



**SOUTH ASIAN
HERITAGE
MONTH 2026**

Unity in Diversity



South Asian Heritage Celebration

Saturday, 25th July 2026, 12:00pm

Welcome to Coventry Cathedral

Welcome to Coventry Cathedral as we gather to celebrate South Asian Heritage Month, giving thanks for the rich cultures, histories, faith and contributions of South Asian communities to our Cathedral, our city, our Diocese and our nation.

This celebration is more than an opportunity to appreciate cultural diversity. It is an expression of our Christian faith and of Coventry Cathedral's commitment to reconciliation. At a time when our society can feel increasingly divided and polarised, we believe that learning to live with difference and celebrating diversity are not optional extras, but essential marks of God's Kingdom, recognising that our differences are not barriers to overcome but gifts to be received.

As we pray, sing, listen and share together today, may we discover afresh that in Christ we are one body. May this celebration deepen our understanding of one another, strengthen the bonds of our common life, and inspire us to become ever more faithful ambassadors of reconciliation, justice, and peace.

We are delighted that you are here.

“Welcome!” in Major South Asian languages

स्वागत

خوش آمدید

স্বাগতম

ਜੀ ਆਇਆਂ ਠੂੰ

स्वागत छे

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Welcome

by Tanisha Christian (MC), Member of the Cathedral's Phoenix Club.

Opening prayer

by the Reverend Nitano Muller, Canon for Worship and Welcome.

God of every nation and every people,
whose image is reflected in every face
and whose Spirit speaks in every language:

We give you thanks for the rich heritage of the peoples of South Asia,
represented in our Diocese of Coventry.

For their histories and traditions,
their resilience and generosity,
their faith, wisdom, gifts and stories.

Gather us now as one family in Christ.

And where there is diversity, teach us to recognise the beauty of your
kingdom.

As we worship, speak, sing, dance, and share our stories today,
may we glimpse the great multitude from every nation, tribe, people
and language,
standing together before your throne in praise.

May all that we offer bring glory to your name,
strengthen the bonds of our common life,
and inspire us to work for justice, peace, and the flourishing of all your
children.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Opening Song – How Great Thou Art

led by Ephraim & Co (Worship Team).

Verse 1 (English)

**O Lord my God, When I in awesome wonder,
Consider all the works Thy Hands have made;
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.**

Verse 1 (Hindi)

**Prabhu mahan vicharu karya te-re,
Kitne adbhudh jo tune banaye,
Dekhun taare, sunu garjan bhayan-kar,
Samarth teri sare bhumandal par!**

Chorus (English)

**Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art.
Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!**

Verse 2 (Hindi)

**Jab sochta hun ki pita apna pu-tr,
Marne bheja hai varnan se apar!
Ki krus par usne mere paap sab le-kar,
Rakth bahaya ki mera ho Uddhar!**

Chorus (Hindi)

**Prashansa ho-we prabhu yesu ki
Kitna mahan, kitna ma-han x2**

Verse 3

**When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation,
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.
Then I shall bow, in humble adoration,
And then proclaim: "My God, how great Thou art!"**

Chorus (English)

**Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art.
Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!**

Chorus (Hindi)

**Prashansa ho-we prabhu yeshu ki
Kitna mahan, kitna ma-han x2**

Scripture Reading

*Read in Gujarati by Anjela Shah, Cathedral Church Warden and in English
by Neil Masih, Diocesan Intercultural Enabler.*

A reading from the Revelation to John.

⁹ After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands.¹⁰ They cried out in a loud voice, saying, “Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!”¹¹ And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God,¹² singing, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

Revelation 7: 9-12

Listen to what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

Thanks be to God.

Testimony

by Sibby and Namkha, From “The Table” at Holy Trinity, Coventry.

Poem - Woven Together

by Chloe Masih.

We come with different names for home,
different memories, different songs.

Some carry the fragrance of cardamom and jasmine,
others the echo of monsoon rains,
others the stories of journeys made
with hope folded carefully into a suitcase.

We come speaking many languages,
yet every language knows the sound of laughter,
the weight of tears,
the courage of welcome,
the longing to belong.

Our differences are not walls to divide us,
but threads in a tapestry
whose beauty depends upon every colour.

For God has never delighted
in sameness.

The Creator paints with abundance,
calls nations into being,
and gathers every people
into one family.

Today we honour the stories that have shaped us,
the faith that has sustained us,
and the hope that leads us still.

May we never fear one another's difference,
but recognise in every face
another glimpse
of the image of God.

Testimony

by the Reverend Mary Morris, Curate at St Paul's, Foleshill.

Song - Azim ast name to Isa (Great is Your name, Lord Jesus)

led by Ephraim & Co.

