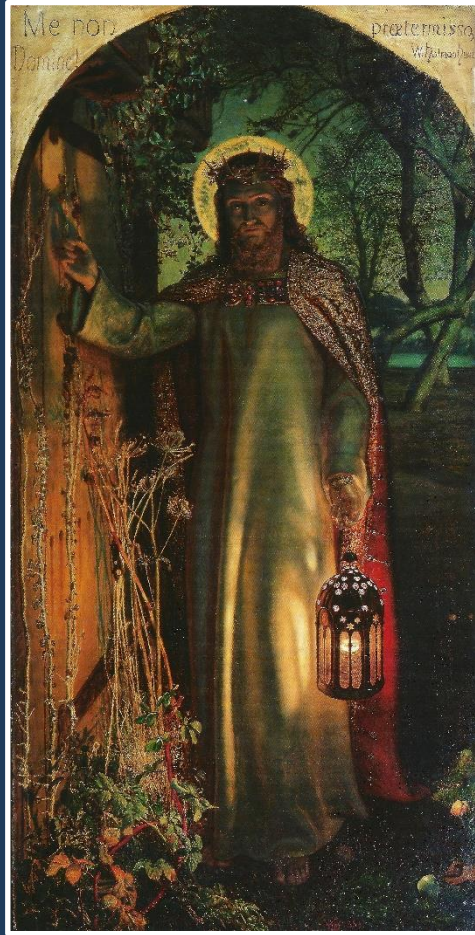




Light in our Darkness



A Procession with Music and Readings for
Advent Sunday
Sunday, 30th November, 2025 at 5pm

Welcome to Coventry Cathedral

We are delighted that you have joined us for this service, which we hope you will really enjoy. You will get the most out of it by taking a few moments to read through the text of the service beforehand, as the Cathedral will be lit only dimly for much of the service.

There are instructions on when to sit and stand printed, however please do stay seated if you would prefer! We say and sing the words in **bold** together.

You are welcome to take this booklet home with you
at the end of the service.

‘Advent’ means ‘coming’. For centuries, Christians have observed a season of preparation for Christmas, the celebration of the birth of Jesus. This has varied in length, but has been set at four weeks for around the last 1,400 years.

This service is designed to reflect one of the major themes of the season: that we await the light of Jesus to enter the darkness overshadowing humanity. This darkness can be defined as how we are separated from God by the choices we make and the impact they have on ourselves and on others. The light of Jesus, coming into the world at Christmas, dispels this darkness.

The service is based upon the great Antiphons of Advent, ancient prayers which date from the 8th century. Each begins with an Old Testament name or attribution for God, and ends with an invocation to the coming Saviour. Each antiphon inspires us to use words from the Bible and music to explore a different aspect of the hope we place in our God, revealed in Jesus.

The service is sung by the Cathedral Choir, directed by Rachel Mahon, Director of Music. The organists are Liam Condon, Assistant Director of Music, and Adam Heron, Organ Scholar.

Before the service begins, the following pieces will be played on the organ.

Played by Adam Heron

Praeludium in G minor BuxWV 149 – Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

Rorate Caeli - Jeanne Demessieux (1921 – 1968)

Nun Komm, der Heiden Heiland BWV 659 – J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Wachet Auf, ruft uns die Stimme BWV 645 – J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Played by Liam Condon

This Shining Night - Christopher Churcher (2004 -)

At 5pm the choir and ministers assemble in the retroquire, where their candles and lights are lit.

After the Very Reverend John Witcombe, Dean of Coventry, has welcomed everyone, the Cathedral lighting is dimmed and the choir sings.

The Introit

This is the truth sent from above,
The truth of God, the God of love:
Therefore don't turn me from your door,
But hearken all, both rich and poor.

The first thing which I do relate
Is that God did man create,
The next thing which to you I'll tell,
Woman was made with man to dwell.

