

**Evening Prayer according to
The Book of Common Prayer
Sunday, 23rd August, 2026
The Twelfth Sunday after
Trinity**



Welcome to this service of Evening Prayer, led by The Reverend Su McClellan, Cathedral Associate Minister. Our preacher this evening is Donald Parr, Cathedral Lay Reader.

Our organist this evening is John Wilderspin.

*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.

Psalm 95

1. O come, let us sing unto the Lord ♦
let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation.
2. **Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving ♦
and shew ourselves glad in him with Psalms.**
3. For the Lord is a great God ♦
and a great King above all gods.
4. **In his hand are all the corners of the earth ♦
and the strength of the hills is his also.**
5. The sea is his, and he made it ♦
and his hands prepared the dry land.
6. **O come, let us worship and fall down ♦
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.**
7. For he is the Lord our God ♦
and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.
8. **To-day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts ♦
as in the provocation, and as in the day of temptation in the wilderness.**
9. When your fathers tempted me ♦
proved me, and saw my works.

10. Forty years long was I grieved with this generation, and said ♦

It is a people that do err in their hearts, for they have not known my ways;

**11. Unto whom I swear in my wrath ♦
that they should not enter into my rest.**

**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

⁸ Once when the king of Aram was at war with Israel, he took counsel with his officers. He said, 'At such and such a place shall be my camp.' ⁹ But the man of God sent word to the king of Israel, 'Take care not to pass this place, because the Arameans are going down there.' ¹⁰ The king of Israel sent word to the place of which the man of God spoke. More than once or twice he warned such a place so that it was on the alert.

¹¹ The mind of the king of Aram was greatly perturbed because of this; he called his officers and said to them, 'Now tell me who among us sides with the king of Israel?' ¹² Then one of his officers said, 'No one, my lord king. It is Elisha, the prophet in Israel, who tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your bedchamber.' ¹³ He said, 'Go and find where he is; I will send and seize him.' He was told, 'He is in Dothan.' ¹⁴ So he sent horses and chariots there and a great army; they came by night, and surrounded the city.

¹⁵ When an attendant of the man of God rose early in the morning and went out, an army with horses and chariots was all around the city. His servant said, 'Alas, master! What shall we do?' ¹⁶ He replied, 'Do not be afraid, for there are more with us than there are with them.' ¹⁷ Then Elisha prayed: 'O LORD, please open his eyes that he may see.' So the LORD opened the eyes of the servant, and he saw; the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. ¹⁸ When the Arameans came down against him, Elisha prayed to the LORD, and said, 'Strike this people, please, with blindness.' So he struck them with

blindness as Elisha had asked. ¹⁹Elisha said to them, 'This is not the way, and this is not the city; follow me, and I will bring you to the man whom you seek.' And he led them to Samaria.

²⁰ As soon as they entered Samaria, Elisha said, 'O LORD, open the eyes of these men so that they may see.' The LORD opened their eyes, and they saw that they were inside Samaria. ²¹When the king of Israel saw them he said to Elisha, 'Father, shall I kill them? Shall I kill them?' ²²He answered, 'No! Did you capture with your sword and your bow those whom you want to kill? Set food and water before them so that they may eat and drink; and let them go to their master.' ²³So he prepared for them a great feast; after they ate and drank, he sent them on their way, and they went to their master. And the Arameans no longer came raiding into the land of Israel.

2 Kings 6:8-23

For The Magnificat

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord:
unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of his word;
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name:
make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;
his holy name, the Lord, the Mighty One.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might:
powers and dominions lay their glory by;
proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.**

**Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word:
firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and for evermore.**

*Words by Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926-2024)
Tune CP 362 Woodlands Walter Greatorex (1877-1949)*

The Second Lesson

¹⁵Those who conducted Paul brought him as far as Athens; and after receiving instructions to have Silas and Timothy join him as soon as possible, they left him.

¹⁶ While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was deeply distressed to see that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷So he argued in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and also in the market-place every day with those who happened to be there. ¹⁸Also some Epicurean and Stoic philosophers debated with him. Some said, ‘What does this babbler want to say?’ Others said, ‘He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign divinities.’ (This was because he was telling the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.) ¹⁹So they took him and brought him to the Areopagus and asked him, ‘May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? ²⁰It sounds rather strange to us, so we would like to know what it means.’ ²¹Now all the Athenians and the foreigners living there would spend their time in nothing but telling or hearing something new.

²² Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, ‘Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, “To an unknown god.” What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸For “In him we live and move and have our being”; as even some of your own poets have said, “For we too are his offspring.”

²⁹Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to

repent, ³¹ because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.'

³² When they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some scoffed; but others said, 'We will hear you again about this.' ³³ At that point Paul left them. ³⁴ But some of them joined him and became believers, including Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris, and others with them.

