

Choral Evensong

Sunday 20th July 2025

Fourth Sunday after Trinity



Welcome to this service of Choral Evensong, led by the Reverend Su McClellan, Cathedral Associate Minister. The Reverend Kate Massey, Canon for Arts and Reconciliation, will be preaching. We are grateful to the Symbol Choir, directed by Anthony Chater, who are singing for us today. The responses are those by Joanna Forbes-L'Estrange (1971-).

Psalm 81

1. Sing we merrily unto God our strength ♦
make a cheerful noise unto the God of Jacob.
2. Take the Psalm, bring hither the tabret ♦
the merry harp with the lute.
3. Blow up the trumpet in the new-moon ♦
even in the time appointed, and upon our solemn feast-day.
4. For this was made a statute for Israel ♦
and a law of the God of Jacob.
5. This he ordained in Joseph for a testimony ♦
when he came out of the land of Egypt, and had heard a strange language.
6. I eased his shoulder from the burden ♦
and his hands were delivered from making the pots.
7. Thou calledst upon me in troubles, and I delivered thee ♦
and heard thee what time as the storm fell upon thee.
8. I proved thee also ♦
at the waters of strife.
9. Hear, O my people, and I will assure thee, O Israel ♦
if thou wilt hearken unto me,
10. There shall no strange god be in thee ♦
neither shalt thou worship any other god.
11. I am the Lord thy God, who brought thee out of the land of Egypt ♦
open thy mouth wide, and I shall fill it.
12. But my people would not hear my voice ♦
and Israel would not obey me.

13. So I gave them up unto their own hearts' lusts ♦
and let them follow their own imaginations.
14. O that my people would have hearkened unto me ♦
for if Israel had walked in my ways,
15. I should soon have put down their enemies ♦
and turned my hand against their adversaries.
16. The haters of the Lord should have been found liars ♦
but their time should have endured for ever.
17. He should have fed them also with the finest wheat-flour ♦
and with honey out of the stony rock should I have satisfied thee.

The First Lesson

¹ After two whole years, Pharaoh dreamed that he was standing by the Nile, ² and there came up out of the Nile seven sleek and fat cows, and they grazed in the reed grass. ³ Then seven other cows, ugly and thin, came up out of the Nile after them, and stood by the other cows on the bank of the Nile. ⁴ The ugly and thin cows ate up the seven sleek and fat cows. And Pharaoh awoke. ⁵ Then he fell asleep and dreamed a second time; seven ears of grain, plump and good, were growing on one stalk. ⁶ Then seven ears, thin and blighted by the east wind, sprouted after them. ⁷ The thin ears swallowed up the seven plump and full ears. Pharaoh awoke, and it was a dream. ⁸ In the morning his spirit was troubled; so he sent and called for all the magicians of Egypt and all its wise men. Pharaoh told them his dreams, but there was no one who could interpret them to Pharaoh. ⁹ Then the chief cupbearer said to Pharaoh, 'I remember my faults today. ¹⁰ Once Pharaoh was angry with his servants, and put me and the chief baker in custody in the house of the captain of the guard. ¹¹ We dreamed on the same night, he and I, each having a dream with its own meaning. ¹² A young Hebrew was there with us, a servant of the captain of the guard. When we told him, he interpreted our dreams to us, giving an interpretation to each according to his dream. ¹³ As he interpreted to us, so it turned out; I was restored to my office, and the baker was hanged.' ¹⁴ Then Pharaoh sent for Joseph, and he was hurriedly brought out of the dungeon. When he had shaved himself and changed

