Eucharist
Celebrating the 30th anniversary of the ordination of women to the priesthood in the Church of England

Saturday 11th May 2024
10.30am
Nave
Welcome to Canterbury Cathedral for this Service

The collection in today’s service will be shared with the Li Tim-Oi Foundation which exists to empower Christian women as agents of change within their own cultures. The Foundation provides grants to women candidates in the Majority World to train for Christian mission and ministry, as well as for many other kinds of work, including as adult literacy advisors, community workers, health workers, finance directors and theological educators.

If you need communion brought to you in your place, or require a gluten-free wafer, please ask one of the stewards, who will be pleased to assist you.

Front cover image:
St Mildred, St Domneva and St Eadburga, from an embroidery at Minster Abbey. Domneva was the founding Abbess of Minster Abbey, succeeded by Mildred and Eadburga. The show the important role that women had in the mission of the Church after St Augustine re-introduced Christianity to the south of England in 597.

Back cover image:
Women ordained priest in Canterbury in 1994

The Eucharistic Prayer was written by the Reverend Dr Sam Wells, Vicar of St Martin-in-the-Fields, London.

Please ensure that mobile phones are switched off. No form of visual or sound recording, or any form of photography, is permitted during Services. Thank you for your co-operation.

An induction loop system for the hard of hearing is installed in the Cathedral. Hearing aid users should adjust their aid to T.

Large print orders of service are available from the stewards and virgers. Please ask.

www.canterbury-cathedral.org/events
A Timeline of Ordained Women’s Ministry in the Church of England

1862  First deaconesses (NB. this was a lay order)
1920  Call for women’s ordination brought to the Lambeth Conference
1944  First woman priest in the Anglican Communion – Florence Li Tim-Oi (Hong Kong) Ordained as a wartime emergency measure.
1969  First women Lay Readers (some in WW1, but they were allowed to lapse)
1975  General Synod ‘There are no theological fundamental objections to the ordination of women to the priesthood’

Late 1970s: MOW (Movement for the Ordination of Women) begins.
1985  General Synod vote for women deacons
1987  First women ordained deacon
1992  General Synod vote (just!) in favour of Women priests

- No public celebration allowed – a very painful time
- Period of reception – discerning whether the Church had made the right decision
- Resolution A and B parishes (A=women cannot be incumbent; B=women cannot preside)
- Act of Synod (Resolution C parishes could now ask for the ministry of a Provincial Episcopal Visitor – the so-called ‘flying’ bishops)

1994  First women ordained priest
Bristol Diocese the first on 12th March, Canterbury on 8th May
Vicar of Dibley raises profile of women priests, the opposition they faced and generated a lot of public support.

2005  General Synod begins process for women bishops
2012  GS Legislation fails
2014  St Paul’s Cathedral: 20th anniversary ‘celebration’ of women priests
2014  GS vote in favour of Women Bishops

- Five Guiding Principles
- Petitioning parishes replace Resolution parishes

2015  First woman bishop: Rt Rev Libby Lane
Previous DAWM and Northern Province Vice-Chair
2018  +Sarah Mullally becomes Bishop of London
2019  +Rose Hudson Wilkin becomes Bishop of Dover and first black female Bishop in the Church of England
The Procession

Cross and Lights
Choir

Virger
Women Deacons of the Diocese

Women Priests of the Diocese

Virger
Women Priests ordained in 1994

The Preacher

Virger

The Women of the Chapter of Canterbury Cathedral

Sub Deacon

Deacon

The Bishop of Dover

Chaplain to the Bishop

Our music is led by the Girls of Canterbury Cathedral Choir, conducted by Holly Smith, former girl chorister and postgraduate student at King’s College, London; and the organist is Lucy Morrell, Head of Academic Music and Organist, Dulwich College

Amongst our virgers serving today is Megan Harmer whose father served at the ordination service here 30 years ago.

We are grateful for the thoughtful words of lament, joy and hope sent in from the women priests of this diocese as they have reflected on their experiences. Their words and sentiments are weaved into the liturgy of our service today.

Before the service begins the Dean welcomes the congregation.

All stand to sing as the choir and clergy enter.
Called to worship, called to service,
called to bring God’s presence near;
called to preaching, prayer and blessing
speaking peace to conquer fear.
Thirty years of joys and sorrows,
priestly service gathered here.

We have walked where Christ has called us,
borne our cross and suffered pain.
To God’s call we have been faithful,
and in loss have found our gain.
For indeed our God is faithful,
and we give our thanks again.

Called to tell salvation’s story,
brought in safety through the sea;
brought into the new creation,
from the weight of sin set free.
Called to speak of God’s forgiveness —
at our voice let sorrow flee.

