

Choral Evensong

Sunday, 11th January, 2026

The First Sunday after The Epiphany



Welcome to this service of Choral Evensong, led by the Reverend Kate Massey, Canon for Arts and Reconciliation. Margaret East, Cathedral Lay Reader, is preaching.

The Cathedral Choir is directed by Joe Watson, Acting Director of Music. The organists are Liam Condon, Assistant Director of Music, and Adam Heron, Organ Scholar. The responses are those by Humphrey Clucas (b. 1941). We encourage our visitors to take photographs of our beautiful cathedral, **but please no photography during the service.** Thank you.

Introit

“When he is King we will give him the Kings’ gifts, myrrh for its sweetness, and gold for a crown, beautiful robes,” said the young girl to Joseph, fair with her first-born on Bethlehem Down.

Bethlehem Down is full of the starlight – winds for the spices, and stars for the gold, Mary for sleep, and for lullaby music songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem fold.

When he is King they will clothe him in grave-sheets, myrrh for embalming, and wood for a crown, he that lies now in the white arms of Mary, sleeping so lightly on Bethlehem Down.

Here he has peace and a short while for dreaming, close-huddled oxen to keep him from cold, Mary for love, and for lullaby music songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem fold.

Words by Bruce Blunt (1899-1957)
Music by Peter Warlock (1894-1930)

Psalm 46

1. God is our hope and strength ♦
a very present help in trouble.
2. Therefore will we not fear, though the earth be moved ♦
and though the hills be carried into the midst of the sea;
3. Though the waters thereof rage and swell ♦
and though the mountains shake at the tempest of the same.
4. The rivers of the flood thereof shall make glad the city of God ♦
the holy place of the tabernacle of the most Highest.
5. God is in the midst of her, therefore shall she not be removed ♦
God shall help her, and that right early.
6. The heathen make much ado, and the kingdoms are moved ♦
but God hath shewed his voice, and the earth shall melt away.
7. The Lord of hosts is with us ♦ the God of Jacob is our refuge.
8. O come hither, and behold the works of the Lord ♦
what destruction he hath brought upon the earth.
9. He maketh wars to cease in all the world ♦
he breaketh the bow, and knappeth the spear in sunder, and burneth
the chariots in the fire.
10. Be still then, and know that I am God ♦
I will be exalted among the heathen, and I will be exalted in the earth.
11. The Lord of hosts is with us ♦
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Psalm 47

1. O Clap your hands together, all ye people ♦
O sing unto God with the voice of melody.
2. For the Lord is high, and to be feared ♦
he is the great King upon all the earth.
3. He shall subdue the people under us ♦
and the nations under our feet.
4. He shall choose out an heritage for us ♦
even the worship of Jacob, whom he loved.

5. God is gone up with a merry noise ♦
and the Lord with the sound of the trump.
6. O sing praises, sing praises unto our God ♦
O sing praises, sing praises unto our King.
7. For God is the King of all the earth ♦
sing ye praises with understanding.
8. God reigneth over the heathen ♦
God sitteth upon his holy seat.
9. The princes of the people are joined unto the people of the God of Abraham ♦
for God, which is very high exalted, doth defend the earth, as it were
with a shield.

The First Lesson

¹ Early in the morning Joshua rose and set out from Shittim with all the Israelites, and they came to the Jordan. They camped there before crossing over. ² At the end of three days the officers went through the camp ³ and commanded the people, 'When you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God being carried by the levitical priests, then you shall set out from your place. Follow it, ⁴ so that you may know the way you should go, for you have not passed this way before. Yet there shall be a space between you and it, a distance of about two thousand cubits; do not come any nearer to it.' ⁵ Then Joshua said to the people, 'Sanctify yourselves; for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you.' ⁶ To the priests Joshua said, 'Take up the ark of the covenant, and pass on in front of the people.' So they took up the ark of the covenant and went in front of the people. ⁷ The LORD said to Joshua, 'This day I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel, so that they may know that I will be with you as I was with Moses. ⁸ You are the one who shall command the priests who bear the ark of the covenant, "When you come to the edge of the waters of the Jordan, you shall stand still in the Jordan." ' ¹⁴ When the people set out from their tents to cross over the Jordan, the priests bearing the ark of the covenant were in front of the people. ¹⁵ Now the Jordan overflows all its banks throughout the time of harvest. So when those who bore the ark had come to the Jordan, and the feet of the priests bearing the ark

were dipped in the edge of the water, ¹⁶the waters flowing from above stood still, rising up in a single heap far off at Adam, the city that is beside Zarethan, while those flowing towards the sea of the Arabah, the Dead Sea, were wholly cut off. Then the people crossed over opposite Jericho. ¹⁷While all Israel were crossing over on dry ground, the priests who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood on dry ground in the middle of the Jordan, until the entire nation finished crossing over the Jordan.