his clothes, he came in before Pharaoh. ¹⁵ And Pharaoh said to Joseph, 'I have had a dream, and there is no one who can interpret it. I have heard it said of you that when you hear a dream you can interpret it.' ¹⁶ Joseph answered Pharaoh, 'It is not I; God will give Pharaoh a favourable answer.' ²⁵ Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, 'Pharaoh's dreams are one and the same; God has revealed to Pharaoh what he is about to do. ²⁶ The seven good cows are seven years, and the seven good ears are seven years; the dreams are one. ²⁷ The seven lean and ugly cows that came up after them are seven years, as are the seven empty ears blighted by the east wind. They are seven years of famine. ²⁸ It is as I told Pharaoh; God has shown to Pharaoh what he is about to do. ²⁹ There will come seven years of great plenty throughout all the land of Egypt. ³⁰ After them there will arise seven years of famine, and all the plenty will be forgotten in the land of Egypt; the famine will consume the land. ³¹ The plenty will no longer be known in the land because of the famine that will follow, for it will be very grievous. ³² And the doubling of Pharaoh's dream means that the thing is fixed by God, and God will shortly bring it about. ³³ Now therefore let Pharaoh select a man who is discerning and wise, and set him over the land of Egypt. ³⁴ Let Pharaoh proceed to appoint overseers over the land, and take one-fifth of the produce of the land of Egypt during the seven plenteous years. ³⁵ Let them gather all the food of these good years that are coming, and lay up grain under the authority of Pharaoh for food in the cities, and let them keep it. ³⁶ That food shall be a reserve for the land against the seven years of famine that are to befall the land of Egypt, so that the land may not perish through the famine.' ³⁷ The proposal pleased Pharaoh and all his servants.

Genesis 41:1-16,25-37

The Magnificat

Evening Service in E Flat Major, number 2 by Charles Wood (1866-1926)

The Second Lesson

⁸ Already you have all you want! Already you have become rich! Quite apart from us you have become kings! Indeed, I wish that you had become kings, so that we might be kings with you! ⁹ For I think that God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, as though sentenced to death, because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels and to mortals. ¹⁰ We are fools for the sake of Christ, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honour, but we in disrepute. ¹¹ To the present hour we are hungry and thirsty, we are poorly clothed and beaten and homeless, ¹² and we grow weary from the work of our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; ¹³ when slandered, we speak kindly. We have become like the rubbish of the world, the dregs of all things, to this very day.

1 Corinthians 4:8-13

The Nunc Dimittis

~~**Evening Service in B minor by Thomas Noble (1867–1953)**~~

Evening Service in E Flat Major, number 2 by Charles Wood (1866-1926)

The Collect of the Day

Grant, O Lord, we beseech thee, that the course of this world may be so peaceably ordered by thy governance, that thy Church may joyfully serve thee in all godly quietness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Anthem

~~The Manna, and the Paschal lamb.
Jesu Master, just and true!
Our Food, and faithful Shepherd too!
O let that love which thus makes thee
Mix with our low Mortality,
Lift our lean Souls, and set us up
Convictors of thine own full cup,
Coheirs of Saints. That so all may
Drink the same wine; and the same way.~~

~~Nor change the Pasture, but the Place
To feed of Thee in thine own Face.
O dear Memorial of that Death
Which lives still, and allows us breath!
Rich, Royal food! Bountiful Bread!
Whose use denies us to the dead!~~

~~Live ever Bread of loves, and be
My life, my soul, my surer self to me.
Help Lord, my Faith, my Hope increase;
And fill my portion in thy peace.~~

Give love for life; nor let my days
Grow, but in new powers to thy name and praise.

Rise, Royal Sion! rise and sing
Thy soul's kind shepherd, thy heart's King.
Stretch all thy powers; call if you can
Harps of heaven to hands of man.
This sovereign subject sits above
The best ambition of thy love.

Lo the Bread of Life, this day's
Triumphant Text provokes thy praise.
The living and life-giving bread,
To the great twelve distributed
When Life, himself, at point to die
Of love, was his own Legacy.