Here we stand where earth and heaven
meet in praise and offering;
here we make Christ truly present,
hearts and lives the gifts we bring.
Where our hands share blood and body,
hearts and souls and voices sing.

In this House of prayer and teaching,
where our songs of praise arise,
Lord, receive our great thanksgiving
joy that echoes to the skies.
All for God and all with gladness,
which our service sanctifies.

Words: PJ White (b. 1986)  
Music: REGENT SQUARE

The Gathering

The Bishop says

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The Bishop introduces the service before leading us into prayer by
inviting us to sit or kneel

Prayers of Lament and Penitence

The Bishop says

We bring before God all the times when ministering has been painful, and all
who are broken and bruised.

After each phrase of lament, read by the Deacon and Sub-Deacon, silence is
kept and a candle will be lit by The Reverend Gill Calver, ordained here in 1994.

We lament the long wait from deaconing to priesting and the struggle for full acceptance
We lament division and anger, misunderstanding and hurt
We lament the silencing of women and the rejection of ministry
We lament missed opportunities and loss of gifts
We cry out for God’s mercy, forgiveness, and healing:

We cry out to God for women whose voices have been muted; those who
have been publicly rejected or privately undermined; those who have been
belittled, underestimated or sidelined.
Lord have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

We cry out to God for women whose ministry has been obstructed, those
whose dual vocations as priest and carer have not been affirmed, those who
have suffered from harassment or aggression.
Christ have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

We cry out to God for women who worship in contexts where their vocation
to ordained ministry is denied; and we pray for all working within God's Church to enable those vocations to be fulfilled.
Lord have mercy.

Lord have mercy.
The Bishop says

May the God of love and power
forgive us and free us from sin,
heal and strengthen us by his Spirit,
and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord.

Amen.

We stand to sing

Gloria in Excelsis

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Father
Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Father
To God be glory for ever
To God be glory for ever
Alleluia Amen
Alleluia Amen
Alleluia Amen

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to Christ Jesus...

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Spirit...

The Collect

Almighty and everlasting God,
by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified:
hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people,
that in their vocation and ministry
they may serve you in holiness and truth
to the glory of your name;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Sit
The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading    Acts 18.22-end

read by Miranda Ford, Chair of the House of Laity, Diocesan Synod, Honorary Lay Canon of Canterbury Cathedral.

When Paul had landed at Caesarea, he went up to Jerusalem and greeted the church, and then went down to Antioch. After spending some time there he departed and went from place to place through the region of Galatia and Phrygia, strengthening all the disciples.

Now there came to Ephesus a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria. He was an eloquent man, well-versed in the scriptures. He had been instructed in the Way of the Lord; and he spoke with burning enthusiasm and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, though he knew only the baptism of John. He began to speak boldly in the synagogue; but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained the Way of God to him more accurately. And when he wished to cross over to Achaia, the believers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him. On his arrival he greatly helped those who through grace had become believers, for he powerfully refuted the Jews in public, showing by the scriptures that the Messiah is Jesus.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Remain seated as the choir sings Psalm 47. 1-2, 7-9

O clap your hands together, all ye people:
O Sing unto God with the voice of melody.

For the Lord is high, and to be feared:
he is the great King upon all the earth.

For God is the King of all the earth:
sing ye praises with understanding.

God reigneth over the heathen:
God sitteth upon his holy seat.

The princes of the people are joined unto the people of the God of Abraham:
for God, which is very high exalted, doth defend the earth,
as it were with a shield.
Alleluia, Alleluia.
Jesus said to them ‘I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.’
Alleluia.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said, ‘Very truly, I tell you, if you ask anything of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete. I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures, but will tell you plainly of the Father. On that day you will ask in my name. I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. I came from the Father and have come into the world; again, I am leaving the world and am going to the Father.’

Once the Sermon has been introduced please sit

Sermon
The Reverend Estella Last, Vicar of the Bridge Benefice, Honorary Canon of Canterbury Cathedral and Advisor on Women’s Ministry in the Diocese of Canterbury
Poem

The Cost of Discipleship
Written by Bishop Colin Winter (1928–81)
Read by The Reverend Eileen Routh, ordained priest in Canterbury Cathedral in 1994, Honorary Canon Emeritus of Canterbury Cathedral.

Colin Winter wrote this poem for Elizabeth Canhan before she went to the United States of America to be the first English women to be ordained priest. He then gave it to Eileen, knowing that she would not be able to be ordained for years to come, but in recognition of her calling and the calling of so many women who were prevented from being ordained.

