

The Cathedral Eucharist

Sunday, 18th January, 2026

The Second Sunday of Epiphany



The President today is the Reverend Gillian Roberts, Priest with Permission to Officiate. The Deacon is the Very Reverend John Witcombe, Dean of Coventry. The sub-deacon is Donald Parr, Cathedral Lay Reader and the preacher is The Reverend Kate Massey, Canon for Arts and Reconciliation.

The Cathedral Chamber Choir is directed by Liam Condon, Assistant Director of Music. The organist is Adam Heron, Organ Scholar. The service setting is Communion Service in E by Harold Darke (1888–1976).

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

Opening Hymn

**Hail to the Lord's Anointed,
great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed,
his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
to set the captive free,
to take away transgression,
and rule in equity.**

**He shall come down like showers
upon the fruitful earth,
and love, joy, hope, like flowers,
spring in his path to birth:
before him on the mountains
shall peace, the herald, go;
and righteousness in fountains
from hill to valley flow.**

**Kings shall bow down before him,
and gold and incense bring;
all nations shall adore him,
his praise all people sing:
to him shall prayer unceasing
and daily vows ascend;
his kingdom still increasing,
a kingdom without end.**

**O'er every foe victorious,
he on his throne shall rest;
from age to age more glorious,
all-blessing and all-blest:
the tide of time shall never
his covenant remove;
his name shall stand for ever,
his changeless name of love.**

*Words by James Montgomery (1771-1854)
Tune CP 87 Crüger Johann Crüger (1593-1662)
adapted by W.H. Monk (1823-1889)*

The Collect

Almighty God,
in Christ you make all things new:
transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace,
and in the renewal of our lives
make known your heavenly glory;
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 for ever.

Amen.

The First Reading

Read by Pam Norman, representing the Cathedral Community.

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

¹ Listen to me, O coastlands, pay attention, you peoples from far away! The LORD called me before I was born, while I was in my mother's womb he named me. ² He made my mouth like a sharp sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me away. ³ And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified." ⁴ But I said, "I have laboured in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the LORD, and my reward with my God." ⁵ And now the LORD says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honoured in the sight of the LORD, and my God has become my strength— ⁶ he says, "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

⁷ Thus says the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, "Kings shall see and stand up, princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the LORD, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

Isaiah 49:1-7

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, to all who did receive him he gave the authority to become the children of God.

Cf. John 1

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Gospel Reading

²⁹ The next day he saw Jesus coming towards him and declared, ‘Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰This is he of whom I said, “After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.” ³¹I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.’ ³²And John testified, ‘I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. ³³I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, “He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.” ³⁴And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.’

³⁵ The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, ‘Look, here is the Lamb of God!’ ³⁷The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, ‘What are you looking for?’ They said to him, ‘Rabbi’ (which translated means Teacher), ‘where are you staying?’ ³⁹He said to them, ‘Come and see.’ They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon. ⁴⁰One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. ⁴¹He first found his brother Simon and said to him, ‘We have found the Messiah’ (which is translated Anointed). ⁴²He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, ‘You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas’ (which is translated Peter).

John 1.29–42

Offertory Hymn

**O for a closer walk with God,
a calm and heavenly frame;
a light to shine upon the road
that leads me to the Lamb.**

**What peaceful hours I once enjoyed,
how sweet their memory still!
but they have left an aching void
the world can never fill.**

**Return, O holy Dove, return,
sweet messenger of rest:
I hate the sins that made thee mourn,
and drove thee from my breast.**

**The dearest idol I have known,
whate'er that idol be,
help me to tear it from thy throne,
and worship only thee.**

**So shall my walk be close with God,
calm and serene my frame;
so purer light shall mark the road
that leads me to the Lamb.**

William Cowper (1731-1800)

*Tune CP 532 Caithness Melody from Scottish Psalter 1635
harmonized by editors of English Hymnal 1906*

Anthem

Here is the little door, lift up your hands, O lift!
we need not wander more but enter with our gift;
Our gift of finest gold, gold that was never bought nor sold.
Myrrh to be strewn about his bed, incense in clouds about his head;
all for the Child that stirs not in his sleep,
but holy slumber holds with ass and sheep.

Bend low about his bed, for each he has a gift;
see how his eyes awake, lift up your hands, O lift!
For gold, he gives a keen-edged sword (defend with it thy little Lord).
For incense, smoke of battle red, myrrh for the honoured, happy dead;
gifts for his children, terrible and sweet,
touched by such tiny hands and oh such tiny feet.

