

**The Cathedral Eucharist
Sunday 23rd November 2025
The Feast of Christ the King
*In the Season of Reconciliation.***



The President today is the Very Reverend John Witcombe, Dean of Coventry. The Deacon and preacher is the Reverend Nitano Muller, Canon for Worship and Welcome.

Donald Parr, Cathedral Lay Reader, is sub-deacon.

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 Missa brevis by Arthur Wills (1926-2020).

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

Opening Hymn

**O worship the King all glorious above;
O gratefully sing his power and his love:
our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of days,
pavilioned in splendour, and girded with praise.**

**O tell of his might, O sing of his grace,
whose robe is the light, whose canopy space;
his chariots of wrath the deep thunder clouds form,
and dark is his path on the wings of the storm.**

**Thy bountiful care what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
it streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
and sweetly distils in the dew and the rain.**

**Frail children of dust and feeble as frail,
in thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail;
thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end!
Our maker, defender, redeemer, and friend.**

**O measureless Might, ineffable Love,
while angels delight to hymn thee above,
thy humbler creation, though feeble their lays,
with true adoration shall sing to thy praise.**

*Words by Robert Grant (1799-1838)
Tune CP 546 Hanover A Supplement to
the New Version (1708)
Descant by Alan Gray (1855-1935)*

The Collect

Eternal Father,
whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he
might rule over all things as Lord and King;
keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace,
and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet;
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 Margaret Lloyd, representing the Cathedral Prayer Ministry Team.

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah.

¹Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the Lord. ²Therefore, thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the Lord. ³Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. ⁴I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the Lord. ⁵The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ⁶In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

Jeremiah 23.1–6

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Mark 11:9,10

The Gospel Reading

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

Glory to you O Lord.

³³When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left.

³⁴Then Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.' And they cast lots to divide his clothing. ³⁵And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, 'He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!' ³⁶The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, ³⁷and saying, 'If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!' ³⁸There was also an inscription over him, 'This is the King of the Jews.' ³⁹One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, 'Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!' ⁴⁰But the other rebuked him, saying, 'Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?' ⁴¹And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.' ⁴²Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' ⁴³He replied, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.'

Luke 23:33-43

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Offertory Hymn

**Name of all majesty, fathomless mystery,
King of the ages by angels adored;
power and authority, splendour and dignity,
bow to his mastery, Jesus is Lord!**

**Child of our destiny, God from eternity,
love of the Father on sinners outpoured;
see now what God has done sending his only Son,
Christ the beloved One, Jesus is Lord!**

**Saviour of Calvary, costliest victory,
darkness defeated and Eden restored;
born as a man to die, nailed to a cross on high,
cold in the grave to lie, Jesus is Lord!**

**Source of all sovereignty, light, immortality,
life everlasting and heaven assured;
so with the ransomed, we praise him eternally,
Christ in his majesty, Jesus is Lord!**

*Words by Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926-2024)
Tune CP 525 Majestas Michael Baughen (b. 1930)*

Anthem

Lift up your heads, O ye gates,
and be ye lift up ye everlasting doors,
and the King of glory shall come in.
Who is this King of glory?
The Lord, strong and mighty,
the Lord mighty in battle.
Who is this King of glory?
The Lord of hosts,
he is the King of glory.

*from Psalm 24.7-10
Music by Liam Condon (1997-)*

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

Stir Up, O Lord,
the wills of your faithful people;
that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works,
may by you be plenteously rewarded;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Closing Hymn

Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne;
hark, how the heavenly anthem drowns
all music but its own:
awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless king
through all eternity.

Crown him the Virgin's Son,
the God incarnate born,
whose arm those crimson trophies won
which now his brow adorn:
Fruit of the mystic Rose,
as of that rose the Stem;
the Root whence mercy ever flows,
the Babe of Bethlehem.

Crown him the Lord of love;
behold his hands and side,
those wounds yet visible above
in beauty glorified:
no angel in the sky
can fully bear that sight,
but downward bends his burning eye
at mysteries so bright.

Crown him the Lord of peace,
whose power a sceptre sways
from pole to pole, that wars may cease,
and all be prayer and praise:
his reign shall know no end,
and round his piercèd feet
fair flowers of paradise extend
their fragrance ever sweet.

