



THE CATHEDRAL AND METROPOLITICAL CHURCH OF CHRIST, CANTERBURY

Sung Eucharist



The Feast of Creation in Christ

6th September 2026

11.00am

Quire

Welcome to Canterbury Cathedral for this Eucharist

Today, the first Sunday of the Season of Creation, we are celebrating a new festival: The Feast of Creation in Christ, which has been agreed across churches through a very important ecumenical process. This is a cause for celebration, in addition to the purpose of celebrating Christ in the creation of the universe.

The Choral Setting is Joseph Haydn (1732-1809),
Missa Sancti Joannis de Deo

Please ask the priest if you require a gluten-free communion wafer

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.

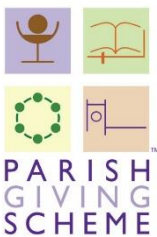
If you have any concerns please speak to a member of the clergy.

Cover Image: Adam delving,
from the Great West Window, Canterbury Cathedral (c. 1176)

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.



THE COLLECTION is an opportunity to give generously to Canterbury Cathedral in response to God's generosity, and there are many ways to give regularly. **Use this QR code** to make a donation.

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.

The Gathering

A welcome is offered

Stand to sing



For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies:
*Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.*

³For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above,
pleasures pure and undefiled:

²For the beauty of each hour,
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower,
sun and moon and stars of light:

⁴For each perfect gift of thine
to our race so freely given,
graces human and divine,
flowers of earth and buds of heaven:

⁵For thy Church that evermore
lifteth holy hands above,
offering up on every shore
her pure sacrifice of love:

Words: F S Pierpoint (1835- 1917)

Tune: ENGLAND'S LANE

AM 537

The President 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.

**Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of
our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may
perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through
Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Deacon introduces

Prayers of Penitence

The earth is the Lord's and all that fills it. Let us confess our failure to receive with gratitude God's gift of creation, and repent of the ways in which we have caused it harm.

Remain standing to say

You laid the foundations of the earth,
but we have claimed your world as our own.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

All things were created through you and for you,
but we have not lived as those who belong to you.
Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

You make all things new,
but our hope has grown dim.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

The President says

The Lord enrich you with his grace, and nourish you with his blessing;
the Lord defend you in trouble and keep you from all evil; the Lord
accept your prayers, and absolve you from your offences, for the sake of
Jesus Christ, our Saviour. **Amen.**

Remain standing as the choir sings

Gloria in Excelsis

Gloria in excelsis Deo, et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis. Laudamus te, benedicimus te, adoramus te, glorificamus te, gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam. Domine Deus, Rex coelestis, Deus pater omnipotens. Domine Fili unigenite, Jesu Christe; Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis; qui tollis peccata mundi, suscipe deprecationem nostram; qui sedes ad dexteram Patris, miserere nobis. Quoniam tu solus Sanctus, tu solus Dominus, tu solus Altissimus, Jesu Christe, cum Sancto Spiritu: in gloria Dei Patris. Amen.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect

Let us pray.

Silence is kept

Holy and eternal God,
you are the Maker of heaven and earth,
you are the Word through whom all things were made,
and you are the Spirit, the giver of life:
draw us into the mystery of your love,
that with all creation we may proclaim your praise,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
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

The Epistle

Colossians 1.15-20

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Remain seated as the choir sings Psalm 148

O praise the Lord of heaven :
praise him in the height.

Praise him, all ye angels of his :
praise him, all his host.

Praise him, sun and moon :
praise him, all ye stars and light.

Praise him, all ye heavens :
and ye waters that are above the heavens.

Let them praise the Name of the Lord :
for he spake the word, and they were made;
he commanded, and they were created.

He hath made them fast for ever and ever :
he hath given them a law which shall not be broken.

Praise the Lord upon earth :
ye dragons, and all deeps;

Fire and hail, snow and vapours :
wind and storm, fulfilling his word;

Mountains and all hills :
fruitful trees and all cedars;

Beasts and all cattle :
worms and feathered fowls;

Kings of the earth and all people :
princes and all judges of the world;

Young men and maidens, old men and children, praise the Name of the Lord :
for his Name only is excellent, and his praise above heaven and earth.

