



**DIOCESE^{OF}
COVENTRY**



**The Service of
Welcome & Installation**

for

**The Right Reverend
Sophie Rebecca Jelley**

as

The Tenth Bishop of Coventry



**The Eve of Pentecost
Saturday 7th June 2025 at 2pm**

Welcome to Coventry Cathedral

We are delighted that you have been able to join us for this act of worship, as we gather to pray for Bishop Sophie at the beginning of her ministry as Bishop of Coventry. Please take time to read through the following information before the service begins.

Cathedral Churchwardens and Stewards

We are very grateful to a large number of members of the Cathedral community who are assisting the Churchwardens as Stewards today. They are identified by a Cathedral sash: please follow their directions with regard to seating and any other practical concerns.

St John Ambulance

We are most grateful to the St John Ambulance for their presence here today. If you need their assistance, please speak to one of the Cathedral Stewards.

Evacuation Procedure

In the unlikely event of an emergency evacuation of the Cathedral, a senior member of staff will make an announcement. Please remain calm and in your seat until you are directed to leave the building by one of the Cathedral Stewards.

Hearing Loop

A hearing loop is provided – this works best in particular areas of the building: a Cathedral Churchwarden or Steward will be pleased to advise you.

Large-print orders of service

Large-print copies of this order of service are available at the welcome desk for those who would like one.

Livestreaming of the Service

This service is being livestreamed to enable those who are unable to be present in person to join in worship and celebration. We give thanks for the gift of technology that connects us across distance as one body in Christ.

Refreshments

Warmest thanks to members of Coventry Diocese Mothers' Union for serving refreshments after today's service. We do hope you will stay to enjoy coffee, tea and squash with cake and cookies. You can also collect a coupon for a 'complimentary gelato scoop' supplied by Mirabelle, the wonderful vintage gelato van, parked in the Cathedral Ruins! We hope that all ages will want to linger there to enjoy the rest of the afternoon.

Introduction

We gather today in joyful worship to welcome and install the Right Reverend Sophie Rebecca Jelley as the tenth Bishop of Coventry. This significant occasion marks a new chapter in the life of our diocese, whose story stretches back to the earliest roots of Christianity in this region, shaped by the mission of St Chad in the 7th century and continuing through centuries of faithful witness.

The Diocese of Coventry, formally established in 1918, has long been marked by its commitment to Christian unity, peace, and reconciliation—a charism born from the ashes of war and rooted in the spirit of hope. The ruins of the old Cathedral, standing alongside the new, remain a powerful symbol of our call to healing and renewal, both within the Church and in the wider world.

Today's service reflects the rich worshipping life of our diocese, shaped by the gifts of its diverse communities and strengthened through partnership with ecumenical friends, civic leaders, and international companions. Together, we express our common calling to be ambassadors of Christ's love and justice.

Bishop Sophie comes among us to be
our shepherd and pastor,
to lead us in worship and mission,
to teach us and inspire us in the Faith

This service is designed to reflect our understanding of this ministry, and to lead all of us – the People of God – on a pilgrimage of faith in the God who has entrusted to us the ministry of reconciliation.

The Order of Service

The Entrance takes place in the Ruins of the mediaeval Cathedral, destroyed on the night of 14th November 1940. The Bishop (escorted by the Archdeacon of Canterbury) enters the Ruins in silence, before praying the Coventry Litany of Reconciliation in front of the Charred Cross and the Altar of Reconciliation.

The Preparation begins with the new Bishop entering her cathedral through doors which are wide open in hospitality – the first of the Cathedral’s values – and being welcomed by young people of the diocese. She invokes the presence of God using words from the Consecration of the Cathedral in 1962, before entering an intimate time of prayer and anointing for new ministry.

The Installation lies at the very heart of the service, with the Bishop being seated in her cathedra (from which the word *Cathedral* is derived). This is the seat from which the Bishop leads God’s people in her diocese as Teacher, Chief Pastor, and Leader. The installation is performed, according to historic precedent, by the Archdeacon of Canterbury, and the Bishop’s first act from the cathedra is to proclaim the Gospel, for she comes among us as the principal minister, in this church and diocese, of the Good News of Jesus Christ.

The Inaugural Sermon follows on from the proclamation of the Gospel. Bishop Sophie opens God’s word to us and calls us to the vision of God’s kingdom revealed in Jesus Christ.

The Welcome provides an opportunity for representatives of civic and church life to offer a word of welcome to Bishop Sophie, her husband Chris, and their children. As the choirs sing the great hymn of the church, the *Te Deum*, the Bishop is greeted by representatives from around the diocese who present her with symbols reflecting its life, ministry and partnerships.

