

The Cathedral Eucharist

Sunday, 19th April, 2026

The Third Sunday of Easter



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

The cantor is Matthew Horspool and our organist is Liam Condon, Assistant Director of Music. The service setting is Unison Communion by Herbert Sumsion (1899-1995).

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

If you would like to access the loop system, please speak to one of the vergers.

Opening Hymn

Alleluia, sing to Jesus!
his the sceptre, his the throne;
Alleluia, his the triumph,
his the victory alone:
hark, the songs of peaceful Sion
thunder like a mighty flood;
Jesus out of every nation
hath redeemed us by his blood.

Alleluia, not as orphans
are we left in sorrow now;
Alleluia, he is near us,
faith believes, nor questions how:
though the cloud from sight received him,
when the forty days were o'er,
shall our hearts forget his promise,
"I am with you evermore"?

**Alleluia, bread of angels,
thou on earth our food, our stay;
Alleluia, here the sinful
flee to thee from day to day:
Intercessor, Friend of sinners,
earth's Redeemer, plead for me,
where the songs of all the sinless
sweep across the crystal sea.**

**Alleluia, King eternal,
thee the Lord of lords we own;
Alleluia, born of Mary,
earth thy footstool, heaven thy throne:
thou within the veil hast entered,
robed in flesh, our great High Priest;
thou on earth both Priest and Victim
in the eucharistic feast.**

*Words by William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898)
Tune CP 278 Hyfrydol melody by R.H. Pritchard (1811-1887)*

The Collect

Almighty Father,
who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples
with the sight of the risen Lord:
give us such knowledge of his presence with us,
that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life
and serve you continually in righteousness and truth;
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 Jacob Highton, 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.

³⁶Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.'

³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, 'Brothers, what should we do?' ³⁸Peter said to them, 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.' ⁴⁰And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, 'Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.' ⁴¹So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

Acts 2:14, 36-41

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Acclamation

Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life.

Whoever comes to me will never be hungry,
and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'

John 6:35

The Gospel Reading

¹³ Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷And he said to them, 'What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?' They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸Then one of them, whose name

was Cleopas, answered him, 'Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?' ¹⁹He asked them, 'What things?' They replied, 'The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²²Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.' ²⁵Then he said to them, 'Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?' ²⁷Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. ²⁸As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹But they urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.' So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. ³²They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?' ³³That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴They were saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!' ³⁵Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Luke 24:13-35

Offertory Hymn

**All for Jesus, all for Jesus,
this our song shall ever be;
for we have no hope, nor Saviour,
if we have not hope in thee.**

**All for Jesus, thou wilt give us
strength to serve thee, hour by hour;
none can move us from thy presence
while we trust thy love and power.**

**All for Jesus, at thine altar
thou wilt give us sweet content;
there, dear Lord, we shall receive thee
in the solemn sacrament.**

**All for Jesus, thou hast loved us;
all for Jesus, thou hast died;
all for Jesus, thou art with us,
all for Jesus crucified.**

**All for Jesus, all for Jesus,
this the Church's song must be;
till, at last, we all are gathered
one in love and one in thee.**

*Words by W. J. Sparrow-Simpson (1859-1952)
Tune CP 277 All for Jesus John Stainer (1840-1901)*

Anthem

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:
such a way as gives us breath,
such a truth as ends all strife,
such a life as killeth death.

Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:
such a light as shows a feast,
such a feast as mends in length,
such a strength as makes his guest.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:
such a joy as none can move,
such a love as none can part,
such a heart as joys in love.

*Words by George Herbert (1593-1633)
Music by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)*

Communion Hymn

**Be known to us in breaking bread,
but do not then depart;
Saviour, abide with us, and spread
thy table in our heart.**

**There sup with us in love divine,
thy body and thy blood,
that living bread, that heavenly wine,
be our immortal food.**

*Words by James Montgomery (1771-1854)
Tune CP 282 Belmont by William Gardiner (1770-1853)*

Post Communion

Living God,
your Son made himself known to his disciples
in the breaking of bread:
open the eyes of our faith,
that we may see him in all his redeeming work;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.
Amen.

Closing Hymn

**Come, ye faithful, raise the strain
of triumphant gladness!
God hath brought His Israel
into joy from sadness;
loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke
Jacob's sons and daughters;
led them with unmoistened foot
through the Red Sea waters.**

'Tis the spring of souls today;
Christ hath burst his prison,
and from three days' sleep in death
as a sun has risen;
all the winter of our sins,
long and dark, is flying
from his light, to whom we give
laud and praise undying.

