



The Cathedral Eucharist and Act of Remembrance



Remembrance Sunday
12th November 2023 at 10:00am

Welcome to Coventry Cathedral

We are delighted that you have been able to join us today, as we remember all those who have died in conflict and pray for the peace of the world.

In this service we say the words in **bold** together, and invite you to stand or sit as indicated, though you're welcome to stay seated if you prefer. If you are joining the service online, you are invited to prepare to light a candle in your home to reflect the lighting of the candles on the altar.

If you have brought small children, thank you! Please feel free to explore the space with them, and to use the toys and books provided.

Do stay for refreshments after the service!

Presiding today is the Reverend Mary Gregory, Canon for Arts and Reconciliation. The Very Reverend John Witcombe, Dean of Coventry, is preaching. The Deacon is the Reverend Su McClellan, Cathedral Curate. The Cathedral choir is directed by Rachel Mahon, Director of Music, and the organist is Luke Fitzgerald, Assistant Director of Music.

The trumpeter is Simon Lenton.

The Setting in B flat is by Sir Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924).

We hope you will join us for worship again; our regular Sunday services are at 10:30am and 4pm, and you are always welcome. You can find out more information about our regular services at

www.coventrycathedral.org.uk

If you would like to talk to us about our work here, or have questions about the Christian faith, please email

mary.gregory@coventrycathedral.org.uk

Feel free to take photographs, but only after the service please.

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Cover photo courtesy of Joseph Witcombe.

The Gathering

Before the service begins, the Dean welcomes the congregation. The Peace Bell is rung and we STAND to sing our opening hymn.

Hymn

**Thy kingdom come! on bended knee
the passing ages pray;
and faithful souls have yearned to see
on earth that kingdom's day.**

**But the slow watches of the night
not less to God belong;
and for the everlasting right
the silent stars are strong.**

**And lo, already on the hills
the flags of dawn appear;
gird up your loins, ye prophet souls,
proclaim the day is near:**

**The day in whose clear-shining light
all wrong shall stand revealed,
when justice shall be throned in might,
and every hurt be healed:**

**When knowledge, hand in hand with peace,
shall walk the earth abroad:
the day of perfect righteousness,
the promised day of God.**

Words by F.L. Hosmer (1840-1929)

Tune CP 608 Irish A Collection of Hymns Dublin (1749)

The Greeting

The Reverend Mary Gregory, Canon for Arts and Reconciliation, presiding, says,

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Peace be with you.
And also with you.

Prayers of Penitence

The Reverend Su McClellan, Cathedral Curate, deacon, says,

Let us confess to God the sins and shortcomings of the world;
its pride, its selfishness, its greed;
its evil divisions and hatreds.
Let us confess our share in what is wrong,
and our failure to seek and establish that peace
which God wills for God's children.

Silence is kept.

**Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy
forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly,
love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.**

The president says,

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Gloria

The choir sings the Gloria.

Glory be to God on high,
and on earth peace, good will towards men.
We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee,
we give thanks to thee for thy great glory,
O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father almighty.
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father,
have mercy upon us.
For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord;
thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,
art the Most High, in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

The Collect

The president says,

Almighty Father,
whose will is to restore all things
in your beloved Son, the King of all:
govern the hearts and minds of those in authority,
and bring the families of the nations,
divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin,
to be subject to his just and gentle rule;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

We SIT.

The First Reading

Read today by David East, Cathedral Churchwarden.

Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD!

Why do you want the day of the LORD?

It is darkness, not light;

as if someone fled from a lion, and was met by a bear;

or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall,

and was bitten by a snake.

Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light,

and gloom with no brightness in it?

I hate, I despise your festivals,

and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

Even though you offer me your burnt-offerings and grain-offerings,

I will not accept them;

and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals

I will not look upon.

Take away from me the noise of your songs;

I will not listen to the melody of your harps.

But let justice roll down like waters,

and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Amos 5:18 – 24

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

We *STAND* and the choir leads the Gospel Acclamation.

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to another.

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

The deacon says,

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said, ‘Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, “Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.” Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, “Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.” But the wise replied, “No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.” And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, “Lord, lord, open to us.” But he replied, “Truly I tell you, I do not know you.” Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

Matthew 25:1 – 13

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon

The Very Reverend John Witcombe, Dean, prays and then we SIT to hear his sermon. After the sermon, silence is kept for reflection.

