



THE CATHEDRAL AND METROPOLITICAL CHURCH OF CHRIST, CANTERBURY

Service of Lament

in the Season of Safeguarding



Sunday 23rd November 2025

5.30pm

Quire

Welcome to Canterbury Cathedral for this Service

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.

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South-East Transept, Canterbury Cathedral



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Stand as the choir and clergy enter and all sing



Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

*Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.*

²Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.
Make us your living voice.

³Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.

⁴Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone.

⁵Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come.

Words: Bernadette Farrell (b. 1957)

Tune: CHRIST BE OUR LIGHT

AM 42

The Dean says

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
Amen.

We have gathered around the Word of God at a time of distress and sorrow . As we remember those who suffer abuse at the hands of the Church, we lay before God our helplessness in the face of human sinfulness. As Christ on the cross triumphed in weakness over evil and death, we seek God in the midst of our fragility and insecurity, and by the power of God's Holy Spirit we seek to be part of God's transforming work in the world.

Prayers of Penitence and Lament

The Canon Missioner says

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit: a broken and contrite heart God will not despise.

Psalm 51.17

God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble. *Psalm 46.1*

We come into God's presence aware of past failures and seeking his forgiveness. We pray for all who have been abused and for the healing of minds and memories. In the silence we bring before God our community in penitence and faith.

There follows a time of silent reflection

Lord God, our maker and our redeemer,
hear us as we cry out to you in our need and anguish:
Lord, forgive us **and heal us.**

We have not loved you with all our heart,
or our neighbours as ourselves.
Lord, forgive us **and heal us.**

For sins of negligence and ignorance:
Lord, forgive us **and heal us.**

For feeble faith and judgemental attitudes:
Lord, forgive us **and heal us.**

For self-deceit and colluding with falsehood:
Lord, forgive us **and heal us.**

For complacency and lack of vigilance:
Lord, forgive us **and heal us.**

For the times when people have been abused:
Lord, forgive us **and heal us.**

Bind up the wounds of those who have been hurt,
and in your mercy make us whole.
Lord, forgive us **and heal us.**

The almighty and merciful Lord grant us pardon and forgiveness of all our sins, time for amendment of life, and the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Remain standing to sing



I heard the voice of Jesus say,
'Come unto me and rest;
lay down, thou weary one, lay down
thy head upon my breast':
I came to Jesus as I was,
weary, and worn, and sad;
I found in him a resting-place,
and he has made me glad.

²I heard the voice of Jesus say,
'Behold, I freely give
the living water, thirsty one;
stoop down, and drink, and live':
I came to Jesus, and I drank
of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
and now I live in him.

³I heard the voice of Jesus say,
'I am this dark world's light;
look unto me, thy morn shall rise,
and all thy day be bright':
I looked to Jesus, and I found
in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I'll walk
till travelling days are done.

Words: Horatius Bonar (1808-89)

Tune: KINGSFOLD

AM 669

Sit

The Canon in Residence leads

Litany of Lament from the Lamentations of Jeremiah

Remember, Lord, what has happened to us;

look, and see our disgrace.

The elders are gone from the city gate;

the young men and women have stopped their music.

Joy is gone from our hearts;

our dancing has turned to mourning.

You, Lord, reign forever;

your throne endures from generation to generation.

Why do you always forget us?

Why do you forsake us so long?

Restore us to yourself, Lord, that we may return;

renew our days as of old

unless you have utterly rejected us

and are angry with us beyond measure.

Silence

But You, God, remain the same forever,
You have compassion on us, your children,
You know how fragile we are,
You remember our weakness.

The Collect

Let us pray.

Silence is kept

Loving God,
you comfort the sad,
and strengthen those who suffer:
hear the prayers of your children
who cry out in tribulation;
and grant, we pray, to all who are distressed
mercy, relief, and refreshment;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
ever one God, world without end.

Amen.

Sit

The Liturgy of the Word

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 17.7-10,14

Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord.
They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by
the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay
green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to
bear fruit.

The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse—who can understand
it? I the Lord test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according
to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved;
for you are my praise.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Remain seated as the choir sings Psalm 130

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.

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.

New Testament Reading

Romans 8.14-16

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, 'Abba! Father!' it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

The Dean

Stand to sing

Do not be a - fraid_____ for I have re - deemed you._____

_____ I have called you by your name._____ You are mine._____

When you walk through the wa-ters I'll be with you._____ You will

ne - ver sink be - neath_____ the_____ waves.

D.C.

Fine

²When the fire is burning all around you,
you will never be consumed by the flames.

Chorus

³When the fear of loneliness is looming,
then remember I am at your side.

Chorus

⁴When you dwell in the exile of the stranger,
remember you are precious in my eyes.

Chorus

⁵You are mind, O my child; I am your Father,
and I love you with a perfect love.

