

Choral Evensong

Sunday, 31st May, 2026

Trinity Sunday



Welcome to this service of Choral Evensong, led by The Reverend Kate Massey, Canon for Arts and Reconciliation. The Reverend Gillian Roberts will be preaching. The Saint Cecilia Singers are directed by Charlotte Baskerville. The organist is Jonathan Hope. The responses are those by Richard Shephard (1949-2021).

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

If you would like to access the loop system, please speak to one of the vergers.

Introit

Holy is the true light, and passing wonderful, lending radiance to them that endured in the heat of the conflict: from Christ they inherit a home of unfading splendour, wherein they rejoice with gladness evermore. Alleluia.

*Words from the Salisbury Diurnal as translated by Dr G.H. Palmer (1846-1926)
Music by Sir William Harris (1883-1973)*

Psalm 150

1. O praise God in his holiness ♦
praise him in the firmament of his power.
2. Praise him in his noble acts ♦
praise him according to his excellent greatness.
3. Praise him in the sound of the trumpet ♦
praise him upon the lute and harp.
4. Praise him in the cymbals and dances ♦
praise him upon the strings and pipe.
5. Praise him upon the well-tuned cymbals ♦
praise him upon the loud cymbals.
6. Let every thing that hath breath ♦
praise the Lord.

The First Lesson

¹ In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. ²Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³And one called to another and said:

‘Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.’

⁴The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. ⁵And I said: ‘Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!’

⁶ Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. ⁷The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: ‘Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.’ ⁸Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’ And I said, ‘Here am I; send me!’

Isaiah 6:1-8

The Magnificat

Westminster Service by Herbert Howells (1892-1983).

The Second Lesson

⁵But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, “Where are you going?” ⁶But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. ⁷Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about* sin and righteousness and judgement: ⁹about sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; ¹¹about judgement, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

¹² ‘I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he

hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

John 16:5-15

The Nunc Dimittis

Westminster Service by Herbert Howells (1892-1983).

The Collect of the Day

Almighty and everlasting God, who hast given unto us thy servants grace, by the confession of a true faith to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity, and in the power of the Divine Majesty to worship the Unity: We beseech thee, that thou wouldest keep us stedfast in this faith, and evermore defend us from all adversities, who livest and reignest, one God, world without end. Amen.

The Anthem

Sing for the morning's joy, Cecilia, sing,
in words of youth and praises of the Spring,
walk the bright colonnades by fountains' spray,
and sing as sunlight fills the waking day;
till angels, voyaging in upper air,
pause on a wing and gather the clear sound
into celestial joy, wound and unwound,
a silver chain, or golden as your hair.
Sing for your loves of heaven and of earth,
in words of music, and each word a truth;
marriage of heart and longings that aspire,
a bond of roses, and a ring of fire.
Your summertime grows short and fades away,
terror must gather to a martyr's death;
but never tremble, the last indrawn breath
remembers music as an echo may.
Through the cold aftermath of centuries,
Cecilia's music dances in the skies;
lend us a fragment of the immortal air,

that with your choring angels we may share,
a word to light us thro' time-fettered night,
water of life, or rose of paradise,
so from the earth another song shall rise
to meet your own in heaven's long delight.

Words by Ursula Vaughan Williams (1911-2007)

Music by Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

The Hymn

**Thou, whose almighty word
chaos and darkness heard,
and took their flight;
hear us, we humbly pray,
and where the Gospel-day
sheds not its glorious ray,
let there be light.**

**Thou, who didst come to bring
on thy redeeming wing
healing and sight,
health to the sick in mind,
sight to the inly blind,
O now to all mankind
let there be light.**

**Spirit of truth and love,
life-giving, holy Dove,
speed forth thy flight;
move on the water's face,
bearing the lamp of grace,
and in earth's darkest place
let there be light.**

**Holy and blessed Three,
glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, Love, Might;
boundless as ocean's tide
rolling in fullest pride,
through the earth far and wide
let there be light.**

*Words by J. Marriott (1780-1825)
Tune CP 267 Moscow Felice de Giardini (1716-1796)*

Voluntary

Paeon by Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

Prayer for the appointment of a new Dean

We encourage all the cathedral community to join in prayer during the process of appointing a new Dean.

Gracious God,
as we seek the Dean you are calling to Coventry,
draw us together in your Spirit
and shape us as instruments of your peace and reconciling love.
Guide all who discern and decide,
and prepare the one whom you are calling
to lead with humility, courage, and a heart for healing.
Keep our Cathedral and Diocese rooted in prayer,
faithful in hope,
and committed to the work of reconciliation you entrust to us.
Amen.

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.



