

**The Cathedral Eucharist  
Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2026  
The Fourth Sunday of Easter**



**Also known as Good Shepherd Sunday**

*The President today is the Reverend Nitano Muller, Canon for Worship and Welcome. The Deacon is the Reverend Kate Massey, Canon for Arts and Reconciliation. The sub-deacon is John Lloyd, Cathedral Lay Reader. Our preacher today is the Reverend Scott Bostic, Lead Pastor at Union Memorial United Methodist Church, Baltimore, USA.*

*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 Brevis by Grayston Ives (1948-).*

*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**

**The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want;  
he makes me down to lie  
in pastures green; he leadeth me  
the quiet waters by.**

**My soul he doth restore again,  
and me to walk doth make  
within the paths of righteousness,  
e'en for his own name's sake.**

**Yea, though I walk through death's dark vale,  
yet will I fear none ill;  
for thou art with me, and thy rod  
and staff me comfort still.**

**My table thou hast furnishèd  
in presence of my foes;  
my head thou dost with oil anoint,  
and my cup overflows.**

**Goodness and mercy all my life  
shall surely follow me;  
and in God's house for evermore  
my dwelling-place shall be.**

*cf. Psalm 23 from the Scottish Psalter (1650)  
Tune CP 594 Crimond Melody by David Grant (1833-1893)*

## **The Collect**

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life: raise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, that we may seek those things which are above, where he reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **The First Reading**

*Read by Brenda Williams, representing the Cathedral Community.*

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

<sup>42</sup>They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

<sup>43</sup>Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. <sup>44</sup>All who believed were together and had all things in common; <sup>45</sup>they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup>Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup>praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

*Acts 2:42-End*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **The Gospel Acclamation**

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord.  
I know my sheep and my own know me.

*John 10:14*

## The Gospel Reading

<sup>1</sup> “Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. <sup>2</sup>The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup>The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup>When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup>They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” <sup>6</sup>Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. <sup>7</sup>So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup>All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup>I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup>The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

*John 10:1-10*

### The Admittance to Office of the Head Verger

*The Canon for Worship and Welcome, Reverend Nitano Muller, and Chris Craddock, stand before the congregation. Canon Nitano says:*

People of God, I present to you Chris, whom we have chosen as our new Head Verger, to be formally welcomed and admitted to his office.

Congregation reply, saying:

**We welcome you into the Cathedral family.**

*The Canon addresses the candidate:*

Chris, we welcome you among us and ask: in the office to which you have been appointed, will you seek to follow Christ, and serve him in the strength of God’s Spirit?

Answer **I will.**

In serving Christ, will you, as our Head Verger, also love and serve all people?

Answer **I will.**

*Canon Nitano takes Chris by the hand and says*

Chris, by the authority committed to me, on behalf of the Dean, I admit you to the office of Head Verger of this Cathedral Church.

*The Canon robes the Head Verger and gives him the Head Verger's verge, saying*

Chris, this gown and verge are signs of the dignity of your office. Every time you assume them, keep always in mind the Lord you serve and the duties to which he calls you.

*The Canon then places a vergers cross of nails around his neck and says:*

Chris, receive this cross as a sign of the Lord you serve and our work and ministry as a Cathedral community.

Always remember our shared call to be reconcilers wherever you may be.

*Then the Canon blesses the new Head Verger, saying*

God keep you in his care;  
Christ win you and save you;  
the Holy Spirit guide you  
in the paths of truth and love always.

**Amen.**

*The Head Verger bows to the Canon, who presents him to the congregation. Everyone applauds.*

## Admission and Affirmation of Vergers

*The Head Verger and vergers present stand before the Canon for Worship and Welcome. The Head Verger says*

Canon Nitano, I present to you *Thomas Darker*, to be admitted to the office of Verger.

*Canon Nitano addresses the vergers, saying*

*Thomas*, you have been with us for some time already and form an integral part of our community here: as we affirm the office to which you have been appointed, will you continue to seek to follow Jesus Christ, and serve him in the strength of God's Spirit?

**Answer I will.**

In serving Jesus Christ, will you continue to love and serve his people and this Cathedral community?

**Answer I will.**

*The Canon shakes hands with each candidate and says*

*Thomas*, by the authority committed to me, on behalf of the Dean, I admit you to the office of Verger of this Cathedral.

*Then the Canon gives each a vergers Cross of Nails, saying*

The cross you wear is a sign of the Lord you serve and our work as a Cathedral community. Always remember our shared call to be reconcilers wherever you may be.

*Then the Canon blesses Vergers, saying*

God keep you in his care;  
Christ win you and save you;  
the Holy Spirit guide you  
in the paths of truth and love always.

**Amen.**

*The Vergers bow together and the Canon presents them to the congregation. Everyone applauds.*

## Offertory Hymn

Loving Shepherd of thy sheep,  
keep thy lamb, in safety keep;  
nothing can thy power withstand,  
none can pluck me from thy hand.

Loving Saviour, thou didst give  
thine own life that we might live,  
and the hands outstretched to bless  
bear the cruel nails' impress.

I would praise thee every day,  
gladly all thy will obey,  
like thy blessed ones above  
happy in thy precious love.

