



THE CATHEDRAL AND METROPOLITICAL CHURCH OF CHRIST, CANTERBURY

Choral Evensong



HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY 27/1

27th January 2026

5.30pm

Quire

On 27 January 1945, Auschwitz was liberated and the full horrors of the Holocaust were exposed to the world. Each year this day is kept as Holocaust Memorial Day, when we remember the six million Jews and all those who lost their lives in the Nazi persecution, and the victims of other genocides and religious persecutions throughout the world. It is a day to commit ourselves to learning the lessons of the past, and to work for an end to hatred and a better future for all.

The theme for Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) 2026, '**Bridging Generations**', is a call-to-action. A reminder that the responsibility of remembrance doesn't end with the survivors - it lives on through their children, their grandchildren and through all of us. This theme encourages us all to engage actively with the past - to listen, to learn and to carry those lessons forward. By doing so, we build a bridge between memory and action, between history and hope for the future.

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.

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

All stand as the choir and clergy enter the Quire

Introit

Thou knowest, Lord, the secrets of our hearts; shut not thy merciful ears unto our prayers; but spare us, Lord most holy, O God most mighty. O holy and most merciful Saviour, thou most worthy Judge eternal. Suffer us not at our last hour, for any pains of death to fall away from thee.

Words: Burial Service, Book of Common Prayer

Music: Henry Purcell (1659-95)

Welcome The Dean

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: Cecilia McDowall (b. 1951)

Sit as the choir sings

Psalms 126 and 127

126

When the Lord turned again the captivity of Sion :
then were we like unto them that dream.

Then was our mouth filled with laughter :
and our tongue with joy.

Then said they among the heathen :
The Lord hath done great things for them.

Yea, the Lord hath done great things for us already :
whereof we rejoice.

Turn our captivity, O Lord :
as the rivers in the south.

They that sow in tears :
shall reap in joy.

He that now goeth on his way weeping, and beareth forth good seed :
shall doubtless come again with joy, and bring his sheaves with him.

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.

Except the Lord build the house :
their labour is but lost that build it.

Except the Lord keep the city :
the watchman waketh but in vain.

It is but lost labour that ye haste to rise up early,
and so late take rest, and eat the bread of carefulness :
for so he giveth his beloved sleep.

Lo, children and the fruit of the womb :
are an heritage and gift that cometh of the Lord.

Like as the arrows in the hand of the giant :
even so are the young children.

Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them :
they shall not be ashamed when they speak with their enemies in the gate.

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

First Reading *Isaiah 61.1-4, 8-9, 11*

Read by Rabbi Cliff Cohen, Rabbi of Thanet & District Reform Synagogue

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion— to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

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: William Byrd (c.1540-1623), Short Service

Sit

Second Reading

Galatians 5.13-23

You were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another. Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things.

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: William Byrd (c.1540-1623), Short Service

Remain standing

Act of Commemoration

The Dean says

As we stand in commemoration, we remember before God all those who
lost their lives in the violence of the Holocaust, and all other victims of
genocide and racial and religious persecution throughout the world.

A time of silence is kept. As the Anthem begins, we sit.

The choir sings the Anthem, during which candles of remembrance are lit

Anthem

Out of the deep have I called unto thee, O Lord : Lord, hear my voice.
O let thine ears consider well : the voice of my complaint. If thou, Lord, wilt be
extreme to mark what is done amiss : O Lord, who may abide it? For there is
mercy with thee : therefore shalt thou be feared. I look for the Lord; my soul
doth wait for him : in his word is my trust. My soul fleeth unto the Lord :
before the morning watch, I say, before the morning watch. O Israel, trust in
the Lord, for with the Lord there is mercy : and with him is plenteous
redemption. And he shall redeem Israel : from all his sins. Amen

Words: Psalm 130

Music: Thomas Morley (1557-1602)

Stand

Kaddish *said in Aramaic*

*The Kaddish is a prayer in praise of God. Following Job's response to the
death of his children (Job 1:21) – "God gives, and God has taken away;
let God's name be praised" – it has become traditional in Judaism to say
Kaddish at a time of mourning, or when remembering those who have
died.*

Please sit or kneel for

Prayers *led by the Precentor*

Including a prayer for Holocaust Memorial Day from the Council for Christians and Jews

Eternal God, we come before you, conscious of the fragility of freedom, to remember the victims of the Holocaust.

We lament the loss of the six million Jews who were killed in the Holocaust, the millions of other victims of Nazi persecution, and victims of all genocides.

Remembering the past, help us today to use what freedom we have to stand up for those whose freedom is denied.

We pray for a day when all shall be free to live in peace, unity and love. Amen.

Ending with

**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.**

Stand

The Peace *led by a representative of the Canterbury Masjid*

As brothers and sisters in one human family,
aware of the sufferings of the past and present
and hopeful for a better future,
let us stand together to be people of peace in a world of so much need.
שלום עליכם , السلام عليكم , Peace be with you.

And also with you.

Let us greet one another with words of peace.

We offer words of peace in our preferred language

We remain standing to sing

Hymn



Extol the God of justice
with heart and soul and voice;
remember all his wonders,
recount them and rejoice.
He stands with all who labour
for what is true and right,
till wickedness and falsehood
are banished from his sight.

²Extol the God of justice
enthroned for evermore.
a stronghold in affliction,
a refuge for the poor:
he hears the cry of victims
and senses their despair;
in faithfulness he honours
the faith that sparks our prayer.

³Extol the God of justice,
however dark the day:
the hope that calls for mercy
will not be turned away;
for evil shall not triumph,
nor human sin prevail:
the Lord is God eternal,
whose judgements cannot fail.

Words: Martin Leckebusch (b 1962)

Tune: KING'S LYNN

AM 558

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;
the Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you
and give you peace. **Amen.**

Remain standing as the choir and clergy depart

Organ Voluntary

*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.*