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

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](https://twitter.com/CovCathChorus) on X.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Embrace the Middle East

Communities supported by **Embrace the Middle East** in Lebanon are continuing their vital work in the midst of appalling levels of bombardment and the displacement of over 1.2 million people. As crisis builds on crisis, many of their long-standing funding streams, particularly from the United States, are drying up. These trusted local partners are asking simply not to be forgotten. If you are able you are invited to give to **Embrace's Middle East Emergency Appeal, Keeping Hope Alive** helping to provide emergency medical care, food aid, trauma care and mental health support, for those, particularly the children, caught up in the war. In moments like this, headlines can move quickly - but fear, disruption, and trauma settle deeply and last. Thank you for standing with the Middle East at a time like this. When you give, you are not watching from a distance - you are equipping trusted people on the ground to act with compassion, skill, and urgency. To give visit <https://embraceme.org/emergency-appeal> or use the QR code here. Thank you.



Cathedral Small Groups

The St Michael's Committee which represents the congregations of the Cathedral and takes responsibility for developing our shared life met this week. One of the things we discussed was small groups. Small groups have many different names in the Church: fellowship groups, bible study groups, cell groups life groups and (particularly in Coventry Cathedral) foyers! But the thing they have in common is that they are opportunities for members of the congregation to come together in smaller groups! Lots of people find meeting together outside of the main Sunday service is a helpful thing. But different sorts of small groups work for different people. So the St Michael's Committee would like to hear from YOU. Would you be interested in joining a small group of some sort - and what would your IDEAL small group look like?

To help us find out, why not complete this 2-minute anonymous quiz:
<https://forms.gle/piZQL2cM7hSxa3Cd6>

If you might be interested in starting a small group, please let us know!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Can you help? We are looking for people who might be able to support our dedicated team of choir chaperones. You would be responsible for the safety and pastoral care of our wonderful choristers during rehearsals and services on a rota basis. Could you offer some time in the early evenings on Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays, or on a Saturday morning, or before and during our Sunday services? Are you kind and able to work well with children? Are you reliable and willing to work with our policies to keep children safe?

This is an important role and so volunteers will go through our safer recruitment process, have a DBS check and complete training as part of our firm commitment to promoting a safe environment and culture for children, young people and vulnerable adults.

For more information, please speak to Jane Williams or email the Music Department Administrator at April.Griffiths@Coventry.Anglican.org

COMMUNITY OF THE CROSS OF NAILS

CCN Young Reconcilers Gathering 4-7th August 2026

Coventry's story is as relevant today as it's ever been. This summer, we are inviting young people aged 18-25 to come and be excited by its significance in a world in conflict. Together we will reflect on how it can reach into situations large and small, and learn with us some key reconciliation skills and practice, alongside different nationalities of young peacebuilders. Our Cathedral and Diocese team will lead them through a full programme of talks and workshops, all within the regular rhythm of the cathedral's prayer and worship.

Earlybird cost (non-residential*) is £120 per person, to include all meals and refreshments from the Tuesday evening until the Friday afternoon.

Those attending the full gathering until its close on Friday lunchtime will receive a Foundation Certificate in Reconciliation & Peacebuilding from Coventry Cathedral. Please consider this for yourself or share this information with young people you know. If you might be willing to sponsor a place for a young person, please speak to Kate.

Dean John's retirement gift

Thank you so much for the fabulous send off two weeks ago! Thank you to all who were able to come to the party or one of the services. I was really very moved, and have loved revisiting the photos. Thank you too for the generous gift from the congregation, which I will put towards one of the amazing Sutherland prints of the cartoon for the Tapestry, to take with us to Oxford when we move at the end of July. If you would like to stay in touch, please do. My forward email address will be johwitcombe@me.com, and we would love to see you if you'd like to visit.

God bless you as you move forward in your journey together,

John & Ricarda

COMING SOON

Let's Toddle

Wednesday 3rd June, 10 - 11.30am

Suitable for 18months to 3years. Let them explore the sights of the Cathedral, and enjoy a selection of toys, books and a simple craft activity.

FREE - Book your place online

<https://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/events/lets-toddle-toddler-hangout-june-2>

Music of James Bond

Friday 5th June, 7.30pm

From the moment the first chord strikes, audiences are transported into the mysterious and thrilling world of James Bond. This incredible Chamber Orchestra brings the legendary music of James Bond to life in a way that is bold, elegant and utterly unforgettable.

Tickets -

<https://boxoffice.xperiencelive.co.uk/events/xperiencelive/2051936?trackingConsent=0>

Mother's Union Family Fun Day!

Saturday 6th June, 10am - 2.30pm

Come & join Mother's Union as they celebrate their 150th anniversary with a FREE Family Fun Day!

What you can expect: Craft Workshops, Family Picnic, Praise Party and the Thrive Puppets will be in the house!

Please BYO lunch for our family picnic.

Book your FREE place -

<https://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/events/mothers-union-family-fun-day/booking>

Windrush Service

21st June, 3pm

Join us for a special Windrush Commemorative Service, as we give thanks for the faith, courage and immeasurable contribution of the Windrush Generation and their descendants. Through the music of young Afro-Caribbean artists, prayer and storytelling, we will honour those who helped shape the life of Britain and the Church, while reflecting on the ongoing call to justice.