The **Prayers of Intercession and Dedication** reflect the mission and ministry of the Diocese of Coventry as we seek the Spirit of God to lead us in this new season.

The **Blessing** is the culmination of the service – having taken the Diocesan Crozier from the High Altar (where it was placed by Bishop Christopher Cocksworth when he bade farewell to the diocese in 2023), the Bishop blesses us, the city and diocese from the West Screen in words which focus our attention on the light of Christ and the work of mission and evangelism in the world.

Excerpts from the Charge

*Given by The Right Reverend and Right Honourable
Dame Sarah Mullally DBE, Bishop of London
At the Confirmation of Election, Lambeth Palace*

To our well-beloved sister in Christ, Sophie, now Bishop of Coventry.

You are to be charged with many important tasks and ministries in your vocation as a Bishop in the Church of England. There will be much for you to consider, great challenges to face, as well as, I pray, great joy along the way.

Amidst all the responsibility that rests on your shoulders, and all the many things you must do, may I urge you to remember that your ministry, and the Church itself, does not depend on you, but the one who has called and commissioned you. Jesus Christ said, 'I am the way, the truth and the life' (John 14.6). I charge you, therefore, to hold on and remember that the most important thing for you as a Bishop is not *who* you are but *whose* you are. Hold fast to Christ, do not lose sight of Him, and He will guide you in all things.

Bishops in the Church of England are called to share in the ministry of the Gospel of Christ, proclaiming His promise of hope and eternal life in a world of death and despair. It's in this broken world that God calls you to servant leadership, which guards the flock of Christ, exercising the ministry of a shepherd, contending for, and upholding, the unity of the church and guiding it in witness and service. In the uncertainty of the world, may Christ strengthen you to confidently live out the vocation to which God has called you and His Church.

The Crown Nominations Commission considered prayerfully and carefully the call of the next Bishop of Coventry, which is to share the historic and eternal Gospel with a changing world, and to encourage all Christians in their witness so that more people become disciples of Jesus Christ. It discerned an especial sense of urgency around tasks and ministries, which I now set before you, to guide you as you prepare to take up your new office.

In particular, the Commission discerned that you are called to be ‘*A prayerful pastor, teacher and reconciler*’, ‘*A passionate, visionary and strategic leader in mission and evangelism*’, ‘*A shaper and communicator of strategy*’ and ‘*A prophetic voice*’.

As Diocesan Bishop of Coventry, you are called to lead the Diocese in discerning its particular vision for God’s ministry and mission, following His call to care for the sick, the hungry, the imprisoned, the stranger and the orphan around us and, in so doing, proclaiming the Good News of the God who came and lived among us that we might know and share His love for us here on Earth. Jesus who loved all alike, who counted tax collectors and fishermen as friends, invites you to bring people to Christ’s table. He calls us to build a church where each living stone is valued...

May you recognize and empower the gifts of those whom you are called to serve, to encourage lay people and clergy alike in their journeys of discernment. The Book of I Peter reads ‘Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received’ (I Peter 4:10). May you draw out the unique and remarkable gifts, which your flock has received from God, that each one may, in partnership, be put to the service of the Lord and His church, for the sake of the service of God’s Kingdom.

And finally, may you be present and part of your community as our Lord Jesus Christ was, in both the joy of the wedding at Cana and the suffering of the funeral of the widow’s son, in sharing hospitality and friendship. May you serve those within it as Christ calls us to, and to care particularly for those who are suffering, distressed and isolated, seeking to ease the burdens of those we serve by our deeds and words..

So may the Lord of heaven, who gives you the will to undertake these things, give you also the strength to perform them, and by His divine providence may His holy angels succour and defend you on earth; and may His grace and blessing be with you at all times. Amen.

+Sarah Londin

14 February 2025

Before the Service

From 1pm the Cathedral bells are rung.

From 1.30pm the Combined Schools Choir sings the following songs from the Chancel Steps:

One More Step along the world I go
Living & Learning
Hey, Hey, Hey
All the Love in the World

From 1.40pm the Worship Band leads pre-service worship songs that will continue as the processions enter the Cathedral:

Thanksgiving (What shall we do) - Gas Street Music
Build my Life - Pat Barrett
O Praise the Name - Hillsong
Seen, Known, Loved - Pat Barret
10,000 Reasons - Matt Redman

Also at 1.40pm the procession of Diocesan Readers, Clergy and Visiting Bishops and Clergy, moves to seats in the Nave.

Verger
Marshal
Diocesan Readers
Diocesan Clergy
Visiting Clergy
Area Deans



Marshal
Visiting Cathedral Chapter Members
Visiting Deans
Visiting Bishops

At 1.50pm the Civic Procession moves to seats in the Nave.

