

Choral Evensong

Sunday 8th June 2025

Whitsunday

Welcome to this service of Choral Evensong, led by the Very Reverend John Witcombe, Dean of Coventry. The Reverend Su McClellan, Cathedral Associate Minister, will be preaching. The choir is directed by Rachel Mahon, Director of Music. The organists are David Rice and Amelia Parkin. The responses are those by Philip Moore (1943-).

Introit

Come, Holy Ghost, the Maker, come;
Take in the souls of thine thy place;
Thou whom our hearts had being from,
Oh, fill them with thy heav'nly grace.

Thou art that Comfort from above,
The Highest doth by gift impart;
Thou spring of life, a fire of love,
And the anointing Spirit art.

Words 'Veni Creator Spiritus' by Saint Rabanus Maurus (780-856)

tr. by George Wither (1588-1667)

Music by Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625)

Psalm 33:1-12

1. Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous ♦
for it becometh well the just to be thankful.
2. Praise the Lord with harp ♦
sing praises unto him with the lute, and instrument of ten strings.
3. Sing unto the Lord a new song ♦
sing praises lustily unto him with a good courage.
4. For the word of the Lord is true ♦
and all his works are faithful.
5. He loveth righteousness and judgement ♦
the earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.

6. By the word of the Lord were the heavens made ♦
and all the hosts of them by the breath of his mouth.
7. He gathereth the waters of the sea together, as it were upon an heap ♦
and layeth up the deep, as in a treasure-house.
8. Let all the earth fear the Lord ♦
stand in awe of him, all ye that dwell in the world.
9. For he spake, and it was done ♦
he commanded, and it stood fast.
10. The Lord bringeth the counsel of the heathen to nought ♦
and maketh the devices of the people to be of none effect, and casteth
out the counsels of princes.
11. The counsel of the Lord shall endure for ever ♦
and the thoughts of his heart from generation to generation.
12. Blessed are the people, whose God is the Lord Jehovah ♦
and blessed are the folk, that he hath chosen to him to be his inheritance.

The First Lesson

⁷ Now Moses used to take the tent and pitch it outside the camp, far off from the camp; he called it the tent of meeting. And everyone who sought the Lord would go out to the tent of meeting, which was outside the camp. ⁸ Whenever Moses went out to the tent, all the people would rise and stand, each of them, at the entrance of their tents and watch Moses until he had gone into the tent. ⁹ When Moses entered the tent, the pillar of cloud would descend and stand at the entrance of the tent, and the Lord would speak with Moses. ¹⁰ When all the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance of the tent, all the people would rise and bow down, all of them, at the entrance of their tents. ¹¹ Thus the Lord used to speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend. Then he would return to the camp; but his young assistant, Joshua son of Nun, would not leave the tent. ¹² Moses said to the Lord, 'See, you have said to me, "Bring up this people"; but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, "I know you by name, and you have also found favour in my sight."' ¹³ Now if I have found favour in your sight, show me your ways, so that I may know you and

find favour in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people.’¹⁴ He said, ‘My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.’¹⁵ And he said to him, ‘If your presence will not go, do not carry us up from here.’¹⁶ For how shall it be known that I have found favour in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth.’¹⁷ The Lord said to Moses, ‘I will do the very thing that you have asked; for you have found favour in my sight, and I know you by name.’¹⁸ Moses said, ‘Show me your glory, I pray.’¹⁹ And he said, ‘I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you the name, “The Lord”; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy.’²⁰ But’, he said, ‘you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live.’

Exodus 33:7-20

The Magnificat

Hereford Service by Richard Hey Lloyd (1933-2021)

The Second Lesson

⁴ Such is the confidence that we have through Christ towards God.

⁵ Not that we are competent of ourselves to claim anything as coming from us; our competence is from God, ⁶ who has made us competent to be ministers of a new covenant, not of letter but of spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. ⁷ Now if the ministry of death, chiselled in letters on stone tablets, came in glory so that the people of Israel could not gaze at Moses’ face because of the glory of his face, a glory now set aside, ⁸ how much more will the ministry of the Spirit come in glory? ⁹ For if there was glory in the ministry of condemnation, much more does the ministry of justification abound in glory! ¹⁰ Indeed, what once had glory has lost its glory because of the greater glory; ¹¹ for if what was set aside came through glory, much more has the permanent come in glory!

¹² Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, ¹³ not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside. ¹⁴ But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside. ¹⁵ Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over

their minds; ¹⁶ but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. ¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸ And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

2 Corinthians 2:4-18

The Nunc Dimittis

Hereford Service by Richard Hey Lloyd (1933-2021)

The Collect of the Day

God, who as at this time didst teach the hearts of thy faithful people, by sending to them the light of thy Holy Spirit: Grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgement in all things, and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the same Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

The Anthem

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the Gospel to the poor: he hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord; to give unto them that mourn a garland for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he might be glorified. For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.

