

The Cathedral Eucharist

Sunday 5th October, 2025

16th Sunday after Trinity



The President today is the Reverend Kate Massey, Canon for Arts and Reconciliation. The Deacon is the Reverend Gillian Roberts. The Very Reverend John Witcombe, Dean of Coventry, is sub-deacon. The Reverend Nitano Muller, Canon for Worship and Welcome, is preaching.

The Cathedral Choir is directed by Rachel Mahon, Director of Music. The organists are Liam Condon, Assistant Director of Music, and Adam Heron, Organ Scholar. The service setting is Coventry Missa brevis by Matthew Martin (1976-).

*We encourage our visitors to take photographs of our beautiful cathedral, **but please no photography during the service.** Thank you.*

Opening Hymn

**For the healing of the nations,
Lord, we pray with one accord;
for a just and equal sharing
of the things that earth affords.
To a life of love in action
help us rise and pledge our word.**

**Lead us, Father, into freedom,
from despair your world release;
that redeemed from war and hatred,
all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness
fear will die and hope increase.**

**All that kills abundant living,
let it from the earth be banned;
pride of status, race or schooling,
dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice
may we hallow life's brief span.**

**You, creator-God, have written
your great name on humankind;
for our growing in your likeness
bring the life of Christ to mind;
that by our response and service
earth its destiny may find.**

Words by Fred Kaan (1920-2009)

*CP 427 Allelulia dulce Carmen from Essay on the Church Plain Chant
(1782)*

The Collect

O Lord,

We beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers of your people who call upon you; and grant that they both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them; 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 forever.

Amen.

The First Reading

Read by Meshail Daud, Executive Assistant, representing the Cathedral Community.

A reading from the second letter of Saint Paul to Timothy.

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus, ²To Timothy, my beloved child: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. ³I am grateful to God—whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did—when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. ⁴Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. ⁵I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. ⁶For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; ⁷for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline. ⁸Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of God, ⁹who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his

own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, ¹⁰but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Saviour Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. ¹¹For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher, ¹²and for this reason I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know the one in whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that day what I have entrusted to him. ¹³Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.

2 Timothy 1:1-14

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Welcome with meekness the implanted word
that has the power to save your souls.

James 1:21

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Gospel Reading

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

Glory to you O Lord.

⁵The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" ⁶The Lord replied, "If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you. ⁷"Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from ploughing or tending sheep in the field, 'Come here at once and take your place at the table'? ⁸Would you not rather say to him, 'Prepare supper for me, put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink'? ⁹Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? ¹⁰So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, 'We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!'"

Luke 17:5-10

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Offertory Hymn

**In Christ there is no east or west,
in him no south or north,
but one great fellowship of love
throughout the whole wide earth.**

**In him shall true hearts everywhere
their high communion find;
his service is the golden cord,
close binding humankind.**

**Join hands, then, children of the faith,
whate'er your race may be;
who serves my Father as his child
is surely kin to me.**

**In Christ now meet both east and west,
in him meet south and north;
all Christlike souls are one in him,
throughout the whole wide earth.**

*Words by John Oxenham (1852-1941)
Tune CP 477 Kilmarnock Neil Dougall (1776-1862)*

Anthem

Here, O my Lord, I see thee face to face
Here faith can touch and handle things unseen;
Here would I grasp with firmer hands thy grace;
And all my weariness upon thee lean.

Here would I feed upon the bread of God;
Here drink with thee the royal wine of heav'n;
Here would I lay aside each earthly load,
and taste afresh the calm of sin forgiv'n.

*Words by H. Bonar (1808-1889)
Music by Percy Whitlock (1903-1946)*

Communion Hymn

Let all mortal flesh keep silence
and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly-minded,
for with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary,
as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture -
in the body and the blood -
he will give to all the faithful
his own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven
spreads its vanguard on the way,
as the Light of light descendeth
from the realms of endless day,
that the powers of hell may vanish
as the darkness clears away.

