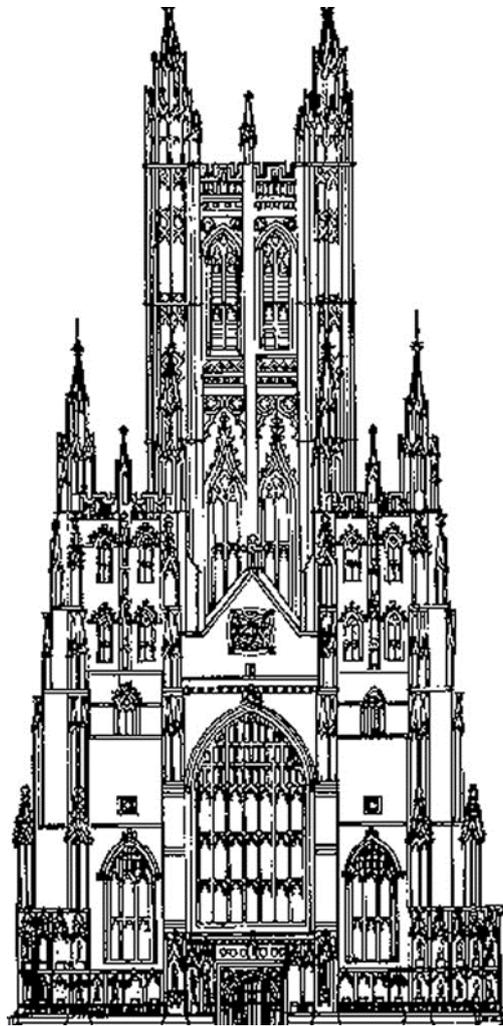




THE CATHEDRAL AND METROPOLITICAL CHURCH OF CHRIST, CANTERBURY

Choral Evensong

with the Admission of a Virger



1st March 2026

5.30pm

Quire

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: Sarah MacDonald (b. 1968)

Sit as the choir sings

Psalm 135.1-14

O praise the Lord, laud ye the Name of the Lord :
praise it, O ye servants of the Lord;

Ye that stand in the house of the Lord :
in the courts of the house of our God.

O praise the Lord, for the Lord is gracious :
O sing praises unto his Name, for it is lovely.

For why? the Lord hath chosen Jacob unto himself :
and Israel for his own possession.

For I know that the Lord is great :
and that our Lord is above all gods.

Whatsoever the Lord pleased, that did he in heaven and in earth :
and in the sea, and in all deep places.

He bringeth forth the clouds from the ends of the world :
and sendeth forth lightnings with the rain,
bringing the winds out of his treasures.

He smote the first-born of Egypt :
both of man and beast.

He hath sent tokens and wonders into the midst of thee, O thou land of Egypt :
upon Pharaoh, and all his servants.

He smote divers nations :
and slew mighty kings;

Sehon king of the Amorites, and Og the king of Basan :
and all the kingdoms of Canaan;

And gave their land to be an heritage :
even an heritage unto Israel his people.

Thy Name, O Lord, endureth for ever :
so doth thy memorial, O Lord, from one generation to another.

For the Lord will avenge his people :
and be gracious unto his servants.

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 *Numbers 21.4-9*

From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, 'Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.' Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, 'We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us.' So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, 'Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.' So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

The congregation remains seated

The Dean leaves his stall as the members of the Foundation stand

The Precentor Mr Dean and members of the Cathedral Foundation and congregation, I present to you

Susan Roberts

to be admitted as Virger of
this Cathedral and Metropolitan Church.

The Dean I admit you as Virger of this Cathedral and Metropolitan Church.

We welcome you as Virger and pray that we may assist
your growth in Christ as you enrich our fellowship
together.

The congregation responds

We welcome you.

The Head Virger hands the Dean a virge which the Dean gives to the new Virger, saying:

Receive this virge, a symbol of your authority. May the Lord watch over you now and always. Amen.

