

The Cathedral Eucharist

Sunday 28th April

The Fifth Sunday of Easter



The president today is the Reverend Canon Sacha Slavic, Cathedral Associate Minister. The Reverend Mary Gregory, Canon for Arts and Reconciliation, is preaching. The deacon is John Lloyd, Reader for Coventry Cathedral. 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 Missa brevis by Sir Lennox Berkeley (1903-1989).

Opening Hymn

**All my hope on God is founded;
he doth still my trust renew.
Me through change and chance he guideth,
only good and only true.
God unknown, he alone
calls my heart to be his own.**

**Human pride and earthly glory,
sword and crown betray his trust;
what with care and toil he buildeth,
tower and temple, fall to dust.
But God's power, hour by hour,
is my temple and my tower.**

**God's great goodness aye endureth,
deep his wisdom, passing thought:
splendour, light, and life attend him,
beauty springeth out of naught.
Evermore from his store
new-born worlds rise and adore.**

**Daily doth th'Almighty giver
bounteous gifts on us bestow;
his desire our soul delighteth,
pleasure leads us where we go.
Love doth stand at his hand;
joy doth wait on his command.**

**Still from all to God eternal
sacrifice of praise be done,
high above all praises praising
for the gift of Christ his Son.
Christ doth call one and all:
ye who follow shall not fall.**

*Words by Robert Bridges (1844-1930)
based on the German of J. Neander (1650-1680)
Tune CP 368 Michael Herbert Howells (1892-1983)*

The Collect

Almighty God,
who through your only–begotten Son Jesus Christ
have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life:
grant that, as by your grace going before us
you put into our minds good desires,
so by your continual help
we may bring them to good effect;
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord,
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 Tony Darragh, representing the Cathedral servers.

²⁶ Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, ‘Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.’ (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷ So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸ and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ Then the Spirit said to Philip, ‘Go over to this chariot and join it.’ ³⁰ So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, ‘Do you understand what you are reading?’ ³¹ He replied, ‘How can I, unless someone guides me?’ And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³² Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

‘Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.’

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, ‘About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?’ ³⁵ Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶ As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, ‘Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?’ ³⁸ He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Acts 8:26 – 40

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Jesus said, 'All who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day.'

John 6:40

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Gospel Reading

¹ Jesus said, 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. ² He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³ You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

John 15:1 – 8

Offertory Hymn

**In heavenly love abiding,
no change my heart shall fear;
and safe is such confiding,
for nothing changes here:
the storm may roar without me,
my heart may low be laid;
but God is round about me,
and can I be dismayed?**

**Wherever he may guide me,
no want shall turn me back;
my Shepherd is beside me,
and nothing can I lack:
his wisdom ever waketh,
his sight is never dim,
he knows the way he taketh,
and I will walk with him.**

**Green pastures are before me,
which yet I have not seen;
bright skies will soon be o'er me,
where darkest clouds have been;
my hope I cannot measure,
my path to life is free;
my Saviour has my treasure,
and he will walk with me.**

*Words by Anna Laetitia Waring (1820-1910)
Tune CP 478 Penlan David Jenkins (1849-1915)*

Anthem

Ave verum corpus,
natum de Maria Virgine,
Vere passum, immolatum
In cruce pro homine,
Cuius latus perforatum
Vero fluxit sanguine,
Esto nobis praegustatum,
In mortis examine.
O Dulcis, O pie,
O Jesu Fili Mariae;
Miserere mei. Amen.

*Hail true body,
born of the Virgin Mary,
which suffered and was offered truly
on the cross for all men,
whose side, pierced,
flowed with true blood;
for us our food, now
and in the testing time of death.
O tender, O loving,
O Jesus Son of Mary;
Have mercy on me. Amen.*

Music by William Byrd (1543-1623)

Communion Hymn

**I come with joy, a child of God,
forgiven, loved and free,
the life of Jesus to recall,
in love laid down for me.**

**I come with Christians far and near
to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love
in Christ's communion bread.**

**As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share,
each proud division ends.**

**The love that made us makes us one,
and strangers now are friends.**

**The Spirit of the risen Christ,
unseen, but ever near,
is in such friendship better known,
alive among us here.**

**Together met, together bound
by all that God has done,
we'll go with joy, to give the world
the love that makes us one.**

Words by Brian Wren (b. 1936)

Tune CP 305 St Botolph Gordon Slater (1896-1979)

Closing Hymn

**O Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end;
be thou for ever near me,
my Master and my Friend:
I shall not fear the battle
if thou art by my side,
nor wander from the pathway
if thou wilt be my guide.**

