Choral Evensong
Sunday, 8th November, 2026
The Twenty-Third Sunday after Trinity

Welcome to this service of Choral Evensong, led by The Reverend Canon Nitano Muller, Canon for Worship and Welcome. Our preacher this evening is the Reverend Su McClellan, Cathedral Associate Minister.

The Cathedral Choir is directed by Rachel Mahon, Director of Music. The organists are Liam Condon, Assistant Director of Music and Adam Heron, Organ Scholar.

The responses are those by Philip Moore (b. 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

Sunset and evening star,
And one clear call for me!
And may there be no moaning of the bar,
When I put out to sea,

But such a tide as moving seems asleep,
Too full for sound and foam,
When that which drew from out the boundless deep
Turns again home.

Twilight and evening bell,
And after that the dark!
And may there be no sadness of farewell,
When I embark;

For tho' from out our bourne of Time and Place
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot face to face
When I have crost the bar.

Words by Alfred Lord Tennyson (1809-1892)
Music by C.H.H. Parry (1848-1918)

Psalm 20

1. The Lord hear thee in the day of trouble ⬩
the Name of the God of Jacob defend thee;
2. Send thee help from the sanctuary ⬩
and strengthen thee out of Sion;
3. Remember all thy offerings ⬩
and accept thy burnt-sacrifice;
4. Grant thee thy heart's desire ⬩
and fulfil all thy mind.
5. We will rejoice in thy salvation, and triumph in the Name of the Lord our God ⬩
the Lord perform all thy petitions.
6. Now know I that the Lord helpeth his Anointed,
and will hear him from his holy heaven ⬩
even with the wholesome strength of his right hand.
7. Some put their trust in chariots, and some in horses ⬩
but we will remember the Name of the Lord our God.
8. They are brought down, and fallen ⬩
but we are risen, and stand upright.
9. Save, Lord, and hear us, O King of heaven ⬩
when we call upon thee.

The First Lesson

[2] The LORD said to Gideon, 'The troops with you are too many for me
to give the Midianites into their hand. Israel would only take the credit
away from me, saying, "My own hand has delivered me." [3]Now
therefore proclaim this in the hearing of the troops, "Whoever is
fearful and trembling, let him return home." ' Thus Gideon sifted them
out; twenty-two thousand returned, and ten thousand remained.
[4] Then the LORD said to Gideon, 'The troops are still too many; take
them down to the water and I will sift them out for you there. When I
say, "This one shall go with you", he shall go with you; and when I say,
"This one shall not go with you", he shall not go.'

[5]So he brought the troops down to the water; and the LORD said to Gideon, 'All those who lap the water with their tongues, as a dog laps, you shall put to one side; all those who kneel down to drink, putting their hands to their mouths, you shall put to the other side.' [6]The number of those that lapped was three hundred; but all the rest of the troops knelt down to drink water. [7]Then the LORD said to Gideon, 'With the three hundred that lapped I will deliver you, and give the Midianites into your hand. Let all the others go to their homes.' [8]So he took the jars of the troops from their hands, and their trumpets; and he sent all the rest of Israel back to their own tents, but retained the three hundred. The camp of Midian was below him in the valley.
[9] That same night the LORD said to him, 'Get up, attack the camp; for I have given it into your hand. [10]But if you fear to attack, go down to the camp with your servant Purah; [11]and you shall hear what they say, and afterwards your hands shall be strengthened to attack the camp.' Then he went down with his servant Purah to the outposts of the armed men that were in the camp. [12]The Midianites and the Amalekites and all the people of the east lay along the valley as thick as locusts; and their camels were without number, countless as the sand on the seashore. [13]When Gideon arrived, there was a man telling a dream to his comrade; and he said, 'I had a dream, and in it a cake of barley bread tumbled into the camp of Midian, and came to the tent, and struck it so that it fell; it turned upside down, and the tent collapsed.' [14]And his comrade answered, 'This is no other than the sword of Gideon son of Joash, a man of Israel; into his hand God has given Midian and all the army.'

