

Choral Evensong

Sunday, 20th September, 2026

The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity



Welcome to this service of Choral Evensong, led by the Reverend Canon Kate Massey, Acting Dean. Our preacher this evening is Margaret East, Cathedral Lay Reader.

We welcome the **Friends of Coventry Cathedral** to this service, following their Annual General Meeting earlier today.

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 Philip Moore (1943-).

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.

Introit

Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.
Congregavit nos in unum Christi
amor.
Exsulemus 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)

Psalm 119:113-136

113. I hate them that imagine evil things ♦
but thy law do I love.

114. Thou art my defence and shield ♦
and my trust is in thy word.

115. Away from me, ye wicked ♦

I will keep the commandments of my God.

116. O stablish me according to thy word, that I may live ♦

and let me not be disappointed of my hope.

117. Hold thou me up, and I shall be safe ♦

yea, my delight shall be ever in thy statutes.

118. Thou hast trodden down all them that depart from thy statutes ♦

for they imagine but deceit.

119. Thou puttest away all the ungodly of the earth like dross ♦

therefore I love thy testimonies.

120. My flesh trembleth for fear of thee ♦

and I am afraid of thy judgements.

121. I deal with the thing that is lawful and right ♦

O give me not over unto mine oppressors.

122. Make thou thy servant to delight in that which is good ♦

that the proud do me no wrong.

123. Mine eyes are wasted away with looking for thy health ♦

and for the word of thy righteousness.

124. O deal with thy servant according unto thy loving mercy ♦

and teach me thy statutes.

125. I am thy servant, O grant me understanding ♦

that I may know thy testimonies.

126. It is time for thee, Lord, to lay to thine hand ♦

for they have destroyed thy law.

127. For I love thy commandments ♦

above gold and precious stone.

128. Therefore hold I straight all thy commandments ♦

and all false ways I utterly abhor.

129. Thy testimonies are wonderful ♦

therefore doth my soul keep them.

130. When thy word goeth forth ♦

it giveth light and understanding unto the simple.

131. I opened my mouth, and drew in my breath ♦

for my delight was in thy commandments.

132. O look thou upon me, and be merciful unto me ♦
as thou usest to do unto those that love thy Name.

133. Order my steps in thy word ♦
and so shall no wickedness have dominion over me.

134. O deliver me from the wrongful dealings of men ♦
and so shall I keep thy commandments.

135. Shew the light of thy countenance upon thy servant ♦
and teach me thy statutes.

136. Mine eyes gush out with water ♦
because men keep not thy law.

The First Lesson

Read by Paul Warren, Secretary of the Friends

The First Lesson is taken from Book of the Prophet Ezekiel.

^{33:23} Then the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

^{33:30} Also, thou son of man, the children of thy people still are talking against thee by the walls and in the doors of the houses, and speak one to another, every one to his brother, saying, Come, I pray you, and hear what is the word that cometh forth from the LORD.

³¹ And they come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as my people, and they hear thy words, but they will not do them: for with their mouth they shew much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness.

³² And, lo, thou art unto them as a very lovely song of one that hath a pleasant voice, and can play well on an instrument: for they hear thy words, but they do them not.

³³ And when this cometh to pass, (lo, it will come,) then shall they know that a prophet hath been among them.

^{34:1} And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

² Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD unto the shepherds; Woe be to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves! should not the shepherds feed the flocks?

³ Ye eat the fat, and ye clothe you with the wool, ye kill them that are

fed: but ye feed not the flock.

⁴The diseased have ye not strengthened, neither have ye healed that which was sick, neither have ye bound up that which was broken, neither have ye brought again that which was driven away, neither have ye sought that which was lost; but with force and with cruelty have ye ruled them.

⁵And they were scattered, because there is no shepherd: and they became meat to all the beasts of the field, when they were scattered.

⁶My sheep wandered through all the mountains, and upon every high hill: yea, my flock was scattered upon all the face of the earth, and none did search or seek after them.

⁷Therefore, ye shepherds, hear the word of the LORD;

⁸As I live, saith the Lord GOD, surely because my flock became a prey, and my flock became meat to every beast of the field, because there was no shepherd, neither did my shepherds search for my flock, but the shepherds fed themselves, and fed not my flock;

⁹Therefore, O ye shepherds, hear the word of the LORD;

¹⁰Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against the shepherds; and I will require my flock at their hand, and cause them to cease from feeding the flock; neither shall the shepherds feed themselves any more; for I will deliver my flock from their mouth, that they may not be meat for them.

Ezekiel 33:23, 33:30 – 34:10

Here ends the First Lesson.

The Magnificat

Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in D Major by George Dyson (1883-1964)

The Second Lesson

Read by Christine Camfield, Member of the Friends Council

The Second Lesson is from the Acts of the Apostles.

¹ Agrippa said to Paul, 'You have permission to speak for yourself.'

Then Paul stretched out his hand and began to defend himself:

⁹ 'Indeed, I myself was convinced that I ought to do many things against the name of Jesus of Nazareth. * ¹⁰ And that is what I did in Jerusalem;

with authority received from the chief priests, I not only locked up many of the saints in prison, but I also cast my vote against them when they were being condemned to death. ¹¹By punishing them often in all the synagogues I tried to force them to blaspheme; and since I was so furiously enraged at them, I pursued them even to foreign cities.