**O let me feel thee near me:
the world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle,
the tempting sounds I hear;
my foes are ever near me,
around me and within;
but, Jesus, draw thou nearer,
and shield my soul from sin.**

**O let me hear thee speaking
in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion,
the murmurs of self-will;
O speak to reassure me,
to hasten or control;
O speak, and make me listen,
thou guardian of my soul.**

**O Jesus, thou hast promised
to all who follow thee,
that where thou art in glory
there shall thy servant be;
and, Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end;
O give me grace to follow,
my Master and my Friend.**

**O let me see thy foot-marks,
and in them plant mine own;
my hope to follow duly
is in thy strength alone:
O guide me, call me, draw me,
uphold me to the end;
and then in heaven receive me,
my Saviour and my Friend.**

*Words by J. E. Bode (1816-1874)
Tune CP 538 Wolvercote W. H. Ferguson (1874-1950)*

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/sermons>

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:

Regular services at the Cathedral follow this pattern. For special services and up-to-date information about one-off cancellations of the services below, please check the calendar on the Cathedral website:
<https://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/full-calendar>

Monday - Friday

8:30 – 9:00am: *Morning Prayer & Holy Communion*

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

(followed on Thursdays by BCP Holy Communion)

4 – 4:30pm: *Evening Prayer*

(or Wednesday and Thursday during school terms: Choral Evensong, 5:15 - 6pm)

Saturday

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

Sunday

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

4 – 5pm: *Choral Evensong*

JOINING OUR CHOIRS

Boys and girls between the ages of 7 and 11 are welcome to audition for our Cathedral Choir. Do you know a child who loves to sing? There are many benefits to joining the choir – new friends, a free, world-class music education, choir pay, singing services and at special events in amazing places, choir tours, broadcasts, recordings and social events too. If you or someone you know might be interested in joining the choir, please be in touch with the Director of Music to arrange a meeting.
rachel.mahon@coventrycathedral.org.uk

COMMUNITY NEWS

Mary Wickens' Funeral

Mary Wickens' funeral will take place in the Cathedral tomorrow on Monday 29th April at 12:30pm, followed by a private committal at the crematorium. Please pray for Mary's sister, Vicki, and for all those who love Mary and miss her.

Cathedral Annual General Meeting **Please note new date******

Sunday 5th May, 12:00 – 1:30pm

Our Annual General Meeting will now be held on Sunday 5th May in the John Laing Centre. That Sunday, refreshments will be served in the John Laing Centre to enable us to have a prompt midday start. Please do prioritise this meeting if you can. The meeting will be preceded by coffee and a simple sandwich lunch, served in the John Laing Centre. A copy of the annual report is available online here:

<https://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/uploads/media/2023-Annual-Report-Coventry-Cathedral.pdf> Paper copies are available in the Cathedral, but only for those with no access to the internet, please.

Election of Cathedral Wardens

Each year at the Annual General Meeting we can elect up to five Cathedral wardens including at least one Warden for St Clare's. Please think about who you would like to nominate for this role or, indeed, consider standing yourself. Please email Canon Mary with the name of the person nominated, their proposer and seconder at Mary.Gregory@coventrycathedral.org.uk

St. Michael's Committee - AGM Elections

This is a sub-committee of Chapter which discusses matters concerning the congregation's role in the life of the cathedral.

*If you are interested in joining this committee, please email graham.warren@btinternet.com giving your name and those of a proposer and seconder. **Please note:** Nominee, proposer and seconder must all be members of the Electoral Roll.*

Sponsoring Reverend Su in the Milton Keynes Half Marathon

Our very own Reverend Su McClellan is running in the Milton Keynes half marathon on Monday 6th May to raise funds for our choir. Our choirs not only play an essential role in our worship, but they also offer a first-class musical education for children and young people. Keeping this open and accessible is in the DNA of our community, which is why Su is running on Bank Holiday Monday. If you would like to sponsor Su, you can fill in a sponsor form with your pledge by talking to Su or Graham Warren after the service.



Introducing our new Canon for Worship and Welcome

We are absolutely delighted to be able to announce that the Revd Nitano Muller has been appointed as our new Canon for Worship and Welcome. We look forward to Nitano's arrival in June when he will be installed to take up his new role.

As we wait to welcome him, you will enjoy this biography as a way of beginning to get to know him and of anticipating all that he will bring to our life together:

Nitano hails from the small fishing-community of Ocean View, located at the southern-most tip of the Cape Peninsula in South Africa. He completed a degree in Education and worked as a language and history teacher.

While working as a teacher, Nitano was discerned for ordination to the priesthood in the Diocese of False Bay within the Anglican Church of Southern Africa and entered residential theological training at the College of the Transfiguration, Makhanda (formerly Grahamstown).