Chorus

Words: Gerald Markland (b.1953)

AM 330

Remain standing

Affirmation of Faith

**Let this mind be in you which was in Christ Jesus:
the divine nature was his from the first:
Yet he did not grasp at equality with God;
he emptied himself and became like a slave.
Taking the nature of man
he was revealed in human form;
he humbled himself and became obedient
even to death, death on a cross.
Therefore God has raised him on high,
and has given him a name above every other name;
So that in the name of Jesus every knee shall bow,
in heaven, on earth, and in the depths;
And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord;
to the glory of God the Father.**

Sit or kneel for

Intercessions

led by the Canon Missioner

Loving God, we lay before you the challenges that confront us at home, at work, in our communities and churches. May your Son, the Good Shepherd, guide and shape the life of your Church that all may find a welcome, secure in your presence.

Jesus, Lord of the Church, **in your mercy, hear us.**

Renew your Church in the love of truth and in passion for justice. Take from us all hypocrisy and deceit, and teach us to serve with humility and honesty those whose lives are broken.

Jesus, Lord of the Church, **in your mercy, hear us.**

Help us to cherish children and all in our community who are vulnerable, to protect them, and keep them safe. May this place rejoice to be a place where your love is celebrated with integrity.

Jesus, Lord of the Church, **in your mercy, hear us.**

Bring into your healing presence all who have been damaged and diminished by abuse, or whose lives continue to be overshadowed by guilt or fear, May sorrows be shared and memories be healed.

Jesus, Lord of the Church, **in your mercy, hear us.**

May those who have been damaged by abuse not simply survive, but flourish. May young and old discover your life-giving love, and delight in your gift of life, so that fun, laughter and joy overflow to your glory.

Jesus, Lord of the Church, **in your mercy, hear us.**

Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

As we join our prayers with the Church Universal, so we say, each in our own language, the prayer that Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

Notre Père...

Vater Unser...

Onze Vader...

Padre Nuestro...

Ojcze Nasz...

Baba Yetu...

E to matou Matua...

Ein Tad...

Sit as the choir sings, and the Dean and Canon Missioner are virged to the High Altar

Anthem

Christus vincit,
Christus regnat,
Christus imperat.
Alleluia!

*Christ conquers,
Christ is King,
Christ is Lord of all.
Alleluia!*

Words: Worcester Acclamations (10th Century)

Music: James MacMillan (b. 1959)

Stand

The Canon Missioner presents the Cathedral's Victims and Survivors Charter to the Dean, who places it upon the High Altar

Prayers of Rededication led by the Dean

God of hope,
we come before you in our brokenness and need of healing.
Through your mercy and grace,
we seek your forgiveness for what we have done or failed to do.
Give us the courage to learn from past events,
and through your Spirit give us the hope to look forward
to life with you and through you,
so that we may overcome the darkness and suffering surrounding us
and proclaim your love
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

**Eternal light, shine into our hearts,
eternal goodness, deliver us from evil,
eternal power, be our support,
eternal wisdom, scatter the darkness of our ignorance,
eternal pity, have mercy upon us;
that with all our heart and mind and soul and strength
we may seek your face and be brought by your infinite mercy
to your holy presence,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Amen.

Remain standing to sing the hymn, during which a collection will be taken. You may prefer to use the QR code.





May this place be one of nurture
where we all may come to know
how your endless love sustains us
as we live and move and grow.
May we work to build your kingdom
full of truth and light and grace,
living life in all its fullness
held in one divine embrace.

For our negligence and failures
you have called us to repent,
drawing energy for action
from the voices of lament.
As the secret hurts long hidden
may at last be brought to light,
may the truth unlock the freedom
that is every person's right.

When the smallest child is valued,
and the strong empower the weak,
and each human life is hallowed
and the unheard voices speak:
then your justice stands like mountains
and your mercy falls like rain,
and you hold the brokenhearted
till they learn to live again.

So in gratitude we praise you,
and we lift to you in prayer,
all the people you are calling
to this ministry of care.
Give us wisdom, grace and courage,
holding fast to all that's good,
seeing Christ in one another
we will love and serve our Lord.

Words: Ally Barrett (b. 1975)

Tune: CORVEDALE

Final Prayer and Blessing

We say together

**Gracious God,
pour upon all people in this place your life-giving Spirit.
Guide us with your peaceable wisdom,
that our communities may be places of safety and joy
as we delight in your gift of life,
and grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

The Lord be with you.
The Lord bless you.
Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The God of love,
passionate and strong,
faithful and tender,
watch over us and keep us safe
all the days of our life;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

Remain standing at the choir and clergy depart

Organ Voluntary

If you have been affected by anything that you have heard this evening, or you would like to speak to someone in confidence, members of the Pastoral Care Team will be available after this service. Stewards and clergy will be able to identify team members for you.

Safeguarding : Do you need to talk?

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

TO REPORT AN EMERGENCY SAFEGUARDING CONCERN PLEASE

CONTACT THE CATHEDRAL CONSTABLES OFFICE:

Located by the main entrance to the Precincts, Christ Church Gate.

Alternatively, please call 01227 866237

