



THE CATHEDRAL AND METROPOLITICAL CHURCH OF CHRIST, CANTERBURY

# Choral Evensong

with the Institution and Installation of  
The Reverend Estella Last  
as Archdeacon of Maidstone



Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2026

5.30pm

Quire

# Welcome to Canterbury Cathedral for this Service

Estella Last grew up in North Kent, studying Business and Finance Law at Brunel University before embarking on a career in Marketing and Event Management. Taking a career break after the arrival of her first child in 2005 she spent the next 10 years, supporting her local church, and developing ministry with families and children and the local primary school as well as serving on the PCC. Here her vocation to the Priesthood was discerned and trained for ordination with the South East Institute of Theological Education (SEITE – now St Augustine's College of Theology). She was ordained in 2014 and served her title post in Herne village near the Kent coast. She completed her BA in Theology for Christian ministry from Durham University in 2017. In 2018 she was licensed as Priest in Charge of the Bridge Benefice, a rural benefice comprising 3 parishes, 5 churches on the outskirts of Canterbury. She was subsequently made Incumbent of the new Bridge Group Parish in May 2021 following the amalgamation of the parishes to form the single Bridge Group Parish. She held the role of Diocesan Adviser for Women's Ministry in the Diocese of Canterbury from 2019 – 2024. Estella served as an elected Clergy Representative on the Diocesan Archbishop's Council for two 3 year terms and was nominated to the role of Chair of the House of Clergy in 2024. She became an Honorary Canon of Canterbury Cathedral in 2023. She enjoys spending time with her family, walks, reading and singing.

## Health and Safety

Much of the present Cathedral was built hundreds of years ago. Whilst most of the parts of this ancient cathedral that are normally open to the public are easily accessible for all, the historic stone floor may be unpredictably uneven in places, entry to some parts is via stone steps or access ramps of varying gradients, and lighting levels may vary.

Please exercise due care and attention before, during and after the service and move around with regard for your safety. The Cathedral is unable to accept liability for any personal injury or damage to property unless this is due to our own negligence.



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**By cash or cheques** payable to 'Canterbury Cathedral' in Gift Aid envelopes - UK taxpayers please fill in the details on the envelope. Or you can give a one-off donation at one of our **contactless donation points** in the South Transept after the service.



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.

# ORDER OF SERVICE

*All stand as the choir and clergy enter the Quire*

**The Precentor and 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: Richard Ayleward (1626-69)*

*Sit as the choir sings*

**Psalm** 69

Save me, O God :  
for the waters are come in, even unto my soul.

I stick fast in the deep mire, where no ground is :  
I am come into deep waters, so that the floods run over me.

I am weary of crying; my throat is dry :  
my sight faileth me for waiting so long upon my God.

They that hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of my head :  
they that are mine enemies, and would destroy me guiltless, are mighty.

I paid them the things that I never took :  
God, thou knowest my simpleness, and my faults are not hid from thee.

Let not them that trust in thee, O Lord God of hosts,  
be ashamed for my cause :  
let not those that seek thee be confounded through me, O Lord God of Israel.

And why? for thy sake have I suffered reproof :  
shame hath covered my face.

I am become a stranger unto my brethren :  
even an alien unto my mother's children.

For the zeal of thine house hath even eaten me :  
and the rebukes of them that rebuked thee are fallen upon me.

I wept, and chastened myself with fasting :  
and that was turned to my reproof.

I put on sackcloth also :  
and they jested upon me.

They that sit in the gate speak against me :  
and the drunkards make songs upon me.

But, Lord, I make my prayer unto thee :  
in an acceptable time.

Hear me, O God, in the multitude of thy mercy :  
even in the truth of thy salvation.

Take me out of the mire, that I sink not :  
O let me be delivered from them that hate me, and out of the deep waters.

Let not the water-flood drown me, neither let the deep swallow me up :  
and let not the pit shut her mouth upon me.

Hear me, O Lord, for thy loving-kindness is comfortable :  
turn thee unto me according to the multitude of thy mercies.

And hide not thy face from thy servant, for I am in trouble :  
O haste thee, and hear me.

Draw nigh unto my soul, and save it :  
O deliver me, because of mine enemies.

Thou hast known my reproof, my shame, and my dishonour :  
mine adversaries are all in thy sight.

Thy rebuke hath broken my heart; I am full of heaviness :  
I looked for some to have pity on me,  
but there was no man, neither found I any to comfort me.

