

The Cathedral Eucharist Sunday, 22nd February, 2026 The First Sunday of Lent



The President today is the Reverend Su McClellan, Cathedral Associate Minister. The Deacon is Donald Parr, Cathedral Lay Reader. The sub-deacon is John Lloyd, Cathedral Lay Reader. Our preacher today is the Very Reverend John Witcombe, Dean of Coventry.

The University of Warwick Chamber Choir is directed by Nat Morley. The organist is Charles Matthews.

The service setting is Mass for Four Voices by William Byrd (1540-1963).

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

Opening Hymn

**Praise, my soul, the King of heaven,
to his feet thy tribute bring;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
who like me his praise should sing?
praise him, praise him,
praise him, praise him,
praise the everlasting King.**

**Praise him for his grace and favour
to our fathers in distress;
praise him still the same for ever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless:
praise him, praise him,
praise him, praise him,
glorious in his faithfulness.**

**Father-like, he tends and spares us,
well our feeble frame he knows,
in his hands he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes:
praise him, praise him,
praise him, praise him,
widely as his mercy flows.**

**Angels, help us to adore him;
ye behold him face to face;
sun and moon, bow down before him,
dwellers all in time and space:
praise him, praise him,
praise him, praise him,
praise with us the God of grace.**

*Words by Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847) cf. Psalm 103
Tune CP 555 Praise my Soul John Goss (1800-1880)*

Our service today begins on page 5 of the seasonal booklet.

The Collect

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was
tempted as we are, yet without sin: give us grace to discipline
ourselves in obedience to your Spirit; and, as you know our weakness,
so may we know your power to save; 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 Andrew Cullum, representing the Cathedral Community.

A Reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Romans.

¹² Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned— ¹³ sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. ¹⁴ Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

¹⁵ But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. ¹⁶ And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgement following one trespass brought condemnation, but

the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. ¹⁷ If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. ¹⁹ For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

Romans 5:12-19

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Reading

¹ Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. ³ The tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.' ⁴ But he answered, 'It is written,

"One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." '

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

"He will command his angels concerning you",
and "On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone." '

⁷ Jesus said to him, 'Again it is written, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test." '

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour; ⁹ and he said to him, 'All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.' ¹⁰ Jesus said to him, 'Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

"Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him." '

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

Matthew 4:1-11

Offertory Hymn

And can it be that I should gain
an interest in the Saviour's blood?
Died he for me, who caused his pain?
For me, who him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be
that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

'Tis mystery all: the Immortal dies!
Who can explore his strange design?
In vain the first-born seraph tries
to sound the depths of love divine.
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore,
let angel minds enquire no more.

He left his Father's throne above –
so free, so infinite his grace –
emptied himself of all but love,
and bled for Adam's helpless race.
'Tis mercy all, immense and free;
for, O my God, it found out me!

Long my imprisoned spirit lay
fast bound in sin and nature's night;
thine eye diffused a quickening ray;
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
my chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed thee.

No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in him, is mine!
Alive in him, my living Head,
and clothed in righteousness divine,
bold I approach the eternal throne,
and claim the crown, through Christ, my own.

Words by Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Tune CP 376 Sagina from Thomas Campbell The Bouquet (1823)

Anthem

Remember not, Lord, our offences, nor the offences of our forefathers; neither take thou vengeance of our sins: but spare us, good Lord, spare thy people, whom thou hast redeemed with thy most precious blood, and be not angry with us for ever. Spare us, good Lord.

*Words from the 1662 Book of Common Prayer
Music by Henry Purcell (1659-1695)*

Communion Hymn

**Jesu, lover of my soul,
let me to thy bosom fly,
while the gathering waters roll,
while the tempest still is high:
hide me, O my Saviour, hide,
till the storm of life is past;
safe into the haven guide,
O receive my soul at last.**

**Other refuge have I none;
hangs my helpless soul on thee;
leave, ah, leave me not alone,
still support and comfort me.
All my trust on thee is stayed,
all my help from thee I bring;
cover my defenceless head
with the shadow of thy wing.**

**Thou, O Christ, art all I want;
more than all in thee I find;
raise the fallen, cheer the faint,
heal the sick, and lead the blind.
Just and holy is thy name,
I am all unrighteousness;
false and full of sin I am,
thou art full of truth and grace.**

**Plenteous grace with thee is found,
grace to cleanse from every sin;
let the healing streams abound;
make and keep me pure within:
thou of life the fountain art;
freely let me take of thee;
spring thou up within my heart,
rise to all eternity.**