*Words by Frances A. Chesterton (1869-1938)
Music by Herbert Howells (1892-1983)*

Communion Hymn

**Jesus, Lord, we look to thee,
let us in thy name agree:
show thyself the Prince of peace;
bid all strife for ever cease.**

**Make us of one heart and mind,
courteous, pitiful, and kind,
lowly, meek in thought and word,
altogether like our Lord.**

**Let us for each other care,
each the other's burden bear;
to thy church the pattern give,
show how true believers live.**

**Free from anger and from pride,
let us thus in God abide;
all the depths of love express,
all the heights of holiness.**

Words by Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Tune CP 581 ii Nottingham Wenzel Müller (1747-1835)

Post Communion

God of glory,
you nourish us with your Word who is the bread of life:
fill us with your Holy Spirit
that through us the light of your glory may shine in all the world.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

**Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us
o'er the world's tempestuous sea;
guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,
for we have no help but thee;
yet possessing every blessing,
if our God our Father be.**

**Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us:
all our weakness thou dost know;
thou didst tread this earth before us,
thou didst feel its keenest woe;
lone and dreary, faint and weary,
through the desert thou didst go.**

**Spirit of our God, descending,
fill our hearts with heavenly joy,
love with every passion blending,
pleasure that can never cloy:
thus provided, pardoned, guided,
nothing can our peace destroy.**

Words by J. Edmeston (1791-1867)

Tune CP 496 Mannheim melody from Friedrich Filitz Choralbuch
harmonized by Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

Voluntary

*Please do stay for the organ voluntary, performed today by Adam Heron,
Organ Scholar.*

Paean by Kenneth Leighton (1929-1988).

We invite those joining us for worship to contribute to the costs of mission at the Cathedral. Please use the cash or contactless donation points, or the QR code here. This will take you to the Cathedral's page for the Parish giving Scheme which will enable you to make a one off donation, or set up a regular gift should you wish. Thank you so much for your support and generosity.



*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. Do you know a child who loves to sing? 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. If you or someone you know might be interested in joining the choir, please be in touch with the

Acting Director of Music to arrange a meeting. Email:

MusicAdministrator@CoventryCathedral.org.uk

Our Cathedral Chamber Choir

Our Cathedral Chamber Choir sing voluntarily at various services throughout the year and are currently open for auditions on all voice parts. Rehearsals usually take place on occasional Thursday evenings in the lead up to a service. If you would be interested in joining our Chamber Choir, please get in touch with Liam Condon, Assistant Director of Music, for an audition.

Email: Liam.Condon@coventry.anglican.org

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

Clergy Preaching Away Today:

The Reverend Su McClellan- St Chad's, Wood End

The Reverend Canon Sacha Slavic- St James, Ansty

New Dean Consultation with Congregation.

The recruitment process for the new Dean is now under way. The first phase is a broad consultation to understand the thoughts and opinions of a wide range of stakeholders. This includes people from across the diocese, the city, from other faiths and organisations, as well as partners that we have overseas through the Community of the Cross of Nails. The process is being led by the Archbishops' Advisers for Appointments and Vocations team based in London. This team would like to hear from the Cathedral congregation concerning your thoughts of the Cathedral and the sort of individual needed to lead through the next period of time. In order to do this the team member leading the process, David Wicksteed, will host a Zoom call at 6pm on Thursday 22nd January.

To take part please email coo@coventrycathedral.org.uk with the word “Consultation” in the subject and we will forward the Zoom meeting link to you.

Interment of Ashes.

Sunday, 25th January at 12:30pm

The interment of the ashes of the Late Pauline Lawrence will follow the Cathedral Eucharist at 12:30pm on the 25th January. This service will be led by the Dean.

COMING SOON

Christian Unity Week

Today at 2pm, Chapel of Unity

Dean John will be preaching this afternoon at the Chapel of Unity Annual Unity service based as usual on the service prepared by the World Council of Churches. All are welcome. This year the theme for the week is :"*There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling*" (*Ephesians 4:4*)

Epiphany Carols

TODAY at 4pm

Epiphany Carols is a service of thoughtful readings and exciting music for the season of Epiphany. The service includes music by the service celebrates the revelation of Christ to the nations and all welcome.

"How did we get here?": An Itinerant's Musical

Saturday 31st Jan 2026, 7:30pm

In 2001, Rob Halligan lost his father in the 9/11 terror attacks. A week later he found himself in New York City on the start of a journey, trying to make sense of what he'd seen. From a dysfunctional childhood and life on the streets, to being an ambassador for vulnerable children and an acclaimed songwriter, Rob's journey whistles hope into a hopeless world and invites us to do the same. Through songs and stories, "How Did We Get Here" takes us down a road underpinned by a simple faith and the belief that love is bigger.

Tickets £10 general admission

For any access questions or queries please contact

events@coventrycathedral.org.uk

2026 Dates for Wonder

This last Wednesday, the Wonder community met for the first time for 2026 and would warmly welcome those curious and imaginative, looking to explore what we believe through art, dance, and poetry. Wonder takes place every second Wednesday of the month, led by Canon Kate Massey.

The Wonder Community will gather on:

- 11th February- *Dust*
- 18th March- *Passion*
- 15th April- *Encounter*
- 20th May- *Breathe*
- 17th June- *Community*
- No gathering in July*
- 12th August- *Simplicity*
- 16th September- *Abundance*
- 21st October- *Memory*
- 18th November- *Peace*

Lent Course: Testament

This Lent, join us for a thought-provoking course built around *Testament*, the contemporary Christian series that brings the opening chapters of the Book of Acts vividly to life. Together we will explore the first ten chapters of Acts and reflect on what the birth of the Church might mean for faith and discipleship today.

The course will meet every Tuesday evening in Lent at 7pm in St Michael's House, beginning on Shrove Tuesday, 17 February.

To sign up, or for further details, please speak to Rob or Canon Nitano.