

A Festal Evensong

Sunday 13th July 2025

Fourth Sunday after Trinity



Welcome to this service of Festal Evensong, led by the Reverend Nitano Muller, Canon for Worship and Welcome. The Very Reverend John Witcombe, Dean of Coventry, will be preaching. The choir is directed by Rachel Mahon, Director of Music. The organists are Luke Fitzgerald, David Rice and Amelia Parkin. The responses are those by Humphrey Clucas (b. 1941).

Today is also the last Evensong of the year for our choir, and we bid farewell to several choristers who are graduating the choir, as well as to Luke Fitzgerald as Assistant Director of Music, David Rice as Acting Assistant Director of Music and Amelia Parkin as Organ Scholar.

Introit

God be in my head and in my understanding.
God be in mine eyes and in my looking.
God be in my mouth and in my speaking.
God be in mine heart and in my thinking.
God be at my end and in my departing.

*Words from the Sarum Primer
Music by John Rutter (b. 1945)*

Psalms 150

1. O praise God in his holiness ♦
praise him in the firmament of his power.
2. Praise him in his noble acts ♦
praise him according to his excellent greatness.
3. Praise him in the sound of the trumpet ♦
praise him upon the lute and harp.
4. Praise him in the cymbals and dances ♦
praise him upon the strings and pipe.
5. Praise him upon the well-tuned cymbals ♦
praise him upon the loud cymbals.
6. Let every thing that hath breath ♦
praise the Lord.

Chant by C. V. Stanford (1852-1924)

The First Lesson

⁹ And Jacob said, 'O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, O Lord who said to me, "Return to your country and to your kindred, and I will do you good", ¹⁰ I am not worthy of the least of all the steadfast love and all the faithfulness that you have shown to your servant, for with only my staff I crossed this Jordan; and now I have become two companies. ¹¹ Deliver me, please, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau, for I am afraid of him; he may come and kill us all, the mothers with the children. ¹² Yet you have said, "I will surely do you good, and make your offspring as the sand of the sea, which cannot be counted because of their number.'" ¹³ So he spent that night there, and from what he had with him he took a present for his brother Esau, ¹⁴ two hundred female goats and twenty male goats, two hundred ewes and twenty rams, ¹⁵ thirty milch camels and their colts, forty cows and ten bulls, twenty female donkeys and ten male donkeys. ¹⁶ These he delivered into the hand of his servants, each drove by itself, and said to his servants, 'Pass on ahead of me, and put a space between drove and drove.' ¹⁷ He instructed the foremost, 'When Esau my brother meets you, and asks you, "To whom do you belong? Where are you going? And whose are these ahead of you?" ¹⁸ then you shall say, "They belong to your servant Jacob; they are a present sent to my lord Esau; and moreover he is behind us.'" ¹⁹ He likewise instructed the second and the third and all who followed the droves, 'You shall say the same thing to Esau when you meet him, ²⁰ and you shall say, "Moreover your servant Jacob is behind us.'" For he thought, 'I may appease him with the present that goes ahead of me, and afterwards I shall see his face; perhaps he will accept me.' ²¹ So the present passed on ahead of him; and he himself spent that night in the camp. ²² The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³ He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. ²⁴ Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. ²⁵ When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him.

²⁶ Then he said, 'Let me go, for the day is breaking.' But Jacob said, 'I will not let you go, unless you bless me.' ²⁷ So he said to him, 'What is your name?' And he said, 'Jacob.' ²⁸ Then the man said, 'You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed.' ²⁹ Then Jacob asked him, 'Please tell me your name.' But he said, 'Why is it that you ask my name?' And there he blessed him. ³⁰ So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, 'For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved.'

Genesis 32:9-30

The Magnificat

Saint Paul's Service by Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

The Second Lesson

¹ Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, ² they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. ³ (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; ⁴ and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) ⁵ So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, 'Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?' ⁶ He said to them, 'Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

"This people honours me with their lips,

but their hearts are far from me;

⁷ in vain do they worship me,

teaching human precepts as doctrines."

⁸ You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.'

⁹ Then he said to them, ‘You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition!’ ¹⁰ For Moses said, “Honour your father and your mother”; and, “Whoever speaks evil of father or mother must surely die.” ¹¹ But you say that if anyone tells father or mother, “Whatever support you might have had from me is Corban” (that is, an offering to God)— ¹² then you no longer permit doing anything for a father or mother, ¹³ thus making void the word of God through your tradition that you have handed on. And you do many things like this.’ ¹⁴ Then he called the crowd again and said to them, ‘Listen to me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵ there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.’ ¹⁷ When he had left the crowd and entered the house, his disciples asked him about the parable. ¹⁸ He said to them, ‘Then do you also fail to understand? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile, ¹⁹ since it enters, not the heart but the stomach, and goes out into the sewer?’ (Thus he declared all foods clean.) ²⁰ And he said, ‘It is what comes out of a person that defiles. ²¹ For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, ²² adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. ²³ All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.’

Mark 7:1-23

The Nunc Dimittis

Saint Paul's Service by Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

The Collect of the Day

O God, the protector of all that trust in thee, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us thy mercy; that, being our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we finally lose not the things eternal: Grant this, O heavenly Father, for Jesus Christ's sake our Lord. Amen.