Loving Shepherd, ever near,  
teach thy lamb thy voice to hear;  
suffer not my steps to stray  
from the straight and narrow way.

Where thou leadest I would go,  
walking in thy steps below,  
till before my Father's throne  
I shall know as I am known.

*Words by Jane E. Leeson (1809-1881)*

*Tune CP 517 Buckland by L.G. Hayne (1836-1883)*

## Anthem

Lift up your heads, O ye gates,  
and be ye lift up ye everlasting doors,  
and the King of glory shall come in.  
Who is this King of glory?  
The Lord, strong and mighty,  
the Lord mighty in battle.  
Who is this King of glory?  
The Lord of hosts,  
he is the King of glory.

*from Psalm 24.7-10*

*Music by Liam Condon (1997-)*

## Communion Hymn

**Faithful Shepherd, feed me  
in the pastures green;  
faithful Shepherd, lead me  
where thy steps are seen.**

**Hold me fast, and guide me  
in the narrow way;  
so, with thee beside me,  
I shall never stray.**

**Daily bring me nearer  
to the heavenly shore;  
may my faith grow clearer,  
may I love thee more.**

**Hallow every pleasure,  
every gift and pain;  
be thyself my treasure,  
though none else I gain.**

**Day by day prepare me  
as thou seest best,  
then let angels bear me  
to thy promised rest.**

*Words by Thomas Benson Pollock (1836-1896)*

*Tune CP 360 Pastor Pastorum (Gott Ein Vater) by F. Silcher (1789-1860)*

## Post Communion

Merciful Father, you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd, and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again: keep us always under his protection, and give us grace to follow in his steps; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## Closing Hymn

The King of love my shepherd is,  
whose goodness faileth never;  
I nothing lack if I am his  
and he is mine for ever.

Where streams of living water flow  
my ransomed soul he leadeth,  
and where the verdant pastures grow  
with food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,  
but yet in love he sought me,  
and on his shoulder gently laid,  
and home rejoicing brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill  
with thee, dear Lord, beside me;  
thy rod and staff my comfort still,  
thy cross before to guide me.

Thou spread'st a table in my sight;  
thy unction grace bestoweth;  
and O what transport of delight  
from thy pure chalice floweth!

And so through all the length of days  
thy goodness faileth never:  
good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise  
within thy house for ever.

*Words by H.W. Baker (1821-1877)*

*Tune CP 589 Dominus Regit Me J.B. Dykes (1823-1876)*

## Voluntary

*Paeon by Kenneth Leighton (1929-1988).*

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](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



### **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.

### **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 17<sup>th</sup>. The Cathedral Churchwardens

## 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.



## **COMING SOON**

### **Digital Drop In**

*Tuesday 28th April, Tuesday 5th May, Tuesday 19th May  
10am - 12noon*

**Come along to our drop-in sessions taking place in The New Cathedral where you can access informal 1:1 support with skills such as:**

- Online shopping
- Setting up an email address
- Using the NHS app
- Practice using a mouse and keyboard
- Using a search engine effectively
- Getting to grips with a smartphone

**& much more!**

Supported by CovConnects & Coventry City Council

If you have any questions, please email  
[events@coventrycathedral.org.uk](mailto:events@coventrycathedral.org.uk)

### **Spring Fest**

*Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May from 12pm til 5pm.*

Let your curiosity guide you this May 2nd, as Food Union and Coventry Cathedral once again join forces to bring you Spring Fest, our free all day Festival in the cathedral ruins celebrating local green initiatives and creatives.

We've arranged another brilliant array of musicians, artists, traders and stall holders who'll be helping us celebrate a wonderful day, bursting with family fun that celebrates all things community, sustainability and food.

If you have any questions, please email  
[events@coventrycathedral.org.uk](mailto:events@coventrycathedral.org.uk)

## **Visiting Choir**

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. The conductor is Patrick Kampf.

*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.

## **Play the Organ Day**

*Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May*

As part of our launch of our Coventry Cathedral Monday Lunchtime recital series, we will be running a 'Play the Organ' opportunity for young organists where they can come and play our magnificent Cathedral Organ. The morning session will be for those who have already started learning the organ, whereas the afternoon session is open to anyone who would like to have the opportunity. All are welcome to attend the 12:30pm recital as our Assistant Director of Music, Liam Condon, will present a programme of 'Organ Favourites'! If you know any young organists who would like to sign up, please direct them to our website:

<https://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/events/play-the-organ-day> .



# Chorister Open Evening

19th May 2026



**Venue:** Coventry Cathedral

**Who can attend?** Open to Boys & Girls in current school Years 2-6

**Date:** Tuesday 19th May, 16:30-18:30

- Open to all children considering auditioning for the cathedral choir
- Meet and sing with the cathedral choristers in a cathedral liturgy
- Have a tour of the cathedral, and experience the cathedral organ close up
- Parents will hear their children singing in the Cathedral choir, meet with other parents & meet the Director of Music



## Sign Up!



Scan the QR code to sign up for this event or  
click the link: [tinyurl.com/choristeropenevening](https://tinyurl.com/choristeropenevening)

SCAN ME