The Affirmation of Faith

We *STAND* as the president says,

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

The Prayers of Intercession

We *SIT* or *KNEEL* as the president introduces the intercessions, saying,

Let us pray for all who suffer as a result of conflict,
and ask that God may give us peace.

The deacon continues,

For the service men and women
who have died in the violence of war,
each one remembered and known to God;
may God give peace.

God give peace.

For those who love them in death as in life,
offering the distress of our grief
and the sadness of our loss;
may God give peace.

God give peace.

For all members of the armed forces
who are in danger this day,
remembering family, friends
and all who pray for their safe return;
may God give peace.

God give peace.

For civilian women, children and men
whose lives are disfigured by war or terror,
calling to mind in penitence
the anger and hatreds of humanity;
may God give peace.

God give peace.

For peacemakers and peacekeepers,
who seek to keep this world secure and free;
may God give peace.

God give peace.

For all who bear the burden and privilege of leadership,
political, military and religious;
asking for gifts of wisdom and resolve
in the search for reconciliation and peace;
may God give peace.

God give peace.

The president concludes,

O God of truth and justice,
we hold before you those whose memory we cherish,
and those whose names we will never know.
Help us to lift our eyes above the torment
of this broken world,
and grant us the grace to pray for those who wish us harm.
As we honour the past,
may we put our faith in your future;
for you are the source of life and hope, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

We STAND.

The Peace

The president says,

Blessed be Christ, the Prince of Peace.

**He breaks down the walls that divide us:
praise to Christ who is our peace.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

The deacon says,

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

We share the Peace with those around us.

Hymn

**Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
forgive our foolish ways;
re-clothe us in our rightful mind,
in purer lives thy service find,
in deeper reverence praise.**

**In simple trust like theirs who heard,
beside the Syrian sea,
the gracious calling of the Lord,
let us, like them, without a word
rise up and follow thee.**

**O Sabbath rest by Galilee!
O calm of hills above,
where Jesus knelt to share with thee
the silence of eternity,
interpreted by love!**

**Drop thy still dews of quietness,
till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress,
and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of thy peace.**

**Breathe through the heats of our desire
thy coolness and thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still small voice of calm.**

*Words by John Greenleaf Whittier (1807-1892)
Tune CP 411 Repton arranged from the oratorio Judith
by C.H.H. Parry (1848-1918)*

Prayer at the Preparation of the Table

The president says,

Look upon us in mercy not in judgement;
draw us from hatred to love;
make the frailty of our praise
a dwelling place for your glory.

Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The president says,

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is right to praise you, Father, Lord of all creation;
in your love you made us for yourself.
When we turned away you did not reject us,
but came to meet us in your Son.

**You embraced us as your children
and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.**

In Christ you shared our life
that we might live in him and he in us.

**He opened his arms of love upon the cross
and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.**

On the night he was betrayed,
at supper with his friends
he took bread, and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to them, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

**Father, we do this in remembrance of him:
his body is the bread of life.**

At the end of supper,
taking the cup of wine, he gave you thanks, and said:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins;
do this in remembrance of me.

**Father, we do this in remembrance of him:
his blood is shed for all.**

As we proclaim his death
and celebrate his rising in glory,
send your Holy Spirit
that this bread and this wine may be to us
the body and blood of your dear Son.

**As we eat and drink these holy gifts
make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

With your whole Church throughout the world
we offer you this sacrifice of praise
and lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven:

The choir sings:

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of hosts
Heaven and earth are full of your glory
Glory be to thee O Lord Most High
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord
Hosanna in the highest

The Lord's Prayer

We SIT. Please feel free to say the Lord's Prayer in any language or version you prefer. If you are able, we encourage you to pray in German as a way of expressing our close partnerships with German churches, schools and chaplaincies.

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**Vater unser im Himmel,
Geheiligt werde dein Name.
Dein Reich komme.
Dein Wille geschehe,
wie im Himmel, so auf Erden.
Unser tägliches Brot gib uns
heute,
und vergib uns unsere Schuld,
wie auch wir vergeben unseren
Schuldigern.
Und führe uns nicht in
Versuchung,
sondern erlöse uns von dem
Bösen.
Denn dein ist das Reich
und die Kraft und die Herrlichkeit,
in Ewigkeit.
Amen.**

**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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

The Invitation to Communion

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

**Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

Angus Dei

The choir sings:

O Lamb of God,
that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God,
that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God,
that takest away the sins of the world
grant us thy peace.