He shall exalt the horn of his people; all his saints shall praise him :
even the children of Israel, even the people that serveth him.

Stand as the cantor sings the Alleluia and we respond



You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and
power, for you created all things.

Alleluia.

The Gospel

John 1.1-14

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.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The organist plays a Gospel fanfare

Once the Sermon has been introduced please sit

Sermon

The Reverend Dr E L Pennington, Canon Missioner

After the Sermon, a few moments of silence are kept as we reflect on what we have heard and then the choir sings

The Motet

Ave, verum corpus
Natum de Maria Virgine,
Vere passum immolatum
In cruce pro homine,
Cuius latus perforatum
Unda fluxit et sanguine,
Esto nobis praegustatum
In mortis examine.

*Hail, true Body,
born of the Virgin Mary,
who having truly suffered,
was sacrificed on the cross for humankind,
whose pierced side
flowed with water and blood:
May it be for us a foretaste
in the trial of death.*

Words: 13th Century Eucharistic Hymn

Music: W A Mozart (1756-91)

Following the Motet please stand

The Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.**

Amen.

Please sit or kneel when the President says 'Let us pray'

Prayers of Intercession

One of these responses is used

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Lord, hear us.
Lord, graciously hear us.

And 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 President says

You shall go out with joy and be led back in peace;
the mountains and hills before you shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

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 greet one another

Remain standing to sing

The Offertory Hymn *during which the table is prepared and the gifts of the people are gathered and presented. If you would prefer to give electronically, please use the QR code*



When the Thurifer turns to bow to the congregation, all turn to the altar



The heavens declare thy glory, Lord;
in every star thy wisdom shines;
but when our eyes behold thy word,
we read thy name in fairer lines.

²The rolling sun, the changing light,
and nights and days, thy power confess;
but the blest volume thou hast writ
reveals thy justice and thy grace.

³Sun, moon, and stars convey thy praise
round the whole earth, and never stand;
so, when thy truth began its race,
it touched and glanced on every land.

⁴Nor shall thy spreading gospel rest
till through the earth thy truth has run;
till Christ has all the nations blest
that see the light or feel the sun.

⁵Great Sun of Righteousness, arise;
bless the dark world with heavenly light;
thy gospel makes the simple wise,
thy laws are pure, thy judgements right.

⁶Thy noblest wonders here we view,
in souls renewed and sins forgiven:
Lord, cleanse my sins, my soul renew,
and make thy word my guide to heaven.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

Tune: CHURCH TRIUMPHANT

AM 549

The President takes the bread and wine and praises God for his gifts

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation;
by your goodness the world was formed and filled with plenty.
As we set before you this bread and wine,
teach us gratitude for your gifts
and make us faithful stewards of your creation.
Blessed be God for ever.

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.

It is indeed right and good,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.
For by your word the heavens were made,
and all their host by the breath of your mouth.
You formed us in your image, the crown of your creation,
and entrusted us with the works of your hands.
In your great goodness you sent your Son,
the firstborn of all creation,
who holds all things together in himself,
and through whom you make all things new.
You have given us the first-fruits of the Spirit,
as creation itself waits with eager longing
to obtain the glorious freedom of the children of God.

And so, with angels and archangels
and with all that you have made,
we join the song of your glory,
forever praising you and saying:

The choir sings

Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus,
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua.
Hosanna in excelsis.

*Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.*

Benedictus qui venit
In nomine Domini.
Hosanna in excelsis.

*Blessèd is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.*

How wonderful the work of your hands, O Lord.
As a mother tenderly gathers her children,
you embraced a people as your own.
When they turned away and rebelled
your love remained steadfast.
From them you raised up Jesus our Saviour,
born of Mary, to be the living bread,
in whom all our hungers are satisfied.
He offered his life for sinners,
and with a love stronger than death
he opened wide his arms on the cross.

On the night before he died,
he came to supper with his friends and,
taking bread, he gave you thanks.
He broke it and gave it to them, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,
he gave you thanks, and said:
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.

