CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL

A Service for Remembrance Sunday



Sunday 8th November 2026

10.45 am

Nave

Welcome to Canterbury Cathedral for this Service

Voluntary before the service:
Elegy – *George Thalben-Ball (1896-1987)*

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.

As part of our commitment to the care of the environment in our world, this Order of Service is printed on paper from sustainable forests.

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.

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The Deputy Lieutenant and other civic dignitaries are received at the Great West Door and escorted to their places

Please STAND at this point and sit when they are in place

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

Please stand as the choir and clergy procession moves through the Nave

Remain standing to sing



Thy hand, O God, has guided
thy flock, from age to age;
the wondrous tale is written,
full clear, on every page;
our fathers owned thy goodness,
and we their deeds record;
and both of this bear witness:
one Church, one faith, one Lord.

[2]Thy heralds brought glad tidings
to greatest, as to least;
they bade men rise, and hasten
to share the great King's feast;
and this was all their teaching,
in every deed and word,
to all alike proclaiming
one Church, one faith, one Lord.

[3]Through many a day of darkness,
through many a scene of strife,
the faithful few fought bravely,
to guard the nation's life.
Their Gospel of redemption,
sin pardoned, man restored,
was all in this enfolded:
one Church, one faith, one Lord.

[4]And we, shall we be faithless?
Shall hearts fail, hands hang down?
Shall we evade the conflict,
and cast away our crown?
Not so: in God's deep counsels
some better thing is stored;
we will maintain, unflinching,
one Church, one faith, one Lord.

[5]Thy mercy will not fail us,
nor leave thy work undone;
with thy right hand to help us,
the victory shall be won;
and then, by us and angels,
thy name shall be adored,
and this shall be their anthem,
one Church, one faith, one Lord.

Words: Edward Plumptre (1821-91) *Tune:* THORNBURY AM 814

Remain standing

Welcome and Opening Prayer

The Dean welcomes the congregation and says

'This I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning.'

We meet in the presence of God; who gave Jesus Christ for the life of the world; who by his Holy Spirit leads us in his way.

We commit ourselves to work in penitence and faith for reconciliation between the nations, that all people may, together, live in freedom, justice and peace.

We pray for all who in bereavement, disability and pain continue to suffer the consequences of fighting and terror.

We remember with thanksgiving and sorrow those whose lives, in world wars and conflicts past and present, have been given and taken away.

Let us pray.

Ever-living God,
we remember those whom you have gathered
from the storm of war
into the peace of your presence;
may that same peace calm our fears,
bring justice to all peoples
and establish harmony among the nations,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Remain standing (or sit if you would prefer) as the choir sings Psalm 90 *and the Standards are received in turn*

Lord, thou hast been our refuge :
from one generation to another.

Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever the earth and the world were made :
thou art God from everlasting, and world without end.

Thou turnest man to destruction :
again thou sayest, Come again, ye children of men.

For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday :
seeing that is past as a watch in the night.

As soon as thou scatterest them they are even as a sleep :
and fade away suddenly like the grass.
In the morning it is green, and groweth up :
but in the evening it is cut down, dried up, and withered.

For we consume away in thy displeasure :
and are afraid at thy wrathful indignation.

Thou hast set our misdeeds before thee :
and our secret sins in the light of thy countenance.

For when thou art angry all our days are gone :
we bring our years to an end, as it were a tale that is told.

The days of our age are threescore years and ten;
and though men be so strong that they come to fourscore years :
yet is their strength then but labour and sorrow;
so soon passeth it away, and we are gone.

But who regardeth the power of thy wrath :
for even thereafter as a man feareth, so is thy displeasure.

So teach us to number our days :
that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.

Turn thee again, O Lord, at the last :
and be gracious unto thy servants.

O satisfy us with thy mercy, and that soon :
so shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.

Comfort us again now after the time that thou hast plagued us :
and for the years wherein we have suffered adversity.

Shew thy servants thy work :
and their children thy glory.

And the glorious majesty of the Lord our God be upon us :
prosper thou the work of our hands upon us, O prosper thou our handywork.

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.

Remain standing for

The Act of Remembrance

The Dean says

Let us remember before God, and commend to his sure keeping, those who have died as a result of war, those whom we knew and whose memory we treasure, and all who have lived and died in the service of humanity.

The bell of HMS Canterbury is struck six times and the Last Post is sounded

All remain standing for the Two Minutes' Silence

The Reveille is sounded after the silence

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.
We will remember them.

When you go home, tell them of us, and say
For your tomorrow we gave our today.

(Words taken from the Kohima Epitaph)

Remember, O Lord, all those who have died the death of honour and are departed in the hope of resurrection to Eternal Life, especially the Officers, Men and Women of our Sea, Land and Air Forces, to whom it was given to lay down their lives for the cause of Freedom and Justice. In that place of light, whence sorrow and mourning are far vanished, give them rest, O Lord, the Lover of all. Grant this for thine only Son, Jesus Christ's sake. **Amen.**

(Collect of the Royal British Legion)

Remain standing to sing



I vow to thee, my country, all earthly things above,
entire and whole and perfect, the service of my love:
the love that asks no question, the love that stands the test,
that lays upon the altar the dearest and the best;
the love that never falters, the love that pays the price,
the love that makes undaunted the final sacrifice.