They gave me gall to eat :  
and when I was thirsty they gave me vinegar to drink.

As for me, when I am poor and in heaviness :  
thy help, O God, shall lift me up.

I will praise the Name of God with a song :  
and magnify it with thanksgiving.

This also shall please the Lord :  
better than a bullock that hath horns and hoofs.

The humble shall consider this, and be glad :  
seek ye after God, and your soul shall live.

For the Lord heareth the poor :  
and despiseth not his prisoners.

Let heaven and earth praise him :  
the sea, and all that moveth therein.

For God will save Sion, and build the cities of Judah :  
that men may dwell there, and have it in possession.

The posterity also of his servants shall inherit it :  
and they that love his Name shall dwell therein.

*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.

## **Old Testament Reading**

### **Amos 2**

Thus says the Lord:

For three transgressions of Moab, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment; because he burned to lime the bones of the king of Edom. So I will send a fire on Moab, and it shall devour the strongholds of Kerioth, and Moab shall die amid uproar, amid shouting and the sound of the trumpet; I will cut off the ruler from its midst, and will kill all its officials with him, says the Lord.

Thus says the Lord:

For three transgressions of Judah, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment; because they have rejected the law of the Lord, and have not kept his statutes, but they have been led astray by the same lies after which their ancestors walked. So I will send a fire on Judah, and it shall devour the strongholds of Jerusalem.

Thus says the Lord:

For three transgressions of Israel, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment; because they sell the righteous for silver, and the needy for a pair of sandals—they who trample the head of the poor into the dust of the earth, and push the afflicted out of the way; father and son go in to the same girl, so that my holy name is profaned; they lay themselves down beside every altar on garments taken in pledge; and in the house of their God they drink wine bought with fines they imposed.

Yet I destroyed the Amorite before them, whose height was like the height of cedars, and who was as strong as oaks; I destroyed his fruit above, and his roots beneath. Also I brought you up out of the land of Egypt, and led you for forty years in the wilderness, to possess the land of the Amorite. And I raised up some of your children to be prophets and some of your youths to be nazirites. Is it not indeed so, O people of Israel?

says the Lord.

But you made the nazirites drink wine, and commanded the prophets, saying, 'You shall not prophesy.'

So, I will press you down in your place, just as a cart presses down when it is full of sheaves. Flight shall perish from the swift, and the strong shall not retain their strength, nor shall the mighty save their lives; those who handle the bow shall not stand, and those who are swift of foot shall not save themselves, nor shall those who ride horses save their lives; and those who are stout of heart among the mighty shall flee away naked on that day, says the Lord.

*Stand to sing*



Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,  
dawn on our darkness, and lend us thine aid;  
Star of the east, the horizon adorning,  
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

<sup>2</sup>Cold on his cradle the dew-drops are shining;  
low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;  
angels adore him in slumber reclining,  
Maker and Monarch and Saviour of all.

<sup>3</sup>Say, shall we yield him, in costly devotion,  
odours of Edom, and offerings divine,  
gems of the mountain, and pearls of the ocean,  
myrrh from the forest, or gold from the mine?

<sup>4</sup>Vainly we offer each ample oblation,  
vainly with gifts would his favour secure:  
richer by far is the heart's adoration,  
dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

<sup>5</sup>Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,  
dawn on our darkness, and lend us thine aid;  
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,  
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Words: Reginald Heber (1783-1826)

Tune: EPIPHANY

AM 96

*The congregation sits*

*The Reverend Estella Last is presented to the Bishop of Dover by the Archdeacon of Ashford*

*The Bishop of Dover institutes the new Archdeacon of Maidstone*

*Following the Collation, the Archdeacon of Canterbury and the Senior Canon escort the new Archdeacon of Maidstone to the Dean while the Choir sings*

**Psalm 133**

Behold, how good and joyful a thing it is :  
brethren, to dwell together in unity!

It is like the precious ointment upon the head,  
that ran down unto the beard :  
even unto Aaron's beard, and went down to the skirts of his clothing.

Like as the dew of Hermon :  
which fell upon the hill of Sion.

For there the Lord promised his blessing :  
and life for evermore.

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.

*The Dean leaves his stall and the Members of the Foundation stand*

*The Archdeacon of Canterbury says*

Mr Dean and Members of the Cathedral Foundation and Community, I present to you the Reverend Estella Last, to be instituted as Archdeacon of Maidstone following the custom of this Cathedral and Metropolitical Church.

