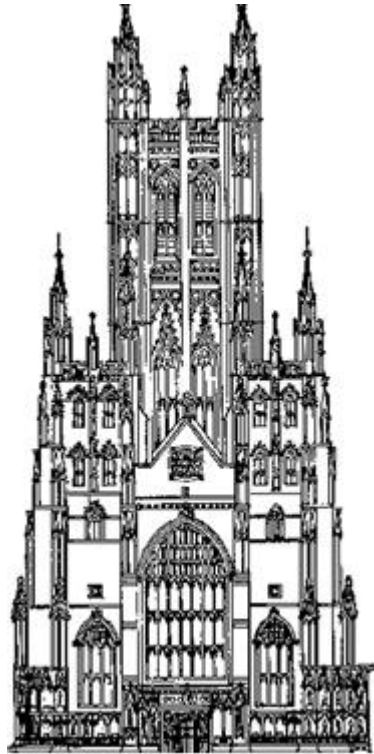




THE CATHEDRAL AND METROPOLITICAL CHURCH OF CHRIST, CANTERBURY

Choral Evensong

with Admission of Choir Members



6th September 2025

5.30pm

Quire

Welcome to Canterbury Cathedral for this Service

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.



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 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 32

Blessed is he whose unrighteousness is forgiven :
and whose sin is covered.

Blessed is the man unto whom the Lord imputeth no sin :
and in whose spirit there is no guile.

For while I held my tongue :
my bones consumed away through my daily complaining.

For thy hand is heavy upon me day and night :
and my moisture is like the drought in summer.

I will acknowledge my sin unto thee :
and mine unrighteousness have I not hid.

I said, I will confess my sins unto the Lord :
and so thou forgavest the wickedness of my sin.

For this shall every one that is godly make his prayer unto thee,
in a time when thou mayest be found :
but in the great water-floods they shall not come nigh him.

Thou art a place to hide me in, thou shalt preserve me from trouble :
thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance.

I will inform thee, and teach thee in the way wherein thou shalt go :
and I will guide thee with mine eye.

Be ye not like to horse and mule, which have no understanding :
whose mouths must be held with bit and bridle, lest they fall upon thee.

Great plagues remain for the ungodly :
but whoso putteth his trust in the Lord, mercy embraceth him on every side.

Be glad, O ye righteous, and rejoice in the Lord :
and be joyful, all ye that are true of heart.

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

2 Samuel 9

David asked, 'Is there still anyone left of the house of Saul to whom I may show kindness for Jonathan's sake?' Now there was a servant of the house of Saul whose name was Ziba, and he was summoned to David. The king said to him, 'Are you Ziba?' And he said, 'At your service!' The king said, 'Is there anyone remaining of the house of Saul to whom I may show the kindness of God?' Ziba said to the king, 'There remains a son of Jonathan; he is crippled in his feet.' The king said to him, 'Where is he?' Ziba said to the king, 'He is in the house of Machir son of Ammiel, at Lo-debar.' Then King David sent and brought him from the house of Machir son of Ammiel, at Lo-debar. Mephibosheth son of Jonathan son of Saul came to David, and fell on his face and did obeisance. David said, 'Mephibosheth!' He answered, 'I am your servant.' David said to him, 'Do not be afraid, for I will show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan; I will restore to you all the land of your grandfather Saul, and you yourself shall eat at my table always.' He did obeisance and said, 'What is your servant, that you should look upon a dead dog such as I am?'

Then the king summoned Saul's servant Ziba, and said to him, 'All that belonged to Saul and to all his house I have given to your master's grandson. You and your sons and your servants shall till the land for him, and shall bring in the produce, so that your master's grandson may have food to eat; but your master's grandson Mephibosheth shall always eat at my table.' Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants. Then Ziba said to the king, 'According to all that my lord the king commands his servant, so your servant will do.' Mephibosheth ate at David's table, like one of the king's sons. Mephibosheth had a young son whose name was Mica. And all who lived in Ziba's house became Mephibosheth's servants. Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem, for he always ate at the king's table. Now he was lame in both his feet.

Admission of Choir Members

The Canon in Residence, the Director of Music, and those to be admitted leave their stalls as the members of the Foundation stand

The Director of Music says

Mr Canon in Residence, I present to you

Alistair, Sebastian, Thomas, Alexander, and Guy

to be admitted as Choristers of this Cathedral and Metropolitan Church, and

Toby, James, Bohdan, James, and George

to be made Senior Choristers of this Cathedral and Metropolitan Church

The Canon in Residence says to the new Choristers

I admit you as Choristers of this Cathedral and Metropolitan Church.

The new Choristers then kneel at the west end of the stalls and the Canon in Residence says the following prayer

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

The Director of Music calls the names of the Senior Choristers and hands the badge of office to the Canon in Residence, who places it over the candidate's head, saying

I admit you as a Senior Chorister of this Cathedral and Metropolitan Church.

He says to them all

May God bless you in all your work and worship done in his name, now and for evermore. Amen.