Words from Isaiah 61:1-3

Music by Edward Elgar (1857-1934)

The Hymn

**Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire,
and lighten with celestial fire;
thou the anointing Spirit art,
who dost thy sevenfold gifts impart:**

**Thy blessed unction from above
is comfort, life and fire of love;
enable with perpetual light
the dullness of our blinded sight:**

**Anoint and cheer our soiled face
with the abundance of thy grace;
keep far our foes, give peace at home;
where thou art guide no ill can come.**

**Teach us to know the Father, Son,
and thee, of both, to be but one;
that through the ages all along
this may be our endless song:**

**Praise to thy eternal merit,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Words from Latin paraphrased by Bishop John Cosin (1594-1672)

Tune CP 178 Veni Creator Mode viii

Voluntary

Please do stay for the voluntary, performed today by David Rice.

Veni, creator spiritus by Leo Sowerby (1895-1968)

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

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

9nd June, 12:30pm

Our 2025 summer organ recital series continues on the 9nd June with a recital from Harry Brown.

J. S. Bach Prelude and Fugue in D BWV 532

L. Vierne Andantino

O. Messiean Dieu parmi nous, from La Nativite du Seigneur

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

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

Wednesday 11 June

Let's Chill! Baby Sensory

10am - 11.30am

Let your little ones be mesmerized by the shapes and colours of the Cathedral. Baby chill is a chance to hang out with fellow parents and enjoy some Cathedral Zen. There's always tea! Primarily the sessions are for new-borns, up to 18 months but we know childcare can be a faff so if you do have a toddler that needs to come along just let us know and we can be prepared to entertain.

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

Any Questions can be sent to events@coventrycathedral.org.uk

Tuesday 17th June

Action Rayz Film Screening - Dread Beat an' Blood

7pm

In collaboration with Fire and Dust Poetry, Action Rayz Presents an evening of poetry and spoken word, and 1979 documentary Dread Beat an' Blood (1979) Rating 12. The Film follows dub poet master Linton Kwesi Johnson out of the recording studio onto the Brixton streets.

Please book your Pay As You Feel ticket online.

Any Questions can be sent to events@coventrycathedral.org.uk

Wednesday 18th June

FREE Monthly Coffee Morning

10am - 12noon

Come and enjoy the relaxed atmosphere of the Cathedral, with FREE refreshments.

An opportunity to gather, chat with friend's and friend's unknown, to fulfil our core value of Hospitality.

Thursday 19th June

Cathedral by Night & Free Zine Workshop

6pm-8pm

Unplug and unwind, pop your phones down and technology away, and wander the Cathedral after hours.

This evening will also include a free Zine & poster making Workshop.
FREE for all.

Saturday 28th June

Vivaldi Four Seasons

7.30pm-9.30pm

The exceptional musicians of the Piccadilly Sinfonietta perform Vivaldi's masterpiece The Four Seasons and Beethoven's much loved 'Emperor' piano concerto in the beautiful candlelit setting of Coventry Cathedral.

Featuring leading virtuoso violin soloist Victoria Sayles and renowned concert pianist Warren Mailley-Smith, it's a hugely enjoyable Programme to help you celebrate the weekend in style!

Tickets available on the Cathedral What's On page.

Be a Chorister for a Day

Saturday 5 July

1.00-4.30pm

Parents and boys are welcome to sign up for this taster day. See what being a chorister is all about - try on a robe, practise some singing, have a tour of the cathedral, meet some of the choristers and even sing a mini service at the end of the day. There will be a tour and information session for parents at the same time. Sign up at the link below:

<https://tinyurl.com/Be-a-Chorister>

Installation of Kate Massey as Canon for Arts & Reconciliation

Sunday 15th June at 4pm

Everyone is warmly invited to come along and celebrate the installation of the Reverend Kate Massey, who will be installed as the Cathedral's Canon for Arts & Reconciliation. Please do come and support Kate and her family as they embark on a new journey with us here at the Cathedral.

Windrush Service

Sunday, 22 June, 3pm

Join us for a special service reflecting on the theme “Where are we now?” — a moment to honour the legacy of the Windrush Generation, celebrate their enduring contributions, and reflect on the journey of identity, justice, and belonging. Through prayer, music, and storytelling, we come together in remembrance and hope, acknowledging the past while looking forward to a shared future.

Ordination of Priests & Deacons

Sunday, 29 June

10.30 and 4pm

Bishop Sophie will preside at the ordination of priests in the morning, followed by the ordination of deacons in the afternoon. All are warmly invited to join these services as we prayerfully support those being ordained and their families.
