

Choral Evensong
Sunday, 12th April, 2026
The First Sunday after Easter
commonly called Low Sunday



Welcome to this service of Choral Evensong, led by The Very Reverend John Witcombe, Dean of Coventry. Rob Halligan will be preaching. Our choir today is Te Decet Hymnus, directed by Chris Bond. The organist is Edward Kemp Luck. The Responses are those by Joanna Forbes L'Estrange (1971-).

Introit

This joyful Eastertide, away with sin and sorrow.
My Love, the Crucified, hath sprung to life this morrow.

*Had Christ, that once was slain, ne'er burst his three-day prison,
Our faith had been in vain: but now hath Christ arisen.*

My flesh in hope shall rest, and for a season slumber:
Till trump from east to west shall wake the dead in number.

Death's flood hath lost his chill, since Jesus crossed the river:
Lover of souls, from ill my passing soul deliver.

Words by George Ratcliffe Woodward (1848-1934)
Music by Charles Wood (1866-1926)

Psalm 30:1-5

1. I will magnify thee, O Lord, for thou hast set me up ♦
and not made my foes to triumph over me.
2. O Lord my God, I cried unto thee ♦
and thou hast healed me.
3. Thou, Lord, hast brought my soul out of hell ♦
thou hast kept my life from them that go down to the pit.
4. Sing praises unto the Lord, O ye saints of his ♦
and give thanks unto him for a remembrance of his holiness.
5. For his wrath endureth but the twinkling of an eye,
and in his pleasure is life ♦
heaviness may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.

The First Lesson

¹ It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom one hundred twenty satraps, stationed throughout the whole kingdom, ²and over them three presidents, including Daniel; to these the satraps gave account, so that the king might suffer no loss. ³Soon Daniel distinguished himself above all the other presidents and satraps because an excellent spirit was in him, and the king planned to appoint him over the whole kingdom. ⁴So the presidents and the satraps tried to find grounds for complaint against Daniel in connection with the kingdom. But they could find no grounds for complaint or any corruption, because he was faithful, and no negligence or corruption could be found in him. ⁵The men said, "We shall not find any ground for complaint against this Daniel unless we find it in connection with the law of his God." ⁶So the presidents and satraps conspired and came to the king and said to him, "O King Darius, live forever! ⁷All the presidents of the kingdom, the prefects and the satraps, the counselors and the governors are agreed that the king should establish an ordinance and enforce an interdict, that whoever prays to anyone, divine or human, for thirty days, except to you, O king, shall be thrown into a den of lions. ⁸Now, O king, establish the interdict and sign the document, so that it cannot be changed, according to the law of the Medes and the Persians, which cannot be revoked." ⁹Therefore King Darius signed the document and interdict. ¹⁰Although Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he continued to go to his house, which had windows in its upper room open toward Jerusalem, and to get down on his knees three times a day to pray to his God and praise him, just as he had done previously. ¹¹The conspirators came and found Daniel praying and seeking mercy before his God. ¹²Then they approached the king and said concerning the interdict, "O king! Did you not sign an interdict, that anyone who prays to anyone, divine or human, within thirty days except to you, O king, shall be thrown into a den of lions?" The king answered, "The thing stands fast, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be revoked." ¹³Then they responded to the king, "Daniel, one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or to the interdict you have signed, but he is saying his prayers three times a day." ¹⁴When the king heard the charge, he was very much distressed.

He was determined to save Daniel, and until the sun went down he made every effort to rescue him. ¹⁵Then the conspirators came to the king and said to him, “Know, O king, that it is a law of the Medes and Persians that no interdict or ordinance that the king establishes can be changed.” ¹⁶Then the king gave the command, and Daniel was brought and thrown into the den of lions. The king said to Daniel, “May your God, whom you faithfully serve, deliver you!” ¹⁷A stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet and with the signet of his lords, so that nothing might be changed concerning Daniel.

