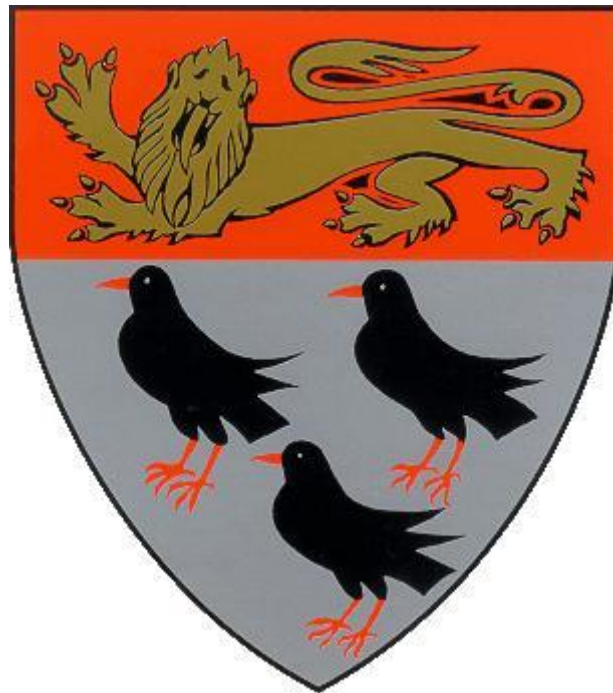




THE CATHEDRAL AND METROPOLITICAL CHURCH OF CHRIST, CANTERBURY

Choral Evensong



Lord Mayor's Civic Service

Tuesday 7th October 2025

5.30pm

Quire

Welcome to Canterbury Cathedral for this Service

Cover Image: The Coat of Arms of the City of Canterbury

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.



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 Procession

Cross and Lights
Choir
Director of Music

Virger
Visiting Mayors
The Chair of Kent County Council
The Leader of the Council
Joint Chief Executives, Canterbury City Council
The Sheriff of Canterbury and Sheriff's Escort

Virger
The Chapter of Canterbury
The Mace Bearer
The Lord Mayor of Canterbury and the Lady Mayoress

The Canon in Residence

All stand to sing, as the choir, civic dignitaries, and clergy process



Make me a channel of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me bring your love;
where there is injury, your healing power,
and where there's doubt, true faith in you.

²Make me a channel of your peace:
where there's despair in life let me bring hope;
where there is darkness, only light,
and where there's sadness, ever joy.

³O, Master, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love with all my soul.

⁴Make me a channel of your peace:
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving to all that we receive,
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

*Words: Sebastian Temple (1928-97)
from a prayer attributed to St Francis of Assisi (1182-1226)*

Tune: ST FRANCIS

AM 725

Welcome

*The Canon in Residence
The Reverend Dr E L Pennington*

Opening Words

*The Lord Mayor of Canterbury
The Right Worshipful Councillor Keji Moses*

Sit

Bidding Prayer

*The Archdeacon of Canterbury
The Venerable Dr W J Adam*

Loving God, you who create and give life to all people;
we pray for this City of Canterbury and for all who live here, for the work of
the Lord Mayor and Councillors, and for all who bear responsibility in the
ordering of our common life; for a vision of a hospitable community which
inspires our labours and which encourages creativity and enterprise and for the

use of our gifts in the service of all God's people.

We pray for our schools, colleges and universities, for the fostering of open and enquiring minds. We give thanks for discoveries in science and engineering and for the ways in which our lives are enriched through art and music.

We pray for the nations of the world; for their peace, stability, and concord; for Charles our King; for the Armed Forces of the Crown and for all who work for the maintenance of civil order and the upholding of the law in our nation; and for wisdom and discernment in their different vocations.

We pray for all who are in need and those who care for them; for refugees and those without shelter or work; for the sick, the lonely and the despairing, for those nearing the end of their earthly lives and for the work of the Pilgrims' Hospice.

We pray all places of worship in the city, and for those who minister to the spiritual needs of our people; for growth in mutual understanding between diverse traditions and cultures; and for the unity of all people.

We remember too all former members of the City Council, those who have departed this life, giving thanks for those who have given an example of public service and duty for us to follow.

As this evening we honour the work of the Lord Mayor we pray too for ourselves and one another drawing our prayers together in saying the words that Jesus taught 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

Psalm 37.1-11

Fret not thyself because of the ungodly :
neither be thou envious against the evil-doers.

For they shall soon be cut down like the grass :
and be withered even as the green herb.

Put thou thy trust in the Lord, and be doing good :
dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.

Delight thou in the Lord :
and he shall give thee thy heart's desire.

Commit thy way unto the Lord, and put thy trust in him :
and he shall bring it to pass.

He shall make thy righteousness as clear as the light :
and thy just dealing as the noon-day.

Hold thee still in the Lord, and abide patiently upon him :
but grieve not thyself at him whose way doth prosper,
against the man that doeth after evil counsels.