Thus we were heirs to endless woes,
Till God the Lord did interpose,
And so a promise soon did run,
That he would redeem us by his Son.

And at this season of the year
Our blest Redeemer did appear,
And here did live, and here did preach,
and many thousands he did teach.

Thus he in love to us behaved,
To show us how we must be saved;
And if you want to know the way,
Be pleased to hear what he did say:

*Traditional Herefordshire Carol
Music by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)*

Hymn

We *STAND* to sing.

**O come, O come, Emmanuel!
Redeem thy captive Israel,
That into exile drear is gone
Far from the face of God's dear Son**

***Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.***

**O come, thou branch of Jesse! Draw
The quarry from the lion's claw;
From the dread caverns of the grave,
From nether hell thy people save.**

**O come, O come, thou Dayspring bright!
Pour on our souls thy healing light;
Dispel the long night's ling'ring gloom,
And pierce the shadows of the tomb.**

**O come, thou Lord of David's Key!
The royal door fling wide and free;
Safeguard for us the heav'nward road,
And bar the way to death's abode.**

**O come, O come, Adonai,
Who in thy glorious majesty
From that high mountain clothed with awe
Gavest thy folk the elder law.**

*18th century, translated by T. A. Lacey (1853-1931)
Tune from 15th century French Franciscan Processional,
adapted and arranged by David Willcocks (1919-2015)*

O Sapientia

We *SIT*. The choir sings the plainsong antiphon.

O Wisdom,
which camest out of the mouth of the most High,
and reachest from one end to another,
mightily and sweetly ordering all things:
come and teach us the way of prudence.

Bible Reading

Read by Donald Parr, Coventry Cathedral Reader.

- ¹ Wisdom praises herself,
and tells of her glory in the midst of her people.
- ² In the assembly of the Most High she opens her mouth,
and in the presence of his hosts she tells of her glory:
- ³ 'I came forth from the mouth of the Most High,
and covered the earth like a mist.
- ⁴ I dwelt in the highest heavens,
and my throne was in a pillar of cloud.
- ⁵ Alone I compassed the vault of heaven
and traversed the depths of the abyss.
- ⁶ Over waves of the sea, over all the earth,
and over every people and nation I have held sway.
- ⁷ Among all these I sought a resting-place;
in whose territory should I abide?
- ⁸ 'Then the Creator of all things gave me a command,
and my Creator chose the place for my tent.
He said, "Make your dwelling in Jacob,
and in Israel receive your inheritance."
- ⁹ Before the ages, in the beginning, he created me,
and for all the ages I shall not cease to be.

Ecclesiasticus 24:1 – 9

The choir sings:

Adam lay y-bounden,
Bounden in a bond;
Four thousand winter
Thought he not too long.

And all was for an apple,
An apple that he took,
As clerkes finden
Written in their book.

Ne had the apple taken been,
The apple taken been,
Ne had never our Lady
A-been heavene queen.

Blessed be the time
That apple taken was,
Therefore we moun singen
Deo gratias!

*Words: Anon. 15th Century
Music by Boris Ord (1897-1961)*

Poem

Read by The Reverend Su McClellan, Associate Minister.

Step softly, under snow or rain,
To find the place where men can pray;
The way is all so very plain
That we may lose the way.

Oh, we have learnt to peer and pore
On tortured puzzles from our youth,
We know all labyrinthine lore,
We are the three Wise Men of truth.

We have gone round and round the hill,
And lost the wood among the trees,
And learnt long names for every ill,
And serve strange philosophies.

But Christ has taught that if we gaze
With pure simplicity and awe,
We shall discern through tangled days
The holy will and law.

Step softly, under snow or rain,
To find the place where men can pray;
The way is all so very plain
That we may lose the way.

“The Wise Men” – G. K. Chesterton (1900)

Silence is kept.