¹⁸Then the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting; no food was brought to him, and sleep fled from him. ¹⁹Then, at break of day, the king got up and hurried to the den of lions. ²⁰When he came near the den where Daniel was, he cried out anxiously to Daniel, “O Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God whom you faithfully serve been able to deliver you from the lions?” ²¹Daniel then said to the king, “O king, live forever! ²²My God sent his angel and shut the lions’ mouths so that they would not hurt me, because I was found blameless before him; and also before you, O king, I have done no wrong.” ²³Then the king was exceedingly glad and commanded that Daniel be taken up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no kind of harm was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.

Daniel 6:1-23

The Magnificat

Collegium Regale by Herbert Howells (1892-1983).

The Second Lesson

⁴⁶Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled ⁴⁷a stone against the door of the tomb. ⁴⁷Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where the body was laid. ^{16:1}When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. ²And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³They had been saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the

tomb?”⁴When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back.⁵As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed.⁶But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him.⁷But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.”⁸So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Mark 15:46 – 16:8

The Nunc Dimittis

Collegium Regale by Herbert Howells (1892-1983).

The Collect of the Day

Almighty Father, who hast given thine only Son to die for our sins, and to rise again for our justification: Grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness, that we may alway serve thee in pureness of living and truth; through the merits of the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Anthem

Let all the world in every corner sing, my God and King!
The heavens are not too high,
his praise may thither fly:
the earth is not too low,
his praises there may grow.

Let all the world in every corner sing, my God and King!

Let all the world in every corner sing, my God and King!
The Church with psalms must shout,
no door can keep them out;
but above all the heart
must bear the longest part.

Let all the world in every corner sing, my God and King!

Words by George Herbert (1593-1633)

Music by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

The Hymn

**Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
the Holy One, is here.**

**Come, bow before him now,
with reverence and fear.**

**In him no sin is found,
we stand on holy ground.**

**Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
the Holy One, is here.**

**Be still, for the glory of the Lord
is shining all around;
he burns with holy fire,
with splendour he is crowned.**

**How awesome is the sight,
our radiant King of light!**

**Be still, for the glory of the Lord
is shining all around.**

**Be still, for the power of the Lord
is moving in this place,
he comes to cleanse and heal,
to minister his grace.**

**No work too hard for him,
in faith receive from him;
be still, for the power of the Lord
is moving in this place.**

Words and Tune CP 383 Be Still David Evans (b. 1957)

Voluntary

Toccata in F BuxWV157 by Dietrich Buxtehude (1637 – 1707).

*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.



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

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 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

The
**SAFEGUARDING
SURVEY**
2026



iNEQE
SAFEGUARDING GROUP



INEQE Survey & Audit

The Cathedral welcomes the INEQE Audit as an opportunity to learn. We want to understand how we can continue to improve our safeguarding culture and practice and keep everyone safe. You can help with this learning by completing an INEQE survey. We want to hear from as many voices as possible. The surveys are completed online. You can use the QR Code or go to: <https://ineqe.com/churchofengland/coventry/> You are welcome to complete more than one survey e.g. if you are a congregation member AND a victim or survivor, you are welcome to complete both surveys. If you would like to feedback to INEQE, but cannot complete the survey, there is more information about how to do that at the bottom of the webpage. If you would like to complete a survey, but don't have a computer or smartphone, ask us and we can help.

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 at 7pm. 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.



Farewell Gift

There will be opportunities for members of the Cathedral Community to contribute to a farewell gift to John and Ricarda as a thank you for their service amongst us for the past 13 years. A box for contributions and a card to sign will be at the back of the cathedral until their final Sunday with us on May 17th.

The Cathedral Churchwardens

Coventry Half Marathon

Nick Drew, Cathedral Lay Clerk, will be running the Coventry Half Marathon on 19th April in aid of the Choir Parents' Association. If you would like to pledge your support please go to <https://www.justgiving.com/page/nickd-cov26>

From The Fragment To The Whole

Sunday, 26th April, 1pm-2:30pm

To mark the end of this wonderful exhibition join us for an 'In Conversation' with; Artist, Roberta DeCaro, Canon for Arts and Reconciliation, Kate Massey and Development & Funding Officer at Coventry Haven, Jamie Richards, as they discuss the journey of the project and its legacy. If you are able to join us please RSVP here <https://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/events/closing-event-of-from-the-fragment-to-the-whole> or email events@coventrycathedral.org.uk

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*