

The Cathedral Eucharist

Sunday, 7th December, 2025

The Second Sunday of Advent



The President today is the Reverend Kate Massey, Canon for Arts and Reconciliation. The Deacon is the Very Reverend John Witcombe, Dean of Coventry. The Reverend Su McClellan, Cathedral Associate Minister, is sub-deacon and preacher.

The Cathedral Choir is directed by Joe Watson, Acting Director of Music. The organists are Liam Condon, Assistant Director of Music, and Adam Heron, Organ Scholar. The service setting is Mass for Five Voices by William Byrd (1540-1623).

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

The Collect

O Lord,
raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and forever.

Amen.

The First Reading

Read by Victoria Yardley, representing the Cathedral community.

A Reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah.

¹ A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

² The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

³ His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
 or decide by what his ears hear;
⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
 and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
 he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
 and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
 and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb,
 the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
 the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
 and a little child shall lead them.
⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze,
 their young shall lie down together;
 and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
 and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
⁹ They will not hurt or destroy
 on all my holy mountain;
 for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
 as the waters cover the sea.
¹⁰ On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples;
 the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Isaiah 11:1-10

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight;
 all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Luke 3:4, 6

The Gospel Reading

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

Glory to you O Lord.

¹ In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ² ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.’ ³

This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, ‘The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.”’

⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁷ But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸ Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹ Do not presume to say to yourselves, “We have Abraham as our ancestor”; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰ Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ¹¹ ‘I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.’

Matthew 3:1-12

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Offertory Hymn

**The Lord will come and not be slow,
his footsteps cannot err;
before him righteousness shall go,
his royal harbinger.**

Truth from the earth, like to a flower,
shall bud and blossom show;
and justice, from her heavenly bower,
look down on us below.

Rise, God, judge thou the earth in might,
this wicked earth redress;
for thou art he who shalt by right
the nations all possess.

The nations all whom thou hast made
shall come, and all shall frame
to bow them low before thee, Lord,
and glorify thy name.

For great thou art, and wonders great
by thy strong hand are done:
thou in thy everlasting seat
remainest **God alone**.

Words by John Milton (1608-1674)

Tune CP 37 St Stephen William Jones (1726-1800)

Anthem

Adam lay y-bounden,
Bounden in a bond;
Four thousand winter
Thought he not too long.

And all was for an apple,
An apple that he took,
As clerkes finden
Written in their book.

Ne had the apple taken been,
The apple taken been,
Ne had never our Lady
A-been heavene queen.

Blessed be the time
That apple taken was,
Therefore we moun singen
Deo gratias!

*Words: Anon. 15th Century
Music by Boris Ord (1897-1961)*

Communion Hymn

**Wherefore, O Father, we thy humble servants
here bring before thee Christ thy well-belovèd,
all-perfect Offering, sacrifice immortal,
spotless oblation.**

**See now thy children, making intercession
through him our Saviour, Son of God incarnate,
for all thy people, living and departed,
pleading before thee.**

Words by William Jervois (1852-1905)

Tune CP 332 Christe Fons Jugis by Philippe Dubois (1624-1694)

harmonised by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Post Communion

Father in Heaven,
who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send Him again to be
our judge: give us grace so to imitate Him in the humility and purity of
His first coming that, when He comes again, we may ne ready to greet
Him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Closing Hymn

**The advent of our King
our prayers must now employ,
and we must hymns of welcome sing
in strains of holy joy.**

**The everlasting Son
incarnate deigns to be;
himself a servant's form puts on,
to set his servants free.**

**Daughter of Sion, rise
to meet thy lowly King;
nor let thy faithless heart despise
the peace he comes to bring.**

**As judge, on clouds of light,
he soon will come again,
and his true members all unite
with him in heaven to reign.**

**All glory to the Son
who comes to set us free,
with Father, Spirit, ever One,
through all eternity.**

Words by Charles Coffin (1676-1749)

translated by John Chandler (1808-1876)

Tune CP 391 Franconia from Harmonischer Liederschatz 1738

adapted by W.H. Havergal (1793-1870)

The Blessing of a Cross of Nails

A Cross of Nails is given to new partners and friends of the Community of the Cross of Nails as a symbol of their sharing together with us in the ministry of reconciliation, and to new ICONS schools.

The Very Reverend John Witcombe, Dean of Coventry, blesses the Crosses of Nails with these words

Eternal God, you have come among us in Christ to reconcile the world to yourself, and have entrusted us with the ministry of reconciliation. Strengthen all who work for the healing of conflict and pain amongst your human family. Bless all those at **Embrace the Middle East** and **Llandaff Diocesan Mothers' Union** who, inspired by the Cross of Nails, bear witness to the grace and truth of your crucified and risen Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

In the name of God,
who has created all people for friendship with himself;
in the name of Jesus Christ,
who commanded us to love our enemies;
in the name of our Lord the Spirit,
who rescues and restores us in peace;
we send these Crosses of Nails to
Embrace the Middle East and **Llandaff Diocesan Mothers' Union**,
as a symbol of our partnership in the work of reconciliation;
for the glory of God
and the coming of his kingdom of justice and peace. **Amen.**

Voluntary

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

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme BWV 645 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: *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

Embrace the Middle East Joins the CCN

TODAY - 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.

Ex Cathedra

11 December, 7pm-9pm

Escape the festive rush and immerse yourself in a concert of spellbinding seasonal music, performed by candlelight.

In the deep still darkness, comes the luminous sound of a choir in harmony. Expect some of your favourite carols, and discover a treasure trove of gorgeous new - and old - music and readings that explore the magic, humour and peace of Christmas. A concert with both familiar melodies and wondrous discoveries to make you smile as well as reflect. Early booking is advised to avoid disappointment. See website for details. Refreshments will be available to buy when doors open, at 6:15pm, and during the interval.

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>

Wreath Making is Back!

12 December 2025, 1:00pm to 3:00pm

Let's get ready for the Christmas Season, with a relaxed time of creating in the glow of the New Cathedral at Christmastime.

Food Union will be providing an array of foliage for decoration making locally sourced from their growing sites as well as the materials needed to construct a wreath. If you have your own wreath bases from previous years then please bring them along if you wish.

If you have any materials you would like to bring along for the communal basket then please do. We'll have plenty of variety but the more the merrier!

Tickets are £5.00, all proceeds going towards our Spring and Harvest Festivals. Tickets are limited.

If the cost of a ticket is prohibitive, please email events@coventrycathedral.org.uk, and we will ensure you can come along.

Handel's Messiah by Candlelight

Saturday, 13 December, 7:00pm to 10:00pm

A highlight of the Coventry Cathedral Chorus' season is always the performance of Handel's *Messiah* and we are thrilled to again be performing this wonderful work in Coventry Cathedral. Surely, there's no better way to prepare for Christmas than through the story of the birth, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Parts of the cathedral will be candlelit for this performance. Refreshments available during the interval.

Tickets will sold on the door at the full price of £25. The discounted price of £20 is available in advance only.

For ticket queries contact Jill Pacey
at tickets@coventrycathedralchorus.com or phone [01676 532436](tel:01676532436)

Blue Christmas

Sunday, 14 December at 6pm, Lady Chapel

It can be hard to feel joyful at Christmas. Join us for this service formed with care for those who find this time of year difficult, and those who wish to pray for them.