Prayer

The Reverend Su prays:

Wisdom, you do not shout from the rooftops.
You speak in wind through reeds,
in the pause between our arguments.
We have gathered data, built towers of learning,
and still do not know how to love.
Whisper to us again,
through the ignorance we name as progress.
Teach us to read the silence,
and to see, in the smallest turning of light,
the shape of your truth. **Amen.**

Inspired by R.S Thomas's poem "The Answer".

Hymn

We STAND for the hymn. The choir sings the first two verses, then we all join in from the third verse.

Choir:

Creator of the stars of night,
Thy people's everlasting light,
O Jesu, Saviour of us all,
Regard thy servants when they call.

Thou, grieving at the bitter cry
Of all creation doomed to die,
Didst come to save a ruined race
With healing gifts of heav'nly grace.

All:

**Thou camest, Bridegroom of the bride,
As drew the world to evening-tide,
Proceeding from a virgin shrine
The Son of Man, yet Lord divine.**

**At thy great name, exalted now,
All knees must bend, all hearts must bow
And things in heaven and earth shall own
That thou art Lord and King alone**

**To thee, O Holy One, we pray,
Our Judge in that tremendous day,
Preserve us, while we dwell below,
From every onslaught of the foe.**

**All praise, eternal son, to thee,
Whose advent sets thy people free,
Whom with the Father we adore,
And Spirit blest, for evermore. Amen.**

*Words translated from Latin
by J. M. Neale (1818-1866) and Editors
Tune NEH I Conditor Alme Mode iv*

O Adonai

We SIT. The choir sings the plainsong antiphon.

O Adonai, and Leader of the house of Israel,
who appearedst in the bush to Moses in a flame of fire:
and gavest him the law in Sinai:
come and deliver us with an out-stretched arm.

Bible Reading

Read by John Lloyd, Coventry Cathedral Reader.

¹ Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ² There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. ³ Then Moses said, 'I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up.' ⁴ When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, 'Moses, Moses!' And he said, 'Here I am.' ⁵ Then he said, 'Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.' ⁶ He said further, 'I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

¹³ But Moses said to God, 'If I come to the Israelites and say to them, "The God of your ancestors has sent me to you", and they ask me,

“What is his name?” what shall I say to them?” ¹⁴ God said to Moses, ‘I am who I am.’ He said further, ‘Thus you shall say to the Israelites, “I am has sent me to you.”’ ¹⁵ God also said to Moses, ‘Thus you shall say to the Israelites, “The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you”:

This is my name for ever,
and this my title for all generations.

Exodus 3:1 – 6, 13 – 15

The choir sings:

*O Adonai, et Dux domus Israel,
qui Moysi in igne flammae rubi apparuisti,
et ei in Sina legem dedisti:
veni ad redimendum nos in brachio extento.*

O Adonai, composed by Roderick Williams (1965 -)

Poem

Read by The Reverend Kate Massey, Canon for Arts and Reconciliation.

History says, don't hope
on this side of the grave.
But then, once in a lifetime,
the longed-for tidal-wave
of justice can rise up,
and hope and history rhyme.

So hope for a great sea-change
on the far side of revenge.
Believe that a further shore
is reachable from here.
Believe in miracles
and cures and healing wells.

*Seamus Heaney (1939-2013)
from 'The Cure at Troy'*

Silence is kept.

Prayer

The Reverend Kate prays:

Lord, you are the fire

burning behind the thorn.

We have built laws around your name,

and called them safe.

But you are not safe.

You are the voice that scorches pretence,

that calls us barefoot onto holy ground.

Rule us not with thunder,

but with the fierce gentleness that frees our will to follow flame.

Amen.

Hymn

We STAND to sing.

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

Announces that the Lord is nigh;

Come then and hearken, for he brings

Glad tidings of the King of kings.

Then cleansed be every Christian breast,

And furnished for so great a guest!

Yea, let us each our hearts prepare

For Christ to come and enter there.

For thou art our salvation, Lord,

Our refuge and our great reward;

Without thy grace our souls must fade,

And wither like a flower decayed.