The Giving of Communion

*Please follow the direction of the stewards as you come to receive
Communion. If you would prefer simply to receive a blessing, please bring
this booklet with you as an indication of your preference.*

As we receive Communion the choir sings:

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth:
for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away;
and there was no more sea

And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband

And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying,
Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men,
and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people,
and God himself shall be with them, and be their God

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes;
and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain:
for the former things are passed away

Edgar Bainton (1880-1956)

The Prayer after Communion

The president says,

Let us pray:
**God of peace,
whose Son Jesus Christ
proclaimed the kingdom
and restored the broken to wholeness of life:
look with compassion on the anguish of the world,
and by your healing power
make whole both people and nations;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

Hymn

We *STAND* to sing and, if we are able, follow the procession out into the Cathedral Ruins for the Act of Remembrance. If you prefer, please feel free to remain within the Cathedral for this part of the service.

**O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home.**

**Beneath the shadow of thy throne
thy saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone,
and our defence is sure.**

**Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received her frame,
from everlasting thou art God,
to endless years the same.**

**A thousand ages in thy sight
are like an evening gone;
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.**

**Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all of us away;
we fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the opening day.**

**O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
be thou our guard while troubles last,
and our eternal home.**

Words from Psalm 90 arranged by Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

Tune CP 537 St Anne Melody and bass

from A Supplement to the New Version (1708)

probably by William Croft (1678-1727)

The Act of Remembrance

The Very Reverend John Witcombe, Dean, says,

In this place, ruined in war and rebuilt in faith,
we acknowledge the tragedy of war,
and of the suffering we inflict on each other.
We remember the men, women and children
of this and every place
who have lost their lives in war;
and we remember especially today
the sacrifice of those who died in the service of their country.

They shall grow not old
as we that are left grow old:
age shall not weary them,
nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun
and in the morning,
we will remember them.

We will remember them.

The two-minutes silence is introduced by the Last Post and ends with Reveille.

Ever-living God,
we remember those whom you have gathered
from the storm of war
into the peace of your presence;
may that same peace calm our fears,
bring justice to all peoples
and establish harmony amongst the nations,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Litany of Reconciliation

The Reverend Mary Gregory, Canon for Arts and Reconciliation, says,

All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

The hatred which divides nation from nation,
race from race, class from class:

Father, forgive.

The covetous desires of people and nations
to possess what is not their own:

Father, forgive.

The greed which exploits the work of human hands
and lays waste the earth:

Father, forgive.

Our envy of the welfare and happiness of others:

Father, forgive.

Our indifference to the plight of the imprisoned,
the homeless, the refugee:

Father, forgive.

The lust which dishonours the bodies
of men, women and children:

Father, forgive.

The pride which leads us to trust in ourselves
and not in God,

Father, forgive.

**Be kind to one another, tender-hearted,
forgiving one another,
as God in Christ forgave you.**

The Cathedral Collect

The Dean leads us as we pray:

**Almighty God,
Father of us all,
you call us to make peace,
and to love and serve our neighbour.
May this Cathedral,
ruined and rebuilt,
be a sign to all people of the healing of old wounds.
Help us to build a kinder, more Christ-like world,
where those of all races live together in peace,
and all the human family be one;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

The Blessing

The Dean says,

God, grant to the living, grace;
to the departed, rest;
to the Church, the King,
the Commonwealth, and all the world,
peace and concord;
and to us and all his servants, life everlasting;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

Go in peace to share the reconciling love of God.
**In the name of Christ,
Amen.**

The National Anthem

The choir leads us as we sing:

**God save our gracious King!
Long live our noble King!
God save the King!
Send him victorious,
happy and glorious,
long to reign over us.
God save the King.**

**Thy choicest gifts in store
on him be pleased to pour,
Long may he reign.
May he defend our laws,
and ever give us cause,
to sing with heart and voice,
God save the King.**

Voluntary

Please do stay and enjoy the organ voluntary being played as you re-enter the New Cathedral, performed today by Luke Fitzgerald, Assistant Director of Music.

