

Choral Evensong

Sunday 18th May 2025

The Fourth Sunday after Easter



Welcome to this service of Choral Evensong, led by the Reverend Su McClellan, Cathedral Associate Minister. The Reverend Gillian Roberts will be preaching. The Cathedral choir is directed by Rachel Mahon, Director of Music. The organists are Luke Fitzgerald and Amelia Parkin. The Responses are by Michael Walsh (b. 1948).

Psalm 98

1. O sing unto the Lord a new song ♦
for he hath done marvellous things.
2. With his own right hand, and with his holy arm ♦
hath he gotten himself the victory.
3. The Lord declared his salvation ♦
his righteousness hath he openly shewed in the sight of the heathen.
4. He hath remembered his mercy and truth toward the house of Israel ♦
and all the ends of the world have seen the salvation of our God.
5. Shew yourselves joyful unto the Lord, all ye lands ♦
sing, rejoice, and give thanks.
6. Praise the Lord upon the harp ♦
sing to the harp with a Psalm of thanksgiving.
7. With trumpets also and shawms ♦
O shew yourselves joyful before the Lord the King.
8. Let the sea make a noise, and all that therein is ♦
the round world, and they that dwell therein.
9. Let the floods clap their hands, and let the hills be joyful together
before the Lord ♦
for he is come to judge the earth.
10. With righteousness shall he judge the world ♦
and the people with equity.

The First Lesson

⁶ So the presidents and satraps conspired and came to the king and said to him, 'O King Darius, live for ever! ⁷ All the presidents of the kingdom, the prefects and the satraps, the counsellors and the governors, are agreed that the king should establish an ordinance and enforce an interdict, that whoever prays to anyone, divine or human, for thirty days, except to you, O king, shall be thrown into a den of lions. ⁸ Now, O king, establish the interdict and sign the document, so that it cannot be changed, according to the law of the Medes and the Persians, which cannot be revoked.' ⁹ Therefore King Darius signed the document and interdict. ¹⁰ Although Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he continued to go to his house, which had windows in its upper room open towards Jerusalem, and to get down on his knees three times a day to pray to his God and praise him, just as he had done previously. ¹¹ The conspirators came and found Daniel praying and seeking mercy before his God. ¹² Then they approached the king and said concerning the interdict, 'O king! Did you not sign an interdict, that anyone who prays to anyone, divine or human, within thirty days except to you, O king, shall be thrown into a den of lions?' The king answered, 'The thing stands fast, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be revoked.' ¹³ Then they responded to the king, 'Daniel, one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or to the interdict you have signed, but he is saying his prayers three times a day.' ¹⁴ When the king heard the charge, he was very much distressed. He was determined to save Daniel, and until the sun went down he made every effort to rescue him. ¹⁵ Then the conspirators came to the king and said to him, 'Know, O king, that it is a law of the Medes and Persians that no interdict or ordinance that the king establishes can be changed.' ¹⁶ Then the king gave the command, and Daniel was brought and thrown into the den of lions. The king said to Daniel, 'May your God, whom you faithfully serve, deliver you!' ¹⁷ A stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet and with the signet of his lords, so that nothing might be changed concerning Daniel. ¹⁸ Then the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting; no food was brought to him, and sleep fled from him. ¹⁹ Then, at break of day, the king got up and hurried to the den of lions.

²⁰ When he came near the den where Daniel was, he cried out anxiously to Daniel, 'O Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God whom you faithfully serve been able to deliver you from the lions?' ²¹ Daniel then said to the king, 'O king, live for ever! ²² My God sent his angel and shut the lions' mouths so that they would not hurt me, because I was found blameless before him; and also before you, O king, I have done no wrong.' ²³ Then the king was exceedingly glad and commanded that Daniel be taken up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no kind of harm was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.

