

Coventry Cathedral

Festal Evensong

Celebrating the end of the choir year



4pm
12th July



Designed by Bori, Y9 Chorister

Welcome to Choral Evensong

A very warm welcome to the Cathedral this afternoon. Whether you are a regular member of our worshipping community or are joining us for the first time, we are delighted that you are here. As the day draws to a close, Choral Evensong offers us a precious opportunity to pause, to pray, to listen to God's word and to allow the beauty of music to lift our hearts towards heaven.

This afternoon's service is one of particular thanksgiving as we mark the close of another choir year before our choristers and musicians begin their well-earned summer break. Throughout the service we give thanks for the remarkable commitment and generosity of all who contribute to the Cathedral's musical life. Week by week, our Choristers, Choral Scholars, Lay Clerks and musicians enrich our worship, offering their gifts to the glory of God and in the service of all who come here to pray. During the service we will also present surplices and ribbons to choristers in recognition of their progress and commitment and recognise those who are leaving the choir, giving thanks for their faithful service, some spanning many years.

Wherever you find yourself on your own journey of faith this evening, may this service bring you peace, hope and renewed confidence in God's abiding presence.

Our service this evening is led by The Reverend Nitano Muller, Canon for Worship and Welcome.

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 (1941-).

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

If you would like to access the loop system, please speak to one of the vergers.

The Preparation

The Introit

The congregation remains SEATED while the choir sings the Introit.

I was glad when they said unto me, we will go into the house of the Lord. Our feet shall stand in thy gates, O Jerusalem. Jerusalem is builded as a city that is at unity in itself. O pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee. Peace be within thy walls, and plenteousness within thy palaces.

from Psalm 122

Music by C Hubert H Parry (1848-1918)

The congregation then STANDS as the choir and ministers process to the Chancel.

The minister welcomes the congregation and then introduces

The Prayers of Penitence

Dearly beloved brethren, the Scripture moveth us in sundry places to acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness; and that we should not dissemble nor cloke them before the face of Almighty God our heavenly Father; but confess them with an humble, lowly, penitent, and obedient heart; to the end that we may obtain forgiveness of the same, by his infinite goodness and mercy. And although we ought at all times humbly to acknowledge our sins before God; yet ought we most chiefly so to do, when we assemble and meet together to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at his hands, to set forth his most worthy praise, to hear his most holy Word, and to ask those things which are requisite and necessary, as well for the body as the soul. Wherefore I pray and beseech you, as many as are here present, to accompany me with a pure heart and humble voice unto the throne of the heavenly grace, saying after me:

The congregation SITS or KNEELS while the choir and ministers remain standing.

The minister says

Almighty and most merciful Father,

and everyone joins in

We have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep, We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts, We have offended against thy holy laws, We have left undone those things which we ought to have done, And we have done those things which we ought not to have done, And there is no health in us: But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us miserable offenders; Spare thou them, O God, which confess their faults, Restore thou them that are penitent, According to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesu our Lord: And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, That we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, To the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.

The minister says

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desireth not the death of a sinner, but rather that he may turn from his wickedness and live; and hath given power and commandment to his Ministers, to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the Absolution and Remission of their sins: He pardoneth and absolveth all them that truly repent and unfeignedly believe his holy Gospel. Wherefore let us beseech him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do at this present, and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy; so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Opening Responses

A minister and the choir sing these versicles and responses

- ℣ O Lord, open thou our lips;
℞ And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.
℣ O God, make speed to save us;
℞ O Lord, make haste to help us.

The congregation STANDS.

- ℣ Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost;
℞ As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.
℣ Praise ye the Lord;
℞ The Lord's name be praised.

The Word of God

Psalm 60

The congregation SITS while the choir remains standing to sing the Psalm set for the day. Psalms are songs drawn from Jewish worship in which individuals and communities bring their experiences and feelings to God.