What you have received
is what He gave you
What you know
and feel is truth
He has inspired
that which compels you
now to leave
home and hearth and
loved ones
He has prepared for
you His strength
perfected in your weakness:
Your weakness
perfect in His strength
As Deborah was
a prophetess in Israel
As Hannah sang out
her love song
with liberated heart
As Mary
stood immovable
with sword pierced heart
in pain wracked
Vigil
you must stand –
you can no other –
and roll away the stone
of man-made
guilt and fears. For
you are a priest
forever
let all acknowledge it
and recognise the flowering
of your womanhood
in each and every priestly deed
Anthem  Come, Holy Ghost our souls inspire

Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire,
And lighten with celestial fire;
Thou the anointing Spirit art,
Who dost thy sevenfold gifts impart.

Thy blessèd unction from above
Is comfort, life, and fire of love;
Enable with perpetual light
The dullness of our blinded sight:
Teach us to know the Father, Son,
And thee, of Both, to be but One;
That through the ages all along
This may be our endless song,
Praise to thy eternal merit,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Words: John Cosin (1594-1672)  Tune: VENI CREATOR (MECHLIN)

based on Veni, creator Spiritus

Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith in God

We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.
We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.
We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.
We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Kneel or sit for

Prayers of Intercession

led by The Rev’d Lynn Overington-Hickford, The Rev’d Claudette Gayle,
The Rev’d Noelle Hall, The Rev’d Rachel Webbley, and Katie Pennington.

At the end

Merciful Father,
accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.
The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

Stand, the Bishop says

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

The Deacon says

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Members of the congregation may greet one another with a sign of peace. Remain standing to sing The Offertory Hymn during which the table is prepared and the gifts of the people are gathered and presented.

Here and now we’re bound together:
held in one divine embrace.
Help us see, in one another,
difference as a gift of grace.
As each passing generation
worships you in fresh new ways,
join our songs with all creation,
lift our voice to sing your praise.

Lord, affirm our shared vocation:
may we bring your plans to birth,
build your church on sure foundations,
fit to serve a troubled earth.
Growing, praying, sharing, learning,
deep in wisdom, broad in scope,
love-revealing, truth-discerning,
living out the gospel hope.
In your work of transformation
you are making all things new.
Stir our hearts’ imagination,
call us now to work with you.
Send us out to share your mission;
show us each our part to play
as we live the Great Commission
joyful in the world today.

Words: Cyril Taylor (1907-1991)         Tune: ABBOTS LEIGH

The Bishop takes the bread and wine

Heavenly Father,
as we set before you these gifts of bread and wine,
bless also the gift of our hearts and minds
as we offer our lives in your service;
for Jesus Christ’s sake. Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.
and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

God of Sarah, Hagar and Deborah,
at Christmas you gave us your presence,
at Easter you dismantled sin and death,
and at Pentecost you empowered us to bear your image
and spread your grace.
God of Chloe, Phoebe and Priscilla,
in mission you equip us to go to the four corners of the earth
and rediscover what your Spirit is doing
and meet you in the face of the stranger.
And so we gladly thank you, with saints and angels
and archangels, and all the company of heaven,
singing the hymn of your unending praise:
God of Ruth, Naomi and Esther,
in Jesus you show us the extent of mission
and the cost of ministry.
Send your Holy Spirit,
that your people may be
filled with love, joy, and peace,
and that these gifts of bread and wine
may be for us the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Who, at supper with his disciples,
took bread, gave you thanks,
broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying,
'Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.'
After supper he took the cup.
Again he gave you thanks,
and gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Drink this, all of you:
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.'

Great is the mystery of faith:
Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.
God of Junia, Tryphena and Tryphosa,
as you take bread and wine
and make them the bearers of your Son’s risen life,
take our flesh and blood
and make them the channels of your peace.
Bless the ministry of women
throughout the Anglican Communion and beyond.
Transform your church that it may resemble
the generosity, joy, and abundance of your Trinity.

God of Julia, Persis and Claudia,
raise up those whose gifts have been suppressed,
neglected, ignored or rejected.
Renew your people through humble service
and prophetic witness,
that your name may be known
in the face of injustice, poverty, and tyranny.
God of Mary, Mary Magdalene and Elizabeth,
show your glory through agents of healing and learning,
and shower your people with your love,
until the day comes when every eye beholds you,
full of grace and truth,
ever one God, world without end.
Amen.

The Lord’s Prayer

The Bishop says

As we join our prayers with the Church Universal, so we say,
each in our own language, the prayer that Jesus taught us.

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.