The Anthem

O praise the Lord, laud ye the Name of the Lord, praise it, O ye servants of the Lord, ye that stand in the house of the Lord, in the courts of our God, O praise the Lord; for the Lord is gracious, O sing praises unto his Name; for it is lovely.

Blessed are they that dwell in thy house; they will be always praising thee. The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon him faithfully. He will fulfil the desire of them that fear him.

For God is my King of old: working salvation in the midst of the earth. For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea. I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation.

O praise the Lord all ye nations, laud him all ye peoples. For his merciful kindness is ever more and more towards us; and the truth of the Lord endureth for ever. O praise the Lord, laud ye the Name of the Lord. Praise the Lord.

Music by Healey Willan (1880-1968)

The Hymn

**The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended,
the darkness falls at thy behest;
to thee our morning hymns ascended,
thy praise shall sanctify our rest.**

**We thank thee that thy Church unsleeping,
while earth rolls onward into light,
through all the world her watch is keeping,
and rests not now by day or night.**

**As o'er each continent and island
the dawn leads on another day,
the voice of prayer is never silent,
nor dies the strain of praise away.**

**The sun that bids us rest is waking
your children 'neath the western sky,
and hour by hour fresh lips are making
thy wondrous doings heard on high.**

**So be it, Lord; thy throne shall never,
like earth's proud empires, pass away;
thy kingdom stands, and grows for ever,
till all thy creatures own thy sway.**

Words by John Ellerton (1826-1893)

Tune CP 22 St Clement C.C. Scholefield (1839-1904)

Descant by D. Briggs (b. 1962)

Te Deum

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 Cherubin and Seraphin continually do cry: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Sabaoth. Heaven and earth are full of the Majesty of thy glory. The glorious company of the Apostles, the goodly fellowship of the Prophets, the noble army of Martyrs praise thee; the holy Church throughout all the world doth acknowledge thee the Father of infinite Majesty, venerating 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 forever, world without end.

Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin. Have mercy upon us, O Lord, 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.

Music by Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)

Voluntary

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

Crown Imperial by William Walton (1902-83)

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.



New Assistant Director of Music



We are delighted to announce the appointment of Liam Coundon as the new Assistant Director of Music. Liam returns to the Cathedral having served as Assistant Organist at St Alphege's, Solihull, and as Visiting Organ Teacher at Warwick School.

Rachel Mahon, Director of Music said: *"I'm delighted that Liam will be joining us as Assistant Director of Music! He comes with a rich experience of liturgical music and teaching that will be of huge benefit to our music department. We look forward having him as a member of the team from September."*

Canon Nitano Muller, Canon for Worship & Welcome, warmly welcomed the appointment: *"Liam brings with him a wealth of experience in church music and a deep commitment to nurturing young musicians, qualities that will greatly enrich our worship and musical life. We very much look forward to working with him and to all that he will contribute to our liturgical life here at Coventry."*

Reflecting on his new role, Liam said: *"I am delighted to be returning to the Coventry Cathedral music department in this exciting role. The Cathedral is an inspiring building and an iconic venue for its incredible history, and to play music here is a real privilege. The Harrison and Harrison organ at Coventry is a thrilling instrument to play and it will be a delight to work with the choristers and clerks of the Cathedral Choir again. I look forward to having a significant contribution to the music in this wonderful place, and to be a part of the wider Cathedral community again."*

We look forward to welcoming Liam back and to all that he will bring to the life and ministry of the Cathedral.

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

CHOIR CHAPERONES

An URGENT call for more Volunteer Choir Chaperones. Those interested to please contact Jane Williams.

Thank you.

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 Jane Williams, Cathedral Safeguarding Officer, calling 024 7650 2349 or by emailing JaneMLWill@aol.com

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

COMING SOON

Summer Organ Recital Series

Monday 14th July, 12:30pm

Our 2025 summer organ recital series continues with a recital from Emmanuel Duperrey.

P. Glass Opening (from Glassworks)

H. A. Stamm Gaelic Fantasy

G. Morandi Offertoire en fa mineur

E. Duperrey Caelistis

N. Hakim Final (Hommage Igor Stravinsky)

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

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

Cathedral Charity Day & Abseil Challenge

Saturday, 19th July, Cathedral Ruins

Join us in the Cathedral Ruins for a day of family fun, stalls, and community spirit as we raise funds for local charities. Don't miss the highlight of the day – watch Dean John, Canon Nitano, and others take on the thrilling Abseil Challenge to support the Cathedral!

Choral Evensong with the Symbol Choir

Saturday, 19th July at 4pm

Join us as this wonderful London-based choir for recent graduates lead our sung worship this weekend.

Cathedral's Summer Holiday Program

Theme: "All our Feelings"

Bring your little ones to the Cathedral over the summer to explore all we have to offer through games, crafts and fun activities for the family.

Let's Play! Happy and Sad

31st July, 10.30am-12pm

FREE Games, Crafts and Activities

Let's Play! Brave and Afraid

7th August, 10.30am-3pm

Teddy Zipline (£2 A GO, Spectators FREE)

Bring your own Picnic!

Let's Watch and Make!

14th August, 10.30am-12.30pm

"Inside Out" (Please book online)

Let's Play! Excited and Calm

21st August, 10.30am-12pm

FREE yoga & Zumba (Please book online)

Let's Play! Together and Alone

28th August, 10.30am-12pm

FREE Games, Crafts and Activities