O soft self-wounding Pelican!
Whose breast weeps Balm for wounded man.
All this way bend thy benign flood
To a bleeding Heart that gasps for blood.
That blood, whose least drops sovereign be

~~To wash my worlds of sins from me.~~

~~Come love! Come Lord! and that long day~~

~~For which I languish, come away.~~

~~When this dry soul those eyes shall see,~~

~~And drink the unseal'd source of thee.~~

~~When Glory's sun faith's shades shall chase,~~

~~And for thy veil give me thy Face.~~

~~Amen.~~

~~Words based on the poetry of Richard Crashaw (1613—1649)~~

~~Music by Gerald Finzi (1901—1956)~~

Blest pair of Sirens, pledges of heaven's joy,
sphere-born harmonious sisters, Voice and Verse,
wed your divine sounds, and mixt power employ,
dead things with inbreathed sense able to pierce;
and to our high-raised phantasy present
that undisturbed song of pure consent,
aye sung before the sapphire-coloured throne
to him that sits thereon,
with saintly shout and solemn jubilee;
where the bright Seraphim, in burning row,
their loud, uplifted angel-trumpets blow,
and the cherubic host in thousand quires
touch their immortal harps of golden wires,
with those just spirits, that wear victorious palms,
hymns devout and holy psalms
singing everlastingly.

That we on earth with undiscording voice,
may rightly answer that melodious noise;

as once we did, till disproportioned sin
jarr'd against Nature's chime, and with harsh din
broke the fair music that all creatures made
to their great Lord, whose love their motion swayed
in perfect diapason, whilst they stood
in first obedience, and their state of good.
O may we soon again renew that song
and keep in tune with heaven, till God ere long
to his celestial consort us unite,
to live with him and sing in endless morn of light.

Words by John Milton (1608-1674)
Music by C.H.H. Parry (1848-1918)

O gladsome light, O grace
of God the Father's face,
the eternal splendour wearing;
celestial, holy, blest,
our Saviour Jesus Christ,
joyful in thine appearing.

Now, ere day fadeth quite,
we see the evening light,
our wonted hymn outpouring;
Father of might unknown,
thee, his incarnate Son,
and Holy Spirit adoring.

To thee of right belongs
all praise of holy songs,
O Son of God, lifegiver;
thee therefore, O most high,
the world doth glorify
and shall exalt for ever.

Words translated from Greek by Robert Bridges (1844-1930)

Tune CP 17 Nunc Dimittis melody from the Genevan Psalter (1549)

by Louis Borgeois (c.1510-1561) harmonised by Claude Goudimel (d. 1572)

~~O love, how deep, how broad, how high!~~

~~It fills the heart with ecstasy,~~

~~that God, the Son of God, should take~~

~~our mortal form for mortals' sake.~~

~~He sent no angel to our race~~

~~of higher or of lower place,~~

but wore the robe of human frame
himself, and to this lost world came.

For us he was baptized, and bore
his holy fast, and hungered sore;
for us temptations sharp he knew;
for us the tempter overthrew.

For us to wicked men betrayed,
scourged, mocked, in purple robe arrayed,
he bore the shameful cross and death;
for us at length gave up his breath.
For us he rose from death again,
for us he went on high to reign,
for us he sent his Spirit here
to guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.

To him whose boundless love has won
salvation for us through his Son,
to God the Father, glory be
both now and through eternity. Amen.

Words by Thomas à Kempis (1379-1471)

tr. Benjamin Webb (1819-1885)

Tune CP 118 Einsenach by J.H. Schein (1586-1630)

harmonised by J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

~~Lent Meditation~~ Voluntary

Please do stay for ~~our Lent Meditation~~ the voluntary

Fantasia and Fugue in G, Op. 188 by Hubert Parry (1848-1918) ~~Jésus meurt
sur la Croix (Jesus dies upon the Cross)~~

~~Jésus est mis dans le sépulcre (The body of Jesus is laid in the tomb)~~

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.



*If you would like to revisit this morning's sermon, please visit this page:
<https://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/worship-music/services/sermons>*

We serve refreshments at the back of the Nave after this service, so please feel free to stay for a chat over a cup of tea or coffee!

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

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

Please note there will be no recital on 21st July due to university graduations.

Monday 28th July, 12:30pm

Our 2025 summer organ recital series continues with a recital from Imogen Morgan.

F. Mendelssohn Organ Sonata in Bb, op. 65 no. 4

J. Bingham Jacquet's Ghost

L. Vierne Carillon de Longpoint

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

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

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