

The Cathedral Eucharist

Sunday, 30th November, 2025

The First Sunday of Advent



*The President today is the Reverend Canon Sacha Slavic, Cathedral Associate Minister. The Deacon is the Reverend Matthew Arnold, curate on placement. The Reverend Nitano Muller, Canon for Worship and Welcome, is sub-deacon. Our preacher is the Very Reverend John Witcombe, Dean of Coventry. 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 Messe Solennelle by Louis Vierne (1870-1937). We encourage our visitors to take photographs of our beautiful cathedral, **but please no photography during the service.** Thank you.*

The Collect

Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the
armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son
Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he
shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal; through him 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 Gaurav Shah, representing the Phoenix Club.

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

¹ The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. ²In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. ³Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. ⁵O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

Isaiah 2:1-5

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Show us, O Lord, your mercy,
and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Psalms 85:7

The Gospel Reading

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

Glory to you O Lord.

³⁶“But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴²Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

Matthew 24:36-44

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Offertory 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)

Anthem

Rejoice in the Lord alway,
and again I say rejoice.
Let your moderation be known unto all men.
The Lord is at hand.
Be careful for nothing;
but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving,
let your requests be made known unto God.
And the peace of God,
which passeth all understanding,
shall keep your hearts and minds
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Words from Philippians 4.4-7

Communion Hymn

**Author of life divine
who hast a table spread,
furnished with mystic wine
and everlasting bread,
preserve the life thyself hast given,
preserve the life thyself hast given,
and feed and train us up for heaven.**

**Our needy souls sustain
with fresh supplies of love,
till all thy life we gain,
and all thy fullness prove,
and strengthened by thy perfect grace,
and strengthened by thy perfect grace,
behold without a veil thy face.**

Words by Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Tune CP Rhosymedre by John Edwards (1805-1885)

Post Communion

O Lord our God,
make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son
our Lord; that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with
joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

**Hills of the North, rejoice,
river and mountain-spring,
hark to the advent voice;
valley and lowland, sing.
Christ comes in righteousness and love,
he brings salvation from above.**

**Isles of the Southern seas,
sing to the listening earth,
carry on every breeze
hope of a world's new birth:
In Christ shall all be made anew,
his word is sure, his promise true.**

**Lands of the East, arise,
he is your brightest morn,
greet him with joyous eyes,
praise shall his path adorn:
Your seers have longed to know their Lord;
to you he comes, the final word.**

**Shores of the utmost West,
lands of the setting sun,
welcome the heavenly guest
in whom the dawn has come:
He brings a never-ending light
who triumphed o'er our darkest night.**

**Shout, as you journey home,
songs be in every mouth,
lo, from the North they come,
from East and West and South:
In Jesus all shall find their rest,
in him the universe be blest.**

*Words by Editors of English Praise (1975)
based on Charles E. Oakley (1832-1865)
Tune CP 29 Little Cornard Martin Shaw (1875-1958)
Descant Oliver Hancock (b.1987)*

Please do stay for the organ voluntary, played by Adam Heron.

Plein Jeu sur "Veni Emmanuel" by Adam Heron (1998-)

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 here. 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

COMMUNITY NEWS

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

TODAY - 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.

World AIDS Day Vigil

Monday 1st December, 6.30pm, Cathedral Ruins

Join Unity in Coventry for their annual World AIDS Day Vigil, a time to remember those we have lost, support those living with HIV, and stand in solidarity with our community.

Everyone is welcome to attend. Whether you wish to pay tribute, learn, or simply be part of this moment of community and remembrance, your presence matters.

Embrace the Middle East Joins the CCN

Sunday, 7 December 2025 at 4pm

This Sunday we are delighted to welcome *Embrace the Middle East* as they join the Community of the Cross of Nails. Embrace has been a long-standing friend of the Cathedral. During Choral Evensong, the Dean will formally present them with a Cross of Nails, recognising their ongoing commitment to reconciliation, healing, and peace in that region. Please join us in giving thanks for this partnership and in praying for their continued ministry.

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.

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 Joe Watson conducting, 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>