

The Cathedral Eucharist

Sunday 15th December

The Third Sunday of Advent



The President is the Very Reverend John Witcombe, Dean of Coventry. The Reverend Nitano Muller, Canon for Worship and Welcome, is preaching. The Deacon is the Reverend Gillian Roberts, Priest with Permission to Officiate. The Reverend Mary Gregory, Canon for Arts and Reconciliation, is the Sub-Deacon.

The Cathedral Choir is directed by Luke Fitzgerald, Acting Director of Music.

The organists are David Rice, Acting Assistant Director of Music, and Amelia Parkin, Organ Scholar. The Setting today is the Messe Basse by Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924).

Before the service begins, Amelia Parkin will play Andante from Sonata IV by Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847).

The Advent Prose

The choir sings this response, which everyone then repeats:

**Drop down, ye heavens from above,
and let the skies pour down righteousness.**

The choir sings a verse from the Advent Prose:

Ye are my witness, saith the Lord, and my servant
whom I have chosen;

That ye may know me and believe me:

I, even I, am the Lord, and beside me there is no Saviour:

And there is none that can deliver out of my hand.

Then we repeat the response together:

**Drop down, ye heavens from above,
and let the skies pour down righteousness.**

The Collect

O Lord Jesus Christ,
who at your first coming sent your messenger
to prepare your way before you:
grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries
may likewise so prepare and make ready your way
by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just,
that at your second coming to judge the world
we may be found an acceptable people in your sight;
for you are alive and reign with the Father
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.

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:4 – 7

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

⁷ John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

⁸ Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹ Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.’

¹⁰ And the crowds asked him, ‘What then should we do?’ ¹¹ In reply he said to them, ‘Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.’ ¹² Even tax-collectors

came to be baptized, and they asked him, ‘Teacher, what should we do?’

¹³ He said to them, ‘Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.’ ¹⁴ Soldiers also asked him, ‘And we, what should we do?’ He said to

them, ‘Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.’

¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ John

answered all of them by saying, ‘I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.’

¹⁸ So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

Luke 3:7 – 18

Offertory Hymn

**Rejoice! The Lord is King,
your Lord and King adore;
mortals, give thanks and sing,
and triumph evermore:
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
rejoice, again I say, rejoice.**

**Jesus the Saviour reigns,
the God of truth and love;
when he had purged our stains,
he took his seat above:
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
rejoice, again I say, rejoice.**

**His kingdom cannot fail;
he rules o'er earth and heaven;
the keys of death and hell
are to our Jesus given:
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
rejoice, again I say, rejoice.**

**He sits at God's right hand
till all his foes submit,
and bow to his command,
and fall beneath his feet:
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
rejoice, again I say, rejoice.**

**Rejoice in glorious hope;
Jesus the judge shall come,
and take his servants up
to their eternal home:
We soon shall hear the archangel's voice;
the trump of God shall sound: rejoice!**

Words by Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Tune CP 563 Gopsal melody and bass by G.F. Handel (1685-1759)

Motet

I waited for the Lord, he inclined unto me,
he heard my complaint.
O blest are they that hope and trust in him.

Psalm 40:1, 5a

Music by Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Communion 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)

Closing Hymn

**Hark, a thrilling voice is sounding;
'Christ is nigh,' it seems to say;
'cast away the dreams of darkness,
O ye children of the day.'**

**Wakened by the solemn warning,
let the earth-bound soul arise;
Christ, her Sun, all ill dispelling,
shines upon the morning skies.**

**Lo, the Lamb, so long expected,
comes with pardon down from heaven;
let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
one and all to be forgiven;**

**That when next he comes with glory,
and the world is wrapped in fear,
with his mercy he may shield us,
and with words of love draw near.**

**Honour, glory, might, and blessing
to the Father and the Son,
with the everlasting Spirit,
while eternal ages run.**

*Words translated from Latin by E. Caswall (1814-1878)
Tune CP 26 Merton W. H. Monk (1823-1889)*

Voluntary

Please do stay for the organ voluntary, performed today by David Rice.

Praeludium in E minor by Nicolaus Bruhns (1665-1697)

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 give regularly (weekly or monthly) to the life of the Cathedral, then please pick up a flyer about the Parish Giving Scheme from the back of the Nave.