Stretch forth thine hand to heal our sore,

And make us rise, to fall no more;

Once more upon thy people shine,

And fill the world with love divine.

All praise, eternal Son, to thee,

Whose advent sets thy people free,

Whom, with the Father, we adore,

And Spirit blest, for evermore. Amen.

Words by C. Coffin (1676-1749) translated by J. Chandler (1806-1876)

Tune NEH 12 Winchester New from the Musicalisches Hand-Buch Hamburg (1690)

O Radix Jesse

We SIT. The choir sings the plainsong antiphon.

O Root of Jesse,
which standest for an ensign to the people,
at whom kings shall shut their mouths,
whom Gentiles shall seek:
come and deliver us, and tarry not.

Bible Reading

Read by Margaret East, Coventry Cathedral Reader.

¹ A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

² The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

³ His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;

⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.

⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

⁹ They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

Isaiah 11:1 – 9

The choir sings:

A tender shoot has started up from a root of grace,
as ancient seers imparted from Jesse's holy race:
It blooms without a blight, blooms in the cold bleak winter,
turning our darkness into light.

This shoot Isaiah taught us, from Jesse's root should spring;
The Virgin Mary brought us the branch of which we sing;
Our God of endless might gave her this child to save us,
Thus turning darkness into light.

*Words by William Bartholomew (1793-1867)
translated from Otto Goldschmidt (1829-1907)
Composed by Kerensa Briggs (b. 1991)*

Poem

Read by The Reverend Matthew Arnold, Curate-on-Placement.

There shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse,
And a Branch shall grow out of his roots.

Earth, strike up your music,
Birds that make the woods rejoice,
Sing Creation's sweetest voice:
Christ is coming, Christ the Word,
The Babe, the Lord.

– Christina Rossetti (1893)

Silence is kept.

Prayer

The Reverend Matthew prays:

O God our Father,
we would thank thee for all the bright things of life.
Help us to see them, and to count them,
and to remember them,
that our lives might flow in ceaseless praise;
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Reverend John Henry Jowett (1846-1923)

Hymn

We STAND to sing.

**Come, thou long expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.**

**Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.**

**Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.**

**By thine own eternal spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.**

Words by Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Tune CP 24 Cross of Jesus John Stainer (1840-1901)

O Clavis David

We SIT. The choir sings the plainsong antiphon.

O Key of David, and Sceptre of the house of Israel;
that openest, and no man shutteth;
and shuttest and no man openeth:
come, and bring the prisoner out of the prison-house,
and him that sitteth in darkness and the shadow of death.

Bible Reading

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

- ¹ Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.
- ² He will not cry or lift up his voice,
or make it heard in the street;
- ³ a bruised reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.
- ⁴ He will not grow faint or be crushed
until he has established justice in the earth;
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.
- ⁵ Thus says God, the Lord,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:
- ⁶ I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness,
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people,
a light to the nations,
- ⁷ to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.

Isaiah 42:1 – 7

The choir sings:

Never weather beaten sail more willing bent to shore,
never tired pilgrim's limbs affected slumber more,
than my wearied sprite now longs
to fly out of my troubled breast:
O come quickly, sweetest Lord, and take my soul to rest.

Ever blooming are the joys of heav'ns high paradise,
cold age deafs not there our ears, nor vapour dims our eyes;
Glory there the sun outshines,
whose beams the blessed only see;
O come quickly, glorious Lord, and raise my sprite to thee.

Words by Thomas Campion (1567-1620)

Music by Richard Shephard (1949-2021)

Poem

Read by The Reverend Gillian Roberts, Priest with Permission to Officiate.

The Door of Mercy is double-hinged,
swinging in, opening out,
sturdy, yet easily moved.

My friend says: *You only have to knock once,
and you only have to knock lightly.*

The Door of Mercy rests on the threshold of need.
Its single key is kindness, which is always in the lock.

