

Choral Evensong

Sunday 9th March 2025

The First Sunday of Lent



Welcome to this service of Choral Evensong, led by The Very Reverend John Witcombe, Dean of Coventry. The Revd Gillian Roberts, Retired Priest with Permission to Officiate, will be preaching. The Cathedral choir is directed by David Rice, Acting Assistant Director of Music. The organists are Luke Fitzgerald, Acting Director of Music, and Amelia Parkin, Organ Scholar. The Responses are the Ferial setting by Thomas Tallis (1505-85).

Psalm 119:73-88

73. Your hands have made me and fashioned me;
 give me understanding, that I may learn your commandments.
74. Those who fear you will be glad when they see me,
 because I have hoped in your word.
75. I know, O Lord, that your judgements are right,
 and that in very faithfulness you caused me to be troubled.
76. Let your faithful love be my comfort,
 according to your promise to your servant.
77. Let your tender mercies come to me, that I may live,
 for your law is my delight.
78. Let the proud be put to shame, for they wrong me with lies;
 but I will meditate on your commandments.
79. Let those who fear you turn to me,
 even those who know your testimonies.
80. Let my heart be sound in your statutes,
 that I may not be put to shame.
81. My soul is pining for your salvation;
 I have hoped in your word.
82. My eyes fail with watching for your word,
 while I say, 'O when will you comfort me?'
83. I have become like a wineskin in the smoke,
 yet I do not forget your statutes.
84. How many are the days of your servant?
 When will you bring judgement on those who persecute me?

85. The proud have dug pits for me
in defiance of your law.
86. All your commandments are true;
help me, for they persecute me with falsehood.
87. They had almost made an end of me on earth,
but I have not forsaken your commandments.
88. Give me life according to your loving-kindness;
so shall I keep the testimonies of your mouth.

The First Lesson

¹ The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, ² ‘Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.’ ³ So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days’ walk across. ⁴ Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s walk. And he cried out, ‘Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!’ ⁵ And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth. ⁶ When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. ⁷ Then he had a proclamation made in Nineveh: ‘By the decree of the king and his nobles: No human being or animal, no herd or flock, shall taste anything. They shall not feed, nor shall they drink water. ⁸ Human beings and animals shall be covered with sackcloth, and they shall cry mightily to God. All shall turn from their evil ways and from the violence that is in their hands. ⁹ Who knows? God may relent and change his mind; he may turn from his fierce anger, so that we do not perish.’ ¹⁰ When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

Jonah 3

The Magnificat

Evening Service in E minor by Henry Purcell (1659 – 1695)

The Second Lesson

⁹ Jesus told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: ¹⁰ “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax-collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, “God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax-collector. ¹² I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.” ¹³ But the tax-collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, “God, be merciful to me, a sinner!” ¹⁴ I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.’

Luke 18:9-14

The Nunc Dimittis

Evening Service in E minor by Henry Purcell (1659 – 1695)

The Collect of the Day

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit; and, as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save; 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 Anthem

Lord, let me know mine end, and the number of my days: that I may be certified how long I have to live. Behold, thou hast made my days as it were a span long: and mine age is even as nothing in respect of thee; and verily every man living is altogether vanity. For man walketh in a vain shadow, and disquieteth himself in vain: he heapeth up riches, and cannot tell who shall gather them. And now, Lord, what is my hope: truly my hope is even in thee. Hear my prayer, O Lord, and with thine ears consider my calling: hold not thy peace at my tears. O spare me a little, that I may recover my strength: before I go hence, and be no more seen.

*from Psalm 39.5-8, 13-15
Music by Maurice Greene*

The Hymn

**Abide with me; fast falls the eventide:
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide:
when other helpers fail, and comforts flee,
help of the helpless, O abide with me.**

**Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
change and decay in all around I see:
O thou who changest not abide with me.**

**I need thy presence every passing hour;
what but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who like thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.**

**I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless;
ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.**

**Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;
shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies:
heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.**

Words by H.F. Lyte (1793-1847)

Tune CP 10 Eventide W.H. Monk (1823-1889)

Lent Meditation

Please do stay for the first of our Lent Meditations, performed today by David Rice.

Choral no. 1 in E major by César Franck (1822-90)

*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

Introducing our new Canon for Arts and Reconciliation



It gives us great pleasure to announce that, following a national search, the Bishop of Coventry has invited Revd. Canon Kate Massey to take up the role of Canon for Arts and Reconciliation in Coventry Cathedral. This is a Bishop's appointment, and we were delighted that Bishop Sophie could play a full part in the recruitment process, which saw a strong field of candidates, many with international backgrounds. The Cathedral sits at the heart of our diocese, and

provides a welcome for all, and Kate will play an important part in continuing to make that a reality, especially within our ministry of Reconciliation.

