

CANTERBURY
CATHEDRAL 

Choral Evensong

with United Nations Association, Canterbury

Give peace in our time, O Lord



UNA CANTERBURY

Sunday 25th October 2026

5.30pm

Quire

Welcome to Canterbury Cathedral for this Service

Today, we gather in worship to mark the 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.

Christianity

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not let them be afraid.

John 14.27

Buddhism

Peace comes from within. Do not seek it without.

Buddha

Hinduism

One attains peace, within whose mind all desires dissipate without creating any mental disturbance, as river waters enter the full ocean without creating any disturbance. One who desires material objects is never peaceful. One who abandons all desires and becomes free from longing and the feeling of 'I' and 'my' attains peace.

Bhagavad Gita

Judaism

The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make his face to shine upon, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

Numbers 6.24-26

Humanism

Peace cannot be kept by force, it can only be achieved by understanding.

Albert Einstein

Islam

And the servants of the Most Merciful are those who walk upon the earth humbly and when the ignorant address them harshly, they say words of peace.

Surah Al-Furqan (25:63)

Bah'ai

A permanent peace in the world of existence can be established only through the power of the spirit

Abdu'l'Baha

Sikhism

No one is my enemy, no one is a foreigner, with all I am at peace. God within us renders us incapable of hate and prejudice.

Guru Nanak

ORDER OF SERVICE

All stand to sing as the choir and clergy enter the Quire and the United Nations Association Banner is placed by the High Altar



For the healing of the nations,
Lord, we pray with one accord,
for a just and equal sharing
of the things that earth affords.
To a life of love in action
help us rise and pledge our word.

²Lead us forward into freedom,
from despair your world release,
that, redeemed from war and hatred,
all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness
fear will die and hope increase.

³All that kills abundant living,
let it from the earth be banned:
pride of status, race or schooling,
dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice
may we hallow life's brief span.

⁴You, Creator God, have written
your great name on humankind;
for our growing in your likeness
bring the life of Christ to mind;
that by our response and service
earth its destiny may find.

Words: Fred Kaan (1929-2009)

Tune: ALLELUIA DULCE CARMEN

AM 635

Sit as the Canon in Residence welcomes the congregation

Reading of Preamble to UN Charter

by the Lord Mayor, Councillor Alister Brady

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 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: Philip Lawson (b. 1957)

Remain seated as the choir sings

Psalm 119.89-104

O Lord, thy word :
endureth for ever in heaven.

Thy truth also remaineth from one generation to another :
thou hast laid the foundation of the earth, and it abideth.

They continue this day according to thine ordinance :
for all things serve thee.

If my delight had not been in thy law :
I should have perished in my trouble.

I will never forget thy commandments :
for with them thou hast quickened me.

I am thine, O save me :
for I have sought thy commandments.

The ungodly laid wait for me to destroy me :
but I will consider thy testimonies.

I see that all things come to an end :
but thy commandment is exceeding broad.

Lord, what love have I unto thy law :
all the day long is my study in it.

Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies : for they
are ever with me.

I have more understanding than my teachers :
for thy testimonies are my study.

I am wiser than the aged :
because I keep thy commandments.

I have refrained my feet from every evil way :
that I may keep thy word.

I have not shrunk from thy judgements :
for thou teachest me.

O how sweet are thy words unto my throat :
yea, sweeter than honey unto my mouth.

Through thy commandments I get understanding :
therefore I hate all evil ways.

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 *Matthew 5.1-12*

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.'

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

Address Professor Kingsley Abbott,
Director, Institute of Commonwealth Studies

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

The Precentor and choir sing the **Versicles and Responses**

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

Please kneel or sit

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

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: Philip Lawson (b. 1957)

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.

Article 3 - Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

God of life, freedom, and protection, we bring before you our shared human family: for the gift of life, we thank you; protect every breath, sustain the vulnerable and turn back the forces of violence, neglect, and harm that threaten the innocent. Grant that all people may not merely survive, but flourish in health and dignity.

Lord hear us, **Lord graciously hear us.**

Article 20.i - Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.

O God, the source of all life and unity, we thank you for the freedom that allows us to gather in peace; to raise our voices together; and the build communities of hope: grant courage and safety to all who assemble to seek justice, share a vision, or offer solidarity. Protect those who protest against oppression; those who organise for the common good; and those who stand side by side with the vulnerable.

Lord hear us, **Lord graciously hear us.**

Article 26.ii - Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace.

God of knowledge and understanding, we pray for our schools, teachers, and students: may our classrooms be places that foster the full development of the human personality, nurturing not just the mind but the soul. Help each student to discover the unique gifts and purpose you have woven into them so they may grow into the peaceful citizens and leaders that you intend all your children to be.

Lord hear us, **Lord graciously hear us.**

Article 28 - Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized.

God of justice, peace, and universal love, you have knit our hearts together with a deep yearning for a world where no-one is left behind, where hunger is turned to nourishment, fear into safety, and isolation into community: look with mercy upon our fractured world. We pray for the building of a social and international order that does not merely write about freedom, but truly shelters and sustains it.

Lord hear us, **Lord graciously hear us.**

Remain seated as the choir sings

Anthem

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; And though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing. Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: Now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. And now abideth faith, hope and charity, but the greatest of these is charity.

Words: 1 Corinthians 13.

Music: Edward Bairstow (1874-1946)

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.

Stand to sing



Put peace into each other's hands
and like a treasure hold it;
protect it like a candle-flame,
with tenderness enfold it.

²Put peace into each other's hands
with loving expectation;
be gentle in your words and ways,
in touch with God's creation.

³Put peace into each other's hands
like bread we break for sharing;
look people warmly in the eye:
our life is meant for caring.

⁴As at communion, shape your hands
into a waiting cradle;
the gift of Christ receive, revere,
united round the table.

⁵Put Christ into each other's hands,
he is love's deepest measure;
in love make peace, give peace a chance,
and share it like a treasure.

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



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

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