

The Cathedral Eucharist

Sunday, 12th April, 2026

The Second Sunday of Easter



The President today is the Reverend Modupe Adeoye, Assistant Curate at Saint Nicholas, Nuneaton. The deacon is the Very Reverend John Witcombe, Dean of Coventry. The sub-deacon is the Reverend Nitano Muller, Canon for Worship and Welcome. Our preacher today is the Reverend Gillian Roberts.

Our choir today is Te Decet Hymnus, directed by Chris Bond.

The organist is Edward Kemp Luck.

The service setting is Collegium Regale by Herbert Howells (1892-1983).

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

Opening Hymn

**All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us sing
Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Thou burning sun with golden beam,
thou silver moon with softer gleam:**

***O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.***

**Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
ye clouds that sail in heaven along,
O praise him, alleluia.**

**Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,
ye lights of evening, find a voice:**

**Thou flowing water, pure and clear,
make music for thy Lord to hear,
Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Thou fire so masterful and bright,
that givest us both warmth and light:**

**Dear mother earth, who day by day
unfoldest blessings on our way,
O praise him, alleluia.
The flowers and fruits that in thee grow,
let them his glory also show:**

**All you who are of tender heart,
forgiving others, take your part,
O sing ye alleluia.
Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,
praise God and on him cast your care:**

**And thou, most kind and gentle death,
waiting to hush our latest breath,
O praise him, alleluia.
Thou leadest home the child of God,
and Christ our Lord the way hath trod:**

**Let all things their Creator bless,
and worship him in humbleness;
O praise him, alleluia.
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, Three in One:**

Words by W.H. Draper (1855-1933)

Based on St Francis of Assisi's Canticle of the Sun

Tune CP 250 Easter Song arranged by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

The Collect

Almighty Father,
you have given your only Son to die for our sins
and to rise again for our justification:
grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness
that we may always serve you
in pureness of living and truth;
through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ 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 Rachel Rathbone, representing the Cathedral Community.

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: ‘Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say.

²² ‘You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know—²³this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. ²⁴But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. ²⁵For David says concerning him,

“I saw the Lord always before me,
for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;
²⁶ therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
moreover, my flesh will live in hope.

²⁷ For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,
or let your Holy One experience corruption.

²⁸ You have made known to me the ways of life;
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.”

²⁹ ‘Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,

“He was not abandoned to Hades,
nor did his flesh experience corruption.”

³²This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.

Acts 2:14, 22-32

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Acclamation

I am the first and the last, says the Lord, and the living one;
I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore.

cf Revelation 1.17,18

The Gospel Reading

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' ²⁸ Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' ²⁹ Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

John 20:19-End

Presentation of a Pectoral Cross of Nails

The Dean blesses a pectoral Cross of Nails to present to the Reverend Gillian Roberts, Priest with Permission to Officiate, serving on the Cathedral Ministry Team.

Loving God,
bless this Cross of Nails,
that it may be a sign to Gillian and those in her care
that you have reconciled the world to yourself
through Jesus Christ
and have entrusted us with the ministry of reconciliation.
Amen.

Cf 2 Corinthians 5:18

The Dean says:

Gillian, receive this Cross of Nails,
and work with us
as we accompany others on a journey
from a fractured past towards a shared future
by healing the wounds of history,
learning to live with difference and celebrating diversity
and building a culture of justice and peace.

The Reverend Gillian replies:

This is my work, and yours.

Offertory Hymn

Alleluia! Alleluia!
Hearts to heaven and voices raise;
sing to God a hymn of gladness,
sing to God a hymn of praise:
he who on the cross a victim
for the world's salvation bled,
Jesus Christ, the King of Glory,
now is risen from the dead.

Christ is risen, Christ the first-fruits
of the holy harvest field,
which will all its full abundance
at his second coming yield;

then the golden ears of harvest
will their heads before him wave,
ripened by his glorious sunshine,
from the furrows of the grave.

