



Patronal Service of Reconciliation

Tuesday, 29th September 2026 at 7.30pm

Welcome to Coventry Cathedral

Welcome to Coventry Cathedral as we gather on the feast of St Michael and All Angels for our Patronal Service of Reconciliation.

Today we celebrate the calling entrusted to this Cathedral: to be a place where wounds of history are remembered, enemies become neighbours, and the work of peace and reconciliation continues. We give thanks especially for the Community of the Cross of Nails, whose witness carries Coventry's ministry of reconciliation across the world.

As we worship together, may this sacred space remind us that reconciliation is not simply something we speak about, but something we are called to live: patiently, courageously and together. This service is led by the Reverend Nitano Muller, Canon for Worship and Welcome, assisted by the Reverend Su McClellan, Cathedral Associate Minister.

We are also delighted that today's service is being recorded by BBC Radio 4 for broadcast later this year. At the beginning of the service, a BBC producer will give some brief instructions. We ask everyone to follow the guidance given and to use the order of service provided.

Thank you for being part of this celebration.

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 artwork on the cover is a rose window interpretation of our baptistry window, by Bori, cathedral chorister.

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Introit

We STAND. The choir sing;

Peace I leave with you,

My peace I give to you.

Not as the world giveth give I unto you.

Let not your heart be troubled.

Words from John 14:27

Music by Amy Beach (1867-1944)

The Reverend Nitano Muller, Canon for Worship and Welcome, says some words of welcome and then leads us in the Litany of Reconciliation.

Litany of Reconciliation

All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

The hatred which divides nation from nation, race from race, class from class,

Father, forgive.

The covetous desires of people and nations to possess what is not their own,

Father, forgive.

The greed which exploits the work of human hands and lays waste the earth,

Father, forgive.

Our envy of the welfare and happiness of others,

Father, forgive.

Our indifference to the plight of the imprisoned, the homeless, the refugee,

Father, forgive.

The lust which dishonours the bodies of men, women and children,

Father, forgive.

The pride which leads us to trust in ourselves and not in God,

Father, forgive.

Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Amen.

Collect

God, the Father of mercies,
has reconciled the world to himself
through the death and resurrection of his Son, Jesus Christ,
not counting our trespasses against us,
but sending his Holy Spirit
to shed abroad his love among us.
By the ministry of reconciliation
entrusted by Christ to his Church,
receive his pardon and peace
to stand before him in his strength alone,
this day and evermore.

Amen.

Canon Nitano will say 'We REMAIN STANDING to sing the hymn: "For the Healing of the Nations".'

Hymn

**For the healing of the nations,
Lord, we pray with one accord;
for a just and equal sharing
of the things that earth affords.
To a life of love in action
help us rise and pledge our word.**

**Lead us Forward into freedom,
from despair your world release;
that redeemed from war and hatred,
all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness
fear will die and hope increase.**

**All that kills abundant living,
let it from the earth be banned;
pride of status, race or schooling,
dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice
may we hallow life's brief span.**

**You, creator-God, have written
your great name on humankind;
for our growing in your likeness
bring the life of Christ to mind;
that by our response and service
earth its destiny may find.**

Words by Fred Kaan (1920-2009)

CP 427 Allelulia dulce Carmen from Essay on the Church Plain Chant (1782)

We SIT.

Reading

Read by the Reverend Su McClellan, Cathedral Associate Minister.

¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:17-20

Reconciliation Speech

Given by the Reverend Su.

We REMAIN SEATED.

Anthem

Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.
Congregavit nos in unum Christi
amor.
Exsultemus et in ipso
jucundemur.
Timeamus et amemus Deum
vivum.
Et ex corde diligamus nos
sincero. Amen.

Where charity and love are, God is
there.
The love of Christ has gathered us
together.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.
Let us revere and love the living
God.
And from a sincere heart let us
love one another. Amen.

*Words from the Litany of Maundy Thursday
Music by Ola Gjeilo (b. 1978)*

Reconciliation Speech

Given By Tanisha Christians.

