

The Cathedral Eucharist

Sunday 9th March 2025

The First Sunday in Lent



The President today is the Reverend Canon Nitano Muller, Canon for Worship and Welcome. John Lloyd, Coventry Cathedral Reader, is the deacon. The sub-deacon is The Very Reverend John Witcombe, Dean of Coventry, who is also preaching. 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 Missa Emendemus by Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525-1594).

The Collect

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness,
and was tempted as we are, yet without sin:
give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit;
and, as you know our weakness,
so may we know your power to save;
through Jesus Christ your Son our 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 Julie Elsy, representing the Cathedral Community.

¹ Moses said to all Israel: When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, ² you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name.

³ You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, 'Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lordswore to our ancestors to give us.' ⁴ When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, ⁵ you shall make this response before the Lord your God: 'A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. ⁶ When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labour on us, ⁷ we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸ The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; ⁹ and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰ So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me.' You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. ¹¹ Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

Deuteronomy 26.1-11

Gradual Hymn

**Forty days and forty nights
thou wast fasting in the wild;
forty days and forty nights
tempted, and yet undefiled.**

**Sunbeams scorching all the day;
chilly dew-drops nightly shed;
prowling beasts about thy way;
stones thy pillow, earth thy bed.**

**Shall not we thy sorrows share,
and from earthly joys abstain,
fasting with unceasing prayer,
glad with thee to suffer pain?**

**And if Satan, vexing sore,
flesh or spirit should assail,
thou, his vanquisher before,
grant we may not faint nor fail.**

**So shall we have peace divine;
holier gladness ours shall be;
round us too shall angels shine,
such as ministered to thee.**

**Keep, O keep us, Saviour dear,
ever constant by thy side;
that with thee we may appear
at the eternal Eastertide.**

*Words by G.H. Smyttan (1822-1870) and F. Pott (1832-1909)
Tune CP 95 Aus der Tiefe (Heinlein)
from Nürnbergisches Gesangbuch (1676)*

The Gospel Reading

¹ Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ² where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. ³ The devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.' ⁴ Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone."'

⁵ Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶ And the devil said to him, 'To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. ⁷ If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.'

⁸ Jesus answered him, 'It is written,
"Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him." '

⁹ Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle
of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself
down from here,¹⁰ for it is written,
"He will command his angels concerning you,
to protect you",

¹¹ and

"On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone." '

¹² Jesus answered him, 'It is said, "Do not put the Lord your God to the
test." '¹³ When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him
until an opportune time.

Luke 4.1-13

Offertory Hymn

**Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us
o'er the world's tempestuous sea;
guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,
for we have no help but thee;
yet possessing every blessing,
if our God our Father be.**

**Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us:
all our weakness thou dost know;
thou didst tread this earth before us,
thou didst feel its keenest woe;
lone and dreary, faint and weary,
through the desert thou didst go.**

**Spirit of our God, descending,
fill our hearts with heavenly joy,
love with every passion blending,
pleasure that can never cloy:
thus provided, pardoned, guided,
nothing can our peace destroy.**

*Words by J. Edmeston (1791-1867)
Tune CP 496 Mannheim melody from Friedrich Filitz Choralbuch
harmonized by Lowell Mason (1792-1872)*

Anthem

Salvator mundi, salva nos, qui per crucem et sanguinem redemisti nos:
auxiliare nobis, te deprecamur, Deus noster.

*O Saviour of the world, who by thy cross and precious blood hast redeemed
us: save us, and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O Lord.*

*Words from an Antiphon for Passiontide
Music by Thomas Tallis (1505-1585)*

Communion Hymn

**O for a closer walk with God,
a calm and heavenly frame;
a light to shine upon the road
that leads me to the Lamb.**

**What peaceful hours I once enjoyed,
how sweet their memory still!
but they have left an aching void
the world can never fill.**

**Return, O holy Dove, return,
sweet messenger of rest:
I hate the sins that made thee mourn,
and drove thee from my breast.**

The dearest idol I have known,
whate'er that idol be,
help me to tear it from thy throne,
and worship only thee.

So shall my walk be close with God,
calm and serene my frame;
so purer light shall mark the road
that leads me to the Lamb.

William Cowper (1731-1800)
Tune CP 532 Caithness Melody from Scottish Psalter 1635
harmonized by editors of English Hymnal 1906

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 my 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 W. H. Ferguson (1874-1950)
Tune CP 538 Wolvercote*

Voluntary

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

Aus tiefer Not schrei ich zu dir BWV 686 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.



*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*

Introducing our new Canon for Arts and Reconciliation



It gives us great pleasure to announce that, following a national search, the Bishop of Coventry has invited Revd. Canon Kate Massey to take up the role of Canon for Arts and Reconciliation in Coventry Cathedral. This is a Bishop's appointment, and we were delighted that Bishop Sophie could play a full part in the recruitment process, which saw a strong field of candidates, many with international backgrounds. The Cathedral sits at the heart of our diocese, and

provides a welcome for all, and Kate will play an important part in continuing to make that a reality, especially within our ministry of Reconciliation.

