



THE CATHEDRAL AND METROPOLITICAL CHURCH OF CHRIST, CANTERBURY

Service of Welcome

for

The Archbishop of Canterbury
The Most Reverend and Right Honourable
Dame Sarah Mullally DBE



Saturday 28th March 2026

5.30pm

Nave

Welcome to Canterbury Cathedral for this Service

Welcome to this service, as the parishes, clergy, people and institutions of the Diocese of Canterbury welcome our new Archbishop. People are gathered in the Cathedral this afternoon from across the Diocese. As we prepare to journey with Jesus through Holy Week to Easter we rejoice in the fellowship and community that we share as a Diocese and celebrate this afternoon.

The theme of this service is 'Welcome' and in it we will hear about how welcome has been shown in different ways across the Diocese and the County of Kent.

We also welcome in our midst today a number of young people who have been taking part in a Growing Young Leaders event and we pray that God would raise up ministers, lay and ordained, to serve his church now and in the years to come.

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: The Welcoming Christ, by Klaus Ringwald, Christ Church Gate, Canterbury Cathedral, given by the Friends of Canterbury Cathedral, 1990.

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.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Welcome

The Dean welcomes everyone to the service

The Procession enters from the Great West Doors

Order of Procession

Cross and Lights

Choir

Director of Music

Virger

Diocesan Secretary and Chair of the Diocesan Board of Finance

Archdeacons

Torchbearers

The Bishop of Dover

Virger

Chapter

Torchbearers

The Dean

Virger

Torchbearers

The Archbishop

The Chaplain

My sisters and brothers, we are here this afternoon with our Archbishop in our midst. We are assembled from across the Diocese of Canterbury, from churches, schools and chaplaincies. From the coast and the countryside, from city, town and village. Back in the year 597 the people of Kent, led by King Ethelbert and Queen Bertha, welcomed the first Archbishop of Canterbury and today we welcome the one hundred and sixth.

Archbishop Sarah, we are very glad that you are here and we look forward to serving with you in the years to come.

We are the body of Christ and children of the same heavenly Father. We welcome you.

We welcome you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God,
you have called your servant Sarah to serve with us as our Archbishop;
you have called us to find friendship with one another in your Church;
and you have called us to welcome the stranger in our midst.

As we step forward into this new chapter in the life of our Diocese,
Guide us by your Holy Spirit that we may live out your ministry of
welcome across this Diocese in all that we say, and think, and do.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Archbishop says

Thank you for your welcome. I pray that, as our lives are changed by our encounter with Christ so we might shine as lights in the world and bring that light to others, that their lives might also be changed.

Sit

Two Stories of Welcome

First Story Reem Khider (Trustee of the Social Justice Network)

Second Story Mel Gilson (Member of Ignite, Canterbury)

Anthem *Hythe Youth Choir*

Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy righteousness,
make thy way plain before my face.
For it is thou, Lord, thou, Lord only,
that makest me dwell in safety.

Words: Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810-76)

Music: David Blackwell (b. 1961)

Interview with Archbishop Sarah

Gregory and Megan (Growing Young Leaders participants)

Worship Songs Led by Holy Trinity Margate, Worship Group

10,000 Reasons

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul,
worship his holy name.*

*Sing like never before, O my soul,
I'll worship your holy name*

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning,
it's time to sing your song again.
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me
let me be singing when the evening comes

Chorus

You're rich in love and you're slow to anger.
your name is great and your heart is kind.
For all your goodness, I will keep on singing,
ten thousand reasons for my heart to find

Chorus

Bless you, Lord,
and on that day when my strength is failing,
the end draws near and my time has come,
still, my soul will sing your praise unending.
ten thousand years and then forevermore

Chorus

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul,
worship his holy name.*

*Sing like never before, O my soul,
I'll worship Your holy name,
yes, I will worship your holy name,
Lord, I'll worship your holy name.*

How great is our God

Name above all names,
worthy of our praise,
my heart will sing,
how great is our God.

The splendour of a king, clothed in majesty,
let all the earth rejoice,
all the earth rejoice.

He wraps himself in light,
and darkness tries to hide,
and trembles at his voice,
trembles at his voice

How great is our God, sing with me,
how great is our God, and all will see,
how great, how great is our God.

Age to age he stands,
and time is in his hands,
beginning and the end,
beginning and the end.

The Godhead, Three in One,
Father, Spirit, Son,
the Lion and the Lamb,
the Lion and the Lamb.

How great is our God, sing with me,
how great is our God, and all will see,
how great, how great is our God.

