

Choral Evensong

Sunday, 4th October, 2026

The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity



Welcome to this service of Choral Evensong, led by the Reverend Su McClellan, Cathedral Associate Minister. Our preacher this evening is Margaret East, Cathedral Lay Reader.

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 Michael Walsh (b. 1948).

*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

View me, Lord, a work of thine:
shall I then lie drown'd in night?
Might thy grace in me but shine,
I should seem made all of light.

Cleanse me, Lord, that I may kneel
at thine altar, pure and white;
they that once thy mercies feel,
gaze no more on earth's delight.

Worldly joys, like shadows, fade
when the heav'nly light appears;
but the cov'nants thou hast made,
endless, know nor days, nor years.

In thy word, Lord, is my trust,
to thy mercies fast I fly;
though I am but clay and dust,
yet thy grace can lift me high.

*Words by Thomas Campion (1567-1620)
Music by Richard Lloyd (1933-2021)*

Psalm 136

1. O give thanks unto the LORD, for he is gracious ♦
and his mercy endureth for ever.
2. O give thanks unto the God of all gods ♦
for his mercy endureth for ever.
3. O thank the Lord of all lords ♦
for his mercy endureth for ever.
4. Who only doeth great wonders ♦
for his mercy endureth for ever.
5. Who by his excellent wisdom made the heavens ♦
for his mercy endureth for ever.
6. Who laid out the earth above the waters ♦
for his mercy endureth for ever.
7. Who hath made great lights ♦
for his mercy endureth for ever;
8. The sun to rule the day ♦
for his mercy endureth for ever;
9. The moon and the stars to govern the night ♦
for his mercy endureth for ever.
10. Who smote Egypt with their first-born ♦
for his mercy endureth for ever;
11. And brought out Israel from among them ♦
for his mercy endureth for ever;
12. With a mighty hand, and stretched out arm ♦
for his mercy endureth for ever.
13. Who divided the Red sea in two parts ♦
for his mercy endureth for ever;
14. And made Israel to go through the midst of it ♦
for his mercy endureth for ever.
15. But as for Pharaoh and his host,
he overthrew them in the Red sea ♦
for his mercy endureth for ever.
16. Who led his people through the wilderness ♦
for his mercy endureth for ever.

17. Who smote great kings ♦
for his mercy endureth for ever;
18. Yea, and slew mighty kings ♦
for his mercy endureth for ever;
19. Sehon king of the Amorites ♦
for his mercy endureth for ever;
20. And Og the king of Basan ♦
for his mercy endureth for ever;
21. And gave away their land for an heritage ♦
for his mercy endureth for ever;
22. Even for an heritage unto Israel his servant ♦
for his mercy endureth for ever.
23. Who remembered us when we were in trouble ♦
for his mercy endureth for ever;
24. And hath delivered us from our enemies ♦
for his mercy endureth for ever.
25. Who giveth food to all flesh ♦
for his mercy endureth for ever.
26. O give thanks unto the God of heaven ♦
for his mercy endureth for ever.
27. O give thanks unto the Lord of lords ♦
for his mercy endureth for ever.

The First Lesson

¹ My child, if you accept my words
and treasure up my commandments within you,
² making your ear attentive to wisdom
and inclining your heart to understanding;
³ if you indeed cry out for insight,
and raise your voice for understanding;
⁴ if you seek it like silver,
and search for it as for hidden treasures—
⁵ then you will understand the fear of the LORD
and find the knowledge of God.

⁶ For the LORD gives wisdom;
from his mouth come knowledge and understanding;
⁷ he stores up sound wisdom for the upright;
he is a shield to those who walk blamelessly,
⁸ guarding the paths of justice
and preserving the way of his faithful ones.
⁹ Then you will understand righteousness and justice
and equity, every good path;
¹⁰ for wisdom will come into your heart,
and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul;
¹¹ prudence will watch over you;
and understanding will guard you.

Proverbs 2:1-11

The Magnificat

*Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in A Major, Op. 12 by Charles Villiers Stanford
(1852-1924)*

The Second Lesson

¹ My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; ²and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

³ Now by this we may be sure that we know him, if we obey his commandments. ⁴Whoever says, 'I have come to know him', but does not obey his commandments, is a liar, and in such a person the truth does not exist; ⁵but whoever obeys his word, truly in this person the love of God has reached perfection. By this we may be sure that we are in him: ⁶whoever says, 'I abide in him', ought to walk just as he walked.

⁷ Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment that you have had from the beginning; the old commandment is the word that you have heard. ⁸Yet I am writing you a new commandment that is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining. ⁹Whoever says, 'I am in the light', while hating a brother or sister, is still in the

darkness. ¹⁰Whoever loves a brother or sister lives in the light, and in such a person there is no cause for stumbling. ¹¹But whoever hates another believer is in the darkness, walks in the darkness, and does not know the way to go, because the darkness has brought on blindness.

¹² I am writing to you, little children,
because your sins are forgiven on account of his name.

¹³ I am writing to you, fathers,
because you know him who is from the beginning.

I am writing to you, young people,
because you have conquered the evil one.

¹⁴ I write to you, children,
because you know the Father.

I write to you, fathers,
because you know him who is from the beginning.

I write to you, young people,
because you are strong
and the word of God abides in you,
and you have overcome the evil one.

¹⁵ Do not love the world or the things in the world. The love of the Father is not in those who love the world; ¹⁶for all that is in the world—the desire of the flesh, the desire of the eyes, the pride in riches—comes not from the Father but from the world. ¹⁷And the world and its desire are passing away, but those who do the will of God live for ever.

I John 2:1-17

The Nunc Dimittis

*Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in A Major, Op. 12 by Charles Villiers Stanford
(1852-1924)*

The Collect of the Day

Lord, we beseech thee, grant thy people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh, and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow thee the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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 cherubin and seraphin continually do cry,
Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Sabaoth;
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 from the Book of Common Prayer
Music 'Coronation Te Deum' by William Walton (1902-1983)*

The Hymn

Happy are they, they that love God,
whose hearts have Christ confest,
who by his Cross have found their life,
and 'neath his yoke their rest.

Glad is the praise, sweet are the songs,
when they together sing;
and strong the prayers that bow the ear
of heaven's eternal King.

Christ to their homes giveth his peace,
and makes their loves his own:
but ah, what tares the evil one
hath in his garden sown!

Sad were our lot, evil this earth,
did not its sorrows prove
the path whereby the sheep may find
the fold of Jesus' love.

Then shall they know, they that love him,
how good shall come from pain;
and death itself cannot unbind
their happiness again.

*Words by Robert Bridges (1844-1930)
based on 'O quam juvat' by Charles Coffin (1676-1749)
Tune CP 456 Binchester William Croft (1678-1727)*

The Organ Voluntary

Fantasia and Fugue in G Major, Op. 188 by Hubert Parry (1848-1918)



We are so grateful to the Cathedral Music Trust for awarding us a grant to support our Lay Clerks!

Joe Watson, Acting Director of Music says:

"Coventry Cathedral are delighted to accept the grant from the Cathedral Music Trust to support the appointment of two further Lay Clerks and increase the hours of our existing four. This grant will enable us to move to SATB services mid-week, which will have extremely positive outcomes for both the congregation and the Choristers learning!"

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
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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, 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).

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.**

Tree Planting in Memory of Pauline Lawrence

Following the morning service on Sunday 11 October, we will gather in the Unity Garden to plant a tree in memory of Pauline Lawrence, who died last year. Pauline was a beloved member of the cathedral congregation.

All are warmly invited to join us for this simple act of remembrance and thanksgiving for Pauline's life.

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*