*Afterwards, Canon Nitano will say ‘We STAND to sing the hymn: “Let us
build a house where love can dwell”.’*

Hymn

**Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live.**

**A place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.**

**Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
all are welcome in this place.**

**Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true.**

**Where all God’s children dare to seek
to dream God’s reign anew.**

**Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God’s grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus;
all are welcome in this place.**

**Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed
as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace.
Let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:
all are welcome in this place.**

*Words and music: TWO OAKS by Marty Haugen (b. 1950)
© 1994, GIA Publications, Inc.*

We SIT.

Speech

*Delivered by Reverend Su on behalf of the Right Reverend Bishop Sophie
Jelley, Bishop of Coventry.*

Anthem

The choir sing;

Verleih uns Frieden gnädiglich,
Herr Gott, zu unsern Zeiten.
Es ist doch ja kein andrer nicht,
der für uns könnte streiten,
denn du, unser Gott, alleine.

*In these our days so perilous,
Lord, peace in mercy send us;
no God but thee can fight for us,
no God but thee defend us;
thou our only God and Saviour.*

*from Votive antiphon for peace, tr. Martin Luther (1483-1546)
Music by Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)*

We REMAIN SEATED. Canon Nitano leads us in prayer.

Intercessions

“Grant us peace, in our time, O Lord.”

Those ancient words feel particularly urgent today.

Here in Coventry, we know that peace is more than the absence of war. It is the work of listening, justice, forgiveness and reconciliation. So we bring before God our wounded world, those who suffer through conflict and division, and ourselves, that we might become people of peace.

Let us pray.

For the Church throughout the world, that we may be instruments of forgiveness, unity, and hope in places of division and pain,

Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

For nations in conflict, for communities divided by hatred or injustice, and for all who work for peace and understanding,

Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

For families, friendships, and relationships that are strained or broken, that hearts may be softened and reconciliation found,

Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

For those who carry guilt, anger, resentment, or sorrow, that they may know the healing grace and mercy of God,

Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

For the lonely, the excluded, and those who feel separated from others, that they may be welcomed with compassion and love,

Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

For our own community, that we may seek forgiveness where we have failed one another and grow together in faith and peace,

Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

For those who have died, and for all who mourn, that they may rest in God's eternal peace,

Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

Gathering our prayers into one, and trusting in the mercy of God, we pray as our Saviour taught us:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever.
Amen.**

Canon Nitano will then say 'We STAND to sing the hymn: "The Kingdom of God is Justice and Joy".'

Hymn

**The kingdom of God is justice and joy,
for Jesus restores what sin would destroy;
God's power and glory in Jesus we know,
and here and hereafter the kingdom shall grow.**

**The kingdom of God is mercy and grace,
the captives are freed, the sinners find place,
the outcast are welcomed God's banquet to share,
and hope is awakened in place of despair.**

**The kingdom of God is challenge and choice,
believe the good news, repent and rejoice!
His love for us sinners brought Christ to his cross,
our crisis of judgement for gain or for loss.**

**God's kingdom is come, the gift and the goal,
in Jesus begun, in heaven made whole;
the heirs of the kingdom shall answer his call,
and all things cry 'Glory!' to God all in all.**

Words by Bryn Rees (1911-1983)

Tune CP 591 Hanover A Supplement to the New Version (1708)

We remain STANDING.

Blessing

Canon Nitano gives the blessing:

May the God of peace
heal what is broken,
restore what is wounded,
and reconcile us to himself
and to one another.

May Christ Jesus,
who forgave without measure,
teach us to walk in mercy,
to speak with kindness,
and to live in love.

And may the Holy Spirit
give us courage to seek peace,
grace to offer forgiveness,
and hearts ready to welcome all.

And the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

We SIT.

Organ Voluntary

*"The Peace may be exchanged" from "Rubrics"
by Dan Locklair (b. 1949)*

After a brief pause, our service of remembrance starts.

We STAND.

Reverend Su will say some words of welcome and then will say ‘We REMAIN STANDING as we sing the hymn: “There’s a wideness in God’s mercy”.’