**Crown him the Lord of years,
the Potentate of time,
Creator of the rolling spheres,
ineffably sublime:
all hail, Redeemer, hail!
for thou hast died for me;
thy praise shall never, never fail
throughout eternity.**

*Words by Matthew Bridges (1800-1894)
Tune CP 166 Diademata G.J. Elvey (1816-1893)*

Please do stay for the organ voluntary, played by Liam Condon.

Allegro Marziale by Frank Bridge (1879-1941)

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)*

JOINING OUR CHOIRS

Do you know a child who loves to sing? Boys and girls between the ages of 7 and 10 are welcome to audition for the Cathedral Boys' and Girls' Choirs. They sing an average of four times per week during term time in recordings, services and concerts. Children receive a world-class music education completely free and even receive scholarship payments. Please get in touch with the Director of Music to learn more:

rachel.mahon@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

CLERGY PREACHING AWAY:

The Reverend Canon Kate Massey - Saint Chad's, Wood End
The Reverend Su McClellan - Pembroke College, Cambridge

Acting Director of Music

We are delighted to announce that Joe Watson has been appointed Acting Director of Music during Rachel's maternity leave. Joe joins us from Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral and takes up his role from 1 December.

Joe brings a wealth of musical experience and a deep commitment to the life of our worshipping community. He will oversee the choir, music planning, and all aspects of our musical ministry throughout this period, ably assisted by Liam Condon, our Assistant Director of Music.

Please join us in welcoming Joe to this role, and in keeping Rachel, her family, and all involved in your prayers. More about Joe's appointment is available on our website: <https://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/worship-music/choirs-music/our-musicians>

Advent and Christmas Services

Please visit our Cathedral website for the upcoming Advent and Christmas services and events.

Please take a copy of the Christmas program on the community table or visit the Cathedral website. www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/christmas

COMING SOON

Light in Our Darkness

Sunday, 30 November at 5pm

Step into the beauty and stillness of Advent at our *Advent Carol Procession*, a candlelit journey of hymns, readings, and poetry that marks the beginning of our Christmas preparation. In this moving service, the Cathedral gradually fills with light as we hear ancient words of promise and sing familiar advent hymns that guide us from darkness into hope.

Drawing together Scripture, evocative poetry, and timeless music, this service invites us to pause, reflect, and open our hearts to the coming of Christ - the light the darkness can never overcome.

Join us for one of the Cathedral's most atmospheric and beloved Advent traditions, as we welcome the season with expectation and joy.

Gracious Dialogue

Final session on 25th November 7.30 pm in St Michael's House

New for reconciliation season. Gracious Dialogue: A guide to listening and speaking well about Israel and Palestine

Join us for a four week small group course to help us navigate the choppy waters of differing interpretations of scripture and history. Each week we will look at two interpretations of a passage from Paul's Letter to the Romans and snapshots from the recent history of Israel and Palestine. The course aims to equip us to deepen our understanding and to see through an other's eyes.

To register your interest or for further information talk to or email Revd Su.

Email: su.mcclellan@coventry.anglican.org

Giving Tuesday, 2nd December, 10am – 2pm

Here's how you can join in:

- Give your time – Sign up to volunteer with us in 2026.
- Donate a piece of history – Contribute an artefact to help preserve Coventry's Blitz story in our Blitz Museum or Archive.
- Keaton Slater Millennium Screen memorial – Donate towards having Keaton Slater, a young boy who was tragically killed in 2024, name engraved on the Millennium Screen.
- Donate food items – We are collecting food items for Grub Hub who provide Christmas dinners to those in need.

Come for a chat, enjoy tea and coffee from 10am to 2pm and be part of Coventry Cathedral's mission of hope this Christmas season.

To find out more, please contact fundraising@coventrycathedral.org.uk

Cathedral Choir Christmas Concert

Friday 12 December at 7:30pm

Come hear our very own Cathedral Choir sing festive favourites with Liam Condon on the organ and the Brass Band of Central England. A fun Christmas celebration for the whole family. There will be carols to sing along to and hot drinks and refreshments available for purchase.

Tickets: £15, under 16s FREE

<https://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/events/coventry-cathedral-choir-christmas-concert/booking>