Faithfulness is its lintel,
hope and healing the strong jambs either side.

Mostly the Door of Mercy stands ajar.

In spirit and in flesh you cross its threshold each day,
often unmindful, but sometimes,
and increasingly, amazed at its potent familiarity.

The smell of the food of home wafts out,
the blood of the wounds of the earth flows in.

It is not immediately apparent
which side is which of the Door of Mercy,
since they interchange fluidly,

pain and promise etched sharply on both.
Blessing is for all who come and go, stay and return,
helper and helped,
all belonging, each bestowing.
My friend says: *You only have to knock once,
and you only have to knock lightly.*
The God of Mercy, whose door it is,
is always home.

Mary Wickham

Silence is kept.

Prayer

The Reverend Gillian prays:

O Key of David,
you open and no one can shut;
you close and no one can open.
Keeper of thresholds,
you stand before every locked heart,
every sealed border, every hidden wound.
Come now, unlock what fear has barred.
Unseal what shame has buried.
Open the way where hope feels shut out.
Amen.

O Oriens

The choir sings the plainsong antiphon.
O Dayspring, Brightness of Light everlasting,
and Sun of Righteousness:
come, and enlighten him that sitteth in darkness,
and the shadow of death.

Bible Reading

Read by the Reverend Sacha Slavic, Associate Minister & Hon. Canon.

¹ See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. ² But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. ³ And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the LORD of hosts.

Malachi 4:1-3

The Choir sings;

O Radiant Dawn,

Splendour of eternal Light,

Sun of Justice:

Come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

Isaiah had prophesied,

‘The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone’. Amen.

*Great ‘O’ antiphon for 21 December
Music by James MacMillan (1959 –)*

Poem

Read by Margaret East, Coventry Cathedral Reader.

I have seen the sun break through
to illuminate a small field
for a while, and gone my way
and forgotten it. But that was the pearl
of great price, the one field that had
treasure in it. I realise now
that I must give all that I have
to possess it.
Life is not hurrying
on to a receding future, nor hankering after
an imagined past. It is the turning
aside like Moses to the miracle
of the lit bush, to a brightness
that seemed as transitory as your youth
once, but is the eternity that awaits you.

From Laboratories of the Spirit by R.S Thomas (1975)

Silence is kept.

Prayer

Margaret East, Cathedral Reader, prays:

God in this season
suspended between hope and fulfilment,
let we never forget what you have done.
Taking our humanity in your loving freedom,
You rescued our lost earth
And filled the world with joy.
May we be honest about the darkness within us,
and perceptive of the light around us.
May we make straight the path for the Lord,
that together we may see your glory revealed.

Amen.

Hymn

**Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding:
"Christ is nigh!" it seems to say,
"Cast away the dreams of darkness,
O ye children of the day!"**

**Wakened by the solemn warning,
Let the Earth-bound soul arise;
Christ, her Sun, all ill dispelling,
Shines upon the morning skies.**

**Lo, the Lamb, so long-expected,
Comes with pardon down from Heav'n;
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
One and all to be forgiv'n.**

**That when next he comes with glory,
And the world is wrapped in fear,
With his mercy he may shield us,
And with words of love draw near.**

**Honor, glory, might, and blessing
To the Father and the Son,
With the everlasting Spirit,
While eternal ages run. Amen.**

Words translated from Latin by E. Caswall (1814-1878)

Tune CP 26 Merton W. H. Monk (1823-1889)

O Rex Gentium

The choir sings the plainsong antiphon.

O King of the nations, and their Desire;
the Cornerstone, who makest both one:
come, and save mankind, whom thou formedst of clay.

Bible Reading

Read by the Reverend Kate Massey, Canon for Arts and Reconciliation.

¹⁸ for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father.
¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, ²⁰ built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. ²¹ In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; ²² in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling-place for God.