Hymn

**There’s a wideness in God’s mercy
like the wideness of the sea;
there’s a kindness in his justice
which is more than liberty.**

**There is no place where earth’s sorrows
are more felt than up in heaven;
there is no place where earth’s failings
have such kindly judgement given.**

**For the love of God is broader
than the measures of man’s mind;
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.**

**But we make his love too narrow
by false limits of our own;
and we magnify his strictness
with a zeal he will not own.**

**There is plentiful redemption
in the blood that has been shed;
there is joy for all the members
in the sorrows of the Head.**

**There is grace enough for thousands
of new worlds as great as this;
there is room for fresh creations
in that upper home of bliss.**

**If our love were but more simple,
we should take him at his word;
and our lives would be all gladness
in the joy of Christ our Lord.**

*Words by F.W. Faber (1814-1863)
Tune CP 598i Corvedale by Maurice Bevan (1921-2006)*

We SIT.

Reading

Read by Canon Nitano.

² In days to come
the mountain of the LORD's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

³ Many peoples shall come and say,
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.'

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴ He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
and their spears into pruning-hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

⁵ O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD!

Isaiah 2: 2-5

We REMAIN SEATED.

Reflection

Given by Canon Nitano.

Then Reverend Su will say ‘And now we STAND as the choir and congregation join together to sing the hymn: “Dear Lord and Father of Mankind”.’

Hymn

**Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
forgive our foolish ways;
re-clothe us in our rightful mind,
in purer lives thy service find,
in deeper reverence praise.**

**In simple trust like theirs who heard,
beside the Syrian sea,
the gracious calling of the Lord,
let us, like them, without a word
rise up and follow thee.**

**Drop thy still dews of quietness,
till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress,
and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of thy peace.**

**Breathe through the heats of our desire
thy coolness and thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still small voice of calm.**

Words by John Greenleaf Whittier (1807-1892)

Tune CP 411 Repton

arranged from the oratorio Judith by C.H.H. Parry (1848-1918)

We SIT. Reverend Su leads us in prayer.

Intercessions

For those who have died in war:

God of peace, we remember those who have given their lives in war,
and those whose lives have been changed by conflict.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For those who suffer today:

We pray for all who live with war, violence, displacement and fear.
Give comfort to those who grieve, and courage to those who seek
peace.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For those who make peace:

We pray for all who work for reconciliation and justice. Give wisdom
to leaders, courage to peacemakers, and patience to those who seek
to heal divided communities.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For ourselves:

Turn our hearts from hatred to understanding, from fear to
compassion, and from division towards peace. Make us instruments of
your reconciliation.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Gathering our prayers into one, and trusting in the mercy of God, we pray as our Saviour taught us:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever.
Amen.**

We *STAND*.

Blessing

Reverend Su gives the blessing.

May the God of peace
give us courage to remember,
wisdom to learn,
and grace to reconcile.
And may the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among us and remain with us always.
Amen.

We *SIT*.

Anthem

In paradisum deducant te angeli;
in tuo adventu suscipiant te
martyres, et perducant te in
civitatem sanctam Jerusalem.
Chorus angelorum te suscipiat,
et cum Lazaro quondam paupere
æternam habeas requiem.

*May the angels lead you into
paradise; may the martyrs receive
you at your arrival and lead you to
the holy city Jerusalem. May choirs
of angels receive you and with
Lazarus, once a poor man, may you
have eternal rest.*

*Antiphon from the Requiem Mass
Music by Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)*

*Thank you for being with us today. There will be a retiring collection to
support the work of the choir, if you are able, please give generously.*

Safeguarding at Coventry Cathedral

We are committed to the safeguarding of all people. For details, please visit
<https://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/safeguarding>

Our Safeguarding Team are:



Canon Nitano

Interim
Chapter
Safeguarding
Lead



Jane Williams

Cathedral
Community
Safeguarding
Officer



Jo Brake

Safeguarding
Lead for Policy
and Process

You can report a concern to our Safeguarding Team by emailing
cathedral.safeguarding@coventrycathedral.org.uk
or phoning 02476 52 1360.

Alternatively, you can contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Team led by Sarah
Price by phoning 024 7652 1345 or emailing
safeguarding@coventry.anglican.org