



The Cathedral Eucharist



The Second Sunday of Lent
Sunday 16th March 2025 at 10.30 am

Welcome to Coventry Cathedral

We are delighted that you have been able to join us today, which we are celebrating as Corrymeela Sunday. Our preacher this morning is the Revd Dr Alexander Wimberly, Leader of the Corrymeela Community. Originally from the United States, Alex has called Ireland home for more than twenty years. As leader of the community, Alex works with Corrymeela members, staff and volunteers to engage with difference, heal division and support peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland and beyond.

The Corrymeela Community was established in 1965. As a dispersed Christian community of over 180 members, Corrymeela has a residential centre and offices from which the work of Transforming Division through Human Encounter takes place. Corrymeela collaborates with faith groups, community groups, educational groups (formal and informal education), political and community groups to contribute to the healing of pain and the creation of a society where we live and work and learn well together. Corrymeela has been supported, for decades, by the dedication of an international group of Friends, who support the work of reconciliation that would otherwise be impossible. To learn more, visit www.corrymeela.org

The President today is the Very Revd John Witcombe, Dean of Coventry. The Revd Canon Nitano Muller, Canon for Worship and Welcome, is the deacon. The sub-deacon is the Revd Su McClellan, Cathedral Associate Minister. The Revd Dr Alex Wimberly, Leader of the Corrymeela Community, is 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 Short Communion Service in the Phrygian Mode by Charles Wood (1866-1926).

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The Gathering

Before the service begins, the Dean welcomes the congregation. The choir and ministers move to the chancel as the choir sings the Litany.

The Litany

Let us pray.

God the Father, have mercy.
God the Son, have mercy.
God the Holy Spirit, have mercy.
Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity,
have mercy.

From all evil and mischief;
from pride, vanity and hypocrisy;
from envy, hatred and malice;
and from all evil intent,
Deliver us, good Lord.

From sloth, worldliness and love of money;
from hardness of heart
and contempt for your word and your laws,
Deliver us, good Lord.

From sins of body and mind;
from the deceits of the world, the flesh and the devil,
Deliver us, good Lord.

From famine and disaster;
from violence, murder and dying unprepared,
Deliver us, good Lord.

In all times of sorrow; in all times of joy;
in the hour of death, and at the day of judgement,
Deliver us, good Lord.

By the mystery of your holy incarnation;
by your birth, childhood and obedience;
by your baptism, fasting and temptation,
Deliver us, good Lord.

By your ministry in word and work;
by your mighty acts of power;
and by your preaching of the kingdom,
Deliver us, good Lord.

By your agony and trial; by your cross and passion;
and by your precious death and burial,
Deliver us, good Lord.

By your mighty resurrection; by your glorious ascension;
and by your sending of the Holy Spirit,
Deliver us, good Lord.

Give us true repentance;
forgive us our sins of negligence and ignorance
and our deliberate sins;
and grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit
to amend our lives according to your holy word.

Holy God, holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy.

The Greeting

The Very Revd John Witcombe, Dean, presiding, says

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Let us mark how our different paths have brought us together
today.

**We have come from different places and with different
stories, to worship our God together.**

Let us celebrate the ways in which our stories now overlap
to tell of God's mercy and love.

May we be one in the family of God.

Come, let us worship.

The Liturgy of Penitence

Prayers of Penitence

The Revd Canon Nitano Muller, deacon, says

Whoever we are, we can find forgiveness in God. Whatever we
have done, we find grace in Christ. Wherever our desires have
led us, we can find a new life in the Holy Spirit.

Let us confess our sin so that we might be able to accept the
forgiveness offered, extend grace to others as we receive it, and
begin to live a new life together.

Silence is kept and then the deacon introduces:

Holy and loving God,

**We are prone to carve the world into us and them,
good and bad, in and out.**

**We confess that in fear of the unknown and the
unfamiliar,**

we turn to those with whom we already agree.

We fail to believe that to follow you

is to become something new,

and look instead to ourselves

to find something that we can call god.

**Give us faith to trust that you will be where you call us
to go.**

**Give us the courage to seek you in the unknown,
in the face of the stranger,**

and in what we have yet to become together.

Lead us into better relationship

**with those from whom we have separated ourselves,
seeking forgiveness whenever necessary,**

and extending forgiveness wherever possible.

**Bring us back as one family, held in your embrace,
and allow us to find what is holy and loving in you.**

Amen.

The choir sings Kyrie Eleison, while the congregation are sprinkled with holy water, a reminder of our new beginning at baptism.

Kyrie Eleison

Lord, have mercy.

Christe Eleison

Christ, have mercy.