Verger

Marshal

CEO Coventry & Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce

The Director for Regional Strategy and Partnerships, Warwick

University

Chief Innovation & Engagement Officer, Warwick Medical School

The Provost, Coventry University



The Leader and Deputy Leader of Coventry City Council

Members of Parliament for Coventry East & South

The Mayor of Warwick Town Council & Consort

The Mayor of Whitnash Town Council & Consort

The Mayor of Stratford-Upon-Avon & Consort



High Sheriff of Warwickshire

High Sheriff of the West Midlands

The German Ambassador to the United Kingdom & Consort

Lord Mayor and Consort of Coventry

The Lord Lieutenant for the West Midlands

At 1.55pm the Cathedral Procession together with Ecumenical and Interfaith partners moves to seats in the Chancel and Sanctuary.

Verger

Marshal

Cathedral Choir

Interfaith Partners

Ecumenical Partners

Members of the Cathedral Chapter

College of Canons

Cathedral Readers

Cathedral Associate Clergy

At 1.55pm the Dean of Coventry, the Very Reverend John Witcombe, welcomes the congregation from the Great Lectern.

The Entrance

The Cathedral clock strikes the hour. When all have taken their place, the Bishop leads this Litany, written by Canon Joseph Poole, Precentor, in 1959, from the Ruins.

Coventry Litany of Reconciliation

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.
Amen.

Everyone STANDS and turns to face the West Screen.

The Preparation

The Bishop's Procession

Verger

The Great Cross of Coventry

The Diocesan Secretary



The Deacon

The Archdeacons

The Vesturer of Canterbury

The Provincial Registrar

The Archdeacon of Canterbury



The Head Verger

The Canon for Worship & Welcome

The Dean of Coventry



Cathedral Churchwardens

The Banners of the See of Coventry

THE BISHOP

The Chaplain

Deputy Diocesan Registrar

Diocesan Chancellor

*The Bishop and her procession proceed from the Ruins, via the Queen's Steps,
to the West Screen, as all sing*

Hymn

**Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the Head and corner-stone,
chosen of the Lord, and precious,
binding all the church in one,
Holy Sion's help for ever,
and her confidence alone.**

**All that dedicated city,
dearly loved of God on high,
in exultant jubilation
pours perpetual melody,
God the One in Three adoring
in glad hymns eternally.**

**To this temple, where we call thee,
come, O Lord of Hosts, today;
with thy wonted loving-kindness
hear thy servants as they pray,
and thy fullest benediction
shed within its walls always.**

**Here vouchsafe to all thy servants
what they ask of thee to gain,
what they gain from thee for ever
with the blessed to retain,
and hereafter in thy glory
evermore with thee to reign.**

From inside the doors of the Cathedral, wide open in welcome, the Bishop invokes the presence of God, using words from the Consecration Service on May 25th 1962

**Come, Father of inexpressible majesty;
Come, Lord Jesus, the Father's incomparable Son;
Come, Holy Spirit, most blessed Lord;
Come, Holy and adorable Trinity:
Come to this house.
Come today, come now, come always.**

and everyone responds

Come, Lord, come!

A fanfare is sounded, and all continue to sing

**Laud and honour to the Father,
laud and honour to the Son,
laud and honour to the Spirit,
ever Three, and ever One,
consubstantial, co-eternal,
while unending ages run. Amen**

*Words from 7th-8th century Latin translated by J.M. Neale (1818-1866)
Tune CP 208 Westminster Abbey adapted by Henry Purcell (1659-1695)*

The Bishop standing at the Chi-Rho set in the floor to symbolise the name of Christ, is received by young people from schools in the diocese.



Everyone remains STANDING

Greeting

The young people stand before the Bishop, facing her, and ask in turn.

A young person, Faye Henderson, from Barr's Hill School asks:

Who are you, that you come to this place?

Bishop Sophie:

**I am Sophie, a servant of Christ,
called to be a bishop in the Church of God.
I come in faith and obedience,
to share in the life of this diocese
and to walk with the people of God in this place.**

Faye asks:

Why have you come among us?

Bishop Sophie:

I come to serve – as your bishop and pastor,
to preach the Gospel, to celebrate the sacraments,
to lead in mission, and to care for all.

I come not with easy answers, but with a listening heart,
ready to learn from you and to walk the way of Christ together.

I come to honour the calling of this diocese –
to be a sign of peace, a place of reconciliation,
and a people of hope.

Faye asks:

How do you come among us, and with what confidence?

Bishop Sophie:

I come not in my own strength,
but in the power of the Holy Spirit
and the mercy of God who calls each of us by name.

I come with confidence in Christ,
who breaks down walls and makes us one.