Ephesians 2:18 – 22

The choir sings:

Creator of the stars of night,
Your people's everlasting light,
Jesu, Redeemer, save us all,
And hear your servants when they call.

In sorrow at the helpless cry
Of all creation doomed to die,
Did save our lost and guilty race
By healing gifts of heav'nly grace.

When Earth was near its evening hour,
You did, in love's redeeming pow'r,
Like bridegroom from his chamber, come
Forth from a virgin mother's womb.

At your great name, exalted now,
All knees in lowly homage bow;
All things in Heav'n and Earth adore
And own you King forevermore.

To you, O Holy One, we pray,
Our Judge in that tremendous day,
Ward off, while yet we dwell below,
The weapons of our crafty foe.

To God the Father, God the Son,
And God the Spirit, Three in One,
Praise, honor, might, and glory be,
From age to age eternally.

*Words 9th Century Latin
translated by J.M. Neale (1818-1866)*

Music by Timothy Mallis

Poem

The Reverend Matthew Arnold reads,

Redeemer, come! I open wide
My heart to Thee: here, Lord, abide!
Let me Thy inner presence feel,
Thy grace and love in me reveal.

John Keble (1792-1866)

Silence is kept.

Prayer

The Reverend Matthew, prays:

Great King, not of flags but of scars,
ruler of what is broken,
gather your scattered kingdoms-
the hearts estranged by greed,
the minds at war with truth.
Reign from the cross-beam of compassion.
Let your justice come
like rain falling equally on all fields.
Amen.

O Emmanuel

We SIT. The choir sings the plainsong antiphon.

O Emmanuel, our King and Lawgiver,
the Desire of all nations, and their Salvation:
come and save us, O Lord, our God.

Bible Reading

Read by the Very Reverend John Witcombe, Dean of Coventry.

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' ²² All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel',

which means, 'God is with us.'

Matthew 1:18 – 23

The choir sings:

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt cæli et terra gloria tua.
Hosanna in excelsis.
Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini.
Hosanna in excelsis.

From Messe Solennelle by Jean Langlais (1907-1991)

Poem

Read by the Very Reverend John Witcombe, Dean of Coventry.

We call out to you,
“Be the God we dream!”
You respond by being
the God you are.

We discuss you and
define you and expect of you.
But you unravel our
expectations and definitions.

We seek to limit and control
putting you in a box of our making.
You turn our boxes upside down.

We seek now.
You bid us wait.

We seek obvious salvation.
You send a child.

We seek clear-cut and
easy answers.

You give us hope.
Upside down divinity,
give us the strength to resist a culture
of greed, of haves, and have-nots.

Turn our eyes away from the gold statues,
our idols of selfishness and fear.
Help us to let go of our expectations of you
so that we might be ready to welcome
the child who is on the way.

Tim Graves

Silence is kept.

The Advent Collect

The Dean prays:

Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness
and to put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;
that on the last day,
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty
to judge the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Awaiting his coming in glory,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

We *STAND* to sing.

**Lo, he comes with clouds descending,
once for favoured sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
God appears on earth to reign.**

**Every eye shall now behold him
robed in dreadful majesty;
we who set at naught and sold him,
pierced and nailed him to the Tree,
deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
deeply wailing, shall the true Messiah see.**

**Those dear tokens of his passion
still his dazzling body bears,
cause of endless exultation
to his ransomed worshippers:
with what rapture, with what rapture,
with what rapture gaze we on those glorious scars!**

**Yea, Amen, let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory,
claim the kingdom for thine own:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone!**

*Words by Charles Wesley (1707-1788) and John Cennick (1718-1755)
Tune CP 31 Helmsley melody noted by Thomas Olivers (1725-1799)*

The Blessing

The Dean prays:

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,
scatter the darkness from before your path,
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;
And the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

The Dismissal

The door stands open now-
not to end the waiting,
but to let hope breathe.
Go in the strength of the light that has dawned,
and the promise that is still to come.