Verse (Farsi)

**Azim ast name to Isa
Djalal bar name to Isa
Ghodrat as ane to Isa
Setaiem name ghodusat Isa**

Chorus (Farsi)

**Halleluja, Halleluja
Halleluja, Halleluja
Halleluja, Halleluja
Setaiem name ghodusat Isa**

Verse (English)

**Great is Your Name, Lord Je-e-sus
Praise to Your Name, Lord Je-e-sus
Power to You, Lord Je-e-sus
Praise to Your Name, exalted Je-e-sus**

Chorus (English)

**Halleluja, Halleluja
Halleluja, Halleluja
Halleluja, Halleluja
Praise to your Name, exalted Jesus**

Author: Unknown

Koorsbewerking © Simon Headley 2022

Keynote Address

by the Right Reverend Sophie Jelley, Bishop of Coventry.

Dance Performance

by Anjela and Tanisha, Members of the Cathedral's Phoenix Club.

Prayers of Intercession

To be offered in English and in other South Asian languages by different readers.

Let us pray to the God who gathers people of every nation, tribe, language and culture into one family, saying together:

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Minu offers a prayer in Malayalam, concluding with

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

For the Church

Loving God,

we thank you for the rich diversity of your Church throughout the world.

Bless Christians across the world and all who faithfully proclaim the Gospel in every land.

May your Church always reflect your kingdom, where every culture is honoured and every voice is valued.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

For Peace

God of justice and peace,

we pray for the nations of South Asia and for all places where there is conflict, division or injustice.

Heal ancient wounds,

overcome prejudice,

and give wisdom to those who lead.

Make us all instruments of your peace.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

For Those Who Journey

Compassionate God,

we pray for migrants, refugees, international students and all who have left home seeking safety, opportunity or a new beginning.

Comfort those who miss loved ones,

strengthen those building new lives,

and help every community become a place of welcome and belonging.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

For Families and Future Generations

Faithful God,

we give thanks for families and communities who pass on faith, language, culture and tradition.

Bless parents, grandparents, children and young people.

May every generation discover both the courage to remember its story and the confidence to write a new one together.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

For Coventry

God of reconciliation,

we thank you for the many cultures that enrich our diocese.

Help us to celebrate our differences,

to listen deeply to one another,

and to build communities marked by dignity, justice and love.

May this Cathedral continue to be a place where all people know they are welcomed and cherished.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

For Ourselves

Gracious God,
where there is fear, give us courage.
Where there is misunderstanding, give us patience.
Where there is division, give us compassion.
Where there is hurt, give us healing.
Teach us to rejoice in the gifts we see in one another, until the day
when people of every nation, tribe and language gather before your
throne in endless praise.

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Concluding Prayer

God of all peoples,
whose Son made us all one through his cross:
send us out rejoicing in the richness of our diversity,
steadfast in the work of justice,
faithful in the ministry of reconciliation,
and united in the love of Christ,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Poem - One Table

Read by Lewis Masih.

There is a table
where no one sits above another.

There is bread
broken for every nation.

There is a cup
offered without distinction.

Around this table
our histories are remembered,
our wounds are not ignored,
our cultures are not hidden,
our voices are not silenced.

Here,
difference is welcomed and celebrated.

For the kingdom of God
is not built by making everyone the same,
but by teaching us
to love one another as we are.

May our churches become such tables.

May our cities become such tables.

May our homes become such tables.

And may Coventry,
whose charism is reconciliation,
continue to be a place
of encounter and all discover
we have always belonged
to one another in Christ.

Closing Song - Yeshu Tera Naam (Jesus is the name)

led by Ephraim & Co.

Chorus

**Yeshu tera naam
sab-se Uncha hai (2)**

*Jesus is the name,
name above all names (2)*

Verse 1

**jis naam mein hai mu-kti,
jis naam mein hai sha-kti
jis naam mein hain shaan-ti
deta vo naam changa-l**

*In Your name there is salvation
in Your name there is great power
in Your name we find the perfect peace
Your name brings healing here*

Pre-Chorus

**jis naam mein hai zin-dagi,
yeshu hai vo naam
jis naam mein hai ban-dagi,
yeshu hai vo naam**

Chorus

**Yeshu tera naam
sab-se Uncha hai (2)**

Verse 2

**beemaa-ri se, garibi se,
shraa-po se hai chuda-ta
vo naa-m hai jo andhon ko,
ro-shanee bhee hai deta**

Pre-Chorus

**jis naam mein hai zin-dagi,
yeshu hai vo naam
jis naam mein hai ban-dagi,
yeshu hai vo naam**

Chorus

**Yeshu tera naam
sab-se Uncha hai (2)**

*In Your name there's life, eternally
Jesus is Your name
For Your name we praise you endlessly
Jesus is Your name*

*Jesus is the name,
name above all names (2)*

*You're the Saviour of the sick and poor
of cursed ones left behind
You're the Saviour that enlightens us
Give sight back to the blind*

*In Your name there's life, eternally
Jesus is Your name
For Your name we praise you endlessly
Jesus is Your name*

*Jesus is the name,
name above all names (2)*

*Author: Yeshua Ministries
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English version: Ilse Roskam*

Closing Remarks

by Neil Masih.

Final Blessing

by Bishop Sophie.

**You are warmly invited to
enjoy refreshments and
fellowship after this service.**

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