

# Choral Evensong

## Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December

### The Third Sunday in Advent



Welcome to this service of Choral Evensong, led by the Reverend Su McClellan, Cathedral Associate Minister. Margaret East, Coventry Cathedral Reader, is preaching. The Cathedral Choir is directed by Luke Fitzgerald, Acting Director of Music. The organists are David Rice, Acting Assistant Director of Music, and Amelia Parkin, Organ Scholar. The Responses are by Thomas Morley (1557-1602). Before the service begins, David Rice will play *Kommst du non, Jesu, com Himmel herunter* BWV 650 by J. S. Bach (1685-1750). The full text of the service is found in the purple booklets.

### Psalm 50:1 – 6

1. The Lord, even the most mighty God, hath spoken : and called the world, from the rising up of the sun unto the going down thereof.
2. Out of Sion hath God appeared : in perfect beauty.
3. Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence: there shall go before him a consuming fire, and a mighty tempest shall be stirred up round about him.
4. He shall call the heaven from above : and the earth, that he may judge his people.
5. Gather my saints together unto me : those that have made a covenant with me with sacrifice.
6. And the heavens shall declare his righteousness : for God is Judge himself.

### The First Lesson

<sup>1</sup> The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
like the crocus <sup>2</sup> it shall blossom abundantly,  
and rejoice with joy and singing.  
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.  
They shall see the glory of the LORD,  
the majesty of our God.

<sup>3</sup> Strengthen the weak hands,  
and make firm the feeble knees.  
<sup>4</sup> Say to those who are of a fearful heart,  
'Be strong, do not fear!  
Here is your God.  
He will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense.  
He will come and save you.'

<sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
<sup>6</sup> then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.  
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;  
<sup>7</sup> the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

<sup>8</sup> A highway shall be there,  
and it shall be called the Holy Way;  
the unclean shall not travel on it,  
but it shall be for God's people;  
no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.  
<sup>9</sup> No lion shall be there,  
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
they shall not be found there,  
but the redeemed shall walk there.  
<sup>10</sup> And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,  
and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain joy and gladness,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

*Isaiah 35*

## **The Magnificat**

*Evening Service in G by Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)*

## The Second Lesson

<sup>57</sup> Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son.

<sup>58</sup> Her neighbours and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.

<sup>59</sup> On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. <sup>60</sup> But his mother said, 'No; he is to be called John.' <sup>61</sup> They said to her, 'None of your relatives has this name.' <sup>62</sup> Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. <sup>63</sup> He asked for a writing-tablet and wrote, 'His name is John.' And all of them were amazed.

<sup>64</sup> Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. <sup>65</sup> Fear came over all their neighbours, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. <sup>66</sup> All who heard them pondered them and said, 'What then will this child become?' For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.

*Luke 1:57 – 66*

## The Nunc Dimittis

*Evening Service in G by Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)*

## The Collect of the Day

O Lord Jesu Christ, who at thy first coming didst send thy messenger to prepare thy way before thee: Grant that the ministers and stewards of thy mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready thy way, by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at thy second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in thy sight, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end.

**Amen.**

## The Anthem

This is the record of John. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem, to ask him: “who art thou?” And he confessed and denied not, and said plainly. “I am not the Christ.” And they asked him: “What art thou, then? Art thou Elias?” and said, “I am not.” “Art thou the prophet?” And he answer’d: “No.” Then said they unto him: “What art thou? That we may give an answer unto them that sent us. What say’st thou of thy self?” And he said: “I am the voice of him that crieth in the wilderness: Make straight the way of the Lord.”

*from John 1:19 – 23*  
*Music by Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625)*

## The Hymn

**Wake, O wake! With tidings thrilling  
the watchman all the air are filling,  
arise, Jerusalem, arise!**  
**Midnight strikes! No, more delaying,  
‘The hour has come!’ we hear them saying,  
‘where are ye all, ye virgins wise?**  
**The Bridegroom comes in sight,  
raise high your torches bright!’**  
**Alleluia!**  
**The wedding song swells loud and strong:  
go forth and join the festal throng.**  
**Zion hears the watchmen shouting,  
her hearts leaps up with joy undoubting,  
she stands and waits with eager eyes;  
see her Friend from heaven descending,  
adorned with truth and grace unending!**  
**Her light burns clear, her star doth rise.**  
**Now come, thou precious Crown,  
Lord Jesus, God’s own Son!**  
**Alleluia!**  
**Let us prepare to follow there,  
where in thy supper we may share.**

**Every soul in thee rejoices;  
from earth and from angelic voices  
be glory given to thee alone!  
Now the gates of pearl receive us,  
thy presence never more shall leave us,  
we stand with angels round thy throne.  
Earth cannot give below  
the bliss thou dost bestow.  
Alleluia!  
Grant us to raise, to length of days,  
the triumph-chorus of thy praise.**

*Words by Philip Nicolai (1556-1608) translated by F. C. Burkitt (1864-1935)  
Tune CP 39 Wachet Auf adapted and harmonized by J. S. Bach (1685-1750)*

## **Voluntary**

*Please do stay for the organ voluntary, performed today by Amelia Parkin.*

*Uns ist geboren ein Kindelein by Flor Peeters (1903-1986)*

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*If you would like to make a one-off donation to the Cathedral via your phone, or set up a recurring donation, please use the QR code below. There are also contactless donation points and collection boxes near the entrance.*

*Thank you for your support.*



### **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.

[luke.fitzgerald@coventrycathedral.org.uk](mailto:luke.fitzgerald@coventrycathedral.org.uk)