[2]And there's another country I've heard of long ago,
most dear to them that love her, most great to them that know;
we may not count her armies, we may not see her King;
her fortress is a faithful heart, her pride is suffering;
and soul by soul and silently her shining bounds increase,
and her ways are ways of gentleness and all her paths are peace.

Words: Cecil Arthur Spring-Rice (1859-1918) Tune: THAXTED AM 579

Please sit

The Lesson *John 15.9-17*

Read by The Deputy Lieutenant

Jesus said to his disciples "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.
This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you.

I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon The Very Reverend Dr D R M Monteith, Dean of Canterbury

Remain seated as the choir sings

The Anthem My soul, there is a country

My soul, there is a country
far beyond the stars,
where stands a winged sentry
all skilful in the wars:

There, above noise and danger
Sweet Peace sits crowned with smiles
and One, born in a manger
commands the beauteous files.

He is thy gracious friend
and, O my soul, awake!
Did in pure love descend
to die here for thy sake.

If thou canst get but thither,
there grows the flow'r of Peace,
the Rose that cannot wither,
thy fortress and thy ease.

Leave then thy foolish ranges,
for none can thee secure
but One who never changes,
thy God, thy life, thy cure.

Words: Henry Vaughan (1622-95) *Music:* Charles Hubert Hastings Parry (1848-1918)

Kneel or sit for

The Prayers *led by the Precentor and Army Cadets*

Precentor & Choir

God the Father,
have mercy on us.

God the Son,
have mercy on us.

God the Holy Spirit,
have mercy on us.

Holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity,
have mercy on us.

From all fear and prejudice, bitterness, and all hardness of heart,
good Lord, deliver us.

From all spite, revenge, and destructive anger,
good Lord, deliver us.

From the desire to dominate others, to impose our will,
and from all feelings of superiority,
good Lord, deliver us.

Open our hearts towards our neighbour,
and help us to work together for the common good.
Lord, hear us and help us.

Strengthen us to stand for all that is just and true and right.
Lord, hear us and help us.

Grant that we may come to understand our enemies.
Lord, hear us and help us.

Bring release to those with abiding memories of hurt and injury.
Lord, hear us and help us.

Grant us the grace to receive forgiveness,
and to forgive as we are forgiven.
Lord, hear us and help us.

Comfort all those who mourn, the troubled,
and all who call upon you in their distress.
Lord, hear us and help us.

Guide the leaders of the nations and those who work for peace, and make us all subject to Christ's just and gentle rule.
Lord, hear us and help us.

Precentor Give us true repentance;
forgive us our sins of negligence and ignorance
and our deliberate sins;
and grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit
to amend our lives according to your holy word.

Choir *Holy God,*
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.

Precentor O Lord, our maker and our strength,
from whose love in Christ
we can never be parted
either by death or life:
Look in mercy on those for whom we pray this day,
and grant us your protection and peace,
that we may be saved in body and soul,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Choir *Amen.*

Music: Anthony Piccolo (b.1953)

The Dean says

As we ask for deliverance from the forces of destruction,
so we pray with confidence in the words that Jesus gave 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

They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

Words: Laurence Binyon (1869-1943) *Music:* Douglas Guest (1916-96)

Stand for

The Act of Commitment

The Dean says

Let us pledge ourselves anew to the service of God and all humanity: that we may help, encourage, and comfort others, and support those working for the relief of the needy and for the peace and welfare of the nations.

Lord God our Father,
we pledge ourselves to serve you and all humanity,
in the cause of peace,
for the relief of want and suffering,
and for the praise of your name.
Guide us by your Spirit;
give us wisdom; give us courage; give us hope;
and keep us faithful now and always. Amen.

Hymn *During which the Standards are returned*
The Standard Bearers remain in position



Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation;
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation:
Come ye who hear,
Brothers and sisters draw near;
Praise him in glad adoration.

[2]Praise to the Lord, who over all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth:
Hast thou not seen
All that is needful hath been
Granted in what he ordaineth?

[3]Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
Surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee;
Ponder anew
All the Almighty can do,
He who with love doth befriend thee.

[4]Praise to the Lord, who, when tempests their warfare are waging,
Who, when the elements madly around thee are raging,
Biddeth them cease,
Turneth their fury to peace,
Whirlwinds and waters assuaging.

[5]Praise to the Lord, who when darkness of sin is abounding,
Who when the godless do triumph, all virtue confounding,
Sheddeth his light,
Chaseth the horrors of night,
Saints with his mercy surrounding.

[6]Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the Amen
Sound from his people again:
Gladly for ay we adore him.

Words: German, Joachim Neander (1650-80) *Tune:* LOBE DEN HERREN NEH 440
Translated: Catherine Winkworth (1827-78)

Remain standing for

The Blessing

God grant to the living grace, to the departed rest,
to the Church, the King, the Commonwealth and all people,
unity, peace and concord,
and to us and all God's servants, life everlasting;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

The Standards are lowered as all sing

The National Anthem

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!

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 processions leave the Nave, and the Deputy Lieutenant and other civic dignitaries are escorted to the Great West Door

Organ Voluntary

Edward Elgar (1857-1934), Nimrod

Sung Eucharist will be celebrated at 12.15 today in the Crypt