He served his curacies in two vastly different contexts in Mitchells Plain on the Cape Flats and Hermanus along the south-eastern coastline of False Bay (where he ministered to the Late Archbishop Desmond Tutu as a parishioner).

He currently serves as Rector of St. Peter's Church, Kleinvlei, False Bay Diocese. Nitano is one of the youngest serving Rectors in his Diocese. His passions include liturgy, youth development and the work of justice and reconciliation. These are evident in some of the portfolios he holds which include Diocesan Chaplain for Young People, a consultant for the Provincial Liturgical Committee, and a representative of his diocese on the South African Council of Churches (Western Cape). In 2022, Nitano was selected as a Trinity Leadership Fellow, a program run by Trinity Wall Street, New York, for emerging faith leaders from across the world who seek to enhance their skills in order to contribute to meaningful change and transformation in their respective fields and contexts.

Nitano is a self-proclaimed ambivert, who equally enjoys working with people, travelling and exploration as well as quiet time reading, writing reflections or listening to good music.

Nitano's first encounter with Coventry Cathedral was its welcome sign posted at the west-screen entrance, which he says made him feel at home because he identified with many of the traits described on it and is excited to form part of the cathedral team that extends the radical welcome and all embracing-love of God to all who enter the Cathedral's doors.

Welcoming Nitano: making a house a home

Nitano won't arrive from South Africa with any furniture or household goods (bedding, crockery, etc). It would be wonderful if we could begin making his house a home by offering items of furniture, or other goods, which he could use. If you have anything you could offer, please could you email Canon Mary – Mary.Gregory@coventry.anglican.org Mary will then collate all the offers and then get back to you – either thanking you for your offer and accepting it, or thanking you but explaining that we have had four other offers of chaise longue (for example!) and so won't need to accept yours. Thank you so much in advance for your generosity!

Coffee Rota

We would be glad for a few more volunteers to help with serving coffee to the congregation after the Sunday morning service. If you would like to get involved with this important community activity, please either e-mail graham.warren@btinternet.com or speak to Graham at the "contactless offertory" table at the back of the nave chairs.

COMING SOON

Choristers' Car Wash and Café

Sunday 5th May 12:15 - 2pm

Please bring your car to the Upper Car Park to be washed for a mere £5 and purchase a coffee and chocolate bar to enjoy while you wait. Proceeds will go towards the upcoming choir tours. The choristers need your support!

Please park elsewhere if you aren't having your car washed as this will ensure enough space for other customers.

Lunchtime Organ Recitals

12:30 – 1pm every Monday from 6th May – 30th September 2024

Our free lunchtime organ recitals are back! Come along and listen to beautiful organ pieces, performed by a variety of musicians. For the full programme, please visit: <https://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/worship-music/the-organ/organ-recitals>

Eucharist for Ascension Day

Thursday 9th May, 7:30pm at Coventry Cathedral

At this service, we will be celebrating our Lord Jesus Christ's ascension into heaven, and we welcome our neighbours from Holy Trinity, Coventry, to worship with us.

Christian Aid Week 12th – 18th May

Sunday 12th May, 12:45pm

*Please join us for a fund-raising lunch in the John Laing Centre.
Proceeds to Christian Aid.*

Memorial Concert for Nancy McLaren and Richard McLaren

Saturday 18th May in the New Cathedral at 3 - 4pm

All are welcome to join us for this concert of music and readings to celebrate the lives of Nancy McLaren and Richard McLaren.

Including music by Jehan Allain, Handel, a setting of 'Never weather-beaten sail', and readings by Mary Oliver, T. S. Eliot and Etty Hillesum, this concert will take us on a journey through the loss of grief to a celebration of the beloved, and a recognition of their lasting legacy to us.

For more information about the concert and the Martin McLaren Foundation, please visit: <https://mclaren-foundation.org/memorial/>

Charity Concert in Aid of Myton Hospice

Saturday 18th May, 2:30pm at Methodist Central Hall, Coventry

For more information about the concert and to purchase tickets, please visit:

<https://www.mytonhospice.org/news/conductor-brian-chappell-and-a-professional-orchestra-of-50-players-present-a-charity-concert-orchestra-for-an-occasion-in-aid-of-the-myton-hospices/>

Chorister Talent Show and Lunch in the Refectory

Sunday 19th May at 12:15pm

Join us for this fundraising event to help send the choristers on their upcoming tours.

Admission will be £8 on the door of the refectory. There will be a simple lunch of soup, sandwiches and cake as you are entertained by our skilled choristers who will be playing various instruments amongst other things – please come and show your support!