

The Cathedral Eucharist

Sunday 10th December

The Second Sunday of Advent



The President is the Reverend Canon Sacha Slavic, Cathedral Associate Minister. The Reverend Su McClellan, Cathedral Curate, is preaching. The Deacon, Reverend Mary Gregory, Canon for Arts and Reconciliation, will be baptizing. The Very Reverend John Witcombe, Dean of Coventry, is the Sub-Deacon. The Chamber Choir is directed by Rachel Mahon, Director of Music. The organists are Luke Fitzgerald and Stephen Crookes. The Setting today is the Communion Service in G by Francis Jackson (1917-2022).

Today we gladly welcome Joshua and his parents, Julia and Joe, for his baptism. Please hold them in your prayers and rejoice with us on this special day as we welcome Joshua to the family of Christ.

The Collect

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power
and come among us,
and with great might succour us;
that whereas, through our sins and wickedness
we are grievously hindered
in running the race that is set before us,
your bountiful grace and mercy
may speedily help and deliver us;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honour and glory, now and for ever.
Amen.

The First Reading

Read by John Oliver, representing the Cathedral Chamber Choir.

⁸ But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance.

¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

¹¹ Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness,

¹² waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³ But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

¹⁴ Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ¹⁵ and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation. So also our beloved brother Paul wrote to you according to the wisdom given to him[.]

2 Peter 3:8 – 15a

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

¹ The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

² As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;

³ the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight”,

⁴ John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of
repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

⁵ And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of
Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river
Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁶ Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his
waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ He proclaimed, ‘The one who
is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop
down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸ I have baptized you with
water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.’

Mark 1:1 – 8

The Introduction to Baptism

Canon Mary Gregory, baptising, says:

Our Lord Jesus Christ has told us
that to enter the kingdom of heaven
we must be born again of water and the Spirit,
and has given us baptism as the sign and seal of this new birth.
Here we are washed by the Holy Spirit and made clean.
Here we are clothed with Christ,
dying to sin that we may live his risen life.
As children of God, we have a new dignity
and God calls us to fullness of life.

The Presentation

The candidate is presented to the congregation. The priest addresses the whole congregation:

Faith is the gift of God to his people. In baptism the Lord is adding to our number those whom he is calling. People of God, will you welcome Joshua and uphold him in his new life in Christ?

With the help of God, we will.

The priest then says to the parents and godparents:

Parents and godparents, the Church receives Joshua with joy. Today we are trusting God for his growth in faith. Will you pray for him, draw him by your example into the community of faith, and walk with him in the way of Christ?

With the help of God, we will.

In baptism Joshua begins his journey in faith. You speak for him today. Will you care for him, and help him to take his place within the life and worship of Christ's Church?

With the help of God, we will.

The Decision

The priest addresses the candidate through his parents and godparents:

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness
into his marvellous light.

To follow Christ means dying to sin
and rising to new life with him.

Therefore I ask:

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

I reject them.

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

I renounce them.

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and
neighbour?

I repent of them.

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

I turn to Christ.

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

I submit to Christ.

Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?

I come to Christ.

The Signing with the Cross

The priest makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of the candidate.

Christ claims you for his own. Receive the sign of his cross.
Do not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified.

**Fight valiantly as a disciple of Christ
against sin, the world and the devil,
and remain faithful to Christ to the end of your life.**

May almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness,
restore in you the image of his glory, and lead you in the light
and obedience of Christ.

Amen.

The Prayer over the Water

The priest and people follow the cross to gather at the font.

Praise God who made heaven and earth;
who keeps his promise for ever.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ was baptized in the river Jordan, we thank you for the gift of water to cleanse us and revive us. We thank you that through the waters of the Red Sea you led your people out of slavery to freedom in the Promised Land. We thank you that through the deep waters of death you brought your Son, and raised him to life in triumph. Bless this water, that your servant who is washed in it may be made one with Christ in his death and in his resurrection, to be cleansed and delivered from all sin. Send your Holy Spirit upon him, bring him to new birth in the household of faith and raise him with Christ to full and eternal life; for all might, majesty, authority and power are yours, now and for ever.