Notre Père...
Vater Unser...
Onze Vader...
Padre Nuestro...
Ojcze Nasz...
Baba Yetu...
E to matou Matua...
Ein Tad...
Remain standing for

**Breaking of the Bread**

*The Bishop breaks the consecrated bread, saying*

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.
**Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.**

*We sing together*

![Chord symbols and music notation]

[organ] Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: Grant us peace.

*The Bishop says*

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us. 
**Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

*Sit as the Bishop and other ministers begin*

**The Distribution**

*Please come up for Communion as directed by the stewards. All who are regular communicants in their own tradition are welcome to receive the sacrament. If you are not a communicant, you are welcome to come forward at this point in the service to receive a blessing, keeping your hands to your sides. Please ask the priest if you need a gluten-free host.*

We request that you do not intinct (dip) your host in the wine but either take a sip from the cup or remain with your head bowed. This is for the reasons of good hygiene.

If you wish to receive communion in your seat, please inform a steward.

We keep a *prayerful silence* during Communion to allow others to prepare to receive the sacrament or pray afterwards.
The choir sings

Panis angelicus
Fit panis hominum;
Dat panis coelicus
Figuris terminum:
O res mirabilis!
Manducat Dominum
Pauper, servus et humilis.

The bread of the angels
becomes the bread of mortals;
the bread of heaven
puts an end to prefigurations.
O wondrous thing!
the poor, the slave and the humble
feed on their Lord.

Words: Thomas Aquinas (1225-74)          Music: César Franck (1822-90)

After the choir has sung, we all join to sing

Take this moment, sign, and space; take my friends around; here among us make the place where your love is found.

Take the time to call my name, take the time to mend who I am and what I’ve been, all I’ve failed to tend.

Take the tiredness of my days, take my past regret, letting your forgiveness touch all I can’t forget.

Take the little child in me, scared of growing old; help me here to find my worth made in Christ’s own mould.

Take my talents, take my skills, take what’s yet to be; let my life be yours, and yet let it still be me.

Words: John L Bell (b.1949)          Tune: TAKE THIS MOMENT          AM 788
and Graham Maule (b.1958)

Prayer after Communion

Stand as the Bishop says

Let us pray.

Silence is kept

Lord of the harvest, you have fed your people in this sacrament with the fruits of creation made holy by your Spirit: by your grace raise up among us faithful labourers to sow your word and reap the harvest of souls; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
All then say

Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

The Bishop says

May the boldness of the Spirit transform you, may the gentleness of the Spirit lead you may the gifts of the Spirit equip you to serve and worship God; And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

The Dismissal

Stand to sing. As we sing this hymn the women priests of this diocese and those no longer serving but ordained in 1994 leave their seats to join the altar party at the front of the nave.

Hope of our calling: hope through courage won; By those who dared to share all Christ had done. Saints of today, Christ’s banner now unfurled, We bring his gospel to a waiting world.

Hope of our calling: hope with strength empowered, Inspired by all that we have seen and heard; This call is ours, for we are chosen too, To live for God in all we say and do.

Hope of our calling: hope with grace outpoured, From death’s despair the gift of life restored; Our call to serve, to wash each others’ feet, To bring Christ’s healing touch to all we meet.
Hope of our calling: hope by faith made bold;  
To sow God’s righteousness throughout the world;  
Bring peace from conflict, fruitfulness from weeds,  
The kingdom’s harvest from a mustard seed.

Hope of our calling: Spirit-filled, unbound,  
Old joys remembered and new purpose found,  
Our call refreshed by sacrament and word,  
We go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Words: Ally Barrett  
Tune: WOODLANDS

The Bishop leads this acclamation

There are varieties of gifts,  
**but the same Spirit.**  
There are varieties of service,  
**but the same Lord.**  
There are different kinds of working,  
**but the same God is at work in all.**

There is one body, one Spirit, one hope in God’s call;  
**one Lord, one faith, one baptism.**  
There is one God, Father of all, over all and in all,  
**to whom Christ ascended on high.**  
And through his Spirit he gives us gifts:  
**some are apostles, some are his prophets;**  
evangelists, pastors and teachers he gives us,  
**so that we can minister together**  
to build up his body,  
to be mature in the fullness of Christ.

The Subdeacon says

You did not choose me but I chose you.  
And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last.

The Deacon says

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia!  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!**

There will be a short pause before the procession sets off as official photographs are taken which will then be available on the Cathedral and Diocesan websites All remain standing as the choir and clergy then depart.
Please join us in the Chapter House for refreshments.

Organ Voluntary

The First Women Priests of the Diocese of Canterbury, 8th May 1994