Daniel 6:6-23

The Magnificat

Evening Service in B Flat Major, by Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)

The Second Lesson

⁴⁶ Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. ⁴⁷ Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph saw where the body was laid. ^{16:1} When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. ² And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³ They had been saying to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?' ⁴ When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. ⁵ As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. ⁶ But he said to them, 'Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. ⁷ But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.' ⁸ So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Mark 15:46-16:8

The Nunc Dimittis

Evening Service in B Flat Major, by Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)

The Collect of the Day

O Almighty God, who alone canst order the unruly wills and affections of sinful men: Grant unto thy people, that they may love the thing which thou commandest, and desire that which thou dost promise; that so, among the Sunday and manifold changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed, where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Anthem

We praise thee, O God, we acknowledge thee to be the Lord.
All the earth doth worship thee, the Father everlasting.
To thee all angels cry aloud: the heavens, and all the powers therein.
To thee cherubim and seraphim continually do cry,
Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts;
heaven and earth are full of the majesty of thy glory.
The glorious company of the apostles praise thee.
The goodly fellowship of the prophets praise thee.
The noble army of martyrs praise thee.
The holy church throughout all the world doth acknowledge thee;
the Father of an infinite majesty;
thine honourable, true and only Son;
also the Holy Ghost, the comforter.
Thou art the King of Glory, O Christ.
Thou art the everlasting Son of the Father.
When thou tookest upon thee to deliver man, thou didst not abhor the
Virgin's womb.
When thou hadst overcome the sharpness of death,
thou didst open the kingdom of heaven to all believers.
Thou sittest at the right hand of God in the glory of the Father.
We believe that thou shalt come to be our Judge.
We therefore pray thee, help thy servants,
whom thou hast redeemed with thy precious blood.
Make them to be numbered with thy saints in glory everlasting.
O Lord, save thy people, and bless thine heritage.
Govern them and lift them up for ever.

Day by day we magnify thee;
and we worship thy Name, ever world without end.
Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin.
O Lord, have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us.
O Lord, let thy mercy lighten upon us, as our trust is in thee.
O Lord, in thee have I trusted, let me never be confounded.

Te Deum Laudamus
Music by John Ireland (1879-1962)

The Hymn

**O for a heart to praise my God,
a heart from sin set free;
a heart that's sprinkled with the blood
so freely shed for me.**

**A heart resigned, submissive, meek,
my great Redeemer's throne;
where only Christ is heard to speak,
where Jesus reigns alone.**

**A humble, lowly, contrite heart,
believing, true, and clean,
which neither life nor death can part
from him that dwells within.**

**A heart in every thought renewed,
and full of love divine;
perfect and right and pure and good –
a copy, Lord, of thine.**

**Thy nature, gracious Lord, impart,
come quickly from above;
write thy new name upon my heart,
thy new best name of love.**

Words by Charles Wesley (1707-1788) cf. Psalm 52.10
Tune CP 532 Caithness melody from Scottish Psalter (1635)

Voluntary

Please do stay for the voluntary, performed today by Luke Fitzgerald.

Alla Marcia by John Ireland (1879-1962)

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*

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 Jane Williams, Cathedral Safeguarding Officer at 024 7650 2349 or via email: JaneMLWill@aol.com.

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

JOINING OUR CHOIRS

Do you know a child who loves to sing? Boys and girls between the ages of 7 and 10 are welcome to audition for the Cathedral Boys' and Girls' Choirs. They sing an average of four times per week during term time in recordings, services and concerts. Children receive a world-class music education completely free and even receive scholarship payments. Please get in touch with the Director of Music to learn more:

rachel.mahon@coventrycathedral.org.uk

COMING SOON

Summer Organ Recital Series

19th May, 12:30pm

Our 2025 summer organ recital series continues on the 19th May with a recital from Oliver King.