The Dean continues:

God our Father, Lord of all the world, we thank you that through your Son you have called us into the fellowship of your universal Church. Hear our prayer for your faithful people that each in their vocation and ministry may be an instrument of your love: and give to your servant Susan, now admitted as Virger of this Cathedral and Metropolitan Church, the needful gifts of grace, through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

We 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.

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 Howells (1892-1983) St John's College service

Sit

New Testament Reading

Luke 14.27-33

Jesus said,

'Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, "This fellow began to build and was not able to finish." Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.'

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 Howells (1892-1983) St John's College 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 catholic 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: Sarah MacDonald (b. 1968)

The Collects

Almighty God, who seest that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Almighty and everlasting God, who hatest nothing that thou hast made, and dost forgive the sins of all them that are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we worthily lamenting our sins, and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; 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

Jehova, quam multi sunt hostes mei, quam multi insurgunt contra me. Quam multi dicunt de anima mea, non est ulla salus isti in Deo plane. At tu, Jehova, clypeus est circa me: Gloria mea, et extollens caput meum.

Voce mea ad Jehovam clamanti, respondit mihi e monte sanctitatis suae maxime. Ego cubui et dormivi, ego expergefeci me, quia Jehova sustentat me.

Non timebo a myriadibus populi, quas circumdisposuerint metatores contra me.

Surge, surge Jehova, fac salvum me, Deus mi; qui percussisti omnes inimicos meos maxilliam, dentes improborum confregisti.

Jehova est salus super populum tuum, sit benedictio tua maxime.

Lord, how are they increased that trouble me! Many are they that rise up against me. Many there be which say of my soul, there is no help for him in God. But thou, O Lord, art a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head.

I cried unto the Lord with my voice, and he heard me out of his holy hill. I laid me down and slept; I awaked; for the Lord sustained me.

I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people, that have set themselves against me round about.

Arise, O Lord; save me, O my God: for thou hast smitten all mine enemies upon the cheek bone; thou hast broken the teeth of the ungodly.

Salvation belongeth unto the Lord: thy blessing is upon thy people.

Words: Paraphrase of Psalm 3

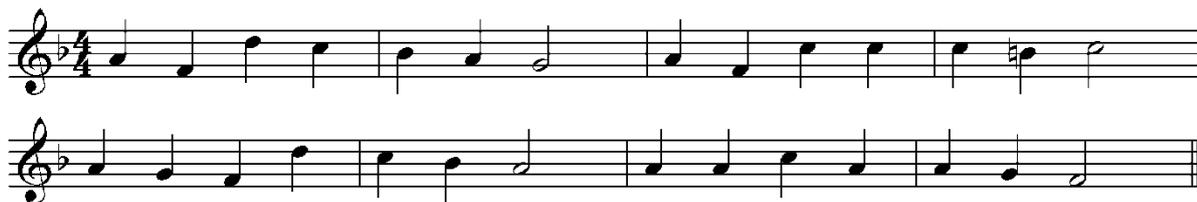
Music: Henry Purcell (1659-95)

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, during which a collection will be taken.
If you would prefer to give electronically, please use
the QR code.*



Oft in danger, oft in woe,
onward, Christians, onward go;
bear the toil, maintain the strife,
strengthened with the bread of life.

²Onward, Christians, onward go,
join the war, and face the foe;
will ye flee in danger's hour?
Know ye not your Captain's power?

³Let not sorrow dim your eye;
soon shall every tear be dry:
let not fears your course impede;
great your strength, if great your need.

⁴Let your drooping hearts be glad;
march in heavenly armour clad;
fight, nor think the battle long:
soon shall victory wake your song.

⁵Onward then in battle move;
more than conquerors ye shall prove:
though opposed by many a foe,
Christian soldiers, onward go.

Words: Henry Kirke White (1785-1806)

Tune: UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

AM 755

Blessing

All remain standing as the choir and clergy depart

Organ Voluntary