



THE CATHEDRAL AND METROPOLITICAL CHURCH OF CHRIST, CANTERBURY

# Choral Evensong



## Lord Mayor's Civic Service

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2025

5.30pm

Quire

# Welcome to Canterbury Cathedral for this Service

Cover Image: The Coat of Arms of the City of Canterbury

## 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.



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 Procession**

Cross and Lights  
Choir  
Director of Music

Virger  
Visiting Mayors  
The Leader of the Council  
Joint Chief Executives, Canterbury City Council  
The Sheriff of Canterbury and Sheriff's Consort

Virger  
Chaplain to the Lord Mayor  
The Chapter of Canterbury  
The Mace Bearer  
The Lord Mayor of Canterbury and the Lady Mayoress

Virger  
The Dean and the Deputy Lord Lieutenant

All stand to sing, as the choir, civic dignitaries, and clergy process



Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,  
there is no shadow of turning with thee;  
thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not,  
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided –  
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

<sup>2</sup>Summer and winter, and spring-time and harvest,  
sun, moon and stars in their courses above  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

<sup>3</sup>Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Words: Thomas O Chisholm (1866-1960)

Tune: FAITHFULNESS

AM 650

## Welcome

The Dean of Canterbury  
*The Very Reverend David Monteith*

## Opening Words

The Lord Mayor of Canterbury  
*The Right Worshipful Councillor Jean Butcher*

*Sit*

## Bidding Prayer

The Lord Mayor's Chaplain  
*The Reverend Sally Pickersgill,  
Curate of St Stephen's Church, Canterbury*

Loving God, you who create and give life to all people;  
we pray for this City of Canterbury and for all who live here, for the work of  
the Lord Mayor and Councillors, and for all who bear responsibility in the  
ordering of our common life; for a vision of a hospitable community which  
inspires our labours and which encourages creativity and enterprise and for the  
use of our gifts in the service of all God's people.

We pray for our schools, colleges and universities, for the fostering of open and enquiring minds. We give thanks for discoveries in science and engineering and for the ways in which our lives are enriched through art and music.

We pray for the nations of the world; for their peace, stability, and concord; for Charles our King; for the Armed Forces of the Crown and for all who work for the maintenance of civil order and the upholding of the law in our nation; and for wisdom and discernment in their different vocations.

We pray for all who are in need and those who care for them; for refugees and those without shelter or work; for the sick, the lonely and the despairing, for those nearing the end of their earthly lives and for the work of the Pilgrims' Hospice.

We pray all places of worship in the city, and for those who minister to the spiritual needs of our people; for growth in mutual understanding between diverse traditions and cultures; and for the unity of all people.

We remember too all former members of the City Council, those who have departed this life, giving thanks for those who have given an example of public service and duty for us to follow.

As this evening we honour the work of the Lord Mayor we pray too for ourselves and one another drawing our prayers together in saying the words that Jesus taught 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.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

*Remain seated as the choir sings*

## **Psalm 67**

God be merciful unto us, and bless us :  
and shew us the light of his countenance, and be merciful unto us:

That thy way may be known upon earth :  
thy saving health among all nations.

Let the people praise thee, O God :  
yea, let all the people praise thee.

O let the nations rejoice and be glad :  
for thou shalt judge the folk righteously, and govern the nations upon earth.

Let the people praise thee, O God :  
let all the people praise thee.

Then shall the earth bring forth her increase :  
and God, even our own God, shall give us his blessing.

God shall bless us :  
and all the ends of the world shall fear him.

*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**

Read by Paul Barrett Deputy Lord Lieutenant

People are often unreasonable, illogical and self-centred;  
Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives;  
Be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some false friends and some true  
enemies;

Succeed anyway.

If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you;  
Be honest and frank anyway.

What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight;  
Build anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous;  
Be happy anyway.

The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow;  
Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough;  
Give the world the best you've got anyway.

You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and your God;  
It was never between you and them anyway.