Leave off from wrath, and let go displeasure :
fret not thyself, else shalt thou be moved to do evil.

Wicked doers shall be rooted out :
and they that patiently abide the Lord, those shall inherit the land.

Yet a little while, and the ungodly shall be clean gone :
thou shalt look after his place, and he shall be away.

But the meek-spirited shall possess the earth :
and shall be refreshed in the multitude 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

First Reading *Micah 6.1-8*

Hear what the Lord says:
Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice.
Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord, and you enduring
foundations of the earth; for the Lord has a controversy with his people, and
he will contend with Israel.

'O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer
me! For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the
house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.
O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam
son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you
may know the saving acts of the Lord.'

'With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings, with calves a year old? Will
the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with tens of thousands of rivers
of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for
the sin of my soul?'

He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of
you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Stand as the choir sings

Magnificat

During the singing of the Magnificat, roses will be presented by the Lord Mayor to the Canon in Residence and then taken and laid upon the tomb of Archbishop Simon of Sudbury. Archbishop Simon of Sudbury was responsible in c. 1380 for the rebuilding of the City Wall, the West Gate and the Church of the Holy Cross, which is now the City Council Chamber. The rose is a gesture of gratitude for this legacy and a mark of the ongoing relationship between Cathedral and City.

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: Thomas Attwood Walmisley (1812-56), in D

Sit

Second Reading

Romans 12.9-21

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for

the wrath of God; for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.' No, 'if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.' Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Remain seated as the choir sings

The Anthem

Thy word is a lantern unto my feet and a light unto my paths. I have sworn, and am steadfastly purposed to keep thy righteous judgements.

I am troubled above measure, quicken me, O Lord, according to thy word.

Let the free-will offerings of my mouth please thee, O Lord and teach me thy judgements. The ungodly have laid a snare for me but yet I swerved not from thy commandments. Thy testimonies have I claimed as mine heritage for ever, and why? they are the very joy of my heart.

Words: Psalm 119. 105-108, 110-111

Music: Henry Purcell (1659-95)

The Collects

O Lord, we beseech thee, let thy continual pity cleanse and defend thy Church; and, because it cannot continue in safety without thy succour, preserve it evermore by thy help and goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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 congregation remains seated as the Canon in Residence invites civic leaders to stand.

Act of Dedication

In your relations with others, exercise imagination, understanding and sympathy; listen patiently, and seek whatever truth other people's opinions may contain for you; think it possible that you may be mistaken. In discussion, avoid hurtful and provocative language; do not allow the strength of your convictions to betray you into making statements or allegations that are unfair or untrue.

Remember your responsibility as civic leaders and do not shirk the effort and time this may demand. Do not be content to accept things as they are; but keep an alert and questioning mind. Seek to discover the causes of social unrest, injustice and fear and work for an order of society which will allow women and men, young and old to flourish and foster their desire to serve.

Civic Leaders respond

**We dedicate ourselves,
as people of many faiths and none,
to work together for the common good,
uniting to build a better society,
grounded in values and ideals we share:
We commit ourselves,
in a spirit of friendship and co-operation,
to work together
alongside all who share our values and ideals,
to help bring about a better world
now and for generations to come.**

*Stand to sing during which a collection will be taken.
If you would prefer to give electronically,
please use the QR code.*



Lord of lords and King eternal,
down the years in wondrous ways
you have blessed our land and guided,
leading us through darkest days.
For your rich and faithful mercies,
Lord, accept our thankful praise.

³Love that binds us all together
be upon the church outpoured;
shame our pride and quell our factions,
smite them with your Spirit's sword;
till the world, our love beholding,
claims your power and calls you Lord.

²Speak to us and every nation,
bid our jarring discords cease;
to the starving and the homeless
bid us bring a full release;
and on all this earth's sore turmoil
breathe the healing of your peace.

⁴Brace the wills of all your people
who in every land and race
know the secrets of your kingdom,
share the treasures of your grace;
till the summons of your Spirit
wakes new life in every place.

⁵Saviour, by your mighty Passion
once you turned sheer loss to gain,
wresting in your risen glory
victory from your cross and pain;
now O Saviour, dead and risen,
in us triumph, live, and reign.

Words: Jack Copley Winslow (1882-1974)

Tune: ST HELENS

AM 581

Remain standing

Blessing

Go forth into the world in peace;
be of good courage; hold fast that which is good;
render to no-one evil for evil;
strengthen the faint-hearted;
support the weak; help the afflicted; honour all people;
love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be amongst you and remain with you always.

Amen



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.

2Thy 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 choir and clergy depart

Organ Voluntary

Order of Procession

Cross and Lights

Choir

Director of music

Virger

The Mace Bearer

The Canon in Residence, the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress

Virger

Visiting Mayors

The Chair of Kent County Council

The Leader of the Council

Joint Chief Executives, Canterbury City Council

The Sheriff of Canterbury and Sheriff's Escort

The Chapter of Canterbury



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