

# The Cathedral Eucharist Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2026 The Second Sunday of Lent



*The President today is the Reverend Kate Massey, Canon for Arts and Reconciliation. The Deacon is the Reverend Canon Sacha Slavic, Cathedral Associate Minister. The sub-deacon and preacher is the Reverend Su McClellan, Cathedral Associate Minister.*

*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 5 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

Almighty God,  
you show to those who are in error the light of your truth, that they may return to the way of righteousness: grant to all those who are admitted in the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ, 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 Owghonda, representing the Phoenix Club and the Cathedral Community.*

A Reading from the Book of Genesis.

<sup>1</sup> Now the LORD said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup>I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of

the earth shall be blessed.’<sup>4</sup> So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

*Genesis 12:1-4*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel Acclamation**

For God so loved the world, that he gave his Only Begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should have eternal life.

*John 3:16*

## **The Gospel Reading**

<sup>1</sup> Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup> He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” <sup>4</sup> Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” <sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup> What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup> Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ <sup>8</sup> The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” <sup>9</sup> Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? <sup>11</sup> “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup> If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup> No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup> And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. <sup>16</sup> “For God so loved the world that he gave his only

Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. <sup>17</sup>“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

*John 3:1-17*

## **Offertory Hymn**

**Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,  
there is no shadow of turning with thee;  
thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not,  
as thou hast been thou for ever wilt be.**

***Great is thy faithfulness, great is thy faithfulness;  
morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided,  
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!***

**Summer and winter, and spring-time and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.**

**Pardon for sin, and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!**

*Words by Thomas Chisholm (1866-1960)*

*Tune CP 453 Great is thy faithfulness W.M. Runyan (1870-1957)*

## **Anthem**

The Lord gave the word; great was the company of the preachers.

*Words from Psalm 68:11*

*Music by George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)*

## Communion Hymn

**Bread of heaven, on thee we feed,  
for thy flesh is meat indeed;  
ever may our souls be fed  
with this true and living bread;  
day by day with strength supplied  
through the life of him who died.**

**Vine of heaven, thy blood supplies  
this blest cup of sacrifice;  
Lord, thy wounds our healing give,  
to thy Cross we look and live:  
Jesus, may we ever be  
grafted, rooted, built in thee.**

*Words by J. Conder (1789-1855)*

*Tune CP 284i Bread of Heaven W.D. Maclagan (1826-1910)*

## Post Communion

Almighty God,  
you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: keep us  
both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may  
be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and  
from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## Closing Hymn

**Christ is our corner-stone,  
on him alone we build;  
with his true saints alone  
the courts of heaven are filled:  
on his great love  
our hopes we place  
of present grace  
and joys above.**

**O then with hymns of praise  
these hallowed courts shall ring;  
our voices we will raise  
the Three in One to sing;  
and thus proclaim  
in joyful song,  
both loud and long,  
that glorious name.**

**Here, gracious God, do thou  
for evermore draw nigh;  
accept each faithful vow,  
and mark each suppliant sigh;  
in copious shower  
on all who pray  
each holy day  
thy blessings pour.**

**Here may we gain from heaven  
the grace which we implore;  
and may that grace, once given,  
be with us evermore,  
until that day  
when all the blest  
to endless rest  
are called away.**

*Words from pre-9th century Latin translated by J. Chandler (1806-1876)*

*Tune CP 395 Harewood S.S. Wesley (1810-1876)*

## **The Blessing of Crosses 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 president blesses the Cross 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 *The Diocese of St Asaph Mothers' Union at St Asaph's Cathedral, The Evangelische Stadtkirchengemeinde, Hanau, The Domkirk, Utrecht, and The Church of the Messiah, Woods Hole, Massachusetts* 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 *The Diocese of St Asaph Mothers' Union at St Asaph's Cathedral, The Evangelische Stadtkirchengemeinde, Hanau, The Domkirk, Utrecht, and The Church of the Messiah, Woods Hole, Massachusetts* 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**

*Prelude in E minor by Nicolaus Bruhns (1665-1697)*

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*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.*

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## **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

### **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.

### **The Millennium Screen**

A loved one, family member, or friend's name etched forever in this wonderful and inspirational chapel.

Each name carries a story, a connection to the cathedral's past, present and future. The walls become a tangible expression of the cathedral's role as a centre of faith, community, and remembrance, bridging generations and uniting individuals under a shared sense of belonging.

Names are being taken for this year's engravings.

If you would like to honour a loved one, or wish to have your own name added to the Millennium Screen, please contact Mandy

[fundraising@coventrycathedral.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@coventrycathedral.org.uk)

Your support will also help to conserve Coventry Cathedral, a place to help preserve our beautiful building for future generations to enjoy.

## **COMING SOON**

### **Corrymeela Sunday**

*Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> March*

Rev'd Dr Alex Wimberly will be preaching at the 10.30am Eucharist on Corrymeela Sunday on 15<sup>th</sup> 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 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<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **Lenten Music Offering**

*Sundays in Lent*

During Lent, our Choral Evensong opens out into extended spaces of listening. On Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> March, following Evensong, the service is followed by meditative music to deepen the stillness of prayer and reflection.

## **HOLY WEEK AT THE CATHEDRAL**

Holy Week invites us to walk with Christ through the final days of his earthly ministry, from the joy of Palm Sunday to the light of Easter morning. Through worship, music and prayer, we enter the heart of the Christian story together.

### **PALM SUNDAY, 29<sup>th</sup> March**

#### **Cathedral Eucharist with Procession – 10.30am**

*The beginning of Holy Week, marking Christ’s entry into Jerusalem and the opening of the Passion narrative.*

#### **Choral Evening Prayer with the *Lamentations of Jeremiah* – 4pm**

*A solemn and reflective service shaped by ancient words of grief and hope.*

## **HOLY MONDAY TO HOLY WEDNESDAY**

### **Compline Sermon Series – 8pm**

*Night prayer during the first days of Holy Week, with addresses by Dean John Witcombe on the “Farewell Discourses” from St John’s Gospel.*

## **MAUNDY THURSDAY, 2<sup>nd</sup> April**

### **Chrism Eucharist – 10.30am**

*A diocesan celebration in which the holy oils are blessed and clergy and licenced lay ministers renew their ministerial vows.*

### **Maundy Thursday Evening Eucharist – 7.30pm**

*The Holy Eucharist with Foot-washing and the Stripping of the Altar, recalling Christ’s commandment of love and the gathering darkness of the Passion.*

## **GOOD FRIDAY, 3<sup>rd</sup> April**

### **Liturgy of the Day – 9am**

*A solemn service of prayer and reflection at the foot of the Cross, this will be followed by a Walk of Witness in the City Centre (Broadgate) to Holy Trinity Church at 10.30am*

## **EASTER DAY, 5<sup>th</sup> April**

### **Dawn Eucharist – 6am**

*The Service of Light with Baptism and Confirmation, proclaiming Christ’s Resurrection at first light.*

### **Cathedral Festal Eucharist – 10.30am**

*A joyful celebration of the resurrection with word, sacrament and song.*

### **Festal Choral Evensong – 4pm**

*The Easter Day story is crowned with choral prayer and praise as the light of Resurrection lingers into the evening.*

These services offer space to pray, to watch, and to rejoice together. All are warmly invited to share in this sacred journey from the Cross to the empty tomb, and into the hope and joy of Easter.