



THE CATHEDRAL AND METROPOLITICAL CHURCH OF CHRIST, CANTERBURY

Choral Evensong

with Admission of Choir Members



First Evensong of the Feast of Creation in Christ

5th September 2026

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.



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.

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ORDER OF SERVICE

All stand as the choir and clergy enter the Quire

A welcome is offered

*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: Richard Ayleward (1626-69)

Sit as the choir sings

Psalms

28

Unto thee will I cry, O Lord my strength :
think no scorn of me; lest, if thou make as though thou hearest not,
I become like them that go down into the pit.

Hear the voice of my humble petitions, when I cry unto thee :
when I hold up my hands towards the mercy-seat of thy holy temple.

O pluck me not away, neither destroy me, with the ungodly and wicked doers :
which speak friendly to their neighbours, but imagine mischief in their hearts.

Reward them according to their deeds :
and according to the wickedness of their own inventions.

Recompense them after the work of their hands :
pay them that they have deserved.

For they regard not in their mind the works of the Lord,
nor the operation of his hands :
therefore shall he break them down, and not build them up.

Praised be the Lord :
for he hath heard the voice of my humble petitions.

The Lord is my strength and my shield;
my heart hath trusted in him, and I am helped :
therefore my heart danceth for joy, and in my song will I praise him.

The Lord is my strength :
and he is the wholesome defence of his Anointed.

O save thy people, and give thy blessing unto thine inheritance :
feed them, and set them up 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.

29

Bring unto the Lord, O ye mighty, bring young rams unto the Lord :
ascribe unto the Lord worship and strength.

Give the Lord the honour due unto his Name :
worship the Lord with holy worship.

It is the Lord that commandeth the waters :
it is the glorious God that maketh the thunder.

It is the Lord that ruleth the sea; the voice of the Lord is mighty in operation :
the voice of the Lord is a glorious voice.

The voice of the Lord breaketh the cedar-trees :
yea, the Lord breaketh the cedars of Libanus.

He maketh them also to skip like a calf :
Libanus also, and Sirion, like a young unicorn.

The voice of the Lord divideth the flames of fire;
the voice of the Lord shaketh the wilderness :
yea, the Lord shaketh the wilderness of Cades.

The voice of the Lord maketh the hinds to bring forth young,
and discovereth the thick bushes :
in his temple doth every man speak of his honour.

The Lord sitteth above the water-flood :
and the Lord remaineth a King for ever.

The Lord shall give strength unto his people :
the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

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

Genesis 1.1-5, 26-31

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.'

So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.' God said, 'See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.' And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

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

Madam Canon in Residence, I present to you

Arlo, Benjamin, Jacob, and Sail

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

Elijah and Simba

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 each 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.

She 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

Madam Canon in Residence, I present to you,

Edward Kirker and Matthew Rengert

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

Edward and Matthew, 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

Madam Canon in Residence, I present to you,

Edward Gaut

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 his seat in the stalls and the Canon in Residence says

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

The Organ Scholar kneels in his 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

Madam Canon in Residence, I present to you,

James Hall

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

The Canon in Residence then says

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

Sit

New Testament Reading

Hebrews 1.1-4

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

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), Second 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.*

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

O God and Father of all that was, is and ever shall be, help us to be thankful for all that is made at the hands of thy Son and through the wisdom of thy Spirit, that we may care in heart and in deed for the life of our world, to the praise and glory of thy holy name; through Jesus Christ, thy Son, our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. *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.*

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

Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities, and in all our dangers and necessities stretch forth thy right hand to help and defend us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Words: Collect for the Third Sunday after Epiphany

Music: Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625)

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 taken. If you would prefer to give electronically, please use the QR code*



Praise to the Holiest in the height,
and in the depth be praise:
in all his words most wonderful,
most sure in all his ways.

²O loving wisdom of our God!
When all was sin and shame,
a second Adam to the fight
and to the rescue came.

³O wisest love! that flesh and blood,
which did in Adam fail,
should strive afresh against the foe,
should strive and should prevail;

⁴And that a higher gift than grace
should flesh and blood refine,
God's presence and his very self,
and essence all-divine.

⁵O generous love! that he, who smote
in Man for man the foe,
the double agony in Man
for man should undergo;

⁶And in the garden secretly,
and on the cross on high,
should teach his brethren, and inspire
to suffer and to die.

⁷Praise to the Holiest in the height,
and in the depth be praise:
in all his words most wonderful,
most sure in all his ways.

Words: John Henry Newman (1801-90)

Tune: BILLING

AM 763iii

Remain standing for

The Blessing

All remain standing as the choir and clergy depart

Organ Voluntary