And I come with the prayers of many,
trusting that, together,
we will walk in the ministry of reconciliation
entrusted to this city and this Church.

A young person, Lisa Karan from Bluecoat CoE School, reads

You are coming to Christ, who is the living cornerstone of God's temple. He was rejected by people, but he was chosen by God for great honour.

And you are living stones that God is building into his spiritual temple. What's more, you are his holy priests. Through the mediation of Jesus Christ, you offer spiritual sacrifices that please God.

You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

“Once you had no identity as a people;
now you are God’s people.
Once you received no mercy;
now you have received God’s mercy.”

1 Peter 2: 4-5, 9b-10 (NLT)

The Dean continues

Bishop Sophie, we welcome you as our shepherd and pastor,
to lead us in worship and mission,
to teach us and inspire us in the Faith.
We pray for you today
that you may know and receive the anointing of God’s grace
and be strengthened for your ministry among us.

Anointing

Everyone SITS or KNEELS

The choir sings the isiXhosa prayer, as Bishop Sophie is anointed for her new ministry, celebrating her ministry in Africa.

You are invited to pray in silence or to join in the singing

Ndikhokhele Bawo
Ndikhokhele Mmeli wami
Zalomhlaba Bawo
Bawo ndiya bonga ngoba wena
Usandi gcinile.
Sundikhokhele
Ezintsizini
Hlal’ Uhlele duze kwami.

He paid for me (by dying on the cross), my Father
He paid for me by representing me
While on earth, my Father
Father I thank you because you
Will always keep me (safe).
I implore you to lead me (so that I may follow)
During times of sorrow/strife
You are always standing nearby.

Bishop Sophie is anointed with oil produced in Palestine by cooperatives which are part of the Palestine Fair Trade Association. Her forehead and her hands are anointed by the Reverend Sarah Edmonds Maguire, Area Dean of Shipston, The Reverend David Poultney, Area Dean of Nuneaton and the Reverend Aggy Parlaret, Rector at St Francis Radford, respectively, symbolizing that her ministry is rooted in the life and support of the wider diocesan family.

*Following the anointing, the Bishop takes her pastoral staff and traces the first two letters of the name of Christ in Greek **XP** upon the Chi-Rho, a declaration that she is above all else a servant of Jesus Christ.*

The Bishop leads the following

Acclamation

Come, Holy Spirit, fire of the living God,
kindle in us the flame of your love.

Come, Holy Spirit, renew the face of the earth.

With the wind of your presence, stir our hearts for worship.
With the breath of your power, strengthen us for mission.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill your Church with life and hope.

Collect for the Feast of Pentecost

The Bishop says

Holy Spirit, sent by the Father,
Ignite in us your holy fire,
Strengthen your children with the gift of faith,
Revive your Church with the breath of love
And renew the face of the earth,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Bishop and her procession move to the front of the Nave.

The members of the Bishop's procession take their places in the chancel, save for the Dean, the Archdeacon of Canterbury, the Provincial Registrar, the Diocesan Chancellor and the Chaplain.

*Everyone remains **STANDING** to sing*

Hymn

**O thou who camest from above
the fire celestial to impart,
kindle a flame of sacred love
on the mean altar of my heart.**

**There let it for thy glory burn
with inextinguishable blaze,
and trembling to its source return
in humble prayer and fervent praise.**

**Jesus, confirm my heart's desire
to work and speak and think for thee;
still let me guard the holy fire
and still stir up thy gift in me.**

**Still let me prove thy perfect will,
my acts of faith and love repeat;
till death thine endless mercies seal,
and make the sacrifice complete.**

Words by Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Tune CP 191 Hereford S.S. Wesley (1810-1876)

*At the conclusion of the hymn, everyone **SITS***

The Installation

The Bishop, at the foot of the chancel steps, addresses the Dean and says

Mr. Dean, I thank you for your welcome and for your prayers.
I now ask to be inducted and installed into the Bishopric of
Coventry.

The Archdeacon of Canterbury, standing alongside her, says

Mr. Dean, I bring you greetings from His Grace, Archbishop
Stephen the Lord Archbishop of York and present to you his
Mandate.

The Dean says

Mr. Archdeacon, you are most welcome
and we thank you for the greetings you bring.

*The Dean turns to the Diocesan Chancellor and presents the Mandate to him,
saying*

Let the Archbishop's Mandate be read.

The Diocesan Chancellor reads the Mandate.

