

The Cathedral Eucharist

Sunday 3rd December

The First Sunday of Advent



The President is the Very Reverend John Witcombe, Dean of Coventry. The Reverend Canon Mary Gregory, Canon for Arts and Reconciliation is preaching. The Deacon is the Reverend Ugochukwu Okeke.

The Cathedral Choir is directed by Rachel Mahon, Director of Music. The organists are Luke Fitzgerald, Assistant Director of Music, and Stephen Crookes, Organ Scholar. The Setting today is the Messe Solennelle by Louis Vierne (1870-1937).

Opening Hymn

**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 for ever;
now thy gracious kingdom bring.**

**By thine own eternal Spirit,
rule in all our hearts alone:
by thy 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)*

The Collect

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 First Reading

Read by Margaret Lloyd, representing the Cathedral Prayer Ministry Team.

¹ O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence —

² as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil —

to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

³ When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

⁴ From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.

⁵ You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.

But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.

- ⁶ We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
- ⁷ There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
- ⁸ Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
- ⁹ Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity for ever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Isaiah 64:1 – 9

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

cf Isaiah 40:3 – 5

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Gospel Reading

- ²⁴ ‘But in those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
²⁵ and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.
- ²⁶ Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in clouds” with great
power and glory. ²⁷ Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect
from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸ ‘From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near.

²⁹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰ Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³² ‘But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴ It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch.

³⁵ Therefore, keep awake — for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶ or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly.

³⁷ And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.’

Mark 13:24 – 37

Offertory Hymn

**Now let us from this table rise
renewed in body, mind and soul;
with Christ we die and rise again,
his selfless love has made us whole.**

**With minds alert, upheld by grace,
to spread the word in speech and deed,
we follow in the steps of Christ,
at one with all in hope and need.**

**To fill each human house with love,
it is the sacrament of care;
the work that Christ began to do
we humbly pledge ourselves to share.**

**Then grant us grace, Companion-God,
to choose again the pilgrim way,
and help us to accept with joy
the challenge of tomorrow’s day.**

CP 315 by Fred Kaan (1929-2009)

Anthem

We wait for thy loving kindness, O God:
in the midst of thy temple.

Alleluia.

O God, according to Thy name,
so is Thy praise unto the world's end:
thy right hand is full of righteousness.

Alleluia.

O Lord, send us now prosperity.

Amen.

Text from Psalms 48 and 118

Music by Sir William McKie (b. 1901-1984)

Closing Hymn

**People, look East. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.**

**Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.**

**People, look East and sing today:
Love, the Guest, is on the way.**

**Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
one more seed is planted there:
give up your strength the seed to nourish,
that in course the flower may flourish.**

**People, look East, and sing today:
Love, the rose, is on the way.**

**Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim,
one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.**
**People, look East, and sing today:
Love, the Star, is on the way.**

**Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
him who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east, and sing today:
Love, the Lord, is on the way.**

*Words by Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965)
Tune Besançon harmonized by Martin Shaw (1875-1958)*

Voluntary

Please do stay for the organ voluntary, performed today by Luke Fitzgerald,
Assistant Director of Music

Prelude and Fugue in C Minor BWV 546 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.



*We serve refreshments at the back of the Nave after this service, so please
feel free to stay for a chat over a cup of tea or coffee!*

Daily Services at the Cathedral:

The following are services that always take place at these days and times at the Cathedral. 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

8:30 – 8:50am: *Morning Prayer & Holy Communion*

12 – 12:10pm: *The Litany of Reconciliation*

4 – 4:30pm: *Evening Prayer*

Tuesday

8:30 – 8:50am: *Morning Prayer & Holy Communion*

12 – 12:10pm: *The Litany of Reconciliation*

4 – 4:30pm: *Evening Prayer*

Wednesday

8:30 – 8:50am: *Morning Prayer & Holy Communion*

12 – 12:10pm: *The Litany of Reconciliation*

5:15 – 6pm: *Choral Evensong*

Thursday

8:30 – 8:50am: *Morning Prayer & Holy Communion*

12 – 12:40pm: *The Litany of Reconciliation & BCP Holy Communion*

5:15 – 6pm: *Choral Evensong*

Friday

8:30 – 8:50am: *Morning Prayer & Holy Communion*

12 – 12:10pm: *The Litany of Reconciliation*

4 – 4:30pm: *Evening Prayer*

Saturday

12 – 12:10pm: *The Litany of Reconciliation*

Sunday

10:30 – 11:45am: *The Cathedral Eucharist*

4 – 5pm: *Choral Evensong*

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.