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 Acting Director of Music to arrange a meeting.

luke.fitzgerald@coventrycathedral.org.uk

Safeguarding at Coventry Cathedral

We are committed to the safeguarding of all people. For details, please visit www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/about-us/safeguarding

You can report a concern using the same link or by contacting Jane Williams, Cathedral Safeguarding Officer, calling 024 7650 2349 or by emailing janeMLWill@aol.com

Alternatively, you can contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Team led by Sarah Price: 024 7652 1345 or safeguarding@coventry.anglican.org

THE SEASON OF ADVENT

Blue Christmas

[TODAY] Sunday 15th December, 6pm

We know this time of year can be hard for many. All are welcome to join us for this service formed with care, for those who might be struggling.

Handel's Messiah by Candlelight

Monday 16th December, 7pm

'Unto Us a Child is Born. Alleluia!'

A highlight of the Chorus' season for us all is always the performance of Handel's Messiah and we are thrilled to be performing this wonderful work in Coventry Cathedral again. Surely, there's no better way to prepare for Christmas than through the story of the birth, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

For more information and to book tickets, please visit:

<https://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/events/handels-messiah-by-candlelight-2>

EX CATHEDRA: Christmas Music by Candlelight

Tuesday 17th December, 7pm

Immerse yourself in the serene embrace of this popular, atmospheric concert. Join us in the beautiful surrounds of Coventry Cathedral where hushed anticipation and spellbinding seasonal music fills the air, and the choir is enveloped in the soft glow of candlelight. Ex Cathedra perform a seamless sequence of Christmas favourites, little-known gems and gorgeous new music, interspersed with a selection of readings, to explore the magic, mystery – and humour – of the season.

For more information and to book tickets, please visit:

<https://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/events/ex-cathedra-christmas-music-by-candlelight-2>

Britten's Ceremony of Carols

Thursday 19th 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.

The words, from The English Galaxy of Shorter Poems, are in Latin and Middle English.

Candlelight: Christmas Pop Hits On Strings

Friday 20th December, 8:30pm

Candlelight concerts bring the magic of a live, multi-sensory musical experience to awe-inspiring locations like never seen before in Coventry. Get your tickets now to discover the music of Christmas Pop Hits On Strings at Coventry Cathedral under the gentle glow of candlelight.

For more information and to book tickets, please visit:

<https://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/events/candlelight-christmas-pop-hits-on-strings>

The Snowman at Coventry Cathedral

Saturday 21st December, multiple showings

With a live Orchestra and a solo from the Cathedral's Choristers, this magical screening with live performance will be an experience that can't be missed. In keeping with the book, the film of The Snowman is wordless and free of dialogue, except for the now iconic, "Walking in the Air" which features as part of a now timeless musical score. For more information and to book tickets, please visit:

<https://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/events/the-snowman-at-coventry-cathedral-first-show>

Carols by Candlelight

Sunday 22nd December, 5pm

A candlelit service of traditional Christmas carols and readings, with beautiful music from our choirs. A chance to sing your favourite Christmas carols, old and new, with the Cathedral lit up by hundreds of candles, with a sequence of readings.

La Nativité du Seigneur

Monday 23rd December, 5pm

Coventry Cathedral presents one of the greatest organ works of all time, Olivier Messiaen's festive masterpiece La Nativité du Seigneur.

Composed in 1935, this piece is perfectly suited to the French-influenced colours of Coventry Cathedral's Harrison Organ and depicts imaginative tableaux from the nativity story.

Carols for Families

Tuesday 24th December, 2:30 – 3:30pm

A fun, interactive retelling of the Christmas story with singalong carols. A lighter take on Christmas, everyone is welcome! Children might like to come dressed as a character from the nativity. Adults might want to wear their jazziest Christmas jumper!

Form of a Servant

Tuesday 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.

The Eucharist for Christmas Day

Wednesday 25th December, 10:30am

A traditional Christmas morning service. Join us as we give thanks for the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Whether you're a regular member of our congregation or you're just looking for a place to celebrate, you're welcome here. Come and celebrate with us!

COMMUNITY NEWS

Evelyn Warwick's Funeral

All are warmly invited to attend Evelyn Warwick's funeral on Tuesday 17th December at 1pm here at the Cathedral. Evelyn was a much-loved member of our congregation, and she will be greatly missed.

May Evelyn rest in peace and rise in glory.

Remembering Loved Ones

The next best thing to having a loved one to share special times with is to remember the special times shared. There are lots of ways to donate in the memory of your loved one or choose from many of our In-Memory services. If you would like your special someone remembered at Coventry Cathedral, please get in touch for a chat on various options and more details, Please support the buildings, the mission, and continuing the Cathedral's warm welcome and open to all vision.

Please contact Mandy: Email mandy.spraggett@coventrycathedral.org.uk

or Tel: 02476 521 227