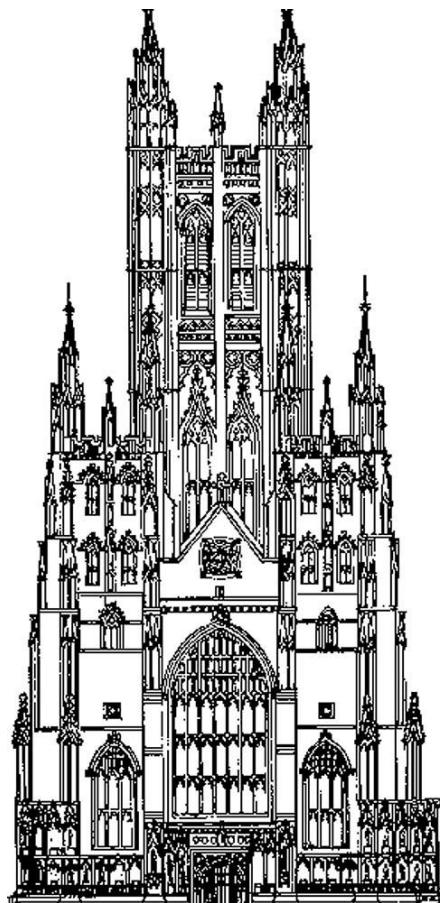




THE CATHEDRAL AND METROPOLITICAL CHURCH OF CHRIST, CANTERBURY

Choral Evensong

with the Cathedral Company of Change Ringers and
Admission of Officers



Sunday 15th February 2026

5.30pm

Quire

Welcome to Canterbury Cathedral for this Service

We are grateful to the Choir of All Saints, Fulham for singing Evensong today.

Canterbury Cathedral is the seat of the Archbishop of Canterbury, the cathedral church of the Diocese of Canterbury, the mother church of the Anglican Communion, and a place of pilgrimage welcoming visitors from across the world.

For over fourteen hundred years God has been worshipped here. With its roots in the Benedictine tradition, the ongoing daily pattern of morning and evening prayer and Eucharist (or Holy Communion) continues the prayers and praises of countless generations in this Cathedral. We welcome you today to share in this continuing rhythm of worship in this service of Choral Evensong.

Livestreaming

This service will be livestreamed and you may be seen on camera, although we will not deliberately take any close-ups of the congregation.

By attending you agree to be seen in this way.

If you have any concerns please speak to a member of the clergy.



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.

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ORDER OF SERVICE

All stand as the choir and clergy enter the Quire

A welcome is offered

*The Cantor and the choir sing the **Preces***

O Lord, open thou our lips
and our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

O God, make speed to save us.
O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

Praise ye the Lord.
The Lord's name be praised.

Music: Sasha Johnson Manning (b.1963)

Sit as the choir sings

Psalm 84

O how amiable are thy dwellings :
thou Lord of hosts!

My soul hath a desire and longing to enter into the courts of the Lord :
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

Yea, the sparrow hath found her an house,
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young :
even thy altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.

Blessed are they that dwell in thy house :
they will be alway praising thee.

Blessed is the man whose strength is in thee :
in whose heart are thy ways.

Who going through the vale of misery use it for a well :
and the pools are filled with water.

They will go from strength to strength :
and unto the God of gods appeareth every one of them in Sion.

O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer :
hearken, O God of Jacob.

Behold, O God our defender :
and look upon the face of thine Anointed.

For one day in thy courts :
is better than a thousand.

I had rather be a door-keeper in the house of my God :
than to dwell in the tents of ungodliness.

For the Lord God is a light and defence :
the Lord will give grace and worship, and no good thing shall he withhold from
them that live a godly life.

O Lord God of hosts :
blessed is the man that putteth his trust in thee.

Stand

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son : and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading *Ecclesiasticus 48.1-10*

Installation

The Dean leaves his stall as the members of the Foundation stand

The Canon in Residence says

Mr Dean I present to you, to be confirmed in their office: Thomas Brett as Tower Captain; Cathryn Hills as Vice-Captain; Andrew Hills as Steeple Keeper; and Simon Lockwood as Secretary & Treasurer.