[15] When Gideon heard the telling of the dream and its interpretation, he worshipped; and he returned to the camp of Israel, and said, 'Get up; for the LORD has given the army of Midian into your hand.' [16]After he divided the three hundred men into three companies, and put trumpets into the hands of all of them, and empty jars, with torches inside the jars, [17]he said to them, 'Look at me, and do the same; when I come to the outskirts of the camp, do as I do. [18]When I blow the trumpet, I and all who are with me, then you also blow the trumpets around the whole camp, and shout, "For the LORD and for Gideon!" '

[19] So Gideon and the hundred who were with him came to the outskirts of the camp at the beginning of the middle watch, when they had just set the watch; and they blew the trumpets and smashed the jars that were in their hands. [20]So the three companies blew the trumpets and broke the jars, holding in their left hands the torches, and in their right hands the trumpets to blow; and they cried, 'A sword for the LORD and for Gideon!' [21]Every man stood in his place all around the camp, and all the men in camp ran; they cried out and fled. [22]When they blew the three hundred trumpets, the LORD set every man's sword against his fellow and against all the army; and the army fled as far as Beth-shittah towards Zererah, as far as the border of Abel-meholah, by Tabbath.

Judges 7:2-22

The Magnificat

Hereford Service by Richard Lloyd (b. 1933)

The Second Lesson

[9]As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. [10]If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. [11]I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.
[12] 'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. [13]No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. [14]You are my friends if you do what I command you. [15]I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. [16]You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. [17]I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

John 15:9-17

The Nunc Dimittis

Hereford Service by Richard Lloyd (b. 1933)

The Collect of the Day

O GOD, our refuge and strength, who art the author of all godliness: Be ready, we beseech thee, to hear the devout prayers of thy Church; and grant that those things which we ask faithfully we may obtain effectually; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Anthem

Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it. Love is strong as death. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness. Ye are wash'd, ye are sanctified, ye are justified, in the name of the Lord Jesus; ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath call'd you out of darkness into his marvellous light. I beseech you, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

from Song of Songs 8, John 15, 1 Peter 2, 1 Corinthians 6, Romans 12
Music by John Ireland (1879-1962)

The Hymn

O God of earth and altar,
bow down and hear our cry,
our earthly rulers falter,
our people drift and die;
the walls of gold entomb us,
the swords of scorn divide,
take not thy thunder from us,
but take away our pride.

From all that terror teaches,
from lies of tongue and mind,
from all the easy speeches
that comfort cruel mankind,
from sale and profanation
of honour and the sword,
from sleep and from damnation,
deliver us, good Lord!

Tie in a living tether
the rulers, priests and thrall,
bind all our lives together,
smite us and save us all;
in ire and exultation
aflame with faith, and free,
lift up a living nation,
a single sword to thee.

G. K. Chesterton (1874-1936)
Tune CP 358 King's Lynn*, English folk melody*
arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

The Organ Voluntary

Prélude et Fugue sur le nom d'Alain by Maurice Duruflé (1902-1986)

Duruflé composed this Prelude and Fugue as a tribute to his friend and fellow musician, Jehan Alain. Alain was a promising and young French composer, who was killed by German Forces, aged 29, as he was on an observation assignment near Saumur in France. After using his machine gun to engage and shoot multiple advancing enemy soldiers who ordered him to surrender, he ran out of ammunition and was fatally shot. He was posthumously awarded the "Croix de Guerre" for his bravery.

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

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

Welcome our new Archdeacons and Dean of Coventry

We look forward to welcoming our new Archdeacons and the Revd Canon Andrew Dodd as next Dean of Coventry at their forthcoming installation services:

Installation of Archdeacons

Saturday, 14th November at 3.30pm

Installation of the Dean of Coventry

Saturday, 28th November at 2pm

If you would like to attend either service, please sign up using the **Eventbrite link** shared via congregational email or add your name to the list with the Churchwardens. This will help us plan seating and hospitality.