*The Dean says*

Estella, we welcome you as a member of the Cathedral Foundation and pray that we may assist your growth in Christ as you enrich our fellowship together.

*The congregation responds*

**We welcome you.**

*Members of the Foundation remain standing*

*The Dean leads the Archdeacon by the hand to her stall in the Quire and installs her saying*

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,  
Amen.

Estella, by virtue of this mandate, I install and admit you to the office and ministry of Archdeacon of Maidstone within the Foundation of this Cathedral and Metropolitical Church.

The Lord preserve your going out and your coming in from this time forth and for evermore.

*The members of the Foundation say the Foundation Prayer*

**Eternal God, you have brought us together into a noble company.  
We pray for one another and for the holy Church of Canterbury;  
that in this house of our most blessed Saviour dignity of worship,  
preaching the faith and holiness of life may for ever abound and  
thence be spread through all the world, through Jesus Christ our  
Lord. Amen.**

*All stand as the choir sings the Magnificat, during which the clergy return to their stalls*

## **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: Richard Ayleward (1626-69), Short Service*

*Sit*

## **New Testament Reading**

*1 Corinthians 1.18-31*

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,  
'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.'

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, 'Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.'

*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: Richard Ayleward (1626-69), Short Service*

*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 Precentor and choir sing the Versicles and Responses*

The Lord be with you.  
*And with thy spirit.*

Let us pray.

*Sit or kneel*

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: Richard Ayleward (1626-69)*

## **The Collects**

O Lord, we beseech thee mercifully to receive the prayers of thy people which call upon thee; and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil the same; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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**      Here is the little door

Here is the little door,  
Lift up the latch, oh lift!  
We need not wander more,  
But enter with our gift;  
Our gift of finest gold.  
Gold that was never bought or sold.  
Myrrh to be strewn about his bed,  
Incense in clouds about His head;  
All for the child that stirs not in  
His sleep,  
But holy slumber hold with ass  
and sheep.

*Words: Frances Chesterton (1869-1938)*

Bend low about His bed,  
For each He has a gift;  
See how His eyes awake,  
Lift up your hands, O lift!  
For gold, He gives a keen-edged sword.  
(Defend with it thy little Lord!)  
For incense, smoke of battle red.  
Myrrh for the honored happy dead.  
Gifts for His children, terrible and sweet;  
Touched by such tiny hands,  
And Oh such tiny feet.

*Music: Herbert Howells (1892-1983)*

*Sit or kneel*

**Prayers**      *led by the Precentor, 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*



As with gladness men of old  
did the guiding star behold,  
as with joy they hailed its light,  
leading onward, beaming bright;  
so, most gracious Lord, may we  
evermore be led to thee.

<sup>2</sup>As with joyful steps they sped,  
Saviour to thy lowly bed,  
there to bend the knee before  
thee whom heaven and earth adore;  
so may we with willing feet  
ever seek thy mercy-seat.

<sup>3</sup>As they offered gifts most rare  
at that manger rude and bare,  
so may we with holy joy,  
pure and free from sin's alloy,  
all our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ, to thee our heavenly King.

<sup>4</sup>Holy Jesus, every day  
keep us in the narrow way;  
and, when earthly things are past,  
bring our ransomed souls at last  
where they need no star to guide,  
where no clouds thy glory hide.

<sup>5</sup>In the heavenly country bright  
need they no created light;  
thou its light, its joy, its crown,  
thou its sun which goes not down;  
there for ever may we sing  
alleluias to our King.

*Words: W Chatterton Dix (1837-98)*

*Tune: DIX*

AM 94

*All remain standing as the choir and clergy leave the Quire*

## **Organ Voluntary**

*There will be a retiring collection for the work of God in the Cathedral, which costs £30,000 per day to maintain and manage. Please be as generous as you can. You may also use the QR code.*



## **Safeguarding : Do you need to talk?**

**Are you concerned about the safety of a child, young person or vulnerable adult?**

**Or is there something that you would like to discuss that affects you?**

A safeguarding concern is anything that may impact the safety and wellbeing of a child, young person or vulnerable adult; if they are being neglected, harmed or at risk of being harmed by others or themselves, and are in need of protection. To report a non-emergency safeguarding concern please scan the QR code and complete our online form or email [safeguarding@canterbury-cathedral.org](mailto:safeguarding@canterbury-cathedral.org)

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CONTACT THE CATHEDRAL CONSTABLES OFFICE:



Located by the main entrance to the Precincts, Christ Church Gate.

Alternatively, please call 01227 866237



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