1. O God, thou hast cast us out, and scattered us abroad ♦
thou hast also been displeased; O turn thee unto us again.
2. Thou hast moved the land, and divided it ♦
heal the sores thereof, for it shaketh.
3. Thou hast shewed thy people heavy things ♦
thou hast given us a drink of deadly wine.
4. Thou hast given a token for such as fear thee ♦
that they may triumph because of the truth.
5. Therefore were thy beloved delivered ♦
help me with thy right hand, and hear me.
6. God hath spoken in his holiness, I will rejoice, and divide Sichem ♦
and mete out the valley of Succoth.

7. Gilead is mine, and Manasses is mine ♦
Ephraim also is the strength of my head; Judah is my law-giver;
8. Moab is my wash-pot; over Edom will I cast out my shoe ♦
Philistia, be thou glad of me.
9. Who will lead me into the strong city ♦
who will bring me into Edom?
10. Hast not thou cast us out, O God ♦
wilt not thou, O God, go out with our hosts?
11. O be thou our help in trouble ♦
for vain is the help of man.
12. Through God will we do great acts ♦
for it is he that shall tread down our enemies.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.

The First Lesson

A minister or lay person reads today's passage from the Old Testament.

¹⁸ Then King David went in and sat before the LORD, and said, 'Who am I, O Lord GOD, and what is my house, that you have brought me thus far? ¹⁹And yet this was a small thing in your eyes, O Lord GOD; you have spoken also of your servant's house for a great while to come. May this be instruction for the people, O Lord GOD! ²⁰And what more can David say to you? For you know your servant, O Lord GOD! ²¹Because of your promise, and according to your own heart, you have wrought all this greatness, so that your servant may know it. ²²Therefore you are great, O LORD God; for there is no one like you, and there is no God besides you, according to all that we have heard with our ears. ²³Who is like your people, like Israel? Is there another nation on earth whose God went to redeem it as a people, and to make a name for himself, doing great and awesome things for them, by driving out before his people nations and their gods? ²⁴And you established your people Israel for yourself

to be your people for ever; and you, O LORD, became their God. ²⁵And now, O LORD God, as for the word that you have spoken concerning your servant and concerning his house, confirm it for ever; do as you have promised. ²⁶Thus your name will be magnified for ever in the saying, “The LORD of hosts is God over Israel”; and the house of your servant David will be established before you. ²⁷For you, O LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, have made this revelation to your servant, saying, “I will build you a house”; therefore your servant has found courage to pray this prayer to you. ²⁸And now, O Lord GOD, you are God, and your words are true, and you have promised this good thing to your servant; ²⁹now therefore may it please you to bless the house of your servant, so that it may continue for ever before you; for you, O Lord GOD, have spoken, and with your blessing shall the house of your servant be blessed for ever.’

2 Samuel 7:18-End

The Magnificat

This is Mary’s revolutionary song of praise when she heard that she would become the mother of Jesus.

Everyone STANDS as the choir sings

My soul doth magnify the Lord :
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

For he hath regarded :
the lowliness of his handmaiden.

For behold, from henceforth :
all generations shall call me blessed.

For he that is mighty hath magnified me :
and holy is his Name.

And his mercy is on them that fear him :
throughout all generations.

He hath showed strength with his arm :
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

He hath put down the mighty from their seat :
and hath exalted the humble and meek.

He hath filled the hungry with good things :
and the rich he hath sent empty away.

He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel :
as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed, for ever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.

Setting Collegium Regale by Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

The Second Lesson

Everyone SITS and a minister or lay person reads today's passage from the New Testament.

^{19:41} As he came near and saw the city, he wept over it, ⁴²saying, 'If you, even you, had only recognized on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. ⁴³Indeed, the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up ramparts around you and surround you, and hem you in on every side. ⁴⁴They will crush you to the ground, you and your children within you, and they will not leave within you one stone upon another; because you did not recognize the time of your visitation from God.'^{*}

⁴⁵ Then he entered the temple and began to drive out those who were selling things there; ⁴⁶and he said, 'It is written, "My house shall be a house of prayer";

but you have made it a den of robbers.'

