



THE CATHEDRAL AND METROPOLITICAL CHURCH OF CHRIST, CANTERBURY

# Choral Evensong

with Licensing of Readers



Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2023

5.30pm

Quire

# Welcome to Canterbury Cathedral for this Service

Readers are theologically trained licensed lay ministers; they are ministers of the Word with a passion for sharing the Gospel. All sorts of people are called to Reader ministry because disciples of Jesus come from all walks of life.

The Office of Reader is a voluntary lay ministry within the Church of England that is nationally accredited, episcopally licensed and governed by canon law. Readers are also known as Licensed Lay Ministers (LLM).

There are currently around 140 active Readers in our diocese. Readers play a vital role in the public ministry of the Church by leading worship, teaching and preaching, as well as being engaged in outreach to the wider community.

As local lay theologians Readers offer a ministry that is church-focused, community facing, and world-affirming. They work collaboratively in ministry teams alongside clergy and other lay colleagues.

## 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.



As part of our commitment to the care of the environment in our world, this Order of Service is printed on unbleached 100% recycled paper



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.

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The Book of Common Prayer (1662)

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### **Those to be admitted and licensed as a Reader**

Graham Dorkins	Faversham (Ospringe Deanery)
Derek Kirkaldie	Sandwich and Worth (Sandwich Deanery)
Simon Pooley	Barham Downs with Adisham and Aylesham (East Bridge Deanery)

### **Those Readers to receive a licence or permission to officiate**

Clare Masters	United Wye Benefice (Stour Valley Deanery)
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### **Those Readers to be remembered in memoriam:**

Jean Chamberlain	Keith Clark
John Crowley	Timothy Lawson
John Vinson	

### **Some questions to ponder...**

Where am I noticing God at work in my own life or in the wider world?  
Who can I tell about this?

What might God be asking of me?  
Who can I talk to about this?

Is God calling me?

# ORDER OF SERVICE

*The procession enters the Cathedral*

*Cross and Lights*

*The Choir*

*Virger*

*Readers*

*Representative of St Augustine's College of Theology*

*Warden of Readers*

*Supporting clergy and incumbents*

*The Minor Canon*

*Archdeacons*

*The Chapter*

*Virger*

*The Dean*

*The Bishop*

*The Bishop's Chaplain*

*Readers to be licensed*

*The Candidates*

*All stand as the choir and clergy enter the Quire*

*A welcome is given*

*Remain standing to sing*



Lord, you give the great commission:  
 "Heal the sick and preach the Word."  
 Lest the Church neglect its mission,  
 and the Gospel go unheard,  
 help us witness to your purpose  
 with renewed integrity;  
 with the Spirit's gifts empower us  
 for the work of ministry.

<sup>2</sup>Lord, you call us to your service:  
 "In my name baptize and teach."  
 That the world may trust your promise,  
 life abundant meant for each,  
 give us all new fervour, draw us  
 closer in community;  
 with the Spirit's gifts empower us  
 for the work of ministry.

<sup>3</sup>Lord, you make the common holy:  
 "This my body, this my blood."  
 Let us all, for earth's true glory,  
 daily lift life heavenward,  
 asking that the world around us  
 share your children's liberty;  
 with the Spirit's gifts empower us  
 for the work of ministry.

<sup>4</sup>Lord, you show us love's true measure:  
 "Father, what they do, forgive."  
 Yet we hoard as private treasure  
 all that you so freely give.  
 May your care and mercy lead us  
 to a just society;  
 with the Spirit's gifts empower us  
 for the work of ministry.

<sup>5</sup>Lord, you bless with words assuring:  
 "I am with you to the end."  
 Faith and hope and love restoring,  
 may we serve as you intend,  
 and, amid the cares that claim us,  
 hold in mind eternity;  
 with the Spirit's gifts empower us  
 for the work of ministry.

Words: Jeffrey W Rowthorn (b. 1934)

Tune: ABBOT'S LEIGH

AM 499

*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: Samuel Wesley (1810-76)  
Arranged: Donald Hunt (1930-2018)

*Sit as the choir sings*

Psalm 119.121-128

I deal with the thing that is lawful and right :  
O give me not over unto mine oppressors.

Make thou thy servant to delight in that which is good :  
that the proud do me no wrong.

Mine eyes are wasted away with looking for thy health :  
and for the word of thy righteousness.

O deal with thy servant according unto thy loving mercy :  
and teach me thy statutes.

I am thy servant, O grant me understanding :  
that I may know thy testimonies.

It is time for thee, Lord, to lay to thine hand :  
for they have destroyed thy law.

For I love thy commandments :  
above gold and precious stone.

Therefore hold I straight all thy commandments : and all false ways I utterly  
abhor.

*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

*Acts 26. 1, 9-25*

*Read by Graham Dorkins*

Agrippa said to Paul, 'You have permission to speak for yourself.' Then Paul stretched out his hand and began to defend himself:

'Indeed, I myself was convinced that I ought to do many things against the name of Jesus of Nazareth. And that is what I did in Jerusalem; with authority received from the chief priests, I not only locked up many of the saints in prison, but I also cast my vote against them when they were being condemned to death. By punishing them often in all the synagogues I tried to force them to blaspheme; and since I was so furiously enraged at them, I pursued them even to foreign cities.