Name above all names,
worthy of our praise,
my heart will sing,
how great is our God.

Name above all names,
worthy of our praise,
my heart will sing,
how great is our God.

How great is our God, sing with me,
how great is our God, and all will see,
how great, how great is our God.

Reading *John 4.5-15*

Read by David Whitehead, CEO, Our Community Multi-Academy Trust

Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink'. (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?' (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?' Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.'

For welcome and refugees read by Judith Andrews
Member of Diocesan Synod, Anna Chaplain, Lay Chair of Thanet
Deanery, Reader in the Parish of St Laurence in Thanet

Lord of compassion, you care for us as a mother hen broods over her young. Look upon those whose home is dangerous and must flee for their safety. Give us open hearts and minds to respond to their needs.

Lord, bless your church; **and your world through us.**

For children and young people read by Jonah
Pupil and Collective Worship Leader, Whitstable and Seasalter Endowed
Church of England (Aided) Junior School

Loving God, we thank you for our schools – our teachers, leaders, pupils, families, vicars, chaplains and governors, we ask that you would be with schools in these challenging times. Help them to serve their communities, showing your love, so that we might live well together.

Lord, bless your church; **and your world through us.**

For vocations and calling read by Lillie Swain
Diocesan Children's and Youth Ministry Intern

Lord, whose voice has been heard in countless ways through the ages, open our ears to the calling that you place upon each of our lives and give us the courage that we need to respond.

Lord, bless your church; **and your world through us.**

For Mission and Evangelism read by Roxane Lee-Affonso
Reception and Hospitality Assistant, Diocesan House and Reader in the
Parish of St Martin and St Paul, Canterbury

Lord of Pentecost, inspire your church to proclaim your Gospel afresh in each generation; inflame our hearts that, in each of the parishes and ministry contexts in our diocese, your name may be praised, lives changed and your glory known.

Lord, bless your church; **and your world through us.**

For those in need read by Julie Lemon
Parish Safeguarding Officer, Kingsdown and Creekside

Lord of sovereign justice, help us to grow in care, accountability and transparency as we work for the rights of all who are vulnerable or in any kind of need. We ask for healing, compassion and justice in your name.

Lord, bless your church; **and your world through us.**

Collect

read by the Reverend Seb Lundberg
Curate, Bewsborough Benefice

Eternal God, whose beloved son entered Jerusalem with great honour,
only to suffer humiliation and death
at the hands of others yet triumphed gloriously over the grave;
grant that we who follow those footsteps this week
in heart and mind, may we be emboldened to tread the path
that leads to everlasting life; 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.**

Lord's Prayer

The Bishop of Dover says

Joining our prayers and praises in one as the family of God in this place,
we are bold to say, each in the language closest to our hearts:

**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.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

*Notre Père...
Vater Unser...
Onze Vader...
Padre Nuestro...
Ojczy Nasz...
Baba Yetu...
E to matou Matua...
Ein Tad...
Πάτερ ἡμῶν*

The Bishop of Dover concludes the service

Jesus, Lord of time,
hold us in your eternity.
Jesus, Image of God,
travel with us the life of faith.
Jesus, Friend of sinners,
heal the brokenness of our world.
Jesus, Lord of tomorrow,
draw us into your future. Amen.

Stand to sing



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.

²Hope 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.

³Hope 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.

⁴Hope 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.

⁵Hope 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 (b. 1975)

Tune: WOODLANDS

AM 493, Tune 394

Descant and reharmonization: David Maurand

Blessing

The Archbishop

The love of the Lord Jesus
Draw you to himself,
The power of the Lord Jesus
Strengthen you in his service,
The joy of the Lord Jesus fill your hearts
And the blessing of God almighty,
The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
Be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Organ Voluntary

Please remain standing as the choir and clergy depart

As you leave, stewards will be holding baskets for a collection, taken to support the work of the Cathedral, which costs £30,000 per day to maintain. If you would prefer, use the QR code.



Safeguarding Notice

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 If at any point during today's service you feel distressed or would like to speak to someone, **pastoral supporters and chaplains are available**. You may wish to talk with someone because of past or current experiences, or simply because something in the service has been difficult. **You will be listened to with compassion, and at your own pace**. Please speak to one of the Virgers, who are available throughout the service who will be able to help you make contact with a team member from the Living Well; and/or a chaplain; and/or the Diocesan Safeguarding Team. To report an emergency safeguarding concern please contact the Cathedral Constables' office beside the Christ Church Gate. Alternatively, please call 01227 866237.



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