The Dean says

Those who are elected as officers of this Cathedral Company are to encourage the members in offering their services in the life of this church. The work of prayer and praise to which you call people is the work of God. Will you gladly take your part in it, to his glory?

The officers respond

By the help of God we will.

The Dean says

Tom, Cathryn, Andrew, and Simon, I confirm you in the offices to which you have been elected, in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Grant, O Lord, that all who are appointed to ring the bells of this house of prayer may do so worthily to your glory; and that those who shall be called to worship by the ringing of these bells may enter your gates with thanksgiving and your courts with praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

May the Lord enable you to use to his glory the gifts he has given you, and may he watch over your going out and your coming in from this time forth and for evermore.

The Dean returns to his stall. Stand as the choir sings

Magnificat

My soul doth magnify the Lord :
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
For he hath regarded :
the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold, from henceforth :
all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me :
and holy is his Name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him :
throughout all generations.
He hath shewed strength with his arm :
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat :
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things :
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel :
as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son : and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be :
world without end. Amen.

Music: Herbert Murrill (1909-52) in E

Sit

New Testament Reading

Matthew 17.9-23

Stand as the choir sings

Nunc Dimittis

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace :
according to thy word.
For mine eyes have seen :
thy salvation;
Which thou hast prepared :
before the face of all people;
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles :
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son : and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be :
world without end. Amen.

Music: Herbert Murrill (1909-52) in E

Turn East and say together the

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth:
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.
He descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholick Church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

The Cantor and choir sing the Versicles and Responses

The Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.

Sit or kneel

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil. Amen.*

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.
And grant us thy salvation.
O Lord, save the King.
And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Endue thy ministers with righteousness.
And make thy chosen people joyful.

O Lord, save thy people.
And bless thine inheritance.

Give peace in our time, O Lord.
Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.

O God, make clean our hearts within us.
And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

Music: Sasha Johnson Manning (b.1963)

The Collects

O Lord, who hast taught us that all our doings without charity are nothing worth: Send thy Holy Ghost, and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of charity, the very bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whosoever liveth is counted dead before thee. Grant this for thine only Son Jesus Christ's sake. *Amen.*

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed; give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that both, our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that, by thee, we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. *Amen.*

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Sit as the choir sings

Anthem

How fair is Thy face,
Yea fair, yea fair,
Thou Son of God, Thou Prince of Grace!
O Thou my Shulamite, sweet and kind,
Yea kind, yea kind,
All that I have is also Thine.
My friend, Thou art mine,
Yea mine, yea mine,
For evermore let me be Thine,
Thou canst me save, canst me save,
Yea save, yea save,
Both here on earth and 'yond the grave.
Remember my plight,
Yea plight, yea plight,
Around me hostile swords flash bright.
Fly hither, Dove of Grace, Dove of Grace,
Apace, apace!
Among the rocks are peace and space.

*Words: Hans Adolf Brorson (1694–1764)
trans. Percy Grainger (1882–1961)*

Music: Edvard Grieg (1843–1907)

Please kneel or sit

Prayers *concluding with*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. Amen.

Stand to sing during which a collection will be taken.

*If you would prefer to give electronically,
please use the QR code.*



Unchanging God, who livest
Enthroned in realms on high,
To us the power thou givest
Thy name to magnify.
We raise the bells for ringing
With ready mind and will,
And come before thee, bringing
Our hearts, our strength, our skill.

²We call, from tower and steeple,
Upon the day of days,
All faithful Christian people
To worship, prayer, and praise;
We ring with joyous gladness
When marriages are blessed;
We peal in muffled sadness
For loved ones laid to rest.

³By union free and willing
The work of God is done;
Our Master's prayer fulfilling,
We would in him be one:
One, as the Church our Mother
Would have her children stand,
Befriending one another,
A strong and steadfast band.

⁴Our lives, like bells, while changing,
An ordered course pursue;
Through joys and sorrows ranging,
May all those lives ring true.
May we, through Christ forgiven,
Our faults and failures past,
Attain our place in heaven,
Called home to rest at last.

Words: H C Wilder (1860-1948)

Tune: BELFREY PRAISE

AMR 496

Blessing

All remain standing as the choir and clergy depart, after which there will be a touch rung on hand bells.