Come and be part of these important moments in the life of our Cathedral and Diocese!

RECONCILIATION BOOK GROUP
Thursday Afternoons in November
2pm at St Clare's at the Cathedral

Over the four weeks of our reconciliation season, Canon Kate will be convening a Reconciliation Book Group to study a classic text by Catholic theologian Robert J Schreiter *Reconciliation: Mission and Ministry in a Changing Social Order.* Each session will begin with an overview of that week's chapter followed by a conversation around its relevance to our own practices of reconciliation. Copies of this book are available online from Blackwells, from several second-hand book outlets or on Kindle If you are struggling to source a copy, but would still like to participate, please speak to Kate as we have a limited number of copies to loan.

COMING SOON

Save the date – Friends of Coventry Cathedral Event

On Friday 13th November, British-German historian, Katya Hoyer will be speaking at Coventry Cathedral at an event organised by the Friends of Coventry Cathedral. Katya is an award-winning author and has recently released an outstanding book on the Weimar Republic. It should be an excellent evening. The event is free (although a donation of £10 is suggested) and you must reserve a seat, so please book your place using the link provided in the congregational weekly email or email secretaryfriendscc@gmail.com

A SEASON OF RECONCILIATION 2026

"Reconciliation Now: How to speak with hope in a fractured world"

What does reconciliation look like now, in a world marked by war, division, injustice and uncertainty? How do we speak of hope when the world is on fire, and what does it mean to be a Church committed to peace while still wrestling with questions of belonging, truth and trust? This November, our annual Season of Reconciliation invites us to explore these questions through a four-part sermon series. Building on our distinctive vocation of reconciliation, we will consider not only the hope we inherit, but the work reconciliation demands of us today.

Sunday, 15th November | Safeguarding Sunday
"The Courage to tell the Truth"

Exploring the correlation of truth-telling, accountability and deep listening in shaping a Safe Church. We reflect on the Church's calling to become a place of safe belonging and what continues to hinder that becoming.
Preacher: The Reverend Canon Nitano Muller, Canon for Worship & Welcome and Interim Chapter Safeguarding Lead.

Sunday, 22nd November | Christ the King Sunday
"Hope Has a Name"

As we celebrate Christ's reign, we ask what it means to recognise Christ in our neighbours, welcome the stranger and live towards God's vision of a reconciled world.
Preacher: The Reverend Matthew Arnold, Priest-on-Placement.

Sunday, 29th November | Advent Sunday

Dean-Designate Andrew will lead us on his first Sunday in office, which also happens to be the start of the liturgical calendar year. Join us for our **10.30am Cathedral Eucharist**, where he will preside and preach his first sermon. Join us at **5pm for our annual Advent Carol's Service: "Light in Our Darkness"** as we step into this season of holy expectation.

CONGREGATIONAL SKILLS SURVEY!

The St Michael's Committee would like to learn more about the skills, experience and interests of our congregation so we can better involve our congregation members in the ministry of our Cathedral. You can complete a paper copy of the survey available from the welcome desk, or you can complete the electronic copy attached to the congregational email. It should only take a few minutes!

Urgent Call for Volunteers for the Music Department!

We need choir chaperones urgently. This is a fulfilling role helping to care for and safeguard our boys and girls who sing in the choir. The role is subject to relevant training and an enhanced DBS check. Please get in touch with April Griffiths at music.administrator@coventry.anglican.org for more information.

Daily Services at the Cathedral:

Regular services at the Cathedral follow this pattern during the summer holidays. 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*

Saturday

12 – 12:10pm: *The Litany of Reconciliation*

Sunday

10:30 – 11:45am: *The Cathedral Eucharist*
4 – 5pm: *Choral Evensong*