



THE CATHEDRAL AND METROPOLITICAL CHURCH OF CHRIST, CANTERBURY

Choral Evensong

with Admission of Choristers



The Feast of Creation in Christ

6th 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.



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ORDER OF SERVICE

All stand as the choir and clergy enter the Quire

A welcome is offered

*The Cantor 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: Matthew Martin (b. 1976)

Sit as the choir sings

Psalm 108

O God, my heart is ready, my heart is ready :
I will sing and give praise with the best member that I have.

Awake, thou lute, and harp :
I myself will awake right early.

I will give thanks unto thee, O Lord, among the people :
I will sing praises unto thee among the nations.

For thy mercy is greater than the heavens :
and thy truth reacheth unto the clouds.

Set up thyself, O God, above the heavens :
and thy glory above all the earth.

That thy beloved may be delivered :
let thy right hand save them, and hear thou me.

God hath spoken in his holiness :
I will rejoice therefore, and divide Sichem, and mete out the valley of Succoth.

Gilead is mine, and Manasses is mine :
Ephraim also is the strength of my head.

Judah is my law-giver, Moab is my wash-pot :
over Edom will I cast out my shoe, upon Philistia will I triumph.

Who will lead me into the strong city :
and who will bring me into Edom?

Hast not thou forsaken us, O God :
and wilt not thou, O God, go forth with our hosts?

O help us against the enemy :
for vain is the help of man.

Through God we shall do great acts :
and it is he that shall tread down our enemies.

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

Ezekiel 47.1-12

The Lord God brought me back to the entrance of the temple; there, water was flowing from below the threshold of the temple towards the east (for the temple faced east); and the water was flowing down from below the south end of the threshold of the temple, south of the altar. Then he brought me out by way of the north gate, and led me round on the outside to the outer gate that faces towards the east; and the water was coming out on the south side.

Going on eastwards with a cord in his hand, the man measured one thousand cubits, and then led me through the water; and it was ankle-deep. Again he measured one thousand, and led me through the water; and it was knee-deep. Again he measured one thousand, and led me through the water; and it was up to the waist. Again he measured one thousand, and it was a river that I could not cross, for the water had risen; it was deep enough to swim in, a river that could not be crossed. He said to me, 'Mortal, have you seen this?'

Then he led me back along the bank of the river. As I came back, I saw on the bank of the river a great many trees on one side and on the other. He said to me, 'This water flows towards the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah; and when it enters the sea, the sea of stagnant waters, the water will become fresh. Wherever the river goes, every living creature that swarms will live, and there will be very many fish, once these waters reach there. It will become fresh; and everything will live where the river goes. People will stand fishing beside the sea from En-gedi to En-eglaim; it will be a place for the spreading of nets; its fish will be of a great many kinds, like the fish of the Great Sea. But its swamps and marshes will not become fresh; they are to be left for salt. On the banks, on both sides of the river, there will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither nor their fruit fail, but they will bear fresh fruit every month, because the water for them flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for healing.'

Admission of Choristers

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

Cecily, Gabriella, and Zoë

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

Poppy and Robyn

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 as 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: Sydney Watson (1903-91), in E

Sit

New Testament Reading

Revelation 22.1-5

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign for ever and ever.

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: Sydney Watson (1903-91), in E

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 Cantor 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: Matthew Martin (b. 1976)

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.*

Sit as the choir sings

Anthem

Like as the hart desireth the waterbrooks :
so longeth my soul after thee, O God.
My soul is athirst for God, yea, even for the living God :
when shall I come to appear before the presence of God?
My tears have been my meat day and night :
while they daily say unto me, Where is now thy God?

Words: Psalm 42.1-3

Music: Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

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*





All creatures of our God and King,
 lift up your voice and with us sing,
 Alleluia, alleluia!
 Thou burning sun with golden beam,
 thou silver moon with softer gleam:
*O praise him, O praise him,
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

²Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
 ye clouds that sail in heaven along,
 O praise him, alleluia!
 Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice:
 ye lights of evening, find a voice:

³Thou flowing water, pure and clear,
 make music for thy Lord to hear,
 Alleluia, alleluia!
 Thou fire, so masterful and bright,
 that givest us both warmth and light:

⁴Dear mother earth, who day by day
 unfoldest blessings on our way,
 O praise him, alleluia!
 The flowers and fruits that in thee grow,
 let them his glory also show:

⁵All ye that are of tender heart,
 forgiving others, take your part,
 O sing ye, alleluia!
 Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,
 praise God, and on him cast your care:

⁶And thou, most kind and gentle death,
 waiting to hush our latest breath,
 O praise him, alleluia!
 Thou ledest home the child of God,
 and Christ our Lord the way has trod:

⁷Let all things their creator bless,
 and worship him in humbleness;
 O praise him, alleluia!
 Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
 and praise the Spirit, Three in One:
*O praise him, O praise him,
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

Words: William Henry Draper 1855-1933) Tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN AM 532
 based on St Francis of Assisi (1182-1226)

Remain standing for

The Blessing

All remain standing as the choir and clergy depart

Organ Voluntary