus) on X.

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

From the Fragment to the Whole

Opening event, immediately following Eucharist, Christ the Servant Chapel

To celebrate International Women's Day, Coventry Cathedral in partnership with Coventry Haven Women's Aid is delighted to announce its collaboration with Artist Roberta De Caro on a new body of work.

This exhibition is made up of pieces all created by survivors of domestic abuse, art created from fragments of glass. The collection portrays stories of survival and resilience, using a material and a process that mirror the participants' lived experience.

The exhibition will be available to see in The Chapel of Christ the Servant, during regular Cathedral opening hours.

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.

Cathedral AGM

Sunday 19th April, immediately following the Eucharist in JLC

In advance of this anyone that considers the Cathedral to be their place of worship is encouraged to join the Electoral Roll so that they might take part in proceedings, as well as be nominated for any of the roles that require the meeting's approval. At the meeting we will be approving the roles of Churchwarden, members of the Deanery Synod, and members of St. Michael's Committee. Have a chat with Canon Kate or Canon Nitano if you want to know more about what the roles entail.

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

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 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.

Choral Evening Prayer for Lent

With sacred music for meditation and devotion from Handel’s **‘Messiah’**
Sunday, 15th March 2026, 4pm

Though often associated with Christmas, much of Handel’s Messiah was written for Lent and Easter. These excerpts focus on Christ’s Passion, sacrifice, and the promise of redemption. Through reflective arias and choruses drawn from Scripture, the music invites quiet contemplation and prepares us for the journey toward Easter.

Passion Service

Wednesday, 18th 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.

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, 29th 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, 2nd 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, 3rd 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

Stainer: The Crucifixion - 6pm

Join Coventry Cathedral Chorus for a moving performance of The Crucifixion by John Stainer, a much-loved meditation on the Passion combining reflective choruses, recitatives and congregational hymns.

Tickets: £15 adults | £5 young adults (18–25) | Children free.

Book at coventrycathedralchorus.com, or contact tickets@coventrycathedralchorus.com | 01676 532436.

EASTER DAY, 5th 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.

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.