

Choral Evensong Sunday 31st March Easter Day



Welcome to this service of Choral Evensong, led by the Very Reverend John Witcombe, Dean of Coventry. The Reverend Mary Gregory, Canon for Arts and Reconciliation, will be preaching. The Cathedral Choir is directed by Rachel Mahon, Director of Music. The organists are Luke Fitzgerald, Assistant Director of Music, and Stephen Crookes, Organ Scholar.

The Responses are by Bernard Rose (1916-1996).

The full text of the service is found in the purple booklets.

The Introit

This joyful Eastertide, away with sin and sorrow.
My Love, the Crucified, hath sprung to life this morrow.

*Had Christ, that once was slain, ne'er burst his three-day prison,
Our faith had been in vain: but now hath Christ arisen.*

My flesh in hope shall rest, and for a season slumber:
Till trump from east to west shall wake the dead in number.

Death's flood hath lost his chill, since Jesus crossed the river:
Lover of souls, from ill my passing soul deliver.

Words by George Ratcliffe Woodward (1848-1934)

Music by Charles Wood (1866-1926)

Psalm 66:1 – 11

1. O be joyful in God, all ye lands : sing praises unto the honour of his Name, make his praise to be glorious.
2. Say unto God, O how wonderful art thou in thy works : through the greatness of thy power shall thine enemies be found liars unto thee.
3. For all the world shall worship thee : sing of thee, and praise thy Name.
4. O come hither, and behold the works of God : how wonderful he is in his doing toward the children of men.
5. He turned the sea into dry land : so that they went through the water on foot; there did we rejoice thereof.

6. He ruleth with his power for ever; his eyes behold the people : and such as will not believe shall not be able to exalt themselves.
7. O praise our God, ye people : and make the voice of his praise to be heard;
8. Who holdeth our soul in life : and suffereth not our feet to slip.
9. For thou, O God, hast proved us : thou also hast tried us, like as silver is tried.
10. Thou broughtest us into the snare : and laidest trouble upon our loins.
11. Thou sufferedst men to ride over our heads : we went through fire and water, and thou broughtest us out into a wealthy place.

The First Lesson

¹ The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ² He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³ He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Lord GOD, you know.' ⁴ Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵ Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶ I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD.'

⁷ So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸ I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. ⁹ Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.' ¹⁰ I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹ Then he said to me, ‘Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, “Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.” ¹² Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³ And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴ I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD.’

Ezekiel 37:1 – 14

The Magnificat Evening Service in C by Bryan Kelly (b. 1934)

The Second Lesson

¹³ Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶ but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, ‘What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?’ They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, ‘Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?’ ¹⁹ He asked them, ‘What things?’ They replied, ‘The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²² Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³ and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.’ ²⁵ Then he said to them, ‘Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared!’

²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?' ²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

²⁸ As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.' So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. ³² They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?' ³³ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴ They were saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!' ³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Luke 24:13 – 35

The Nunc Dimittis Evening Service in C by Bryan Kelly (b. 1934)

The Collect of the Day

Almighty God, who through thine only-begotten Son Jesus Christ hast overcome death, and opened unto us the gate of everlasting life: We humbly beseech thee, that as by thy special grace preventing us thou dost put into our minds good desires, so by thy continual help we may bring the same to good effect; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end.

Amen.

The Anthem

Ye sons and daughters of the king
Whom heavenly hosts in glory sing;
Today the grave hath lost its sting, Alleluia!

On that first morning of the week
Before the day began to break,
The Marys went their lord to seek, Alleluia!

An angel bade their sorrow flee,
For thus he spake unto the three:
Your lord is gone to Galilee! Alleluia!

On this most holy day of days,
To God our hearts and voices raise
In laud, and jubilee and praise.

And we with holy church unite,
As evermore is just and right,
In glory to the king of light. Alleluia!

O Sons and Daughters (O filii et filiae)

Words by Jean Tisserand (d. 1494)

Arranged by Martin Baker (b. 1967)

The Hymn

Alleluia! Alleluia!
Hearts to heaven and voices raise;
sing to God a hymn of gladness,
sing to God a hymn of praise:
he who on the cross a victim
for the world's salvation bled,
Jesus Christ, the King of Glory,
now is risen from the dead.

Christ is risen, Christ the first-fruits
of the holy harvest field,
which will all its full abundance
at his second coming yield;

then the golden ears of harvest
will their heads before him wave,
ripened by his glorious sunshine,
from the furrows of the grave.

Christ is risen, we are risen;
shed upon us heavenly grace,
rain, and dew, and gleams of glory
from the brightness of thy face;
that we, with our hearts in heaven,
here on earth may fruitful be,
and by angel-hands be gathered,
and be ever, Lord, with thee.

