

The Septimius Serverus Action Group



# WINDRUSH SERVICE

*"Where Are We Now?"*

**22<sup>nd</sup> June 2025, 3p.m.**



# **Welcome to Coventry Cathedral**

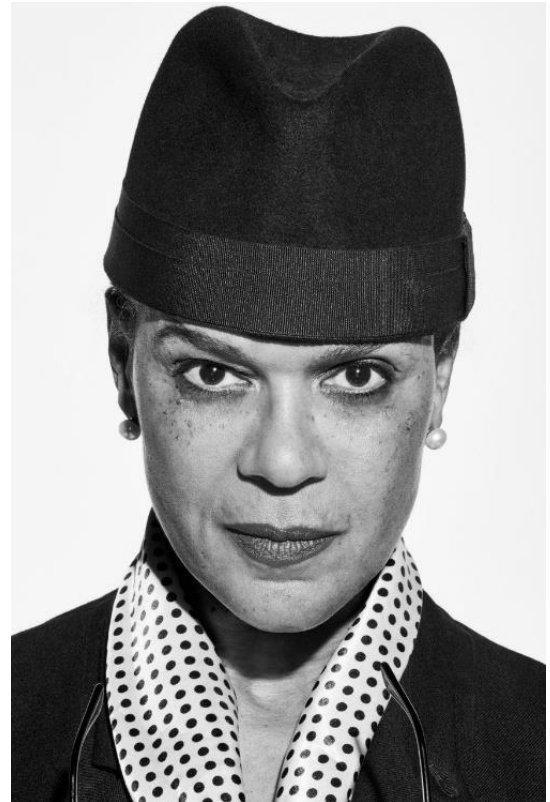
*Celebrating Legacy, Honouring Resilience, Embracing Hope*

Since 2018 and in collaboration with the *Septimius Severus Action Group*, this annual service has stood as a moment of reflection, gratitude, and recognition - honouring the remarkable contributions of the Windrush generation and their descendants to the life of this nation.

This year, we gather to lament the injustices endured, to listen and learn from the voices of truth and experience, and to look forward together - grounded in hope and guided by the legacy of strength, dignity, and creativity.

This year's service brings together the voices of young people, music from Black artists, reflections from local communities, and an address by our guest speaker, **Pauline Black OBE** – a pioneering singer, actress, and writer, best known as the lead vocalist of the 2-Tone band *The Selecter*. A powerful voice for racial justice and cultural identity, she brings her insight and artistry to this year's commemoration.

All are welcome as we remember, celebrate, and commit to a more just and inclusive future.



*Pauline Black OBE  
Deputy Lieutenant for the West Midlands*



*In our service, please STAND to sing the hymns, if you are able to do so,  
and REMAIN SEATED for the speakers.*

## **Song - Soulful Choir**

*"I know who I am"*

## **Welcome**

*From the Very Reverend John Witcombe, Dean of Coventry.*

## **Opening Prayer**

*Led by the Reverend Su McClellan, Cathedral Associate Minister.*

## **Hymn**

**Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,  
there is no shadow of turning with thee;  
thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not,  
as thou hast been thou for ever wilt be.**

***Great is thy faithfulness, great is thy faithfulness;  
morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided,  
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!***

**Summer and winter, and spring-time and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.**

**Pardon for sin, and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!**

*Words by Thomas Chisholm (1866-1960)  
Tune CP 453 Great is thy faithfulness W.M. Runyan (1870-1957)*

## **Introduction**

*From Sonia Tennant, Member of the Septimius Severus Action Group.*

## **Songs - Blue Coat Church of England School**

*Lisa Karen sings "Hallelujah"*

*Nadia During sings "Stand up"*

## **Address**

*By Pauline Black OBE, Deputy Lieutenant for the West Midlands.*

## **Poem**

*Alan William Robertson, Coventry Poet*

## **Song - Soulful Choir**

*"One love"*

## **Scripture Reading**

*Read by Pastor Johnny Samuels, Minister at AME Zion Church.*

<sup>7</sup> Then the Lord said, 'I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, <sup>8</sup> and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. <sup>9</sup> The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them.

<sup>10</sup> So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.' <sup>11</sup> But Moses said to God, 'Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?' <sup>12</sup> He said, 'I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain.'

*Exodus 3: 7-12*

## **Hymn**

**What a fellowship, what a joy divine,  
leaning on the everlasting arms;  
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,  
leaning on the everlasting arms.**

***Leaning, leaning,  
safe and secure from all alarms;  
leaning, leaning,  
leaning on the everlasting arms.***

**O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,  
leaning on the everlasting arms;  
O how bright the path grows from day to day,  
leaning on the everlasting arms. [Refrain]**

**What have I to dread, what have I to fear,  
leaning on the everlasting arms?  
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,  
leaning on the everlasting arms. [Refrain]**

*Elisha Hoffman (1839-1929)*

*The United Methodist Hymnal, 1989*

## **Reading & Address**

*From the Reverend Marie Taylor, Pastor- Shaw Mount Zion, A.M.E. Zion Church and Lecturer in Health and Social Care at Coventry College.*

## **Song - The “Psalmist” Yahweh Rises**

*Jesse Asare, Ezra Kyeyune, Israel-David Tshiteye, Isabella Hyacinth, Zoë Hall*

## **Closing Remarks**

*From*

*Frankie Williams, from the Septimius Severus Action Group.*

## **Hymn**

**Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,  
pilgrim through this barren land;  
I am weak, but thou art mighty;  
hold me with thy powerful hand:  
bread of heaven, bread of heaven,  
feed me now and evermore,  
feed me now and evermore.**

**Open now the crystal fountain  
whence the healing stream doth flow;  
let the fiery cloudy pillar  
lead me all my journey through:  
strong deliverer, strong deliverer,  
be thou still my strength and shield,  
be thou still my strength and shield.**

**When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
bid my anxious fears subside;  
death of death, and hell's destruction,  
land me safe on Canaan's side:  
songs and praises, songs and praises,  
I will ever give to thee,  
I will ever give to thee.**

*Words by W. Williams (1717-1791) translated by P. and W. Williams  
Tune CP 455 Cwm Rhondda John Hughes (1873-1932)*

## **The Blessing**

*The Reverend Su McClellan*

## **Refreshments at the back of the Nave**

*Thank you to Errol Drummond of Sunrise Bakery Smethwick, Birmingham  
for the generous donation.*