Declaration of Assent

The Dean continues

The Church of England is part of the one, Holy, Catholic and
Apostolic Church worshipping the one true God, Father, Son
and Holy Spirit. It professes the faith uniquely revealed in the
holy scriptures and set forth in the catholic creeds, which faith
the church is called upon to proclaim afresh in each generation.
Led by the Holy Spirit, it has borne witness to Christian truth in
its historic formularies, the Thirty-Nine Articles of Religion, the
Book of Common Prayer and the Ordering of Bishops, Priests
and Deacons.

Sophie, in the declaration you are about to make, will you affirm your loyalty to this inheritance of faith as your inspiration and guidance under God in bringing the grace and truth of Christ to this generation and making him known to those in your care?

The Bishop replies

I, *Sophie Rebecca Jelley*, do so affirm, and accordingly declare my belief in the faith which is revealed in the holy scriptures and set forth in the catholic creeds and to which the historic formularies of the Church of England bear witness; and in public prayer and administration of the sacraments I will use only the forms of service which are authorised or allowed by Canon.

Oath of Allegiance

The Bishop, holding a Bible in her right hand and turning to face the congregation, says

I, *Sophie Rebecca Jelley*, Bishop of Coventry, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to His Majesty King Charles the Third, His Heirs and Successors according to Law: So help me God.

Oath of Obedience

The Bishop, turning to face the Archdeacon of Canterbury, continues to hold the Bible in her right hand, saying

In the name of God. Amen.

I, *Sophie Rebecca Jelley*, Bishop of the Church and See of Coventry, do profess and promise all due reverence and obedience to the Archbishop and the Metropolitan Church of Christ in Canterbury and to their successor: So help me God, through Jesus Christ.

The College of Canons and Cathedral Chapter stand.

Oath of Fidelity

The Dean invites the Bishop to take the Oath of Fidelity, saying

Bishop Sophie, I now invite you to take the Oath of Fidelity to the Constitution and Statutes of this Cathedral Church.

The Bishop, holding the Bible in her right hand, says

I, *Sophie Rebecca Jelley*, by Divine Permission Bishop of Coventry, promise that in as much as in me lies I will be a faithful pastor to the clergy and people of this diocese that we may all be equipped for work in God's service and build up the body of Christ; and furthermore I do solemnly declare that I shall faithfully observe and keep the Constitution, Statutes, Ordinances and Customs and preserve the Liberties of this Cathedral Church; and shall set forth and promote such works as may be fitly done therein for the service of God and for the benefit of His Church, so help me God.

The Bishop kneels and the Dean invites representatives from the various places she has served to come forward and lay hands as he prays for her, saying

Let us pray.

Silence is kept.

Come, Holy Spirit, breath of God and fire of love.
Anoint your servant Sophie with grace and power
as she takes up the office of Bishop in this Diocese of Coventry.
Grant her wisdom to lead, compassion to serve
and courage to speak your truth in love.
Strengthen her in the ministry of reconciliation
entrusted to this city and this Church.
May she walk closely with Christ,
build up your people in faith and hope,
and be a sign of your peace in the world.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Act of Installation

The Dean addresses the Archdeacon of Canterbury, saying

Mr. Archdeacon, I ask you to fulfil the Mandate of the
Archbishop of York.

Everyone STANDS

Anthem

*The Bishop is escorted by the Archdeacon of Canterbury to the cathedra as
the Choir sings*

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 mine heart and in my thinking.
God be at my end and in my departing.

*Words from the Sarum Primer
Music by John Rutter (b. 1945)*

*At the conclusion of the anthem, the Archdeacon takes the Bishop, standing,
by her right hand, saying*

By virtue of the Mandate of the Most Reverend Father in
God **Stephen Geoffrey** by Divine Providence Lord Archbishop
of York, **I William Jonathan Adam**, Archdeacon of The
Cathedral and Metropolitan Church of Christ in Canterbury,
induct and install you **Sophie Rebecca Jelley** into possession of
the Bishopric of **Coventry** with its rights and dignities and all its
opportunities for service; and I place you (*here the Bishop is
seated*) in the episcopal seat of this **Cathedral Church of St
Michael in Coventry** in the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ.
Amen.

May the Lord preserve your going out and your coming in, from
this time forth and for evermore.

Amen.

The Reverend Canon Nitano Muller, Residentiary Canon for Worship and Welcome, presents the Diocesan Crozier, which was laid on the altar upon the retirement of the ninth Bishop of Coventry, and gives it to the Bishop saying

Bishop Sophie,
receive this crozier,
a gift from the people of Denmark
at the consecration of this Cathedral,
as a sign of your office as Bishop of Coventry.
May it be for you a symbol of Christ the Good Shepherd,
and a reminder of your calling to lead with courage,
to reconcile with grace, and to serve with love. **Amen.**

The Gospel

A fanfare is sounded. The congregation welcomes the newly installed Bishop with applause.