Kyrie Eleison

Lord, have mercy.

The president says

May the God of love
bring you back to himself,
forgive you your sins,
and assure you of his eternal love
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Collect

The president introduces a time of silent prayer, after which he says:

Almighty God,
you show to those who are in error the light of your truth,
that they may return to the way of righteousness:
grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of
Christ's religion,
that they may reject those things that are contrary to their
profession,
and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same;
through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

The First Reading

We SIT for the first reading, read by Rosie Thayer, a representative of the Corrymeela Community.

¹⁷ Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸ For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.

²¹ He will transform the body of our humiliation so that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. ¹ Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

Philippians 3:17 – 4:1

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

**Be thou my guardian and my guide,
and hear me when I call;
let not my slippery footsteps slide,
and hold me lest I fall.**

**The world, the flesh, and Satan dwell
around the path I tread;
O save me from the snares of hell,
thou quickener of the dead.**

**And if I tempted am to sin,
and outward things are strong,
do thou, O Lord, keep watch within,
and save my soul from wrong.**

**Still let me ever watch and pray,
and feel that I am frail;
that if the tempter cross my way,
yet he may not prevail.**

Words I. Williams (1802-1865)

Tune CP 385 Abridge I. Smith (1734-1805)

The Gospel

The deacon introduces:

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

The choir sings, then we all repeat:

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.



We hear the Gospel Reading.

³¹ At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, 'Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.' ³² He said to them, 'Go and tell that fox for me, "Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. ³³ Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed away from Jerusalem." ³⁴ Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵ See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

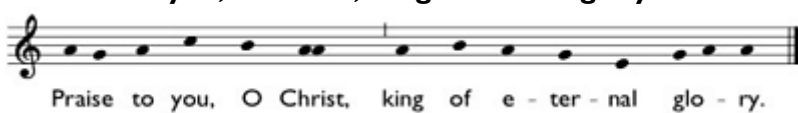
Luke 13:31-35

At the end the deacon says:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

We all sing:

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.



Sermon

Preached by the Revd Dr Alex Wimberly, Leader of the Corrymeela Community.

After the sermon, time is kept for reflection.

Affirmation of Faith

We STAND and the president introduces the Creed.

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

**Though he was divine,
he did not cling to equality with God,
but made himself nothing.
Taking the form of a slave,
he was born in human likeness.
He humbled himself
and was obedient to death,
even the death of the cross.
Therefore God has raised him on high,
and given him the name above every name:
that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bow,
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

Philippians 2.6-11

Prayers of Intercession

The president introduces the intercessions:

With confidence and trust let us pray to the Father.

We SIT as the deacon leads the intercessions. The following response is used:

Lord of compassion;
In Your mercy, hear us.

At the end, the following, or other suitable words, may be used:

Loving Saviour, seeking the lost and the unlovely,
we worship you.

Caring Spirit, enabling the weak and the meek,
we worship you.

Holy God, generous beyond all calculation,
we worship you.
Amen.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

We STAND. The president introduces the peace:

Since we are justified by faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has given us access to his grace.

Romans 5:1, 2

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.

Offertory Hymn

We remain *STANDING* to sing the hymn, during which the gifts of the people are presented.

**I bind unto myself today
the strong name of the Trinity,
by invocation of the same,
the Three in One, and One in Three.**

**I bind unto myself today
the virtues of the star-lit heaven,
the glorious sun's life-giving ray,
the whiteness of the moon at even,
the flashing of the lightning free,
the whirling winds' tempestuous shocks,
the stable earth, the deep salt sea
around the old eternal rocks.**

**I bind unto myself today
the power of God to hold and lead,
his eye to watch, his might to stay,
his ear to hearken to my need;
the wisdom of my God to teach,
his hand to guide, his shield to ward,
the word of God to give me speech,
his heavenly host to be my guard.**

**I bind unto myself the name,
the strong name of the Trinity,
by invocation of the same,
the Three in One, and One in Three,
of whom all nature hath creation,
eternal Father, Spirit, Word.
Praise to the Lord of my salvation:
salvation is of Christ the Lord. Amen.**

*Words Saint Patrick, tr. C. F. Alexander (1818-1895)
Tune CP 203 St Patrick Petrie Collection of Irish Music 1903*

Prayer of Preparation at the Table

The president says:

God of our journey,
as we walk with you on your path of obedience,
sustain us on our way and lead us to your glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The president says, and everyone responds

The Lord is here.
His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise, almighty God and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son. For in these forty days you lead us into the desert of repentance that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline we may grow in grace and learn to be your people once again. Through fasting, prayer and acts of service you bring us back to your generous heart. Through study of your holy word you open our eyes to your presence in the world and free our hands to welcome others into the radiant splendour of your love. As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast with joyful hearts and minds we bless you for your mercy and join with saints and angels for ever praising you and singing:

The choir sings the Sanctus and Benedictus.

Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus, Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua. Hosanna in excelsis.
Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini. Hosanna in excelsis.

*Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.*

The president continues:

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross.
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

The deacon leads the acclamation of faith:

Jesus Christ is Lord.
**Lord, by your cross and resurrection,
you have set us free.
You are the Saviour of the world.**

The president continues:

Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.
Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

We SIT, as the President introduces the Lord's Prayer.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread, saying,

Let your Church be the wheat which bears its fruit in dying.

**If we have died with him,
we shall live with him;
if we hold firm,
we shall reign with him.**

The Invitation to Communion

The president says

Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.
**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

Agnus Dei

The Choir sings the Agnus Dei.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem.

*O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.*

*O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.*

*O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
grant us thy peace.*

The Giving of Communion

It is our custom for this part of the service to be a time of quiet reflection. Please wait in your seat to be directed by a churchwarden or steward. If you wish to receive gluten-free bread, please ask and we will be happy to accommodate. Those who do not intend to receive Communion, but who would prefer to receive a blessing, are asked to carry this booklet as an indication of your preference to the ministers.

During the distribution, the choir sings the following anthem:

Purge me, O Lord, from all my sin, and save thou me by faith from ill, that I may rest and dwell in thee, upon thy holy blessed hill. And that done, grant that with true heart I may without hypocrisy affirm the truth, detract no man, but do all things with equity.

*Words anon. 16th Century
Music by Thomas Tallis (1505-1585)*

Communion Hymn

**I heard the voice of Jesus say,
'Come unto me and rest;
lay down, thou weary one, lay down
thy head upon my breast':
I came to Jesus as I was,
weary and worn and sad;
I found in him a resting-place,
and he has made me glad.**

**I heard the voice of Jesus say,
'Behold, I freely give
the living water, thirsty one;
stoop down and drink and live':
I came to Jesus, and I drank
of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
and now I live in him.**

**I heard the voice of Jesus say,
'I am this dark world's light;
look unto me, thy morn shall rise,
and all thy day be bright':
I looked to Jesus, and I found
in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I'll walk
till travelling days are done.**

*Words H. Bonar (1808-1889)
Tune CP 469 Kingsfold from English Country Songs 1893,
harmony R.V. Williams (1872-1958)*

Prayers after Communion

The president says

Lord, we have broken your bread and received your life.
By the power of your Spirit keep us always in your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The president introduces the Corrymeela Prayer of Courage

**Courage comes from the heart
and we are always welcomed by God,
the Croí (pronounced 'Kree') of all being.**

**We bear witness to our faith,
knowing that we are called
to live lives of courage, love and reconciliation
in the ordinary and extraordinary moments
of each day.**

**We bear witness, too, to our failures
and our complicity in the fractures of our world.**

May we be courageous today.

May we learn today.

May we love today.

Amen.

The Blessing

The president says

Deep peace of the quiet earth to you
Deep peace of the flowing air to you
Deep peace of the oceans depths to you
Deep peace of the shining stars to you
Deep peace of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit
To you and to all you love, today and always. **Amen**

Closing Hymn

**Take up thy cross, the Saviour said,
if thou wouldst my disciple be;
deny thyself, the world forsake,
and humbly follow after me.**

**Take up thy cross: let not its weight
fill thy weak spirit with alarm;
his strength shall bear thy spirit up,
and brace thy heart, and nerve thine arm.**

**Take up thy cross, nor heed the shame,
nor let thy foolish pride rebel:
thy Lord for thee the cross endured,
to save thy soul from death and hell.**

**Take up thy cross then in his strength,
and calmly every danger brave;
'twill guide thee to a better home,
and lead to victory o'er the grave.**

**Take up thy cross, and follow Christ,
nor think till death to lay it down;
for only they who bear the cross
may hope to wear the glorious crown.**

**To thee, great Lord, the One in Three,
all praise for evermore ascend:
O grant us in our home to see
the heavenly life that knows no end.**

*Words C.W. Everest (1814 – 1877)
Tune CP 582 Breslau trad. German,
harmony attrib. W.H. Monk (1823-1889)*

The Dismissal

The deacon says,

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

Voluntary

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

Praeludium in G minor by Dieterich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

Please do join us for refreshments, served at the back of the Cathedral. 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. 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.

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.

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.

Bishop Mary's Installation at Christ Church Cathedral

This is now taking place at 6pm on Thursday 20th March.