⁴⁷ Every day he was teaching in the temple. The chief priests, the scribes, and the leaders of the people kept looking for a way to kill him; ⁴⁸but they did not find anything they could do, for all the people were spellbound by what they heard.

^{20:1} One day, as he was teaching the people in the temple and telling the good news, the chief priests and the scribes came with the elders ²and said to him, 'Tell us, by what authority are you doing these things? Who is it who gave you this authority?' ³He answered

them, 'I will also ask you a question, and you tell me: ⁴Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?' ⁵They discussed it with one another, saying, 'If we say, "From heaven", he will say, "Why did you not believe him?"' ⁶But if we say, "Of human origin", all the people will stone us; for they are convinced that John was a prophet.' ⁷So they answered that they did not know where it came from. ⁸Then Jesus said to them, 'Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.'

Luke 19:41-20:8

The Nunc Dimittis

This is Simeon's song after he had blessed the Christ-child in the Temple.

Everyone STANDS and the choir sings

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace :
according to thy word.

For mine eyes have seen : thy salvation,
Which thou hast prepared : before the face of all people;

To be a light to lighten the Gentiles :
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

Setting Collegium Regale by Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

Everyone remains STANDING.

The Apostles' Creed

The minister begins, and everyone joins in saying

I believe in God
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth:
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead and buried.
He descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church;
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.

The Prayers

The Lesser Litany

The minister and choir sing

✠ The Lord be with you;
✠ And with thy spirit.
✠ Let us pray.

The congregation SITS or KNEELS.

✠ Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Lord's Prayer

The choir sings the Lord's Prayer

Our Father, which art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name:
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
Amen.

The Responses

The minister and choir sing these versicles and responses

℣ O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;
℞ And grant us thy salvation.
℣ O Lord, save the King;
℞ And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.
℣ Endue thy ministers with righteousness;
℞ And make thy chosen people joyful.
℣ O Lord, save thy people;
℞ And bless thine inheritance.
℣ Give peace in our time, O Lord;
℞ Because there is none other that fighteth for us,
but only thou, O God.
℣ O God, make clean our hearts within us;
℞ And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

The Collect

The minister sings the first Collect, a special prayer which reflect the season of the Church's year.

O God, who hast prepared for them that love thee such good things as pass man's understanding: Pour into our hearts such love toward thee, that we, loving thee above all things, may obtain thy promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Then these two Collects are sung

The Second Collect: A Prayer for Peace

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed: give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that both our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

The Third Collect: A Prayer for Help

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

The congregation SITS for the choir presentations.

The Choir Valedictions

Departing Boy Choristers, Liam, Jeddidah, Marek and Tawona are presented with their bibles to thank them for their years of service to the Cathedral Choir.

Appointment of a Boy Head Chorister

Archie is invited forward to be installed to the office of Boy Head Chorister of this Cathedral Choir.

Appointment of a Deputy Boy Head Chorister

Emen is invited forward to be installed to the office of Deputy Boy Head Chorister of this Cathedral Choir.

Installation of New Choristers

Having served their time as probationers of this Cathedral choir, the following are invited forward to be made 'full choristers' and receive their surplice: Rose, Rosie, Harriet, Jingshu, Elisha, Peniel, Angelito, Israel, Simao, Noah, Emmanuel and Andre.

Promotion of Choristers

Areli, Zhaorong, Morireoluwa and Vika are invited forward to receive their light blue medal.

Emen and Elaina are invited forward to receive their dark blue medal.