The Senior Choristers return to their places, and the Choral Scholars step forward

The Director of Music says

Mr Canon in Residence, I present to you,

Lydia South, James McNinch, and Stephen Beale

to be installed as Choral Scholars of this Cathedral and Metropolitan Church.

The Canon in Residence says

We who share in the daily offering of worship in this Cathedral Church welcome you. The daily work of prayer and praise is the work of God. Will you each gladly undertake your part in this as a member of the Cathedral Foundation?

The Choral Scholars say

We will.

The Choral Scholars take their seats in the stalls and the Canon in Residence says

Lydia, James, and Stephen, I admit you as Choral Scholars of this Cathedral and Metropolitan Church.

The Choral Scholars kneel in their places and the Canon in Residence says

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

The Organ Scholar steps forward and the Director of Music says

Mr Canon in Residence, I present to you,

Stephanie Gaunt

to be installed as Organ Scholar of this Cathedral and Metropolitan Church.

The Canon in Residence says

We who share in the daily offering of worship in this Cathedral Church welcome you. The daily work of prayer and praise is the work of God. Will you gladly undertake your part in this as a member of the Cathedral Foundation?

The Organ Scholar says

I will.

The Organ Scholar takes her seat in the stalls and the Canon in Residence says

Stephanie, I admit you as Organ Scholar of this Cathedral and Metropolitan Church.

The Organ Scholar kneels in her place and the Canon in Residence says

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

The Organ Scholar returns to the organ loft and the Lay Clerks to be welcomed step forward

The Director of Music says

Mr Canon in Residence, I present to you,

Ellen Griffiths

to be welcomed as a Lay Clerk of this Cathedral and Metropolitan Church

The Canon in Residence then says

Ellen, I welcome you as a Lay Clerk of this Cathedral and Metropolitan Church.

The Lay Clerks return to their stalls

The Canon in Residence invites everyone to 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.

The Director of Music bows to the Canon in Residence

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 Sumsion (1899-1995), in G

Sit

New Testament Reading

Acts 8.4-25

Now those who were scattered went from place to place, proclaiming the word. Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah to them. The crowds with one accord listened eagerly to what was said by Philip, hearing and seeing the signs that he did, for unclean spirits, crying with loud shrieks, came out of many who were possessed; and many others who were paralysed or lame were cured. So there was great joy in that city. Now a certain man named Simon had previously practised magic in the city and amazed the people of Samaria, saying that he was someone great. All of them, from the least to the greatest, listened to him eagerly, saying, 'This man is the power of God that is called Great.' And they listened eagerly to him because for a long time he had amazed them with his magic. But when they

believed Philip, who was proclaiming the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. Even Simon himself believed. After being baptized, he stayed constantly with Philip and was amazed when he saw the signs and great miracles that took place. Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, saying, 'Give me also this power so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit.' But Peter said to him, 'May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain God's gift with money! You have no part or share in this, for your heart is not right before God. Repent therefore of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you. For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and the chains of wickedness.' Simon answered, 'Pray for me to the Lord, that nothing of what you have said may happen to me.' Now after Peter and John had testified and spoken the word of the Lord, they returned to Jerusalem, proclaiming the good news to many villages of the Samaritans.

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 Sumsion (1899-1995), in G

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 catholic 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: Richard Ayleward (1626-69)

The Collects

Almighty and everlasting God, who art always more ready to hear than we to pray, and art wont to give more than either we desire or deserve: Pour down upon us the abundance of thy mercy; forgiving us those things whereof our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask, but through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ, thy Son, 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

O for a closer walk with God,
A calm and heavenly frame;
A light to shine upon the road
That leads me to the Lamb!

Return, O holy dove, return,
Sweet messenger of rest;
I hate the sins that made thee mourn,
And drove thee from my breast.

So shall my walk be close with God,
Calm and serene my frame;
So purer light shall mark the road
That leads me to the Lamb.

Words: William Cowper (1731-1800)

Music: Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)

Sit or Kneel

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

Hymn *during which a collection is received*



All my hope on God is founded;
he doth still my trust renew,
me through change and chance
he guideth,
only good and only true.
God unknown,
he alone
calls my heart to be his own.

³God's great goodness aye endureth,
deep his wisdom, passing thought:
splendour, light, and life attend him,
beauty springeth out of naught.
Evermore
from his store
new-born worlds rise and adore.

²Human pride and earthly glory,
sword and crown betray his trust;
what with care and toil he buildeth,
tower and temple, fall to dust.
But God's power,
hour by hour,
is my temple and my tower.

⁴Daily doth th' Almighty giver
bounteous gifts on us bestow;
his desire our soul delighteth,
pleasure leads us where we go.
Love doth stand
at his hand;
joy doth wait on his command.

⁵Still from earth to God eternal
sacrifice of praise be done,
high above all praises praising
for the gift of Christ, his Son.
Christ doth call
one and all:
ye who follow shall not fall.

Words: Robert Bridges (1844-1930)

Tune: MICHAEL

AM 584

Remain standing for

The Blessing

All remain standing as the choir and clergy depart

Organ Voluntary