Everyone remains STANDING as the book of the Gospels is brought to the Bishop by the Reverend Modupe Adeoye, deacon, Assistant Curate in the Parish of St. Nicholas, Nuneaton and St James Weddington & Caldecote.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

'Go, and make disciples of all nations, says the Lord;

And remember, I am with you always to the end of the age.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Bishop proclaims the Gospel from her cathedra.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

Glory to you, O Lord.

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.

Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.” *John 14:1-6, 27*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Everyone remains STANDING to sing

Song

**Before the throne of God above
I have a strong, a perfect plea,
a great high priest, whose name is Love,
who ever lives and pleads for me.**

**My name is graven on his hands,
my name is written on his heart;
I know that while in heaven he stands
no tongue can bid me thence depart,
no tongue can bid me thence depart.**

**When Satan tempts me to despair,
and tells me of the guilt within,
upward I look and see him there
who made an end to all my sin.**

**Because the sinless Saviour died,
my sinful soul is counted free.
For God, the Just, is satisfied
to look on him and pardon me,
to look on him and pardon me.**

**Behold him there! The risen Lamb,
my perfect, spotless righteousness;
the great unchangeable 'I AM'
the King of glory and of grace!**

**One with himself I cannot die,
my soul is purchased with his blood;
my life is hid with Christ on high,
with Christ, my Saviour and my God,
with Christ, my Saviour and my God. (repeat final chorus)**

*Charitie de Chenez (1841-1923)
adapted by Vikki Cook ©1993 PDI Worship*

The Inaugural Sermon

By the Right Reverend Sophie Jelley, Bishop of Coventry.

Please remain STANDING until the Bishop invites you to sit.

Song

*Following the sermon, Bishop Sophie is escorted to her seat on the chancel
step and everyone STANDS to sing.*

**I love You, Lord, oh Your mercy never fails me,
All my days I've been held in Your hands.
From the moment that I wake up until I lay my head
I will sing of the goodness of God.**

**All my life You have been faithful
All my life You have been so, so good.
With every breath that I am able
I will sing of the goodness of God.**

**I love Your voice, You have led me through the fire,
In my darkest night, you were close like no other.
I've known You as a father, I've known You as a friend,
I have lived in the goodness of God.**

**Your goodness is running after, it's running after me.
Your goodness is running after, it's running after me.
With my life laid down, I'm surrendered now, I give You
everything
Your goodness is running after, it's running after me.
(Repeat)**

All my life You have been faithful...

*Written by Jenn Johnson, Ed Cash, Jason Ingram, Ben Fielding, Brian Johnson
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Tunes, Bethel Music Publishing*

Anthem

The Combined Schools Choir sings,

Some words they can't be spoken, only sung
So hear a thousand voices shouting love
There's a place, there's a time in this life
When you sing what you are feeling

Find your feet, stand your ground
Don't you see right now the world is listening
To what we say?

Sing it louder, sing it clearer
Knowing everyone will hear you
Make some noise, find your voice tonight
Sing it stronger, sing together
Make this moment last forever
Old and young, shouting love tonight

To sing we've had a lifetime to wait
And see a thousand faces celebrate

You brought hope, you brought light
Conquered fear, no it wasn't always easy
Stood your ground, kept your faith
Don't you see right now the world is listening
To what we say?

Sing it louder, sing it clearer
Knowing everyone will hear you
Make some noise, find your voice tonight
Sing it stronger, sing together
Make this moment last forever
Old and young, shouting love tonight

Some words they can't be spoken, only sung
To hear a thousand voices shouting love
And light and hope

Just sing
Just sing
Just sing
Just sing

Sing it louder, sing it clearer
Knowing everyone will hear you
Sing
Sing it stronger, sing together
Make this moment last forever
Sing

Hear a thousand voices shouting love

Songwriters: Andrew Lloyd Webber, Gary Barlow.

The Welcome

The Bishop remains in her seat on the chancel step, where she will receive greetings from distinguished guests.

Everyone remains SEATED.

The Venerable Barry Dugmore, Archdeacon Missioner, introduces the following speakers who offer a particular welcome to the new Bishop and her family.

Mr Derrick Anderson OBE,

Lord Lieutenant for the West Midlands

Mr Pal Sanghera Esq

Vice Lord-Lieutenant for Warwickshire

His Excellency, Mr Miguel Berger

Ambassador of Germany to the United Kingdom

The Reverend Canon Claire McArthur,

Chair of the House of Clergy, Diocese of Coventry

The Reverend Canon Jonathan Jee

Member of General Synod and Bishop's Council

Councillor Rachel Lancaster

The Right Worshipful, the Lord Mayor of the City of Coventry

Following the formal greetings, the Bishop, accompanied by the Diocesan Secretary, Jacqueline Ladds, stand on the chancel step to greet representatives and to receive symbols from various parts of the life of the diocese, including

A Map of the Diocese

Presented by Meshail Daud, a Coventry University graduate. Symbolising the breadth of learning, global perspective and engagement with faith and reason.