Our Lord says, 'Surely, I come quickly.'
Even so; come, Lord Jesus.

Revelation 22:20

Voluntary

Please do stay and enjoy the organ voluntary, performed today by Liam Condon.

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland BWV 661 by J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

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: *BCP Evening Prayer (Choral Evensong during term time)*

JOINING OUR CHOIRS

Do you know a child who loves to sing? Boys and girls between the ages of 7 and 10 are welcome to audition for the Cathedral Boys' and Girls' Choirs. They sing an average of four times per week during term time in recordings, services and concerts. Children receive a world-class music education completely free and even receive scholarship payments. Please get in touch with the Director of

Music to learn more:

rachel.mahon@coventrycathedral.org.uk

SAFEGUARDING AT COVENTRY CATHEDRAL

We are committed to the safeguarding of all people. For details, please visit www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/about-us/safeguarding

You can report a concern using the same link or by contacting Jane Williams, Cathedral Safeguarding Officer, calling 024 7650 2349 or by emailing JaneMLWill@aol.com

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

COMMUNITY NEWS

Acting Director of Music

We are delighted to announce that Joe Watson has been appointed Acting Director of Music during Rachel's maternity leave. Joe joins us from Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral and takes up his role from 1 December.

Joe brings a wealth of musical experience and a deep commitment to the life of our worshipping community. He will oversee the choir, music planning, and all aspects of our musical ministry throughout this period, ably assisted by Liam Condon, our Assistant Director of Music.

Please join us in welcoming Joe to this role, and in keeping Rachel, her family, and all involved in your prayers. More about Joe's appointment is available on our website: <https://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/worship-music/choirs-music/our-musicians>

Advent and Christmas Services

Please visit our Cathedral website for the upcoming Advent and Christmas services and events.

Please take a copy of the Christmas program on the community table or visit the Cathedral website. www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/christmas

COMING SOON

World AIDS Day Vigil

Monday 1st December, 6.30pm, Cathedral Ruins

Join Unity in Coventry for their annual World AIDS Day Vigil, a time to remember those we have lost, support those living with HIV, and stand in solidarity with our community.

Everyone is welcome to attend. Whether you wish to pay tribute, learn, or simply be part of this moment of community and remembrance, your presence matters.

Embrace the Middle East Joins the CCN

Sunday, 7 December 2025 at 4pm

This Sunday we are delighted to welcome *Embrace the Middle East* as they join the Community of the Cross of Nails. Embrace has been a long-standing friend of the Cathedral. During Choral Evensong, the Dean will formally present them with a Cross of Nails, recognising their ongoing commitment to reconciliation, healing, and peace in that region. Please join us in giving thanks for this partnership and in praying for their continued ministry.

Giving Tuesday, 2nd December, 10am – 2pm

Here's how you can join in:

- Give your time – Sign up to volunteer with us in 2026.
- Donate a piece of history – Contribute an artefact to help preserve Coventry's Blitz story in our Blitz Museum or Archive.
- Keaton Slater Millennium Screen memorial – Donate towards having Keaton Slater, a young boy who was tragically killed in 2024, name engraved on the Millennium Screen.

Come for a chat, enjoy tea and coffee from 10am to 2pm and be part of Coventry Cathedral's mission of hope this Christmas season.

To find out more, please contact fundraising@coventrycathedral.org.uk

Cathedral Choir Christmas Concert

Friday 12 December at 7:30pm

Come hear our very own Cathedral Choir sing festive favourites with Joe Watson conducting, Liam Condon on the organ and the Brass Band of Central England. A fun Christmas celebration for the whole family. There will be carols to sing along to and hot drinks and refreshments available for purchase. Tickets: £15, under 16s FREE

<https://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/events/coventry-cathedral-choir-christmas-concert/booking>

Artwork on the front cover is "Light of the World" by William Holman Hunt (1827–1910), Keble College, Oxford.