Christ is risen, we are risen;
shed upon us heavenly grace,
rain, and dew, and gleams of glory
from the brightness of thy face;
that we, with our hearts in heaven,
here on earth may fruitful be,
and by angel-hands be gathered,
and be ever, Lord, with thee.

Alleluia! Alleluia!
Glory be to God on high;
Alleluia to the Saviour,
who has gained the victory;
Alleluia to the Spirit,
fount of love and sanctity;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
to the Triune Majesty.

*Words by Christopher Wordsworth (1807-1885)
Tune CP 137 Lux Eoi Arthur Sullivan (1842-1900)*

Anthem

Haec dies quam fecit Dominus:
exultemus et laetemur in ea.
Alleluia!

*This is the day which the Lord hath
made: we will rejoice and be glad
in it. Alleluia!*

*from Psalm 118.24
Music by William Byrd (1543-1623)*

Communion Hymn

**Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,
be all else but naught to me, save that thou art;
be thou my best thought in the day and the night,
both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.**

**Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,
be thou ever with me, and I with thee, Lord;
be thou my great Father, and I thy true heir;
be thou in me dwelling, and I in thy care.**

**Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight;
be thou my whole armour, be thou my true might;
be thou my soul's shelter, be thou my strong tower:
O raise thou me heavenward, great Power of my power.**

**Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise:
be thou mine inheritance now and always;
be thou and thou only the first in my heart;
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art.**

**High King of heaven, thou heaven's bright Sun,
O grant me its joys after vict'ry is won;
great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.**

Words c.8th century Irish tr. Mary Byrne (1880-1931)

versified by Eleanor Hull (1860-1935)

*Tune CP 386 Slane Irish traditional harmonised by Erik Routley
(1917-1982)*

Post Communion

Lord God our Father,
through our Saviour Jesus Christ
you have assured your children of eternal life
and in baptism have made us one with him:
deliver us from the death of sin
and raise us to new life in your love,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Closing Hymn

**Ye choirs of new Jerusalem,
your sweetest notes employ,
the Paschal victory to hymn
in strains of holy joy.**

**How Judah's Lion burst his chains,
and crushed the serpent's head;
and brought with him, from death's domains,
the long-imprisoned dead.**

**Triumphant in his glory now
his sceptre ruleth all,
earth, heaven, and hell before him bow,
and at his footstool fall.**

**While joyful thus his praise we sing,
his mercy we implore,
into his palace bright to bring
and keep us evermore.**

**All glory to the Father be,
all glory to the Son,
all glory, Holy Ghost, to thee,
while endless ages run.
Alleluia! Amen.**

*Words by St Fulbert of Chartres (d. 1028) tr. by Robert Campbell (1814-1868)
Tune CP 162 St Fulbert H.J. Gauntlett (1805-1876)*

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 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 Coptic Orthodox Cathedral of Saint George*, 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 this Cross of Nails to
The Coptic Orthodox Cathedral of Saint George 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

Triumphal March by Jacques-Nicolas Lemmens (1823-1881)

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

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

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.

COMMUNITY NEWS



INEQE Survey & Audit

The Cathedral welcomes the INEQE Audit as an opportunity to learn. We want to understand how we can continue to improve our safeguarding culture and practice and keep everyone safe. You can help with this learning by completing an INEQE survey. We want to hear from as many voices as possible. The surveys are completed online. You can use the QR Code or go to: <https://ineqe.com/churchofengland/coventry/> You are welcome to complete more than one survey e.g. if you are a congregation member AND a victim or survivor, you are welcome to complete both surveys. If you would like to feedback to INEQE, but cannot complete the survey, there is more information about how to do that at the bottom of the webpage. If you would like to complete a survey, but don't have a computer or smartphone, ask us and we can help.

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 at 7pm. 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.

Farewell Gift

There will be opportunities for members of the Cathedral Community to contribute to a farewell gift to John and Ricarda as a thank you for their service amongst us for the past 13 years. A box for contributions and a card to sign will be at the back of the cathedral until their final Sunday with us on May 17th.

The Cathedral Churchwardens

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*