A Goose-Quill

From Stratford-Upon-Avon, the birthplace of William Shakespeare, symbolising the diocese's rich literary and cultural heritage and the power of creativity and human expression. Presented by the Reverend Dr. Paul Edmondson, Head of Research for the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust.

A Candle

Presented by Manjit Kaur, a member of the Coventry Interfaith Forum. Light is a universal symbol of guidance and divine presence within all major world religions and a commitment to walk together in peace and understanding.

A Bible

Presented by a Pastor Eniiwaju Etomi, Senior Pastor at RCCG Holy Ghost Zone Coventry and representative of the Ecumenical Community. Symbolising the living Word of God proclaimed in many voices and lived in diverse communities.

A Jar of Honey

Presented by Helen Eadon, a Farmer and rural Churchwarden. Symbolising the pastoral and sacramental care of the Church in rural contexts as well as the dignity of agricultural work and the fragility and resilience of farming life.

A Model Car

Presented by Simon Danks, Cathedral Chief Operations Officer and member of the local Christian Business Network. Symbolising Coventry's engineering legacy and its ongoing spirit of innovation.

Meanwhile, the choirs sing

Te Deum Laudamus

We praise thee, O God, we acknowledge thee to be the Lord.
All the earth doth worship thee, the Father everlasting.
To thee all angels cry aloud: the heavens, and all the powers therein.
To thee cherubim and seraphim continually do cry,
Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts;
heaven and earth are full of the majesty of thy glory.
The glorious company of the apostles praise thee.
The goodly fellowship of the prophets praise thee.
The noble army of martyrs praise thee.
The holy church throughout all the world doth acknowledge thee; the
Father of an infinite majesty; thine honourable, true and only Son; also
the Holy Ghost, the comforter.

Thou art the King of Glory, O Christ.
Thou art the everlasting Son of the Father.
When thou tookest upon thee to deliver man, thou didst not abhor the
Virgin's womb.
When thou hadst overcome the sharpness of death,
thou didst open the kingdom of heaven to all believers.
Thou sittest at the right hand of God in the glory of the Father.
We believe that thou shalt come to be our Judge.
We therefore pray thee, help thy servants,
whom thou hast redeemed with thy precious blood.
Make them to be numbered with thy saints in glory everlasting.
O Lord, save thy people, and bless thine heritage.
Govern them and lift them up for ever.
Day by day we magnify thee; and we worship thy Name, ever world
without end.
Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin. O Lord, have mercy
upon us, have mercy upon us.
O Lord, let thy mercy lighten upon us, as our trust is in thee.
O Lord, in thee have I trusted, let me never be confounded.

Music by John Ireland (1879-1962)

Presentation of a Pectoral Cross of Nails

The Dean, together with the Reverend Angelika Behnke, Pastor of the Frauenkirche in Dresden, Antje Biller, representative of the German CCN and Mark Simmons, Chair of the UK & Ireland CCN Board place a Cross of Nails around the Bishop's neck, saying

Receive this Cross of Nails,
a symbol of Christ's sufferings and our salvation.
As a servant of Christ crucified,
rejoice in the ministry of reconciliation
which is yours and ours.

The Prayers of Intercession and Dedication

The Bishop introduces the prayers

Let us pray for the mission and ministry of the Diocese of Coventry in the years ahead, that God will lead His Church into growth in this place, that all may flourish.

The Reverend Nell Cockell, Paediatric Palliative and Bereavement Chaplain for South Warwickshire University NHS Foundation Trust, says

God of wholeness, you breathe life into weary souls and bring hope to broken places.

We pray for the physical, mental and spiritual health of our communities.

We pray for all in pain, for overburdened carers and for those walking in darkness.

Be with Bishop Sophie as she ministers among us, that her leadership may be a sign of your commitment to this place.

Everyone says

Lord, in your mercy, restore us in your love.

The Reverend James Sampson-Foster, curate at St Andrew, Rugby, says

God of justice and mercy, open our eyes to the suffering that is unseen, and the voices that go unheard.

Stir us to action where there is poverty, exclusion, and injustice.

Empower Bishop Sophie to lead with courage and compassion in the public square.

Everyone says

Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like a mighty stream.

The Reverend Jenny Irvine, Director of New Worshipping Communities, says

God of life and abundance, you make all things new and call your Church to bear fruit in every season.

