



THE CATHEDRAL AND METROPOLITICAL CHURCH OF CHRIST, CANTERBURY

# Choral Evensong

with Procession to the Chapel of Saints and Martyrs  
of Our Own Time



16<sup>th</sup> February 2026

5.30pm

Quire

We are grateful to Canterbury Chamber Choir for singing 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.

In this service we process to the Chapel of Saints and Martyrs of Our Own Time, to remember with thanksgiving those who have made the supreme sacrifice for their faith in the recent past, and to pray for those who are still persecuted for their allegiance to Christ.

### 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.

Cover Photo – the Altar Frontal in the Chapel of Saints and Martyrs of Our Own Time

### Health and Safety

Much of the present Cathedral was built hundreds of years ago. Whilst most of the parts of this ancient cathedral that are normally open to the public are easily accessible for all, the historic stone floor may be unpredictably uneven in places, entry to some parts is via stone steps or access ramps of varying gradients, and lighting levels may vary.

Please exercise due care and attention before, during and after the service and move around with regard for your safety. The Cathedral is unable to accept liability for any personal injury or damage to property unless this is due to our own negligence.



**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.

**By cash or cheques** payable to 'Canterbury Cathedral' in Gift Aid envelopes - UK taxpayers please fill in the details on the envelope. Or you can give a one-off donation at one of our **contactless donation points** in the South Transept after the service.



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 SERVICE

*All stand as the choir enters the Quire and sing*

## **Introit**

Holy is the True Light, and passing wonderful, lending radiance to them that endured in the heat of the conflict, from Christ they inherit a home of unfading splendour, wherein they rejoice with gladness evermore. Alleluia!

*Words: from the Salisbury Diurnal  
trans. G. H. Palmer (1846-1926)*

*Music: Peter Fitcher (b. 1976)*

*A welcome is offered*

*The Cantor and the 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*

## **Psalm 85**

Lord, thou art become gracious unto thy land :  
thou hast turned away the captivity of Jacob.

Thou hast forgiven the offence of thy people :  
and covered all their sins.

Thou hast taken away all thy displeasure :  
and turned thyself from thy wrathful indignation.

Turn us then, O God our Saviour :  
and let thine anger cease from us.

Wilt thou be displeased at us for ever :  
and wilt thou stretch out thy wrath from one generation to another?

Wilt thou not turn again, and quicken us :  
that thy people may rejoice in thee?

Shew us thy mercy, O Lord :  
and grant us thy salvation.

I will hearken what the Lord God will say concerning me :  
for he shall speak peace unto his people, and to his saints,  
that they turn not again.

For his salvation is nigh them that fear him :  
that glory may dwell in our land.

Mercy and truth are met together :  
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

Truth shall flourish out of the earth :  
and righteousness hath looked down from heaven.

Yea, the Lord shall shew loving-kindness :  
and our land shall give her increase.

Righteousness shall go before him :  
and he shall direct his going in the way.

*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** *Isaiah 43.1-7*

*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: Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924) in A*

*Sit*

## **New Testament Reading** *Matthew 10.28-39*

*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: Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924) in A*

*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 catholick 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: Richard Ayleward (1626-69)*

## **The Collects**

Almighty God, whose martyrs reveal thy grace and power throughout all the ages and in our own time by their faithfulness in life and death: strengthen us by thy grace that we may endure reproach and persecution and faithfully bear witness to the name of Jesus Christ, thy Son our Lord who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *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 Minor Canon will announce the hymn, and the congregation is invited to follow the choir round the High Altar and into the Trinity Chapel as the clergy go to the Chapel of Saints and Martyrs of Our Own Time, where the Dean will light candles and cense the altar.  
Please take care on the steps and follow the directions of the Stewards.*



For all the saints who from their labours rest,  
 who thee by faith before the world confessed,  
 thy name, O Jesu, be for ever blest. *Alleluia.*

<sup>2</sup>Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;  
 thou, Lord, their Captain in the well-fought fight;  
 thou, in the darkness, still their one true light. *Alleluia.*

<sup>3</sup>O may thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,  
 fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,  
 and win, with them, the victor's crown of gold. *Alleluia.*

<sup>4</sup>O blest communion, fellowship divine!  
 We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;  
 yet all are one in thee, for all are thine. *Alleluia.*

<sup>5</sup>And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long  
 steals on the ear the distant triumph-song,  
 and hearts are brave again, and arms are strong. *Alleluia.*

<sup>6</sup>The golden evening brightens in the west;  
 soon, soon to faithful warriors comes their rest:  
 sweet is the calm of paradise the blest. *Alleluia.*

<sup>7</sup>But lo, there breaks a yet more glorious day;  
 the saints triumphant rise in bright array:  
 the King of glory passes on his way. *Alleluia.*

<sup>8</sup>From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,  
 through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,  
 singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. *Alleluia.*

Words: W. Walsham How (1823-97)

Tune: SINE NOMINE

AM 296

*The choir sings*

## **Anthem**

Beati quorum via integra est,  
 qui ambulant in lege Domini.

*Blessed are those that are undefiled in  
 the way and walk in the law of the Lord.*

Words: Psalm 119.1

Music: Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)

*The Dean reads from Murder in the Cathedral by T.S. Eliot*

'A Christian martyrdom is never an accident, for saints are not made by accident. Still less is a Christian martyrdom the effect of man's will to become a saint, as a man by willing and contriving may become a ruler of men. A martyrdom is always the design of God, for his love of men, to warn them and to lead them, to bring them back to his ways.

We thank thee for thy mercies of blood, for thy redemption by blood.  
For the blood of thy martyrs and saints  
Shall enrich the earth, shall create the holy places...  
From such ground springs that which forever renews the earth  
Though it is forever denied.'

## **Prayer**

Almighty God, you call your witnesses from every nation and reveal your glory in their lives. Make us thankful for the example of the Saints and Martyrs of Our Own Time and strengthen us by their fellowship, that we, like them, may be faithful in the service of your Kingdom.  
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **Blessing**

God, give you grace to follow his saints  
in faith, and love, and steadfastness;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be with you, and remain with you,  
now and always.

**Amen.**

*All remain standing as the choir and clergy depart*

## **Organ Voluntary**

*There will be a retiring collection  
If you would prefer to give electronically,  
please use the QR code*

