

The Cathedral Eucharist

Sunday, 11th January, 2026

The Baptism of Christ



The President today is the Reverend Canon Sacha Slavic, Cathedral Associate Minister. The Deacon is the Reverend Nitano Muller, Canon for Worship and Welcome. The Very Reverend John Witcombe, Dean of Coventry, is sub-deacon and preacher.

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 service setting is Missa brevis by Jonathan Dove (b. 1959).

*We encourage our visitors to take photographs of our beautiful cathedral, **but please no photography during the service.** Thank you.*

Opening Hymn

**Christ, when for us you were baptized
God's Spirit on you came,
as peaceful as a dove, and yet
as urgent as a flame.**

**God called you his beloved son,
called you his servant too;
his kingdom you were called to preach,
his holy will to do.**

**Straightway and steadfast until death
you then obeyed his call,
freely as Son of Man to serve,
and give your life for all.**

**Baptize us with your Spirit, Lord,
your cross on us be signed,
that likewise in God's service we
may perfect freedom find.**

*Words by F. Bland Tucker (1895-1984)
Tune CP 422 Caithness Melody from Scottish Psalter 1635
harmonised by editors of English Hymnal 1906*

The Collect

Eternal Father,
who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The First Reading

Read by Nazleen Noel, representing the Cathedral Community and the Phoenix Club.

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

¹ Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. ²He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; ³a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. ⁴He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching. ⁵ Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: ⁶I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, ⁷to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. ⁸I am the LORD, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. ⁹See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

Isaiah 42:1-9

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The heavens were opened and the voice of the Father thundered:
'This is my beloved Son; listen to him'.

Cf. Mark 9:7

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Gospel Reading

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?' ¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness.' Then he consented. ¹⁶ And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'

Matthew 3:13-17

Offertory Hymn

**God is here; as we his people
meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure
what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us,
all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of his Spirit
into open minds and hearts.**

**Here are symbols to remind us
of our lifelong need of grace;
here are table, font and pulpit,
here the cross has central place;
here in honesty of preaching,
here in silence as in speech,
here in newness and renewal
God the Spirit comes to each.**

**Here our children find a welcome
in the shepherd's flock and fold,
here, as bread and wine are taken,
Christ sustains us, as of old.
Here the servants of the Servant
seek in worship to explore
what it means in daily living
to believe and to adore.**

**Lord of all, of church and Kingdom,
in an age of change and doubt
keep us faithful to the gospel,
help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication,
all we have to give, receive.
We, who cannot live without you,
we adore you, we believe.**

*Words by Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000)
Tune CP 301 Blaenwern W.P. Rowlands (1860-1937)*

Anthem

**Seek him that maketh the seven stars and Orion
and turneth the shadow of death into the morning.
Alleluia, yea, the darkness shineth as the day,
the night is light about me.**

*Words from Amos 5.8 and Psalm 139
Music by Jonathan Dove (b. 1959)*

Communion Hymn

**Jesus, Lord, we look to thee,
let us in thy name agree:
show thyself the Prince of peace;
bid all strife for ever cease.**

**Make us of one heart and mind,
courteous, pitiful, and kind,
lowly, meek in thought and word,
altogether like our Lord.**

**Let us for each other care,
each the other's burden bear;
to thy church the pattern give,
show how true believers live.**

**Free from anger and from pride,
let us thus in God abide;
all the depths of love express,
all the heights of holiness.**

Words by Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Tune CP 58/ii Nottingham Wenzel Müller (1747-1835)

Post Communion

Lord of all time and eternity,
you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father in the baptism
of Jesus your beloved Son: by the power of your Spirit complete the
heavenly work of our rebirth through the waters of new creation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

**O for a thousand tongues to sing
my dear Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of his grace!**

**Jesus! the name that charms our fears,
that bids our sorrows cease;
'tis music in the sinner's ears,
'tis life and health and peace.**

**He speaks; and, listening to his voice,
new life the dead receive,
the mournful broken hearts rejoice,
the humble poor believe.**

**Hear him, ye deaf; his praise, ye dumb,
your loosened tongues employ;
ye blind, behold your Saviour come;
and leap, ye lame, for joy!**

**My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim
and spread through all the earth abroad
the honours of thy name.**

Words by Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Tune CP 424 Richmond melody by Thomas Haweis (1734-1820)

The Blessing of a Cross of Nails

The Dean blesses the Cross of Nails with these words;

Eternal God, you have come among us in Christ to reconcile the world to yourself, and have entrusted us with the ministry of reconciliation. Strengthen all who work for the healing of conflict and pain amongst your human family. Bless all those at *Saint Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School, Coventry*, who, inspired by the Cross of Nails, bear witness to the grace and truth of your crucified and risen Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

In the name of God,
who has created all people for friendship with himself;
in the name of Jesus Christ,
who commanded us to love our enemies;
in the name of our Lord the Spirit,
who rescues and restores us in peace;
we send this Cross of Nails to
Saint Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School, Coventry,
as a symbol of our partnership in the work of reconciliation;
for the glory of God
and the coming of his kingdom of justice and peace.

Amen.

Voluntary

*Please do stay for the organ voluntary, performed today by Adam Heron,
Organ Scholar.*

Church Bells beyond the Stars by Cecilia McDowall (b. 1951)

We invite those joining us for worship to contribute to the costs of mission at the Cathedral. Please use the cash or contactless donation points, or the QR code below. This will take you to the Cathedral's page for the Parish giving Scheme which will enable you to make a one off donation, or set up a regular gift should you wish. Thank you so much for your support and generosity.



*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

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

Acting Director of Music to arrange a meeting.

luke.fitzgerald@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.

Clergy Preaching Away Today:

Canon Kate Massey- St Chad's, Wood End

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 includes music by The service celebrates the revelation of Christ to the nations and all welcome.