### **Safeguarding at Coventry Cathedral**

We are committed to the safeguarding of all people. For details, please visit [www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/about-us/safeguarding](http://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/about-us/safeguarding)

You can report a concern using the same link or by contacting Jane Williams, Cathedral Safeguarding Officer, calling 024 7650 2349 or by emailing [JaneMLWill@aol.com](mailto:JaneMLWill@aol.com)

Alternatively, you can contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Team led by Sarah Price: 024 7652 1345 or [safeguarding@coventry.anglican.org](mailto:safeguarding@coventry.anglican.org)

## **THE SEASON OF ADVENT**

### **Blue Christmas**

**[TODAY]** Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December, 6pm

*We know this time of year can be hard for many. All are welcome to join us for this service formed with care, for those who might be struggling.*

### **Handel's Messiah by Candlelight**

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December, 7pm

*'Unto Us a Child is Born. Alleluia!'*

*A highlight of the Chorus' season for us all is always the performance of Handel's Messiah and we are thrilled to be performing this wonderful work in Coventry Cathedral again. Surely, there's no better way to prepare for Christmas than through the story of the birth, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.*

*For more information and to book tickets, please visit:*

<https://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/events/handels-messiah-by-candlelight-2>

### **EX CATHEDRA: Christmas Music by Candlelight**

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December, 7pm

*Immerse yourself in the serene embrace of this popular, atmospheric concert. Join us in the beautiful surrounds of Coventry Cathedral where hushed anticipation and spellbinding seasonal music fills the air, and the choir is enveloped in the soft glow of candlelight. Ex Cathedra perform a seamless sequence of Christmas favourites, little-known gems and gorgeous new music, interspersed with a selection of readings, to explore the magic, mystery – and humour – of the season.*

*For more information and to book tickets, please visit:*

<https://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/events/ex-cathedra-christmas-music-by-candlelight-2>

### **Britten's Ceremony of Carols**

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December, 5:30pm

*The Cathedral Choristers perform Benjamin Britten's perennial Christmas favourite 'A Ceremony of Carols' with harpist Cecily Beer.*

*Composed in 1942, this is a twenty-minute, eleven-movement work scored for 3-part treble choir, soloists and harp.*

*The words, from The English Galaxy of Shorter Poems, are in Latin and Middle English.*

## **Candlelight: Christmas Pop Hits On Strings**

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December, 8:30pm

*Candlelight concerts bring the magic of a live, multi-sensory musical experience to awe-inspiring locations like never seen before in Coventry. Get your tickets now to discover the music of Christmas Pop Hits On Strings at Coventry Cathedral under the gentle glow of candlelight.*

*For more information and to book tickets, please visit:*

<https://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/events/candlelight-christmas-pop-hits-on-strings>

## **The Snowman at Coventry Cathedral**

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December, multiple showings

*With a live Orchestra and a solo from the Cathedral's Choristers, this magical screening with live performance will be an experience that can't be missed. In keeping with the book, the film of The Snowman is wordless and free of dialogue, except for the now iconic, "Walking in the Air" which features as part of a now timeless musical score. For more information and to book tickets, please visit:*

<https://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/events/the-snowman-at-coventry-cathedral-first-show>

## **Carols by Candlelight**

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 5pm

*A candlelit service of traditional Christmas carols and readings, with beautiful music from our choirs. A chance to sing your favourite Christmas carols, old and new, with the Cathedral lit up by hundreds of candles, with a sequence of readings.*

## **La Nativité du Seigneur**

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 5pm

*Coventry Cathedral presents one of the greatest organ works of all time, Olivier Messiaen's festive masterpiece La Nativité du Seigneur.*

*Composed in 1935, this piece is perfectly suited to the French-influenced colours of Coventry Cathedral's Harrison Organ and depicts imaginative tableaux from the nativity story.*

## **Carols for Families**

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December, 2:30 – 3:30pm

*A fun, interactive retelling of the Christmas story with singalong carols. A lighter take on Christmas, everyone is welcome! Children might like to come dressed as a character from the nativity. Adults might want to wear their jazziest Christmas jumper!*



## **Form of a Servant**

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December, 7pm

*A service unique to Coventry Cathedral, The Form of a Servant explores why Jesus was born; how He was born to serve and to save humanity. This candlelit service is full of beautiful music, powerful readings and profound symbolism.*

## **The Eucharist for Christmas Day**

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December, 10:30am

*A traditional Christmas morning service. Join us as we give thanks for the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Whether you're a regular member of our congregation or you're just looking for a place to celebrate, you're welcome here. Come and celebrate with us!*

## **COMMUNITY NEWS**

### **Evelyn Warwick's Funeral**

*All are warmly invited to attend Evelyn Warwick's funeral on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 1pm here at the Cathedral. Evelyn was a much-loved member of our congregation, and she will be greatly missed.*

*May Evelyn rest in peace and rise in glory.*

### **Remembering Loved Ones**

*The next best thing to having a loved one to share special times with is to remember the special times shared. There are lots of ways to donate in the memory of your loved one or choose from many of our In-Memory services. If you would like your special someone remembered at Coventry Cathedral, please get in touch for a chat on various options and more details, Please support the buildings, the mission, and continuing the Cathedral's warm welcome and open to all vision.*

*Please contact Mandy: Email [mandy.spraggett@coventrycathedral.org.uk](mailto:mandy.spraggett@coventrycathedral.org.uk)  
or Tel: 02476 521 227*