Kate is presently vicar of Stockingford, in the north of the diocese, where she has been in post since January 2015, and was installed as an Honorary Canon at the Cathedral in 2022. She was ordained in Coventry Cathedral in 2011, after qualifying and working as a doctor in the NHS, specializing in mental health and psychiatry. She brings a wealth of practical and pastoral experience, in both diocesan and national as well as parish contexts. She has a particular passion for the arts and reconciliation, as part of which she is already engaged in study for a PhD on the reconciliation work of the Cathedral. Kate will take up her post in June 2025, and will have a particular responsibility for gathering together the arts and reconciliation teams in the Cathedral, and taking forward our work both nationally and internationally, as well here in the Diocese in collaboration with Diocesan colleagues. She will share in the leadership and ministry of the Cathedral with the Dean, Very Revd John Witcombe, Canon Nitano Muller, Canon for Worship and Welcome, and Simon Danks, our Chief operating Officer.

Bishop Sophie says: "Kate emerged from a rigorous discernment process with a clear call to be the next Canon for Reconciliation and the Arts. Given the priority of reconciliation for both the Cathedral and the Diocese, I am confident that Kate will bring her extensive skills and experience to help us move forward together and inhabit Christ's ministry of reconciliation in a way that helps all to flourish and grow. I very much look forward to working with her."

Subject to the usual formalities, Kate will be licensed and installed in the Cathedral by Bishop Sophie at Evensong on Sunday June 15th at 4pm.

JOINING OUR CHOIRS

Boys and girls between the ages of 7 and 11 are welcome to audition for our Cathedral Choir. 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. We are also currently recruiting adult members for all voice parts in both our Cathedral Choir and Chamber Choir. If you or someone you know might be interested in joining one of our choirs, 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 Canon Nitano Muller, Chapter Safeguarding Lead, at Nitano.Muller@Coventry.Anglican.org or call 07365 200 359 while Jane Williams is away.

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

COMING SOON

‘And the earth shall melt away’

18th February – 17th March, Chapel of Christ the Servant

An exhibition in the time of climate change inspired by Psalm 46, by Caroline Meynell and Claire Christie Sadler.

The title of the exhibition comes from Psalm 46, and the words resonate as much today as when they were written centuries ago, bringing to mind global warming and climate change.

Caroline Meynell and Claire Christie Sadler, two Oxford-based artists, have created a series of paintings and drawings that form their individual response to environmental and spiritual themes suggested by the psalm. Their work is both challenging and contemplative, and incorporates questions of faith.

Visiting Choir Evensong

Tuesday 11th March, 4pm

All are welcome to join us for this Choral Evensong service with Kimbolton School Chamber Choirs.

Lent Course 2025

Every Tuesday in Lent 4th March, 7pm – 8:30pm, St Michael's House
This year's Lent Course is titled 'Hope in Hard Places'. As our world faces huge challenges, the course invites us to ask, "Where is God in all of this?"

Written by the team at Embrace the Middle East, it is our hope that you will find encouragement and strength in stories that span over 3000 years of history - showing us that, no matter how dark the times we live in, God remains with us.

We will begin each week at 7pm and end at 8:30pm in the lounge at St Michael's House.

Wonder

Wednesday 12th March, 7:30 – 9pm

Join our worship gathering for those curious and imaginative, looking to explore what we believe through art, dance, and poetry. Wonder takes place every second Wednesday of the month! All are warmly invited to join us. Please note that Wonder will be led by Canon Nitano from February onwards.

Is a lasting and just peace possible in Israel and Palestine?

Wednesday 2nd of April, 7pm

Occupation, war, extremism, terrorism and fear are all words we hear used to describe what is happening in Israel and Palestine. In such a context it's hard to imagine a future where Israeli Jews and Palestinian Muslims and Christians may live in peace, either together or side by side.

Is that a pipe dream or is such a future still possible?

Daniel Munayer, director of Musalaha - a reconciliation ministry in Israel and Palestine - and the only Palestinian ever to have addressed the UN Security Council, will explore this question at 7 pm on Wednesday 2nd of April here in the Cathedral. His talk will be followed by a conversation with Dean John and Jamie Eyre, CEO of Embrace the Middle East. Entry is free but you will need to register using the following link. <https://embraceme.org/events/lecture-is-peace-possible-in-israel-palestine> If you need help registering or have any questions, please do speak to Revd Su McClellan.

Holy Week and Easter Services

Sunday 13th April – Sunday 20th April

Details of our Holy Week and Easter services can be found on our website:

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

COMMUNITY NEWS

RAF Odiham are celebrating 100 years of aviation this year

They see one of their most notable actions as being in 1962 when one of their Belvedere helicopters installed the spire atop of Coventry Cathedral. To commemorate this, they would like to come here and make a short video with someone who watched this happen back in 1962.

*The date they would like to film this is **Wednesday, 26th March.***

If you were there to see the spire being installed and want to be interviewed for this video, please let us know as soon as you can!

Email sarah.scouller@coventrycathedral.org.uk for more information

Investors in Hope is Coventry Cathedral's Regular Giving Option

Becoming an Investor connects us with the past while looking forward with hope. Helping with the ever-increasing operational costs with regular giving is essential for our mission and the very existence of our building. Please sign up through the website, Coventry Cathedral 'Investors in Hope' or email fundraising@coventrycathedral.org.uk

Ask for Mandy or Rachel at the Welcome Desk for a chat Monday-Thursday.