At his feet the six-winged seraph;
cherubim with sleepless eye
veil their faces to the Presence,
as with ceaseless voice they cry,
Alleluia, Alleluia,
Alleluia, Lord most high.

Words from the Liturgy of St James, translated by G. Moultrie (1829-1885)
Tune CP 309 Picardy harmonised by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Post Communion

Almighty God,
You have taught us through your Son that love is the fulfilling of the
law: grant that we may love you with our whole heart and our
neighbours as ourselves; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Closing Hymn

**Here from all nations, all tongues and all peoples,
countless the crowd but their voices are one;
vast is the sight and majestic their singing:
‘God has the victory; he reigns from the throne!’**

**These have come out of the hardest oppression,
now they may stand in the presence of God,
serving their Lord day and night in his temple,
ransomed and cleansed by the Lamb’s precious blood.**

**Gone is their thirst and no more shall they hunger,
God is their shelter, his power at their side:
sun shall not pain them, no burning will torture;
Jesus the Lamb is their shepherd and guide.**

**He will go with them to clear living water
flowing from springs which his mercy supplies;
gone is their grief and their trials are over,
God wipes away every tear from their eyes.**

**Blessing and glory and wisdom and power
be to the Saviour again and again;
might and thanksgiving and honour for ever
be to our God: Alleluia! Amen.**

*Words by Christopher M. Idle (b. 1938) from Revelation 7
Tune CP 462 O Quanta Qualia (Regnator Orbis)
Melody adapted by Thomas Helmore (1811-1890)
from La Feillée’s Méthode du plain-chant (1808)*

Voluntary

*As we mark the beginning of Black History Month, please do stay for the organ
voluntary, played by Adam Heron.*

Obangiji by Fela Sowande (1905 – 1987)

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: *BCP Evening Prayer (Choral Evensong during term time)*

CLERGY PREACHING AWAY:

Reverend Su McClellan – Saint Chad's, Wood End
Reverend Sacha Slavic – Saint James', Ansty

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

DEAN JOHN'S RETIREMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

After many years of faithful and dedicated ministry, Dean John Witcombe has announced his retirement in May 2026. We are deeply grateful for his leadership and ministry among us, and we look forward to marking this significant moment together.

Please make a note of these two important dates:

- ***Saturday, 9 May 2026 – Farewell Celebration***
- ***Sunday, 17 May 2026 – Dean John's Farewell Service***

A full statement about the retirement can be found on the Cathedral website: www.coventrycathedral.org.uk

Do keep these dates free in your diaries so that, as a community, we may come together to give thanks and celebrate Dean John's ministry and to wish him well for the future.

COMING SOON

“We Have Forgotten That We Belong to One Another...”:

A Vigil for Israel and Palestine

Tuesday, 7th October, 7:30pm

There will be a vigil in Coventry Cathedral to mark the anniversary of 7th October and all that has happened since. This will be at 7:30pm on Tuesday 7th October. As well as collective prayers, there will be an opportunity to visit five prayer stations around the Cathedral to pray, lament and reflect on the part we can play in peace-building and reconciliation.

Pathways to the Past: Stories from Coventry and Warwickshire

Saturday, 11th October, 4.00pm

Join *Rewind*, a history initiative based at the University of Warwick dedicated to making history engaging and accessible, for an interactive evening of film, stories, and discussion about local history and heritage!

We'll showcase some of the work *Rewind* has done so far and invite you to share your own stories and perspectives. Together, we'll explore what it means to be a Coventrian or Warwickshire resident in the twenty-first century – and how local history connects us to the past.

Book your FREE place via the Cathedral website.

Safeguarding Sunday

Sunday, 12th October

Safeguarding Sunday will be observed at the Cathedral on Sunday 12th September. Following the 10.30am service, there will be a brief 30-45 minute training session open to all members of the congregation in the John Laing Centre. It will be an opportunity to meet members of our safeguarding team and to hear about what you can do if you have a safeguarding concern. Cake will be provided!

