

The Cathedral Eucharist

Sunday, 8th March, 2026

The Third Sunday of Lent



The President today is the Reverend Nitano Muller, Canon for Worship and Welcome. The Deacon is the Reverend Su McClellan, Cathedral Associate Minister. The sub-deacon and preacher is the Reverend Kate Massey, Canon for Arts and Reconciliation.

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 Missa 'O Quam Gloriosum' by Tomás Luis de Victoria (1548-1611).

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

The Collect

Almighty God,
whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain,
and entered not into glory before he was crucified:
mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross,
may find it none other than the way of life and peace;
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 Julie Elsy, representing the Cathedral Community.

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

¹Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³And not only that, but we also boast in our

sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. ⁹Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. ¹¹But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Romans 5:1-11

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Lord, you are indeed the Saviour of the world;
give me living water, so that I will not be thirsty.

John 4:42, 4:15

The Gospel Reading

⁵So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. ⁷A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." ⁸(His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) ⁹The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) ¹⁰Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." ¹¹The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? ¹²Are you greater

than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?”¹³ Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,¹⁴ but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.”¹⁵ The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.”¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come back.”¹⁷ The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband’;¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!”¹⁹ The woman said to him, “Sir, I see that you are a prophet.”²⁰ Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.”²¹ Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.²³ But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him.²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”²⁵ The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.”²⁶ Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.”²⁷ Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you want?” or, “Why are you speaking with her?”²⁸ Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people,²⁹ “Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?”³⁰ They left the city and were on their way to him.³¹ Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.”³² But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.”³³ So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?”³⁴ Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work.³⁵ Do you not say, ‘Four months more, then comes the harvest’? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting.³⁶ The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit

for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. ³⁷For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' ³⁸I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor." ³⁹Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." ⁴⁰So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. ⁴¹And many more believed because of his word. ⁴²They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

John 4:5-42

Offertory Hymn

**Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy,
be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.**

**Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,
be there at our labours, and give us, we pray,
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.**

**Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,
be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.**

**Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,
be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.**

*Words by Jan Struther (1901-1953)
Tune CP 507 Slane Irish traditional melody
harmonized by Erik Routley (1917-1982)*

Anthem

Verbe égal au Très-Haut, notre
unique espérance,
jour éternel de la terre et des
cieux;
de la paisible nuit nous rompons
le silence,
Divin Sauveur, jette sur nous les
yeux!

Répands sur nous le feu de ta
grâce puissante,
que tout l'enfer fuie au son de ta
voix;
dissipe le sommeil d'une âme
languissante,
qui la conduit à l'oubli de tes
lois!

O Christ, sois favorable à ce
peuple fidèle
pour te bénir maintenant
rassemblé.
Reçois les chants qu'il offre à ta
gloire immortelle,
et de tes dons qu'il retourne
comblé!

*Word, equal to the Most High, our
only hope,
eternal day of the earth and the
heavens,
we break the silence of the peaceful
night.
Divine Saviour, cast your eyes upon
us!*

*Spread upon us the fire of your
powerful grace,
that all hell might flee at the sound
of your voice;
dispel the languishing soul's torpor
which has caused it to forget your
laws!*

*Oh Christ, show favour to this
faithful people
now gathered to bless you.
Receive the songs it offers to your
immortal glory,
and may it return filled with your
gifts!*

Music by Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)

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

Merciful Lord,
grant your people grace to withstand the temptations
of the world, the flesh and the devil,
and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Closing Hymn

**The kingdom of God is justice and joy,
for Jesus restores what sin would destroy;
God's power and glory in Jesus we know,
and here and hereafter the kingdom shall grow.**

**The kingdom of God is mercy and grace,
the captives are freed, the sinners find place,
the outcast are welcomed God's banquet to share,
and hope is awakened in place of despair.**

**The kingdom of God is challenge and choice,
believe the good news, repent and rejoice!
His love for us sinners brought Christ to his cross,
our crisis of judgement for gain or for loss.**

**God's kingdom is come, the gift and the goal,
in Jesus begun, in heaven made whole;
the heirs of the kingdom shall answer his call,
and all things cry 'Glory!' to God all in all.**

*Words by Bryn Rees (1911-1983)
Tune CP 591 Hanover A Supplement to the New Version (1708)*

Voluntary

*Fugue sur le theme du Carillon des Heures de la Cathédrale de Soissons by
Maurice Duruflé (1902-1986)*

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

Coventry Cathedral Chorus

The Chorus is one of the Midlands' leading amateur choirs, bringing together around 60 singers to perform a wide range of choral music in and beyond Coventry. Founded shortly after the consecration of Coventry Cathedral in 1963, the Chorus continues a rich tradition of singing in notable venues across the UK and Europe.

Rehearsals take place at the Cathedral on Tuesday evenings, 7.15–9.30pm. New singers are always welcome. To find out more or arrange to attend a rehearsal, visit coventrycathedralchorus.com or contact the Membership Secretary at

membership@coventrycathedralchorus.com. Follow Coventry Cathedral Chorus on Facebook and @CovCathChorus on X.

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

From the Fragment to the Whole

Opening event, immediately following Eucharist, Christ the Servant Chapel
To celebrate International Women's Day, Coventry Cathedral in partnership with Coventry Haven Women's Aid is delighted to announce its collaboration with Artist Roberta De Caro on a new body of work.

This exhibition is made up of pieces all created by survivors of domestic abuse, art created from fragments of glass. The collection portrays stories of survival and resilience, using a material and a process that mirror the participants' lived experience.

The exhibition will be available to see in The Chapel of Christ the Servant, during regular Cathedral opening hours.

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.

Cathedral AGM

Sunday 19th April, immediately following the Eucharist in JLC

In advance of this anyone that considers the Cathedral to be their place of worship is encouraged to join the Electoral Roll so that they might take part in proceedings, as well as be nominated for any of the roles that require the meeting's approval. At the meeting we will be approving the roles of Churchwarden, members of the Deanery Synod, and members of St. Michael's Committee. Have a chat with Canon Kate or Canon Nitano if you want to know more about what the roles entail.

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.



COMING SOON

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 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.

Choral Evening Prayer for Lent

With sacred music for meditation and devotion from Handel's 'Messiah'

Sunday, 15th March 2026, 4pm

Though often associated with Christmas, much of Handel's Messiah was written for Lent and Easter. These excerpts focus on Christ's Passion, sacrifice, and the promise of redemption. Through reflective arias and choruses drawn from Scripture, the music invites quiet contemplation and prepares us for the journey toward Easter.

Passion Service

Wednesday, 18th 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.

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, 29th 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, 2nd 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, 3rd 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

Stainer: The Crucifixion - 6pm

Join Coventry Cathedral Chorus for a moving performance of The Crucifixion by John Stainer, a much-loved meditation on the Passion combining reflective choruses, recitatives and congregational hymns.

Tickets: £15 adults | £5 young adults (18–25) | Children free.

Book at coventrycathedralchorus.com, or contact tickets@coventrycathedralchorus.com | 01676 532436.

EASTER DAY, 5th 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.

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.