Solemn Melody by Henry Walford Davies (1869-1941)

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Thank you for your support.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Winter programme: services and events

This is now available to pick up from the back of the Cathedral with details of all our services and events throughout December. Please do take one home today.

Reconciliation season and sermon series

Last year, we began to mark the Sundays in November as a season of reconciliation; an opportunity to focus on the heart of our calling here at Coventry Cathedral. This year, we have developed a Eucharist liturgy to reflect this, and will be following a series of sermons helping us to explore what reconciliation might mean for each of us. The series will use the parable of the prodigal son as its starting point, with a different focus each week:

Sunday 5th November – Reconciling to ourselves

Sunday 19th November – Reconciling to God

Sunday 26th November – Reconciling to others

(On Sunday 12th November we will, of course, be marking Remembrance Sunday.)

Seeking a new Bishop of Coventry: your views are invited

As part of the process of identifying the next Bishop of Coventry, the Diocese have set up a short survey on some of the qualities you might like to see in the person appointed. Completing the survey will only take a few minutes. Could you add your voice to those who have already responded? Please follow this link to complete the survey: <https://www.equiphub.org.uk/diocesan-wide-poll/>

Process to appoint a new Canon for Worship and Welcome

You might be aware that back in July we held a selection process to identify a Canon for Worship and Welcome - a similar, but not identical role to that which was fulfilled by Canon Kathryn. Although the process ran very well, and we identified an exciting and hugely gifted candidate, that candidate ultimately withdrew from the process. After much prayer and reflection, we have, in the last few days, advertised the post again and will interview at the end of November. Please do hold the interviewing panel, chaired by the Dean, in your prayers, as well as those discerning whether they have a vocation to this post.

Priory Row

Thank you for your support in our project to secure Priory Row numbers 9 and 10 for the Cathedral. You may recall that these are the properties beside St Michael's House, which houses some of our offices and meeting spaces, as well as accommodation for our Assistant Director of Music, and the Dean's current home.

The vision for the project is to create a 'Cathedral Close' for the Dean and residentiary Canons, to relocate the offices currently in St Michael's House and Youell House, and to secure this sector of the city as a Cathedral 'campus'. We hope that we are nearing the end of the legal processes to complete the sale, and are beginning to plan in earnest how the project will be managed. We will keep you updated as things progress.

The Organ Project

Work on developing a grant application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund continues, and will now be submitted in February. Once again, we are so grateful for your support for this important project.

The conflict in Israel/Palestine

For measured, prayerful, up-to-date information on the conflict in Israel/Palestine, you might like to regularly check the Embrace website - <https://embraceme.org/> As you will know, the Reverend Su McClellan works for Embrace, and she would be very glad to engage with you in conversation about your questions and concerns on this conflict and how we might respond. Please continue to pray for her at this challenging and distressing time, and of course continue to pray for all those suffering as a result of the conflict.

COMING SOON

Remembrance Sunday Afternoon Service:

A Requiem Eucharist for those who have Died in War

TODAY, 4pm

Join us this afternoon for our second Remembrance Day service, as we listen to the Cathedral Choir sing Fauré's Requiem.

Vigil on the 83rd Anniversary of the Coventry Blitz

14th November, 6pm

In the Ruins: a quiet, simple service of remembrance and praying for peace.

What are you looking for?

From 18th November

An exhibition of paintings by Michael Cook and textiles by Michelle Holmes, responding to the questions Jesus asked in the Gospels.

Psalm

Wednesday 22nd November, 7:30 – 9pm

Join singer-songwriter Rob Halligan every fourth Wednesday of the month for 'Psalm': a place to explore worship through music, quiet, spoken word and song, using the honesty of the Psalms.

Light in Our Darkness

Sunday 3rd December, 6:30pm

This is a special service of music and readings for Advent, looking towards the light and hope of Christmas.

A Christmastide Celebration

Saturday 9th December, 6 – 8pm

Get in the Christmas mood at our annual concert in aid of Coventry & Warwickshire Children's Charity. There will be a wide variety of your favourite Christmas tunes and carols. Refreshments available during the interval(s).

For more information and to book your tickets, visit:

<https://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/events/a-christmastide-celebration>

Wonder

Wednesday 13th December, 7:30 – 9pm

Join our worship gathering for those curious and imaginative, looking to explore themes of faith through art, dance, and poetry. Wonder takes place every second Wednesday of the month! All are warmly invited to join us.