*Words by Charles Wesley (1707-1788)
Tune CP 96ii Aberystwyth Joseph Parry (1841-1903)*

Post Communion

Lord God,
you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven; by it you
nourish our faith, increase our hope, and strengthen our love: teach us
always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread, and enable
us to live by every word that proceeds from out of your mouth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Closing Hymn

**Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
hold me with thy powerful hand:
bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore,
feed me now and evermore.**

**Open now the crystal fountain
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fiery cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through:
strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield,
be thou still my strength and shield.**

**When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side:
songs and praises, songs and praises,
I will ever give to thee,
I will ever give to thee.**

*Words by W. Williams (1717-1791) translated by P. and W. Williams
Tune CP 455 Cwm Rhondda John Hughes (1873-1932)*

Voluntary

Fugue (Sonata no. 8, first movement) by Josef Rheinberger (1839-1901)

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 below. 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, please do join us and if you are visiting, please introduce yourself to one of the ministers.

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:

Music.Administrator@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 <https://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/safeguarding>

Our Safeguarding Team are:



Canon Kate
Chapter
Safeguarding
Lead



Jane Williams
Cathedral
Community
Safeguarding
Officer



Jo Brake
Safeguarding
Lead for Policy
and Process

You can report a concern to our Safeguarding Team by emailing cathedral.safeguarding@coventrycathedral.org.uk or phoning 02476 52 1360

Alternatively, you can contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Team led by Sarah Price by phoning 024 7652 1345 or emailing safeguarding@coventry.anglican.org

COMMUNITY NEWS

Dean John's Farewell Celebration

As we prepare to give thanks for Dean John's ministry among us, all members of the congregation are warmly invited to his Farewell Do on Saturday, 9 May. This will be a joyful moment to gather, share stories, and offer our appreciation for his leadership and friendship.



Dean John's final Eucharist service will be on Sunday, 17 May at 10.30am and his final Choral Evensong at 4pm, where he will preach and preside. If you wish to attend either or both of these, please scan this QR code to register your attendance.



There are lists at the back of the nave, should you prefer to register that way. We hope many of you will join us for this special occasion.

Courageous Conversation

Today, immediately following the Eucharist.

Any who are interested are warmly invited to a discussion over coffee today in the *Chapel of Unity* to share over coffee, questions and perspectives arising from Dean John and Revd. Su's recent visit to Palestine and Israel. 12.00 – 12.45 today.

Phoenix Club

Today, 1pm-2pm

All are welcome to join the Phoenix Club, our ministry to young people, as they gather for their quarterly “**Bring & Share**” in the JLC at 1pm. They will be joined by *Cllr. Rachel Lancaster* (Lord Mayor of Coventry) today, who is keen to meet the members, hear more about the group and its activities.

COMING SOON

Lenten 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.

To sign up, or for further details, please speak to Rob Halligan, Canon Nitano or Revd. Gillian Roberts.

Ukrainian Vigil

Tuesday, 24th February, 6.30pm

Join us for a vigil in solidarity with our Ukrainian community, marking the 4th anniversary of the war in Ukraine. Together we will pray, reflect, and stand in hope, remembering those affected and affirming our commitment to peace and support.

Corrymeela Sunday

Sunday, 15th March

Rev'd Dr Alex Wimberly will be preaching at the 10.30am Eucharist on Corrymeela Sunday on 15th March. There will be a Bring and Share Lunch after the service, and we would be grateful if members of the congregation would consider bringing some food to that. If you might be willing to help co-ordinate this, please could you speak to Kate!

After the lunch there will be an event in the John Laing Centre called "Corrymeela: What next?" where Alex and others will consider reconciliation challenges on both sides of the Irish Sea. This will include a conversation about what it would mean for Great Britain if people voted for a united Ireland.

Passion Service

Wednesday, 18 March, 7.30pm

Step into Passiontide through our **Passion Service**, part of our monthly *Wonder* gathering. Curated and led by Dean John, this reflective and engaging service invites us to explore the passion of Christ with open hearts and questioning minds. Through scripture, silence, music and prayer, we will journey towards the cross together, creating space for wonder, honesty and transformation as we prepare for Holy Week.



 **Music at Lent**

Sunday 1st March: Organ Meditation - Liam Condon

Sunday 8th March: Organ Meditation - Adam Heron
(After Evensong)

Sunday 15th March: Lenten excerpts of Messiah

Sunday 22nd March: Pergolesi Stabat Mater

Sunday 29th March: Lamentations of Jeremiah - Tallis

(All start at 4pm, and will be preceded by a short service of Evening Prayer)