Alleluia! Alleluia!
Glory be to God on high;
Alleluia to the Saviour,
who has gained the victory;
Alleluia to the Spirit,
fount of love and sanctity;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
to the Triune Majesty.

Words by Christopher Wordsworth (1807-1885)
Tune CP 137 Lux Eoi Arthur Sullivan (1842-1900)

Voluntary

Please do stay for the organ voluntary, performed today by
Stephen Crookes, Organ Scholar.

Paraphrase on a chorus from Judas Maccabaeus (Handel)
by Alexandre Guilmant (1837 - 1911)

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

Boys and girls between the ages of 7 and 11 are welcome to audition for our Cathedral Choir. Do you know a child who loves to sing? There are many benefits to joining the choir – new friends, a free, world-class music education, choir pay, singing services and at special events in amazing places, choir tours, broadcasts, recordings and social events too. If you or someone you know might be interested in joining the choir, please be in touch with the Director of Music to arrange a meeting.

rachel.mahon@coventrycathedral.org.uk

COMMUNITY NEWS



Introducing our new Canon for Worship and Welcome

We are absolutely delighted to be able to announce that the Revd Nitano Muller has been appointed as our new Canon for Worship and Welcome. We look forward to Nitano's arrival in June when he will be installed to take up his new role. As we wait to welcome him, you will enjoy this biography as a way of beginning to get to know him and of anticipating all that he will bring to our life together:

Nitano hails from the small fishing-community of Ocean View, located at the southern-most tip of the Cape Peninsula in South Africa. He completed a degree in Education and worked as a language and history teacher. While working as a teacher, Nitano was discerned for ordination to the priesthood in the Diocese of False Bay within the Anglican Church of Southern Africa and entered residential theological training at the College of the Transfiguration, Makhanda (formerly Grahamstown). He served his curacies in two vastly different contexts in Mitchells Plain on the Cape Flats and Hermanus along the south-eastern coastline of False Bay (where he ministered to the Late Archbishop Desmond Tutu as a parishioner). He currently serves as Rector of St. Peter's Church, Kleinvlei, False Bay Diocese. Nitano is one of the youngest serving Rectors in his Diocese. His passions include liturgy, youth development and the work of justice and reconciliation. These are evident in some of the portfolios he holds which include Diocesan Chaplain for Young People, a consultant for the Provincial Liturgical Committee, and a representative of his diocese on the South African Council of Churches (Western Cape). In 2022, Nitano was selected as a Trinity Leadership Fellow, a program run by Trinity Wall Street, New York, for emerging faith leaders from across the world who seek to enhance their skills in order to contribute to meaningful change and transformation in their respective fields and contexts.

Nitano is a self-proclaimed ambivert, who equally enjoys working with people, travelling and exploration as well as quiet time reading, writing reflections or listening to good music. Nitano's first encounter with Coventry Cathedral was its welcome sign posted at the west-screen entrance, which he says made him feel at home because he identified with many of the traits described on it and is excited to form part of the cathedral team that extends the radical welcome and all embracing-love of God to all who enter the Cathedral's doors.

Cathedral Annual General Meeting

Sunday 14th April, 12:00 – 1:30pm

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday 14th April in the John Laing Centre. That Sunday, refreshments will be served in the John Laing Centre to enable us to have a prompt midday start. The agenda and Annual Report will be available from Easter Sunday to allow you to read these in advance. Please do prioritise this meeting if you can. The meeting will be preceded by coffee and a simple sandwich lunch, served in the John Laing Centre.

Election of Cathedral Wardens

Each year at the Annual General Meeting we can elect up to five Cathedral wardens including at least one Warden for St Clare's. Please think about who you would like to nominate for this role or, indeed, consider standing yourself. Please email Canon Mary with the name of the person nominated, their proposer and seconder at Mary.Gregory@coventrycathedral.org.uk

Full-Time and Part-Time Verger Positions Available

Would you like to work at the Cathedral, playing a vital role in the services and day-to-day operations? We have job openings for full-time and part-time positions as a Verger. As a Verger, you will be responsible for the security of the Cathedral buildings; providing assistance to the clergy, particularly during worship services; representing the Cathedral and welcoming visitors, worshippers and VIPs; and much more.

The full-time position is 35 hours per week for £20,900.88 per annum, and part-time positions of 20 hours per week for £10,878.48 per annum.

For more information and to apply, please visit:

<https://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/support-us/job-opportunities>

COMING SOON

Wonder

Wednesday 10th April, 7:30 – 9pm

Join our worship gathering for those curious and imaginative, looking to explore what we believe through art, dance, and poetry. Wonder takes place every second Wednesday of the month! All are warmly invited to join us.