Service for Baby Loss Awareness Week

Sunday, 12th October, 2.00pm

A service hosted by a network of local charities, bereavement midwives and chaplains for anyone who has ever experienced the loss of a baby, at any age or gestation, for any reason, whether the loss was recent or long ago. This is a beautiful, informal service, with opportunity to light candles, play pool sticks, and draw chalk hearts on the floor of the Cathedral ruins. There will be music, reflection and a talk by Alicia Burnett, a midwife with her own experience of baby loss, who founded Black baby loss awareness week in 2023. And there will be tea and cake, and chance to talk with others if you want. All are welcome, children too.

Coffee Morning

Wednesday, 15th October, 10am - 12noon

Come and enjoy the relaxed atmosphere of the Cathedral, with FREE refreshments. An opportunity to gather, chat with friends and friends unknown, to help us fulfil our core value of Hospitality.

Any questions, please email events@coventrycathedral.org.uk

Reconciliation in a Time of Conflict

Saturday, 18th October, 10am – 3.30pm

How can we talk about reconciliation in the midst of war? We know the Bible calls us to be reconcilers, but what does the Christian ministry of reconciliation look like in a time of conflict? What are the challenges faced by those in the context of war, and what might we learn about being reconcilers in a society increasingly characterised by cultural division and conflict? How can we pray, act and speak in these turbulent times?

Christians in Ukraine and Israel Palestine have approached this question in different ways, which will in turn help shape our understanding and action in our own contexts.

This significant day conference is hosted by the British Trust for Tanur, which supports the work of the Tanur Ecumenical institute, on the border between Jerusalem and Bethlehem. We will be welcoming their Rector, Fr. John Paul SJ, along with guests from Ukraine, to lead us in our reflection.

This conference will run from 10.00 – 3.30pm at Coventry Cathedral, a community known for its commitment to reconciliation, and as a place to reflect and respond to these difficult questions. Tickets are now £15 (or £10 for concessions, e.g. ordinands, students). For more information and to book your place visit:

<https://tinyurl.com/wh674s7c>

Being Seen: In Art, Words and Dance:

Including exhibition by Andy Farr

Saturday, 18th October, 2pm - 4pm

A thought-provoking public event and exhibition inspired by testimonies of growth and recovery from trauma. Coventry Cathedral invites you to experience *Being Seen: In Art, Words and Dance* — a moving exhibition and live performance event that brings together visual art, lived experience, dance, poetry, and testimony. Inspired by real stories of trauma and transformation, this project offers a deeply human look at resilience, compassion, and hope.

Choir Talent Show

Sunday, 19th October, following the service.

Join us for a joyful afternoon as our Cathedral Choristers share their gifts beyond the usual repertoire in order to raise money for their choir activities! The show will happen straight after the morning service and comes with a light lunch. It'll be a wonderful occasion of music, laughter, and surprises.

Please come along and show your support for our choristers – your presence will mean a great deal to them. Tickets are £10 and may be purchased with cash or card on the day.

BIRD - Part of the Action Rayz Film Series

Thursday, 23rd October

7pm - Pay as you feel on the Chapter House door

Bailey lives with her brother Hunter and her father Bug, who raises them alone in a squat in northern Kent. Bug doesn't have much time to devote to them. Bailey looks for attention and adventure elsewhere.

Rating: 15

24 Hours of Prayer for Peace

Saturday, 1st November

We are launching our Coventry Cathedral Reconciliation Season with 24 hours of prayer for peace from 9.30am on Saturday 1st November all the way through to 9.30am on Sunday 2nd November. There will be different acts of prayer and worship throughout the 24 hours, as well as some prayer stations and other prayer resources. We would love members of the cathedral community to volunteer to lead either create or offer a prayer resources, to help steward overnight and most of all, to commit to praying for part of the 24 hours (either in the building or at home). If you are able to help with this, please contact Kate (Kate.massey@coventry.anglican.org)