

CANTERBURY
CATHEDRAL 

Choral Evensong

and Blessing of Diocesan Pastoral Supervisors



10th October 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.



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.

Some material included in this service is copyright:

© The Archbishops' Council 2000

© The Crown/Cambridge University Press:

The Book of Common Prayer (1662)

Hymns and songs reproduced under CCLI number: 1031280

Produced by the Music & Liturgy Department:

precentor@canterbury-cathedral.org

01227 865281

www.canterbury-cathedral.org

ORDER OF SERVICE

All stand as the choir and clergy enter the Quire

A welcome is offered

The Precentor 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: William Smith (1603-45)

Sit as the choir sings

Psalm 53

The foolish body hath said in his heart :
There is no God.

Corrupt are they, and become abominable in their wickedness :
there is none that doeth good.

God looked down from heaven upon the children of men :
to see if there were any that would understand, and seek after God.

But they are all gone out of the way, they are altogether become abominable :
there is also none that doeth good, no not one.

Are not they without understanding, that work wickedness :
eating up my people as if they would eat bread? they have not called upon God.

They were afraid where no fear was :
for God hath broken the bones of him that besieged thee;
thou hast put them to confusion, because God hath despised them.

O that the salvation were given unto Israel out of Sion :
O that the Lord would deliver his people out of captivity!

Then should Jacob rejoice :
and Israel should be right glad.

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

Ecclesiasticus 21.1-17

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: John Ireland (1879-1962), in F

Sit

New Testament Reading

Mark 16. 9-20

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: John Ireland (1879-1962), in F

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 Precentor 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: William Smith (1603-45)

The Collects

O God, forasmuch as without thee we are not able to please thee; Mercifully grant, that thy Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; 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.*

Sit as the choir sings

Anthem

Sicut cervus desiderat ad fontes aquarum: *As the deer longs for the water brooks,*
ita desiderat anima mea ad te, Deus. *so longs my soul for you, O God.*

Words: Psalm 42.1

Music: Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (c. 1525-94)

Homily Dr Neville Emslie, Director of Mission and Ministry, Honorary Canon

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 the hymn, during which a collection will be taken.
If you would prefer to give electronically, please use the QR code
During the hymn, the Bishop will make her way to the High Altar*



Christ is the world's light, he and none other;
born in our darkness, he became our brother;
If we have seen him, we have seen the Father:
Glory to God on high.

Christ is the world's peace, he and none other;
no man can serve him and despise his brother;
who else unites us, one in God the Father?
Glory to God on high.

Christ is the world's life, he and no other;
sold once for silver, murdered here, our Brother.
He who redeems us, reigns with God the Father:
Glory to God on high.

Give God the glory, God and no other;
give God the glory, Spirit, Son and Father;
give God the glory, God in man my brother:
glory to God on high.

Words: Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000)

Tune: CHRISTE SANCTORUM

AM 609

Sit, while the Pastoral Supervisors stand and face the Bishop

Blessing of Pastoral Supervisors

The Bishop says words of welcome and thanks to the Pastoral Supervisors and then commissions and blesses them, beginning with the responsory in which we all join

There is one body, one Spirit, one hope in God's call,
one Lord, one faith, one baptism.

There is one God, Father of all, over all and in all,
to whom Christ ascended on high.

And through his Spirit he gives us gifts:
some are apostles, some are his prophets.

Evangelists, pastors and teachers he gives us,
so we can minister together
to build up his body,
to be mature in the fullness of Christ.

God of truth and love, in your mercy, bless these your servants to be Pastoral Supervisors in this Diocese. Give them wisdom and discernment; a respect for integrity and difference; a love of justice and equity; and a desire to act for the good of those they supervise and your greater glory. Grant that they may be encouraged by a sense of mission and sustained by the prayers of all your church. We ask this through our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

The congregation stands for

The Blessing

The Father, whose glory fills the heavens,
cleanse you by his holiness
and send you to proclaim his word.

Amen.

The Son, who has ascended to the heights,
pour upon you the riches of his grace.

Amen.

The Holy Spirit, the Comforter,
equip you and strengthen you in your ministry.

Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

All remain standing as the choir and clergy depart

Organ Voluntary