



THE CATHEDRAL AND METROPOLITICAL CHURCH OF CHRIST, CANTERBURY

Choral Evensong

with the Canterbury United Nations Association

Uniting Our Strength: the UN at 80



UNA CANTERBURY

Sunday 26th October 2025

5.30pm

Quire

Welcome to Canterbury Cathedral for this Service

Today, we gather in worship to mark the 80th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations—a global institution born from the ashes of war, grounded in a vision of peace, justice, and cooperation among nations. As people of faith, we give thanks for the ongoing work of diplomacy, humanitarian aid, and reconciliation carried out in the UN's name.

Let us lift our prayers for a world still in deep need of peace. May God guide the hearts of leaders, protect the vulnerable, and inspire us all to be agents of justice, hope, and healing in our communities and beyond.

UNA Canterbury alongside United Nations Association UK (UNA UK) works tirelessly with the local community to promote the values set out in the UN Charter and the UN Sustainable Development Goals and strive towards a world that is more just and fair for all.

Founded in 1945, United Nations Association - UK, or UNA-UK, is a charity that builds movements, provides expert insight, and designs campaigns dedicated to promoting human rights, peace and security, and UN reform. Our work links the local, the national, and the global and centres grassroots power at the heart of all we do.

If you would like to become a supporter of UNA Canterbury, do get in touch at: chnd277@aol.com

If you would like to donate so we can continue our work, our details are:

United Nations Association Canterbury Branch

Royal Bank of Scotland

Sort code: 16-15-20

Account number: 12369853

Or send a crossed cheque to the United Nations Association Canterbury Branch to Natwest Bank, Canterbury City Centre, 11 The Parade, Canterbury, CT1 2SQ

We gratefully acknowledge support from UNA London and South East Region (LaSER), UNA UK and Canterbury City Councillors.

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.

From around the world and across religions, some quotations that inform our worship today.

Mahatma Gandhi

All humanity is one undivided and indivisible family, and each one of us is responsible for the misdeeds of all the others.

Christianity

The God who existed before any religion, counts on you to make the Oneness of the human family known and celebrated. Desmond Tutu

Hinduism

Strive constantly to serve the welfare of the world: by devotion to selfless work one attains the supreme goal of life. Bhagavad Gita

Judaism

To be just is to demand justice for other peoples as well as your own.
To be just is to desire that the rights of all shall be respected.
To be just is to desire that the needs of all shall be satisfied.

Machzor: Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues 1995

Humanism

When we survey our lives and endeavours, we soon observe that almost the whole of our actions and desires is bound up with the existence of other human beings ... Albert Einstein

Islam

O humanity! Indeed, We created you from a male and a female, and made you into peoples and tribes so that you may get to know one another. Qur'an 49:13

Bah'ai

Lay not on any soul a load that you would not wish to be laid upon you, and anyone the things you would not desire for yourself. Baha'u'llah

Sikhism

Recognise the whole human race as one.
Accept all humans as your equals.

Guru Nanak

Buddhism

We need to accept the oneness of humanity... Nowadays, events in one part of the world, whether grave problems of dwindling natural resources or the climate crisis, eventually affect the entire planet. Dalai Lama

ORDER OF SERVICE

All stand as the choir and clergy enter the Quire

The Canon in Residence welcomes the congregation

We remain standing to sing our opening hymn during which the banners of local organisations, led by the servers, process into the Quire



God of freedom, God of justice,
you whose love is strong as death,
you who saw the dark of prison,
you who knew the price of faith—
touch our world of sad oppression
with your Spirit's healing breath.

²Rid the earth of torture's terror,
you whose hands were nailed to wood;
hear the cries of pain and protest,
you who shed the tears and blood—
move in us the pow'r of pity
restless for the common good.

³Make in us a captive conscience
quick to hear, to act, to plead;
make us truly sisters, brothers
of whatever race or creed—
teach us to be fully human,
open to each other's need.

Words: Shirley Erena Murray (b. 1931)

Tune: RHUDDLAN

AM 559

Sit

Reading of Preamble to UN Charter

by the Lord Mayor, Councillor Keji Moses

WE THE PEOPLES OF THE UNITED NATIONS DETERMINED

to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind, and to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, and to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, and to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

AND FOR THESE ENDS

to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours, and to unite our strength to maintain international peace and security, and to ensure, by the acceptance of principles and the institution of methods, that armed force shall not be used, save in the common interest, and to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples,

HAVE RESOLVED TO COMBINE OUR EFFORTS TO ACCOMPLISH THESE AIMS.

