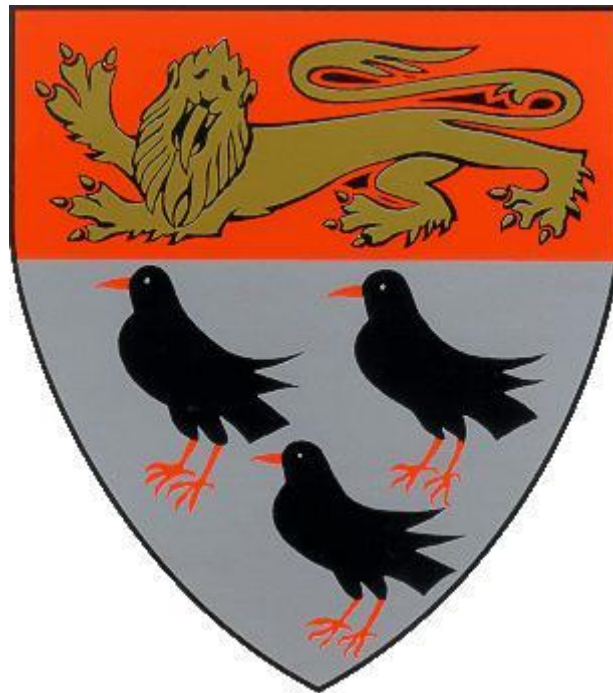




THE CATHEDRAL AND METROPOLITICAL CHURCH OF CHRIST, CANTERBURY

Choral Evensong



Lord Mayor's Civic Service

Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

Monday 21st September 2026

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
Choir
Director of Music

Virger
Visiting Mayors
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 Deputy Lord Lieutenant and Lord Mayor's Escort
The Dean

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



Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
forgive our foolish ways;
re-clothe us in our rightful mind,
in purer lives thy service find,
in deeper reverence praise.

³O Sabbath rest by Galilee!
O calm of hills above,
where Jesus knelt to share with thee
the silence of eternity,
interpreted by love!

²In simple trust like theirs who heard
beside the Syrian sea,
the gracious calling of the Lord,
let us, like them, without a word
rise up and follow thee.

⁴Drop thy still dew of quietness,
till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress,
and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of thy peace.

⁵Breathe through the heats of our desire
thy coolness and thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still, small voice of calm.

Words: John Greenleaf Whittier (1807-92)

Tune: REPTON

AM 621i

Welcome

The Dean

The Very Reverend Dr D R M Monteith

Opening Words

The Lord Mayor of Canterbury

The Right Worshipful Councillor Alister Brady

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 for 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 106.1-12

O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is gracious :
and his mercy endureth for ever.

Who can express the noble acts of the Lord :
or shew forth all his praise?

Blessed are they that alway keep judgement :
and do righteousness.

Remember me, O Lord,
according to the favour that thou bearest unto thy people :
O visit me with thy salvation;

That I may see the felicity of thy chosen :
and rejoice in the gladness of thy people,
and give thanks with thine inheritance.

We have sinned with our fathers :
we have done amiss, and dealt wickedly.

Our fathers regarded not thy wonders in Egypt,
neither kept they thy great goodness in remembrance :
but were disobedient at the sea, even at the Red sea.

Nevertheless, he helped them for his Name's sake :
that he might make his power to be known.

He rebuked the Red sea also, and it was dried up :
so he led them through the deep, as through a wilderness.

And he saved them from the adversaries' hand :
and delivered them from the hand of the enemy.

As for those that troubled them, the waters overwhelmed them :
there was not one of them left.

Then believed they his words :
and sang praise unto him.

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

Ecclesiastes 5.4-12

When you make a vow to God, do not delay fulfilling it; for he has no pleasure in fools. Fulfil what you vow. It is better that you should not vow than that you should vow and not fulfil it. Do not let your mouth lead you into sin, and do not say before the messenger that it was a mistake; why should God be angry at your words, and destroy the work of your hands?

With many dreams come vanities and a multitude of words; but fear God.

If you see in a province the oppression of the poor and the violation of justice and right, do not be amazed at the matter; for the high official is watched by a higher, and there are yet higher ones over them. But all things considered, this is an advantage for a land: a king for a ploughed field.

The lover of money will not be satisfied with money; nor the lover of wealth, with gain. This also is vanity.

When goods increase, those who eat them increase; and what gain has their owner but to see them with his eyes?

Sweet is the sleep of labourers, whether they eat little or much; but the surfeit of the rich will not let them sleep.

Stand as the choir sings

Magnificat

During the singing of the Magnificat, roses will be presented by the Lord Mayor to the Dean 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: Edmund Hooper (c.1553-1621), Short Service

Sit

Second Reading

Matthew 19.16-30

Someone came to Jesus and said, 'Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?' And he said to him, 'Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments.' He said to him, 'Which ones?' And Jesus said, 'You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; Honour your father and mother; also, You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' The young man said to him, 'I have kept all these; what do I still lack?' Jesus said to him, 'If you wish to be perfect, go, sell your possessions, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.' When the young man heard this word, he went away grieving, for he had many possessions.
 Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'Truly I tell you, it will be hard for a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.' When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astounded and said, 'Then who can be saved?' But Jesus looked at them and said, 'For mortals it is impossible, but for God all things are possible.'
 Then Peter said in reply, 'Look, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?' Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man is seated on the throne of his glory, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold, and will inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.

Remain seated as the choir sings

The Anthem

O quam gloriosum est regnum,
in quo cum Christo gaudent omnes
Sancti! Amicti stolis albis, sequuntur
Agnum, quocumque ierit, laudantes
Deum et dicentes: benedictio et
claritas et sapientia, et gratiarum
action, honor, virtus et fortitudo Deo
nostro in saecula saeculorum. Amen.

*O how glorious is the kingdom
wherein all saints rejoice in Christ;
clothed in white robes they follow the
Lamb wherever he goes, praising God
and saying: Blessing, and glory, and
wisdom, and thanksgiving, and
honour, and power, and might, be to
our God for ever and ever. Amen.*

Words: Antiphon for All Saints

Music: William Byrd (c.1540-1623)

The Collects

O Almighty God, who by thy blessed Son didst call Matthew from the receipt of custom to be an Apostle and Evangelist: Grant us grace to forsake all covetous desires and inordinate love of riches, and to follow the same thy Son Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. **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 Dean 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.

**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.*



Give us the wings of faith to rise
within the veil, and see
the saints above, how great their joys,
how bright their glories be.

²Once they were mourning here below,
their couch was wet with tears;
they wrestled hard, as we do now,
with sins and doubts and fears.

³We ask them whence their victory came:
they, with united breath,
ascribe their conquest to the Lamb,
their triumph to his death.

⁴They marked the footsteps that he trod,
his zeal inspired their breast,
and, following their incarnate God,
possess the promised rest.

⁵Our glorious Leader claims our praise
for his own pattern given;
while the long cloud of witnesses
show the same path to heaven.

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
Choir
Director of music

Virger
The Mace Bearer
The Lord Mayor, Lady Mayoress and Lord Mayor's Escort
The Dean and the Deputy Lord Lieutenant

Virger
Visiting Mayors
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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