Kate is presently vicar of Stockingford, in the north of the diocese, where she has been in post since January 2015, and was installed as an Honorary Canon at the Cathedral in 2022. She was ordained in Coventry Cathedral in 2011, after qualifying and working as a doctor in the NHS, specializing in mental health and psychiatry. She brings a wealth of practical and pastoral experience, in both diocesan and national as well as parish contexts. She has a particular passion for the arts and reconciliation, as part of which she is already engaged in study for a PhD on the reconciliation work of the Cathedral. Kate will take up her post in June 2025, and will have a particular responsibility for gathering together the arts and reconciliation teams in the Cathedral, and taking forward our work both nationally and internationally, as well here in the Diocese in collaboration with Diocesan colleagues. She will share in the leadership and ministry of the Cathedral with the Dean, Very Revd John Witcombe, Canon Nitano Muller, Canon for Worship and Welcome, and Simon Danks, our Chief operating Officer.

Bishop Sophie says: "Kate emerged from a rigorous discernment process with a clear call to be the next Canon for Reconciliation and the Arts. Given the priority of reconciliation for both the Cathedral and the Diocese, I am confident that Kate will bring her extensive skills and experience to help us move forward together and inhabit Christ's ministry of reconciliation in a way that helps all to flourish and grow. I very much look forward to working with her."

Subject to the usual formalities, Kate will be licensed and installed in the Cathedral by Bishop Sophie at Evensong on Sunday June 15th at 4pm.

SAFEGUARDING AT COVENTRY CATHEDRAL

We are committed to the safeguarding of all people. For details, please visit www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/about-us/safeguarding

You can report a concern using the same link or by contacting Canon Nitano Muller, Chapter Safeguarding Lead, at Nitano.Muller@Coventry.Anglican.org or call 07365 200 359 while Jane Williams is away.

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

COMING SOON

‘And the earth shall melt away’

18th February – 17th March, Chapel of Christ the Servant

An exhibition in the time of climate change inspired by Psalm 46, by Caroline Meynell and Claire Christie Sadler.

The title of the exhibition comes from Psalm 46, and the words resonate as much today as when they were written centuries ago, bringing to mind global warming and climate change.

Caroline Meynell and Claire Christie Sadler, two Oxford-based artists, have created a series of paintings and drawings that form their individual response to environmental and spiritual themes suggested by the psalm. Their work is both challenging and contemplative, and incorporates questions of faith.

Lent Course 2025

Beginning on Tuesday 4th March, 7pm – 8:30pm, St Michael’s House
This year’s Lent Course is titled ‘Hope in Hard Places’. As our world faces huge challenges, the course invites us to ask, “Where is God in all of this?”

Written by the team at Embrace the Middle East, it is our hope that you will find encouragement and strength in stories that span over 3000 years of history - showing us that, no matter how dark the times we live in, God remains with us.

We will begin each week at 7pm and end at 8:30pm in the lounge at St Michael’s House.

Visiting Choir Evensong

Tuesday 11th March, 4pm

All are welcome to join us for this Choral Evensong service with Kimbolton School Chamber Choirs.

Holy week and Easter Services

Sunday 13th April – Sunday 20th April

Details of our Holy Week and Easter services can be found on our website:

<https://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/easter/easter-services>

Is a lasting and just peace possible in Israel and Palestine?

Wednesday 2nd of April, 7pm

Occupation, war, extremism, terrorism and fear are all words we hear used to describe what is happening in Israel and Palestine. In such a context it's hard to imagine a future where Israeli Jews and Palestinian Muslims and Christians may live in peace, either together or side by side.

Is that a pipe dream or is such a future still possible?

Daniel Munayer, director of Musalaha - a reconciliation ministry in Israel and Palestine - and the only Palestinian ever to have addressed the UN Security Council, will explore this question at 7 pm on Wednesday 2nd of April here in the Cathedral. His talk will be followed by a conversation with Dean John and Jamie Eyre, CEO of Embrace the Middle East. Entry is free but you will need to register using the following link. <https://embraceme.org/events/lecture-is-peace-possible-in-israel-palestine> If you need help registering or have any questions, please do speak to Revd Su McClellan.

COMMUNITY NEWS

RAF Odiham are celebrating 100 years of aviation this year

They see one of their most notable actions as being in 1962 when one of their Belvedere helicopters installed the spire atop of Coventry Cathedral. To commemorate this, they would like to come here and make a short video with someone who watched this happen back in 1962.

*The date they would like to film this is **Wednesday, 26th March.***

If you were there to see the spire being installed and want to be interviewed for this video, please let us know as soon as you can!

Email sarah.scouller@coventrycathedral.org.uk for more information

Livestreaming information from Canon Mary

Canon Mary's consecration was livestreamed on the Canterbury Cathedral YouTube page: <https://www.youtube.com/@CanterburyCathedralOfficialstreams>

*Canon Mary's welcome service at Reading Minster on **2nd March at 3pm** was livestreamed to their YouTube page -*

<https://www.youtube.com/@readingminster2354/streams>

Investors in Hope is Coventry Cathedral's Regular Giving Option

Becoming an Investor connects us with the past while looking forward with hope. Helping with the ever-increasing operational costs with regular giving is essential for our mission and the very existence of our building. Please sign up through the website, Coventry Cathedral 'Investors in Hope' or email fundraising@coventrycathedral.org.uk

Ask for Mandy or Rachel at the Welcome Desk for a chat Monday-Thursday.