Bless the Diocese of Coventry with fresh vision, bold faith and Spirit-filled mission in every parish and community.

Guide Bishop Sophie as she encourages us to grow in discipleship, and to sow seeds of the Gospel with hope and joy.

Everyone says

Lord, in your mercy, grow your life within us.

The Reverend Su McClellan, Cathedral Associate Minister and member of the Conflict Transformation Group, says

God of reconciliation, you make peace where there is division and restore what has been lost.

We pray for renewed trust between neighbours, for healing across divides and for justice in our city, wider diocese and world.

May Bishop Sophie, as a minister of your reconciling grace, lead us in building bridges of compassion and communion.

Everyone says

Lord, in your mercy, make us one in your Spirit.

Jim Kendall, Diocesan Synod Lay Representative, concludes the intercessions and says

Father, pour out your Spirit upon us,
and grant us a new vision of your glory,
a new experience of your power,
a new faithfulness to your word,
and a new consecration to your service,
that your love may grow among us,
and your Kingdom come:
through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Bishop introduces

The Lord's Prayer

We join with God's people throughout the world, in the language of our choice, praying for the coming of God's Kingdom.

**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 Blessing

Everyone STANDS to sing.

During the hymn, the Bishop's procession moves to the West Screen, where she will bless the diocese and the city.

The Bishop's Procession

Verger

The Great Cross of Coventry

Candle-bearers

Area Deans

Visiting Bishops & Deans

The Diocesan Secretary

The Deacon

The Archdeacons

The Vesturer of Canterbury

The Provincial Registrar

The Archdeacon of Canterbury

The Head Verger

The Canon for Worship & Welcome

The Dean of Coventry

The Cathedral Churchwardens

The Banners of the See of Coventry

THE BISHOP

The Chaplain

The Deputy Diocesan Registrar

Diocesan Chancellor

Hymn

Lord, you give the great commission:

“Heal the sick and preach the word.”

**Lest the church neglect its mission,
and the gospel go unheard,**

**help us witness to your purpose
with renewed integrity:**

**With the Spirit's gifts empow'r us
for the work of ministry.**

**Lord, you call us to your service:
“In my name, baptize and teach.”
That the world may trust your promise,
life abundant meant for each,
give us all new fervour, draw us
closer in community:
With the Spirit’s gifts empow’r us
for the work of ministry.**

**Lord, you make the common holy:
“This my body, this my blood.”
Let us all, for earth’s true glory,
daily lift life heavenward,
asking that the world around us
share your children’s liberty:
With the Spirit’s gifts empow’r us
for the work of ministry.**

**Lord, you show us love’s true measure:
“Father, what they do, forgive.”
Yet we hoard as private treasure
all that you so freely give.
May your care and mercy lead us
to a just society:
With the Spirit’s gifts empow’r us
for the work of ministry.**

**Lord, you bless with words assuring:
“I am with you to the end.”
Faith and hope and love restoring,
may we serve as you intend
and, amid the cares that claim us,
hold in mind eternity:
With the Spirit’s gifts empow’r us
for the work of ministry.**

Words Jeffry Rowthorn (b. 1934)

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Tune CP 418 Abbot’s Leigh, Cyril Taylor (1907-1991)

Everyone remains STANDING and turns to face the West Screen as the Bishop blesses the diocese and the city.

The Bishop says:

Our help is in the name of the Lord
Who has made heaven and earth.

Blessed be the name of the Lord!
Now and for ever! Amen.

May the Holy Spirit of the living God
breathe peace upon this city and diocese
kindling hope among all its people.
Fill our homes, schools,
chaplaincies and churches with your love
and inspire our worship, work and witness.

And may the blessing of God Almighty,
✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
rest upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Music after the Service

Toccata from Symphony 5

Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937)

Please remain STANDING as the Civic Procession moves to the West Screen.

Please SIT for the remaining processions.

Please then follow the directions of the stewards for the refreshments after this service, to which everyone is warmly invited.

*Coventry Cathedral Brass
and the Cathedral Choirs
are directed by
Rachel Mahon*

*The organist is
David Rice*

*The Worship Band is led by
The Reverend Matt Ford*

*The Combined Schools Choir is directed by
Rob Darling*

*The Combined Schools Choir includes pupils from
Clifford Bridge Academy (Inspire)
Frederick Bird Academy (Inspire)
Hearsall Community Academy (Inspire)
Walsgrave CE Academy (Inspire)
Whittle Academy (Inspire)
All Saints CE Primary School
St John's CE Academy
St Laurence's CE Primary School*

*Hymn arrangements and fanfares are written by
Luke Fitzgerald*

*Material from
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and
Common Worship: Times and Seasons,
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