*Attributed to Kent M. Keith, adapted by Mother Teresa of Calcutta*

*Stand as the choir sings*

## **Magnificat**

*During the singing of the Magnificat, a rose will be presented by the Lord Mayor to the Dean and then taken and laid upon the tomb of Archbishop Simon of Sudbury. Archbishop Simon of Sudbury was responsible in c. 1380 for the rebuilding of the City Wall, the West Gate and the Church of the Holy Cross,*

*which is now the City Council Chamber. The rose is a gesture of gratitude for this legacy and a mark of the ongoing relationship between Cathedral and City.*

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: Christopher Robinson (b. 1936), Worcester Service*

*Sit*

## **Second Reading** *Romans 12.9–13*

Read by Louise Topping,  
Fundraising, Communication & Events Manager, Strode Park Foundation

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.' No, 'if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.' Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

*Remain seated for the anthem*

## The Anthem

O virtus Sapientiae,  
quae circuiens circuisti  
comprehendendo omnia  
in una via, quae habet vitam,  
tres alas habens,  
quarum una in altum volat,  
et altera de terra sudat,  
et tertia undique volat.  
Laus tibi sit, sicut te decet,  
O Sapientia.

*O strength of wisdom,  
who, circling, has circled  
comprehending all  
in one path; which has life,  
having three wings,  
of which one flies in the heights,  
and another perspires from the earth,  
and the third flies everywhere.  
Praise be to you, as it ought to be,  
O Wisdom.*

*Words and Music: Hildegard von Bingen (1098-1179)*

## Homily

The Dean of Canterbury  
*The Very Reverend David Monteith*

## The Collects

Canon in Residence

O Lord, we beseech thee to keep thy Church and household continually in thy true religion; that they who do lean only upon the hope of thy heavenly grace may evermore be defended by thy mighty power; 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.**

*The congregation remains seated as the Dean invites civic leaders to stand.*

## Act of Dedication

In your relations with others, exercise imagination, understanding and sympathy; listen patiently, and seek whatever truth other people's opinions may contain for you; think it possible that you may be mistaken. In discussion, avoid hurtful and provocative language; do not allow the strength of your convictions to betray you into making statements or allegations that are unfair or untrue.

Remember your responsibility as civic leaders and do not shirk the effort and time this may demand. Do not be content to accept things as they are; but keep an alert and questioning mind. Seek to discover the causes of social unrest, injustice and fear and work for an order of society which will allow women and men, young and old to flourish and foster their desire to serve.



*Civic Leaders respond*

**We dedicate ourselves,  
as people of many faiths and none,  
to work together for the common good,  
uniting to build a better society,  
grounded in values and ideals we share:  
We commit ourselves,  
in a spirit of friendship and co-operation,  
to work together  
alongside all who share our values and ideals,  
to help bring about a better world  
now and for generations to come.**

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



Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine:  
O what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God;  
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood

*This is my story, this is my song  
praising my Saviour all the day long*

<sup>2</sup>Perfect submission, perfect delight,  
visions of rapture burst on my sight;  
angels descending bring from above  
echoes of mercy, whispers of love:

<sup>3</sup>Perfect submission, all is at rest,  
I in my Saviour am happy and blessed –  
watching and waiting, looking above,  
filled with his goodness, lost in his love:

*Remain standing*

## **Blessing**

Go forth into the world in peace;  
be of good courage; hold fast that which is good;  
render to no-one evil for evil;  
strengthen the faint-hearted;  
support the weak; help the afflicted;  
honour all people;  
love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;  
and the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be amongst you and remain with you always.

**Amen**



God save our gracious King,  
long live our noble King,  
God save the King.  
Send him victorious,  
happy and glorious,  
long to reign over us,  
God save the King.

<sup>2</sup>Thy choicest gifts in store  
on him be pleased to pour,  
long may he reign.  
May he defend our laws,  
and ever give us cause  
to sing with heart and voice,  
God save the King.

*Remain standing as the choir and clergy depart*

## **Organ Voluntary**

# Order of Procession

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Virger

The Dean and the Deputy Lord Lieutenant

Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress

Virger

Visiting Mayors

The Leader of the Council

Joint Chief Executives, Canterbury City Council

The Sheriff of Canterbury and Sheriff's Consort

Virger

Chaplain to the Lord Mayor

The Chapter of Canterbury



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Produced by the Music & Liturgy Department:  
precentor@canterbury-cathedral.org  
01227 865281

[www.canterbury-cathedral.org](http://www.canterbury-cathedral.org)