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.

Balloon Race Fundraiser

Please support the Cathedral Choir's fundraiser for their tour to Romania next October by purchasing a balloon in our virtual balloon race! Each balloon is £5 and you can purchase as many as you like. The balloons will fly over Coventry and then various cities in Romania before arriving at Dacia, which will be the final stop on our tour and where we have a Cross of Nails partner. The race closes to entries and starts on 9 December and finishes on 23 December. There is a £100 prize for the winner. Please support us and forward this link to as many friends and supporters as possible!

For more information and to contribute to this fundraiser, please visit:

<https://www.balloonrace.net/focc>

Becoming a net zero Cathedral

We are committing to working towards becoming a 'net zero' Cathedral – that is, reducing and offsetting our generation of greenhouse gas so that our net impact on the planet's atmosphere is 'zero'. You might imagine that this is a challenging and complex process and will mean that we need to pay attention to our buildings – to how we generate energy and then how energy efficient we are; to how we travel to and from our buildings; to how we live our lives together – how much we recycle, how much we reuse, and so on.

This is something that we hope to explore in St Michael's Committee. We would also love to hear from anyone who would like to have a voice in this process, perhaps as a 'net zero champion'. If you'd be interested in exploring this, please contact Simon Danks, our Chief Operating Officer:

Simon.Danks@coventry.anglican.org

Live-streaming

It's been agreed that whilst we will continue to livestream Morning Prayer and Holy Communion, and the daily Litany, we will not, at least for the time being, stream any other services. We have not arrived at this decision lightly, but have taken the time to think this through carefully and prayerfully. We know that some people will find this decision difficult, and we are mindful of you. There are several factors that have led us to making this decision, including concerns about how the sound of our musicians, in particular, is transmitted through the live stream. Unfortunately - and this is perhaps related to our sound system, to which we are giving urgent attention - the quality of the transmission of the sound is not what we would wish it to be, and this has a negative impact on the reputation of our wonderful choirs and talented musicians. Live-streaming major services also means that our vergers are taken from the floor of the Cathedral, and from their ceremonial role, and we very much want to recover the vergers' public role in worship. For these reasons, we have decided to focus our attention on resolving the challenges with the sound system. When the sound in the building itself is excellent, we will then return to the question of whether we resume live-streaming choral services or not.

The suspension of live-streaming Sunday and festival services takes effect from 3rd December, Advent Sunday 2023.

Publishing sermons on the website

Partly related to our decision about live-streaming, we are going to begin the practice of publishing our Sunday Eucharist sermons, and other festival sermons, on the website. We hope that this will be welcomed by people who would like to revisit a sermon they've heard in the Cathedral, or by those unable to be present in the Cathedral.

COMING SOON

Christmas Cake Sale

TODAY, after the Eucharist service

Please do stay after the Sunday Eucharist service today, where the choristers' parents will be running a cake sale!

Light in Our Darkness

TODAY, 6:30pm

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

Viennese Christmas Spectacular

Thursday 7th December, 7:30 – 9:30pm

Always a winning concert, with a combination of pieces that our audience loves, this concert celebrates the magic of Christmas and brings people together for a sensational evening of wonderful music.

For more information and tickets, please visit:

<https://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/events/viennese-christmas-spectacular>

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>

BBC Coventry and Warwickshire Carol Service

Monday 11th December, 7pm

BBC's CWR Carol service, recorded here at the Cathedral to be broadcast at Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/events/bbc-coventry-and-warwickshire-carol-service>

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.