A. V. Fedak - Improvisation on Veni Creator Spiritus

F. Mendelssohn - Prelude and Fugue in D minor, op. 37 no. 4

J. Weir - The Tree of Peace

M. Dupré Placare - Christe servulis, from Le Tombeau de Titelouze

M. Dupré - Ave Maris Stella, from Le Tombeau de Titelouze

L. Vierne - Final from Symphony no. 3 in F sharp minor, op. 28

Details of the rest of the series can be found here:

<https://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/worship-music/the-organ/organ-recitals>

Action Rayz - Black Girl

Thursday 22nd May, 7pm - Chapter House

The first Sub-Saharan African film by an African filmmaker to receive international attention.

A Senegalese woman is eager to find a better life abroad. She takes a job as a governess for a French family, but finds her duties become those of a maid after the family moves from Dakar to the south of France.

Taste of Heaven: Intercultural Worship Festival

Saturday 24th May, 11am - 9pm

The Taste of Heaven Intercultural Worship Festival will be an exciting opportunity to celebrate the rich cultural diversity and creativity of the UK church through live performances, workshops, food and worship.

Tickets are available online:

<https://tinyurl.com/2dwneyas>

FAMILY FUN - MAY HALF TERM!

Quiet Openings - Let's Play & Chill

Tuesday 27th May

9am - 10am

This FREE 9am - 10am session is specifically for those families and children who need less bustle and noise, and the space to explore in their own unique ways. We'll have gentle games, calm crafts, and cosy spaces to unwind – perfect for families of all ages and sizes who just want to take it easy. Drop in for a little while or stay for the whole time – whatever suits your pace.

Book your FREE place on our What's On Page.

Family Yoga Drop In Sessions

Wednesday 28th May

11am, 11.40am & 12.20pm

Take a break together as a family and enjoy a calming session of yoga and mindfulness in the beautiful setting of the New Cathedral.

Led by the warm and welcoming Rossana, this gentle session is designed for children of Primary school age, but feel free to bring all your family if they want to join in – with simple movements, breathing exercises, and time to relax as a family.

No experience needed – just come as you are and enjoy a peaceful moment together.

Book your FREE place on our What's On Page.

Let's Play!

Thursday 29th May

10.30am - 12noon

Let's play together this half term in the New Cathedral!

We'll have lots of indoor games and crafts suitable for Families of all ages and sizes.

Come and stay for the morning, or just drop by during your half term plans!

FREE for all. If you have any questions get in contact with events@coventrycathedral.org.uk

Let's Watch & Make: Cars

Saturday 31st May

10am - 12noon

Join us for a fun-filled family morning as we celebrate the world of *Cars* with creative crafts and a cosy film screening. With themed activities this is the perfect pit stop for families of all ages.

10:00am – *Cars* Crafts

10:30am – Film Screening

Book your FREE place on our What's On Page.

COMMUNITY NEWS

‘Emmaus’: The Way of Faith

Every Tuesday, St Michael’s House at 7pm

Are you new to the Cathedral community? Do you have questions about faith, the church or what we believe? You are invited to join us for an evening of discussion and reflection with other Christians who are exploring faith. Speak to Rob Halligan or Canon Nitano for more information.

Parking on Sunday Mornings

Parking by the Chapel of Unity is reserved for those with accessibility requirements. It has become very crowded of late, and those who need the space cannot always use it. And please never park on the grass.

Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll is a register of everyone that considers a particular church their chosen place of worship. The Roll is updated every year in advance of the Annual General Meeting taking place on Sunday 8 June 2025, but every 6 years it has to be completely refreshed, and this year is the 6th year. If you consider the Cathedral to be your place of worship and you have been attending for more than 6 months then you are able to join the Electoral Roll. Please ask the stewards or churchwardens for the form and return to them upon completion.

Service of Welcome and Installation for Bishop Sophie Jelley

Saturday, 7 June 2025 at 2pm

Please join us to welcome Bishop Sophie and her family as the Tenth Bishop of Coventry by booking your seat at this historic service via the following Eventbrite link:

<https://tinyurl.com/39r2wj2u>

Alternatively, visit the Cathedral website or add your name to the sign-up list on the community table.