Joshua 3:1-8, 14-17

The Magnificat

Magnificat and Nunc dimittis in G, Op. 81 by Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)

The Second Lesson

¹ Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. ³He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

⁵ For to which of the angels did God ever say,

'You are my Son;
today I have begotten you?'

Or again,

'I will be his Father,
and he will be my Son?'

⁶ And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,
'Let all God's angels worship him.'

⁷ Of the angels he says,
'He makes his angels winds,
and his servants flames of fire.'

⁸ But of the Son he says,
'Your throne, O God, is for ever and ever,
and the righteous sceptre is the sceptre of your kingdom.'

⁹ You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;
therefore God, your God, has anointed you
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.'

¹⁰ And,

'In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth,
and the heavens are the work of your hands;
¹¹ they will perish, but you remain;
they will all wear out like clothing;
¹² like a cloak you will roll them up,
and like clothing they will be changed.
But you are the same,
and your years will never end.'

Hebrews 1:1-12

The Nunc Dimittis

Magnificat and Nunc dimittis in G, Op. 81 by Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)

The Collect

O Lord, we beseech thee mercifully to receive the prayers of thy people which call upon thee; and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil the same; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Anthem

Lift up your heads, O ye gates,
and be ye lift up ye everlasting doors,
and the King of glory shall come in.
Who is this King of glory?
The Lord, strong and mighty,
the Lord mighty in battle.
Who is this King of glory?
The Lord of hosts,
he is the King of glory.

*from Psalm 24.7-10
Music by Liam Condon (1997-)*

The Sermon

Given by Margaret East, Cathedral Lay Reader.

Hymn

**Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy,
be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.**

**Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,
be there at our labours, and give us, we pray,
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.**

**Lord of all kindliness, Lord of all grace,
your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,
be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.**

**Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,
be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.**

Words by Jan Struther (1901-1953)
Tune CP 507 Slane Irish traditional melody
harmonized by Erik Routley (1917-1982)

Voluntary

*Please do stay for the organ voluntary, played by Liam Condon, Assistant
Director of Music.*

Postlude on a theme of Gibbons by Charles Villiers Stanford (1852–1924)

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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: *BCP Evening Prayer (Choral Evensong during term time)*

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

COMMUNITY NEWS

Announcement of New Head Verger.

We are delighted to announce the appointment of **Chris Craddock** as our new Head Verger. Chris will be joining the Cathedral team in February, and we very much look forward to welcoming him into the life and ministry of the Cathedral.



Chris comes to us with over forty years of experience in cathedral ministry. Raised in Coventry, he began his journey as a server and later served at Lichfield Cathedral, where he has held the roles of Verger, Head Verger, and most recently Canons' Verger. He brings with him a deep love of cathedral worship, a wealth of practical experience, and a strong commitment to team leadership.

Chris and his wife Susan will be moving to Coventry with their two dogs, Guinness and Amy. Outside cathedral life, Chris is a keen runner and badminton player and enjoys live entertainment. He is greatly looking forward to leading the Verger team here and to meeting the Cathedral community in the months ahead.

Please keep Chris and Susan in your prayers as they prepare for this new chapter, and join us in offering them a warm welcome.

Interment of Ashes.

Sunday, 25th January at 12:30pm

The interment of the ashes of the Late Pauline Lawrence will follow the Cathedral Eucharist at 12:30pm on the 25th January. This service will be led by the Dean.

COMING SOON

Reconciliation Pathway.

The Cathedral will be hosting the Reconciliation Pathway, an opportunity to engage with stories of history, faith, art and lived experience. The course starts on *Tuesday, 14 January at 7pm*. The cost is £25 for the course. All are welcome to participate. If you have any questions, please contact Pathways@Coventry.Anglican.org or speak to Canon Kate or Dean John for further information.

Four Choirs Festival at Derby Cathedral.

Saturday, 17 January at 5.30pm

Derby Cathedral will host the Four Choirs Festival, bringing together the choirs from Derby, Coventry, Leicester and Southwell Cathedral for a service of Choral Evensong. Please speak to Joe or Liam if you wish to support the choir.

Epiphany Carol Service.

Sunday, 18 January at 4pm

Epiphany Carols is a service of thoughtful readings and exciting music for the season of Epiphany. The service celebrates the revelation of Christ to the nations and all welcome.