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: William Harris (1883-1973)

Remain seated as the choir sings

Psalm 119-1-16

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

Blessed are they that keep his testimonies :
and seek him with their whole heart.

For they who do no wickedness :
walk in his ways.

Thou hast charged :
that we shall diligently keep thy commandments.

O that my ways were made so direct :
that I might keep thy statutes!

So shall I not be confounded :
while I have respect unto all thy commandments.

I will thank thee with an unfeigned heart :
when I shall have learned the judgements of thy righteousness.

I will keep thy ceremonies :
O forsake me not utterly.

Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way :
even by ruling himself after thy word.

With my whole heart have I sought thee :
O let me not go wrong out of thy commandments.

Thy words have I hid within my heart :
that I should not sin against thee.

Blessed art thou, O Lord :
O teach me thy statutes.

With my lips have I been telling :
of all the judgements of thy mouth.

I have had as great delight in the way of thy testimonies :
as in all manner of riches.

I will talk of thy commandments :
and have respect unto thy ways.

My delight shall be in thy statutes :
and I will not forget thy word.

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

Reading

1 John 4.7-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate a brother or sister are liars, for those who do not love a brother or sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

We stand for

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 Wood (1866-1926) in E

Sit

Address Ian Martin, Chair of UNA UK

Remain seated as the choir sings

Anthem

Blessed is he that considereth the poor and needy:
the Lord will deliver him in the time of trouble.
The Lord preserve him, and keep him alive;
That he may be blessed upon the earth:
and deliver not thou him into the will of his enemies.
The Lord comfort him when he lieth sick upon his bed:
make thou all his bed in his sickness.
Glory be to the Father, glory be to the Son, glory be to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end, Amen.

Words: Psalm 41.1-3

Music: Henry Purcell (1659-95)

Sit or kneel

Short Readings and Prayers

The following articles are from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and each has a prayer which focusses upon the right enshrined in the article. This is part of the Preamble to the Declaration:

*Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,
Whereas disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people,
Whereas the peoples of the United Nations have in the Charter reaffirmed their faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and have determined to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,
Now, therefore, The General Assembly Proclaims this Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations.*

Article 1 - All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.

We give thanks to God that all peoples, in every place and time are created with dignity and invited to use their liberty for the good of all. Bless those across the world who defend the rights of vulnerable people through the courts and the laws, through advocacy and the media. Bring healing to those whose dignity has been harmed or denied. Lord hear us, **lord graciously hear us.**

Article 4 - No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.

Before God, we lament the sin of slavery both historically and in the present day. We pray for those who are modern day slaves working across the world as cheap labour, as trafficked sex workers, as children abused by adults. We pray for those who seek to break these cycles of harm and for those who assist those who have been slaves to reclaim their lives with dignity and purpose. Lord hear us, **Lord graciously hear us.**

Article 14 - Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.

We pray at this time for the many peoples of our world who are on the move, fleeing war and famine and moving because of the impact of climate change. We pray for those who have recently come to our shores, for those who work on Border Force and all who process asylum claims, for those who work alongside refugees and asylum seekers including the many voluntary and statutory agencies, amongst them KRAN in this city. Lord hear us, **Lord graciously hear us.**

Article 18 - Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion

We pray for our nation, for His Majesty the King and his government. We pray for our local and national political leaders that they will seek the common good wherever possible sowing seeds of unity rather than of division. We give thanks for the peaceful life of Canterbury with all our different communities and pray that each of us may offer to one another the space we need to live and to thrive. Lord hear us, **Lord graciously hear us.**

We say, each in our own language the prayer 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.**

We stand to sing the closing hymn during which the banner bearers pick up their banners in preparation for the final procession



Thou, whose almighty word
chaos and darkness heard,
and took their flight;
hear us, we humbly pray,
and where the gospel-day
sheds not its glorious ray,
let there be light.

³Spirit of truth and love,
life-giving, holy Dove,
speed forth thy flight;
move on the water's face,
bearing the lamp of grace,
and in earth's darkest place
let there be light.

²Thou, who didst come to bring
on thy redeeming wing
healing and sight,
health to the sick in mind,
sight to the inly blind,
O now to humankind
let there be light.

⁴Holy and blessed Three,
glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, Love, Might;
boundless as ocean's tide
rolling in fullest pride,
through the world far and wide
let there be light.

Words: John Marriott (1780-1825)

Tune: MOSCOW

AM 810

Remain standing for

The Blessing

All remain standing as the procession departs

Organ Voluntary

There will be a retiring collection, or you can use the QR code below.





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this Order of Service is printed on unbleached 100% recycled paper

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