The congregation remains SEATED for

The Anthem

We praise thee, O God, we acknowledge thee to be the Lord.
All the earth doth worship thee, the Father everlasting.
To thee all angels cry aloud: the heavens, and all the powers therein.
To thee cherubim and seraphim continually do cry,
Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts;
heaven and earth are full of the majesty of thy glory.
The glorious company of the apostles praise thee.
The goodly fellowship of the prophets praise thee.
The noble army of martyrs praise thee.
The holy church throughout all the world doth acknowledge thee;
the Father of an infinite majesty;
thine honourable, true and only Son;
also the Holy Ghost, the comforter.
Thou art the King of Glory, O Christ.
Thou art the everlasting Son of the Father.
When thou tookest upon thee to deliver man,
thou didst not abhor the Virgin's womb.
When thou hadst overcome the sharpness of death,
thou didst open the kingdom of heaven to all believers.
Thou sittest at the right hand of God in the glory of the Father.
We believe that thou shalt come to be our Judge.
We therefore pray thee, help thy servants,
whom thou hast redeemed with thy precious blood.
Make them to be numbered with thy saints in glory everlasting.
O Lord, save thy people, and bless thine heritage.
Govern them and lift them up for ever.
Day by day we magnify thee;
and we worship thy Name, ever world without end.
Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin.
O Lord, have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us.
O Lord, let thy mercy lighten upon us, as our trust is in thee.
O Lord, in thee have I trusted, let me never be confounded.

Te Deum Laudamus

Music Coronation Te Deum by William Walton (1902-1983)

Then everyone SITS or KNEELS for

The Prayers of Intercession

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we thine unworthy servants do give thee most humble and hearty thanks for all thy goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all people; we bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And we beseech thee, give us that due sense of all thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful, and that we shew forth thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives; by giving up ourselves to thy service, and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost be all honour and glory, world without end.

Amen.

O God, the Creator and Preserver of all mankind, we humbly beseech thee for all sorts and conditions of men; that thou wouldest be pleased to make thy ways known unto them, thy saving health unto all nations. More especially we pray for the good estate of the Catholick Church; that it may be so guided and governed by thy good Spirit, that all who profess and call themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth, and hold the faith in unity of spirit, in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life. Finally we commend to thy fatherly goodness all those, who are any ways afflicted or distressed in mind, body, or estate; that it may please thee to comfort and relieve them, according to their several necessities, giving them patience under their sufferings, and a happy issue out of all their afflictions. And this we beg for Jesus Christ his sake.

Amen.

God bless this Cathedral Church;
the Diocese of Coventry;
the Community of the Cross of Nails;
and the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus.

Amen.

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost,
be with us all evermore.
Amen.**

The Conclusion

The Hymn

**How shall I sing that majesty
which angels do admire?
Let dust in dust and silence lie;
sing, sing, ye heavenly choir.
Thousands of thousands stand around
thy throne, O God most high;
ten thousand times ten thousand sound
thy praise; but who am I?**

**Thy brightness unto them appears,
whilst I thy footsteps trace;
a sound of God comes to my ears,
but they behold thy face:
I shall, I fear, be dark and cold,
with all my fire and light;
yet when thou dost accept their gold,
Lord, treasure up my mite.**

**Enlighten with faith's light my heart,
in flame it with love's fire,
then shall I sing and take my part
with that celestial choir.
They sing, because thou art their sun;
Lord, send a beam on me;
for where heav'n is but once begun,
there alleluias be.**

**How great a being, Lord, is thine,
which doth all beings keep!
Thy knowledge is the only line
to sound so vast a deep:
thou art a sea without a shore,
a sun without a sphere;
thy time is now and evermore,
thy place is everywhere.**

*Words by John Mason (c.1645-1694)
Tune CP 466 Coe Fen Ken Naylor (1931-1991)*

The Closing Responses

The minister and choir sing

✠ Keep us, O Lord, so awake in the duties of our calling;
✠ that we may sleep in thy peace, and wake in thy glory.
✠ God grant to the living, grace; to the departed, rest;
to the Church, the King, the Commonwealth
and all the world, peace and concord;
✠ and to us and all his servants, life everlasting.
✠ Let us bless the Lord.
✠ Thanks be to God.

The Procession of the Choir and Ministers

The congregation remains STANDING as the choir and ministers leave the Chancel.

The Organ Voluntary

You are welcome to SIT when the procession has left, and we invite you to stay and listen to the organ music.

Orb and Sceptre by William Walton (1902-1983)

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Reminder for Parents

Parents are reminded to collect their children and sign out with the chaperones in Saint Michael's Gallery before heading to the barbeque.

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

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