Now the queen of seasons, bright
with the day of splendour,
with the royal feast of feasts,
comes its joy to render;
comes to glad Jerusalem,
who with true affection
welcomes in unwearied strains
Jesu's resurrection.

Alleluia now we cry
to our King immortal,
who triumphant burst the bars
of the tomb's dark portal;
Alleluia, with the Son
God the Father praising;
Alleluia yet again
to the Spirit raising.

*Words by St John of Damascus (d. c.754) translated by J.M. Neale (1816-1866)
Tune CP 143 St John Damascene A.H. Brown (1830-1926)*

Voluntary

Praeludium in C by Georg Böhm (1661–1733).

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

Thank you to everyone who has completed a safeguarding survey! So far TWENTY-FOUR members of the cathedral worshipping community have responded, which is great, but we want to hear from as many voices as possible. If you haven't done so already, please can I encourage you to share your views, so we can learn and improve our safeguarding culture. 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 at the cathedral AND a volunteer/worshipper in a parish, you are welcome to complete both cathedral and parish surveys. If you would like to feedback to INEQE, but the survey format doesn't work for you, 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, we will have laptops available after the Sunday service next week 26th April.

Pauline Lawrence

Many of you will remember Pauline, who died last year. He niece Tracey is having to clear Pauline's house in Earlsdon and would value some help. If you are to assist, please contact Jane Williams, or the Cathedral office. Tracey would also like to hear from any of Pauline's friends who would care to be in touch.

Heather Wallace

There will be a Celebration of Heather's life at Evensong on Sunday May 3rd at 4pm, and we hope that many will choose to gather on that occasion.

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

Inclusive and Evangelical

Canon Kate has contributed a chapter to a new book called "Evangelical and Inclusive: A Future and a Hope" edited by David Runcorn. There is a book launch at St Mark's Church Leamington Spa on 13th May at 7pm where Kate and other contributors will be discussing why they wrote the book. You are warmly invited to come along. Copies of the book can be pre-ordered at canterburypress.co.uk where you can also find more information and reviews.

'From the Fragment to the Whole' Closing Event

To mark the end of From the Fragment to The Whole exhibition join us for an 'In Conversation' with; Artist, Roberta DeCaro, Canon for Arts and Reconciliation, Kate Massey and Development & Funding Officer at Coventry Haven, Jamie Richards, as they discuss the journey of the project and its legacy. This will be held in the John Laing Centre on Sunday 26th April from 1-2.30pm. To register your place, please book via the Cathedral website:

Embrace the Middle East

Communities supported by **Embrace the Middle East** in Lebanon are continuing their vital work in the midst of appalling levels of bombardment and the displacement of over 1.2 million people. As crisis builds on crisis, many of their long-standing funding streams, particularly from the United States, are drying up. These trusted local partners are asking simply not to be forgotten. If you are able you are invited to give to **Embrace's Middle East Emergency Appeal, Keeping Hope Alive** helping to provide emergency medical care, food aid, trauma care and mental health support, for those, particularly the children, caught up in the war. In moments like this, headlines can move quickly - but fear, disruption, and trauma settle deeply and last. Thank you for standing with the Middle East at a time like this. When you give, you are not watching from a distance - you are equipping trusted people on the ground to act with compassion, skill, and urgency. To give visit <https://embraceme.org/emergency-appeal> or use the QR code here. Thank you.



Acting Dean

Bishop Sophie has appointed Canon Kate as Acting Dean, working of course closely with Canon Nitano and Simon, taking up her role (in addition to her existing responsibilities) from June 1st. In making this appointment we are delighted that Bishop Sophie has expressed confidence Cathedral team and the well established direction the Cathedral has been taking for many years.

It is also important to note that whilst only one person can hold the office of Acting Dean, this is in many ways a shared appointment, as Kate and Nitano, along with Simon's support, hold the Cathedral together through these coming months. Recognising the additional workload, Bishop Sophie intends to appoint another priest to a temporary role to provide additional support capacity through this period.

As you know, the post of Dean is now advertised, and interviews are due to take place early in June. We all hope that a new Dean will take up their post before the end of the year. Please pray for the recruitment process and those involved.

Lüdenscheid Vocal Ensemble

A choir from Germany, the Lüdenscheid Vocal Ensemble, with close connections to one of our Cross of Nails Centres, will be visiting Coventry from 29th April to 3rd May. On Saturday 2nd May at 12.10pm, directly after the Litany, they will sing a short concert of music for reconciliation in the Nave. The programme includes pieces by Brahms and Bob Chilcott, and music connected with Dresden.

Attendance is free, with a retiring collection.

On Sunday morning 3rd May they will join our Chamber Choir to sing for the 10.30 Eucharist.

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*