Amen.

Affirmation of Faith

We say together in faith:

**Holy, holy, holy
is the Lord God almighty,
who was, and is, and is to come.**

We believe in God the Father,
who created all things:

**for by his will they were created
and have their being.**

We believe in God the Son,
who was slain:

**for with his blood,
he purchased us for God,
from every tribe and language,
from every people and nation.**

We believe in God the Holy Spirit:

**the Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come!'
Even so come, Lord Jesus!
Amen.**

The Baptism

The priest pours water on the candidate, saying:

Joshua, I baptize you
in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

May God, who has received you by baptism into his Church,
pour upon you the riches of his grace, that within the company
of Christ's pilgrim people you may daily be renewed by his
anointing Spirit, and come to the inheritance of the saints in
glory.

Amen.

The Prayers of Intercession

Canon Mary Gregory leads the prayers.

The Welcome

The priest says,

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism: by one Spirit we are
all baptized into one body.

Everyone responds:

**We welcome you into the fellowship of faith;
we are children of the same heavenly Father;
we welcome you!**

The priest presents the newly-baptized to the congregation and everyone applauds.

The Peace

We STAND. The president introduces the peace with these, or other suitable words:

In the tender mercy of our God,
the dayspring from on high shall break upon us,
to give light to those who dwell in darkness
and in the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Luke 1:78, 79

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.

*Everyone shares the Peace. You might like to think of someone you know and
phone them after the service to share Christ's Peace with them.*

Offertory Hymn

**On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake, and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings.**

**Then cleansed be every breast from sin;
make straight the way for God within;
prepare we in our hearts a home,
where such a mighty guest may come.**

**For thou art our salvation, Lord,
our refuge, and our great reward;
without thy grace we waste away,
like flowers that wither and decay.**

**To heal the sick stretch out thine hand,
and bid the fallen sinner stand;
shine forth, and let thy light restore
earth's own true loveliness once more.**

**All praise, eternal Son, to thee
whose advent doth thy people free,
whom with the Father we adore
and Holy Ghost for evermore.**

*Words by C. Coffin (1676-1749) translated by J. Chandler (1806-1876)
Tune CP 34 Winchester New from the Musicalisches Hand-Buch
Hamburg (1690)*

Anthem

Laetentur coeli, et exultet terra.

Jubilare montes laudem, quia Dominus noster veniet, et pauperum suorum miserebitur.

Orietur in diebus tuis justitia et abundantia pacis.

Let the heavens be glad and let the earth rejoice.

Let the mountains be joyful with praise, because our Lord will come, and will show mercy to his poor.

In your days, justice and abundance of peace shall arise.

from Isaiah 49.13, Psalm 72.7

Music by William Byrd (1543-1623)

Communion Hymn

**Bread of heaven, on thee we feed,
for thy flesh is meat indeed;
ever may our souls be fed
with this true and living bread;
day by day with strength supplied
through the life of him who died.**

**Vine of heaven, thy blood supplies
this blest cup of sacrifice;
Lord, thy wounds our healing give,
to thy Cross we look and live:
Jesus, may we ever be
grafted, rooted, built in thee.**

Words by J. Conder (1789-1855)

Tune CP 284ii Nicht so traurig J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Closing Hymn

**Wake, O wake! With tidings thrilling
the watchman all the air are filling,
arise, Jerusalem, arise!
Midnight strikes! No, more delaying,
‘The hour has come!’ we hear them saying,
‘where are ye all, ye virgins wise?
The Bridegroom comes in sight,
raise high your torches bright!’
Alleluia!**

**The wedding song swells loud and strong:
go forth and join the festal throng.**

**Zion hears the watchmen shouting,
her hearts leaps up with joy undoubting,
she stands and waits with eager eyes;
see her Friend from heaven descending,
adorned with truth and grace unending!
Her light burns clear, her star doth rise.
Now come, thou precious Crown,
Lord Jesus, God’s own Son!
Alleluia!**

**Let us prepare to follow there,
where in thy supper we may share.**

**Every soul in thee rejoices;
from earth and from angelic voices
be glory given to thee alone!
Now the gates of pearl receive us,
thy presence never more shall leave us,
we stand with angels round thy throne.
Earth cannot give below
the bliss thou dost bestow.
Alleluia!**

**Grant us to raise, to length of days,
the triumph-chorus of thy praise.**

*Words by Philip Nicolai (1556-1608)
translated by F. C. Burkitt (1864-1935)*

*Tune CP 39 Wachet Auf adapted and harmonized by
J. S. Bach (1685-1750)*

Voluntary

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

Veni Ad Salvandum Nos by Liam Condon (b. 1997)

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.