The Deacon says

Christ is the bread of life:

**When we eat this bread and drink this cup
we proclaim your death,
Lord Jesus, until you come in glory.**

Father, we plead with confidence
his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross;
we remember his dying and rising in glory,
and we rejoice that he intercedes for us at your right hand.

Pour out your Holy Spirit
as we bring before you these gifts of your creation;
may they be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

As we eat and drink these holy things in your presence,
form us in the likeness of Christ,
and build us into a living temple to your glory.

Remember, Lord, your Church in every land.
Reveal her unity, guard her faith,
and preserve her in peace.

Bring us at the last with The Blessed Virgin Mary,
Thomas of Canterbury and all the saints
to the vision of that eternal splendour
for which you have created us;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
by whom, with whom, and in whom,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty,
in songs of everlasting praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

The President 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...

Πάτερ ἡμῶν

Remain standing for

Breaking of the Bread

The President 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.**

The President says

Draw near with faith.
Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you,
and his blood which he shed for you.
Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

Sit as the President and other ministers begin

The Distribution of Communion

Please come up for Communion as directed by the stewards. All baptised Christians who receive communion in their own church are encouraged to receive today. If you are accompanied by children who do not yet receive, please bring them with you to receive a blessing. They must not be left on their own.

*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 without climbing the steps to the High Altar, please join the line for the station in the North-East Transept.

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

During Communion, the choir sings the Agnus Dei

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem.

*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.*

Prayer after Communion

Stand as the President says

Let us pray.

Silence is kept

God our Creator,
by your gift the tree of life was set
at the heart of the earthly paradise,
and the bread of life at the heart of your Church:
may we who have been nourished at your table on earth
be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's cross
and enjoy the delights of eternity;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

All then say

**Lord of all Creation,
as we have received the bread and wine,
fruits of the earth and tokens of salvation,
so with joy we celebrate your goodness
and commit ourselves to serve you on your earth,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Amen.

The Dismissal



Lord of beauty, thine the splendour
shown in earth and sky and sea,
burning sun and moonlight tender,
hill and river, flower and tree:
lest we fail our praise to render
touch our eyes that they may see.

²Lord of wisdom, whom obeying
mighty waters ebb and flow,
while unhasting, undelaying,
planets on their courses go:
in thy laws thyself displaying,
teach our minds thyself to know.

³Lord of life, alone sustaining
all below and all above,
Lord of love, by whose ordaining
sun and stars sublimely move:
in our earthly spirits reigning,
lift our hearts that we may love.

⁴Lord of beauty, bid us own thee,
Lord of truth, our footsteps guide,
till as Love our hearts enthrone thee,
and, with vision purified,
Lord of all, when all have known thee,
thou in all art glorified.

The President says

May God the Father, whose glory is proclaimed in the heavens, awaken in you a delight and wonder in this good creation. **Amen.**

May God the Son, the Word made flesh, through whom all things were made, fill you with his risen life. **Amen.**

May God the Holy Spirit, who hovered over the waters of creation and formed the world from chaos, form you in the likeness of Christ and renew the face of the earth. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The Deacon says

Tend the earth,
care for God's good creation,
and bring forth the fruits of righteousness.
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ, Amen.

All remain standing as the choir and clergy depart

Organ Voluntary

Tea and coffee will be served in the Clagett Auditorium following this morning's Eucharist. All are very welcome.

Kindly supported by the Friends of Canterbury Cathedral.

**To find out more about the Friends visit:
www.canterbury-cathedral.org/support-us/friends**

Usual Pattern of Services

7.30am	Morning Prayer	Monday-Friday
8.00am	Holy Communion	Daily
9.30am	Morning Prayer	Saturday, Sunday, & Bank Holidays
11.00am	Sung Eucharist	Sunday
12.30pm	Taizé Prayer	Monday (from 7 th September)
12.30pm	Prayers for Peace	Tuesday (from 15 th September)
12.30pm	Holy Communion	Wednesday
5.30pm	Choral Evensong	Daily

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

TO REPORT AN EMERGENCY SAFEGUARDING CONCERN PLEASE

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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