¹² ‘With this in mind, I was travelling to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests, ¹³when at midday along the road, your Excellency,* I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining around me and my companions. ¹⁴When we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew* language, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It hurts you to kick against the goads.” ¹⁵I asked, “Who are you, Lord?” The Lord answered, “I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. ¹⁶But get up and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you to serve and testify to the things in which you have seen me* and to those in which I will appear to you. ¹⁷I will rescue you from your people and from the Gentiles—to whom I am sending you ¹⁸to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.”

¹⁹ ‘After that, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, ²⁰but declared first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout the countryside of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God and do deeds consistent with repentance. ²¹For this reason the Jews seized me in the temple and tried to kill me. ²²To this day I have had help from God, and so I stand here, testifying to both small and great, saying nothing but what the prophets and Moses said would take place: ²³that the Messiah* must suffer, and that, by being the first to rise from the dead, he would proclaim light both to our people and to the Gentiles.’

²⁴ While he was making this defence, Festus exclaimed, ‘You are out of your mind, Paul! Too much learning is driving you insane!’ ²⁵But Paul said, ‘I am not out of my mind, most excellent Festus, but I am speaking the sober truth.

Acts 26:1, 9-25

Here ends the Second Lesson.

The Nunc Dimittis

Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in D Major by George Dyson (1883-1964)

The Collect of the Day

O Lord, we beseech thee, let thy continual pity cleanse and defend thy Church; and, because it cannot continue in safety without thy succour, preserve it evermore by thy help and goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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.*

Music by Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)

The 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.**

**O Sabbath rest by Galilee!
O calm of hills above,
where Jesus knelt to share with thee
the silence of eternity,
interpreted by love!**

**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)

The Organ Voluntary

Scherzo in G Minor by Marco Enrico Bossi (1861-1925)

If you would like to make a one-off donation to the Cathedral via your phone, or set up a recurring donation, please use the QR code below. There are also contactless donation points and collection boxes near the entrance.

Thank you for your support.



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

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, 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

Preparing the Deanery for Andrew and Louise

As we prepare the Deanery for the arrival of our Dean-Designate, Canon Andrew Dodd and his family in November, there is some work to be done to make their new home ready.

If you are able to make a contribution towards the cost of this work, every gift would be greatly appreciated. If you are a handyman or have practical skills and would **rather lend a hand** with the work itself, we would be especially grateful for help with painting and decorating.

Please speak to Nitano or Kate if you would like to contribute or help practically.

Thank you for helping us prepare a warm welcome for Andrew and Louise and the family!

Children's Work at the Cathedral

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. during our 10.30am Sunday service

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).

Baptism & Confirmation

Young people and adults who are interested in exploring Baptism and Confirmation are warmly invited to speak to Canon Nitano Muller. The next Confirmation Service will take place at Coventry Cathedral on Sunday 27 September at 4.00pm. Preparation sessions will be held at St Michael's House on *Thursday 17 September and Thursday 24 September, both at 7.00pm.*

If you would like to find out more or register your interest, please contact **Nitano.Muller@Coventry.Anglican.org**.

Bring your own mug!

If you're a regular with us, please consider bringing your own reusable mug for coffee after the service. It's a small way we can care for creation, reduce waste and be good stewards of the resources entrusted to us.

Your mug. Our coffee. A little less waste.

75: Towards a New Cathedral

The Chapel of Christ the Servant

It is 75 years since Basil Spence's winning design for Coventry Cathedral was first revealed to the public, his drawings perhaps first alluding to the establishment of a modern church architecture in Britain. His proposal was one of 219 submitted in competition with other architects, though only 15 entries were effectively published. By contrast the remaining 204 submissions were subjected to ridicule following their exhibition at the King Henry VIII School in Coventry. Now, on the competitions Diamond Jubilee, the 75 exhibition returns to Coventry's unsuccessful entries as part of a wider study on the representation of architectural competitions and the unbuilt in Britain. Prioritising contemporary submission material and mediated debate, this exhibition identifies Coventry's losing proposals as underexplored yet valuable contributions displaying an overlooked diversity of design in Britain's early attempts to define a post-war ecclesiastical architecture.

COMING SOON

Combined Community Bring and Share Lunch

Sunday, 27 September | 12.45pm

The St Michael's Committee are inviting the congregation of the Cathedral, St Clare's and our wonderful choir to join us in a Bring and Share lunch on Sunday 27th September. Could you bring a plate of sandwiches, a salad, some samosas or some cake? Or perhaps even something even more exciting? We will sit at the back of the Nave and share food together as we celebrate the festival of the saint for whom our Cathedral is named!

This will be followed by a service of Confirmation, led by our Bishop at 4pm (*this service will replace Choral Evensong*).

Reconciliation Patronal Service

Tuesday 29 September | 6.45pm

We are delighted to mark our Patronal Festival of St Michael and All Angels with a special service that will be recorded live for BBC Radio 4. We warmly encourage members of our congregation to come and be part of this special occasion.

PLEASE NOTE: Doors open at 6.15pm, and the congregation must be seated by 6.40pm, ready for the service and recording to begin promptly at 6.45pm.

Please note: **no late entry** will be possible once the recording has begun.

The service will subsequently be broadcast on BBC Radio 4 on Sunday 11 October at 8.10am.