If you would like to revisit this morning's sermon, please visit this page:

<https://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/worship-music/services>

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 – 9.00am: *Morning Prayer & Holy Communion*

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

4 – 4:30pm: *Evening Prayer*

Tuesday

8:30 – 9.00am: *Morning Prayer & Holy Communion*

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

4 – 4:30pm: *Evening Prayer*

Wednesday

8:30 – 9.00am: *Morning Prayer & Holy Communion*

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

5:15 – 6pm: *Choral Evensong*

Thursday

8:30 – 9.00am: *Morning Prayer & Holy Communion*

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

5:15 – 6pm: *Choral Evensong*

Friday

8:30 – 9.00am: *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.

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. Sermons from the Sunday Eucharist service are uploaded here: <https://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/worship-music/services>

COMING SOON

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.

Carols by Candlelight

Sunday 17th December, 6:30pm

Join us for a candlelit service of traditional Christmas carols and Readings, with beautiful music from our choirs. This is a religious service, so it is free to attend, no booking required. All are welcome!

Handel's 'Messiah' by Candlelight

Monday 18th December, 7 – 10pm

A highlight of the Chorus' season: the performance of Handel's 'Messiah', and this year we are thrilled that this wonderful work is being performed in Coventry Cathedral. Surely there's no better way to prepare for Christmas than through the story of the birth, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The orchestra is Pro Anima and the conductor is our very own Rachel Mahon, Director of Music at Coventry Cathedral.

Doors will open at 6pm.

For more information and to book tickets, please visit:

<https://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/events/handels-messiah-by-candlelight>

Britten's Ceremony of Carols

Thursday 21st December, 5:30pm

The Cathedral Choristers perform Benjamin Britten's perennial Christmas favourite 'A Ceremony of Carols' with harpist Cecily Beer. Composed in 1942, this is a twenty-minute, eleven-movement work scored for 3-part treble choir, soloists and harp. This meditative performance begins at 5.30pm, and entry is free.

Donations towards the musical ministry of Coventry Cathedral are greatly appreciated.

Eucharist Service for the Longest Night

Thursday 21st December, 7 – 8pm

We know that it can sometimes be hard to feel joyful at Christmas. This service is formed with care, made especially for those who might be struggling, particularly around this time of the year.

La Nativité du Seigneur

Saturday 23rd December, 4 – 5pm

Rachel Mahon and Luke Fitzgerald present one of the greatest organ works of all time, Olivier Messiaen's festive masterpiece 'La Nativité du Seigneur', with reflective readings selected by Canon Mary Gregory.

This service is free to attend and does not require any booking. For more information, please visit: <https://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/services/one/la-nativite%C3%A9-du-seigneur>

Carols for Families

Sunday 24th December, 2:30pm

A fun, interactive retelling of the Christmas story with singalong carols. A lighter take on Christmas, and everyone is welcome! Children might like to come dressed as a character from the nativity. Adults might want to wear their jazziest Christmas jumper! This service is free to attend and no booking is required.

The Form of a Servant

Sunday 24th December, 7pm

A service unique to Coventry Cathedral, The Form of a Servant explores why Jesus was born; how He was born to serve and to save humanity. This candlelit service is full of beautiful music, powerful readings and profound symbolism. For more information, please visit: <https://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/services/one/form-of-a-servant>

Christmas Day Eucharist Service

Monday 25th December, 10:30 – 11:45am

Join us for a Eucharist service on Christmas Day. This is a wonderful way to start this special day – or continue it, if you've been up since 4am!