Acts 17:15-End

For The Nunc Dimittis

**Lord bid your servant go in peace;
your word is now fulfilled.
These eyes have seen salvation's dawn,
this child so long foretold.
This is the Saviour of the world,
the Gentiles' promised light;
God's glory dwelling in our midst,
the joy of Israel.**

**Behold this child will pierce your heart,
his Word will be a sword,
a sign opposed to hearts concealed
and grace for heaven's adored.
Almighty Father, hear our cry
through Christ the only Son,
whom in the Spirit we adore
for ages without end.**

Words by James J. Quinn (1919-2010)

Tune CP 469 Kingsfold English folksong from English Country Songs (1893)

The Collect of the Day

Almighty and everlasting God, who art always more ready to hear than we to pray, and art wont to give more than either we desire or deserve: Pour down upon us the abundance of thy mercy; forgiving us those things whereof our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask, but through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ, thy Son, our Lord. Amen.

The Hymn

**The church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ her Lord;
she is his new creation,
by water and the word:
from heaven he came and sought her
to be his holy Bride;
with his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died.**

**Elect from every nation,
yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation,
one Lord, one faith, one birth;
one holy name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses,
with every grace endued.**

**Though with a scornful wonder
men see her sore oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder,
by heresies distrest;
yet saints their watch are keeping,
their cry goes up, "How long?"
and soon the night of weeping
shall be the morn of song.**

**Mid toil and tribulation,
and tumult of her war
she waits the consummation
of peace for evermore;
till with the vision glorious
her longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious
shall be the church at rest.**

**Yet she on earth hath union
with God, the Three in one,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won:
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we,
like them, the meek and lowly,
on high may dwell with thee.**

Words by S. J. Stone (1839-1900)

Tune CP 585 Aurelia S. S. Wesley (1810-1876)

The Organ Voluntary

Toccata in G Major by Théodore Dubois (1837-1924)

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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

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. Email:

Music.Administrator@CoventryCathedral.org.uk

Our Cathedral Chamber Choir

Our Cathedral Chamber Choir sing voluntarily at various services throughout the year and are currently open for auditions on all voice parts. Rehearsals usually take place on occasional Thursday evenings in the lead up to a service. If you would be interested in joining our Chamber Choir, please get in touch with Liam Condon, Assistant Director of Music, for an audition.

Email: Liam.Condon@coventry.anglican.org

Coventry Cathedral Chorus

The Chorus is one of the Midlands' leading amateur choirs, bringing together around 60 singers to perform a wide range of choral music in and beyond Coventry. Founded shortly after the consecration of Coventry Cathedral in 1963, the Chorus continues a rich tradition of singing in notable venues across the UK and Europe.

Rehearsals take place at the Cathedral on Tuesday evenings, 7.15–9.30pm. New singers are always welcome. To find out more or arrange to attend a rehearsal, visit coventrycathedralchorus.com or

contact the Membership Secretary at membership@coventrycathedralchorus.com. Follow Coventry Cathedral Chorus on Facebook and @CovCathChorus on X.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Let's play this summer: Family events

Come and join us each Thursday during the Summer Holidays to explore different themes through classic children's books!

Thursday 27th August 10 - 12noon, Let's Play: Be Brave!
Games, crafts and much more, all around the topic of "being brave"

CATHEDRAL PRAYER LIST

At the Cathedral, it is our privilege to pray for those who are unwell or going through a difficult time. Every Sunday, we remember together around 8-10 people who are part of the congregation who have requested our prayers. On weekdays, we pray for about 25 more. As I said, we are very happy to do this. However, every so often it is good to refresh the list. There may well be people who are no longer in need of our prayers. There may even be people that have forgotten they were ever on the prayer list! So if you or someone you know has been added to the prayer list at some point in the last year, could you confirm that you would like us to keep praying for that situation **by the end of August?** At that point we will review the list and remove people we haven't heard about. People can always be added again if their situation changes. And if you know of someone who would benefit from our prayers, again please let us know. You can email any information to kate.massey@coventry.anglican.org

CHILDRENS WORK AT THE CATHEDRAL

Thank you to everyone who expressed an interest in helping us start a children's group during our 10.30am Sunday service. We are so excited to begin offering age-appropriate faith activities for our younger worshippers and hope this will make the Cathedral a more welcoming space for families with children.

We are planning to start this group in September and so are beginning to safely recruit our Children's Group volunteers. We are mainly looking for Children's Group Helpers who will support group leaders in welcoming the children and keeping them safe. However, if you have some experience of leading children's groups and have some time and energy to spare, you might want to be a Children's Group Leader and so do speak to Sarah Raistrick or Kate if you wonder which role fits you best. Recruitment packs including role descriptions will be available at the Cathedral on Sunday mornings which will contain all the information you require. These are new roles in the Cathedral and all of the team will need to be safely recruited - even if you have already been safely recruited for another role. However, if you have done the necessary safeguarding training in the past three years, you will not need to repeat this. All roles require an enhanced DBS with Barring (Children's List).

Do please pray for this new development in the life of our cathedral.

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*