'With this in mind, I was travelling to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests, when at midday along the road, your Excellency, I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining around me and my companions. When we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It hurts you to kick against the goads." I asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The Lord answered, "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. But get up and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you to serve and testify to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you. I will rescue you from your people and from the Gentiles—to whom I am sending you to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me."

'After that, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, but declared first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout the countryside of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God and do deeds consistent with repentance. For this reason the Jews seized me in the temple and tried to kill me. To this day I have had help from God, and so I stand here, testifying to both small and great, saying nothing but what the prophets and Moses said would take place: that the Messiah must suffer, and that, by being the first to rise from the dead, he would proclaim light both to our people and to the Gentiles.'

While he was making this defence, Festus exclaimed, 'You are out of your mind, Paul! Too much learning is driving you insane!' But Paul said, 'I am not out of my mind, most excellent Festus, but I am speaking the sober truth.'

*All 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: Dobrinka Tabakova (b. 1980), Truro canticles*

*Sit*

## **Homily**

The Bishop of Dover

### **The Admission and Licensing of Readers**

*The congregation remains seated, the Candidates come forward and stand in front of the Bishop*

*The Bishop says*

My brothers and sisters, God has called us into the fellowship of the universal Church.

As members of his body, Christ calls us to minister together in his name and, according to our gifts, to be instruments of his love in the world.

Readers are called to a ministry of the word, preaching and teaching, inspiring others to follow the way of Christ, and calling them to share in the good news of the kingdom.

They are called to a liturgical ministry, leading worship, proclaiming the gospel story and helping God's people to greet their living Lord, so that they may worship him, praise him and live by his commands.



*The Warden says*

Bishop Rose, I present to you these persons who have satisfactorily completed their training.

They have made the Declaration of Assent and the declaration of obedience to the Archbishop.

They are people of Christian character, well versed in the Holy Scriptures and in the doctrines of our faith.

They have been sufficiently well prepared for the duties of the office.

I recommend that they be both admitted to the office of Reader and licensed to their deaneries under the nomination of their incumbents.

*The Bishop turns to the candidates and says*

In order that we may be satisfied that you are ready to begin the ministry of a Reader, you must now answer the questions we put to you.

Do you believe that God is calling you to this ministry?

R. *I do so believe.*

Will you be faithful in leading the people of God in worship, and in preaching the word to them?

R. *By the grace of God, I will.*

Will you be diligent in prayer, in reading Holy Scripture, and in all studies that will deepen your faith and fit you to bear witness to the truth of the gospel?

R. *By the grace of God, I will.*

Will you endeavour to fashion your life according to the way of Christ?

R. *By the grace of God, I will.*

Will you promote unity, peace and love in the Church and in the world, and especially among those whom you serve?

R. *By the grace of God, I will.*

Will you work closely with your colleagues in ministry and encourage the gifts of others?

R. *By the grace of God, I will.*

*The supporting priests stand and the Bishop asks them*

Will you work closely with your new Readers and encourage them to use their gifts and develop their ministry?

R. *We will.*

Will you commend them to the people amongst whom they will minister?

R. *We will.*

*The candidates turn and face the congregation.*

*The congregation stands.*

*The Bishop says to the congregation*

Brothers and sisters, these candidates have been chosen for the office of Reader. Will you uphold and encourage them in their ministry?

All **We will.**

Will you continue to pray for them?

All **We will.**

*All sit*

*The Bishop greets the candidates and presents them with a Bible, their Certificate of Admission and License saying*

N, I admit you as a Reader in the Church, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*When all have received their Bibles, Certificates and Licences the Bishop continues*

You have received these books as a sign that we admit you as a Reader in the Church. Speak God's word to his people, build them up in his truth, and serve them in his name.

Receive authority to exercise the office of Reader in this diocese. May the Lord be with you in all your work and ministry from this day onwards.

**Amen.**

We welcome you as ministers of God's word.

**May the word of Christ dwell in you richly.**

*The newly-admitted Readers return to their places where their Parish Priest place their scarf upon them.*

*Those to be issued new licenses stand before the Bishop, the Warden commends them to the Bishop who then presents them with their licenses saying*

Receive authority to exercise the office of Reader in this diocese. May the Lord be with you in all your work and ministry from this day onwards. **Amen.**

*The congregation applauds the newly licensed Readers*

*All Readers stand as the Bishop says*

My brothers and sisters, in the name of the Church I thank you for your faithful ministry as Readers. I pray God's continuing blessing upon you and invite you to renew your commitment to the ministry entrusted to you.

*Readers respond together saying*

God our Father, we offer our lives to do your work in your Church and in the world. Help us by your Holy Spirit to hear more clearly your call to deeper commitment to your service, and give us grace to respond with gladness; for the glory of Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The congregation remains seated as the choir sings*

**Anthem**      Let all the world in every corner sing

Let all the world in every corner sing,  
My God and King!  
The heavens are not too high,  
His praise may thither fly:  
The earth is not too low,  
His praises there may grow.  
Let all the world in every corner sing,  
My God and King!

Let all the world in every corner sing,  
My God and King!  
The church with Psalms must shout.  
No door can keep them out:  
But above all, the heart  
Must bear the longest part.  
Let all the world in every corner sing,  
My God and King!

Words: George Herbert (1593-1633)

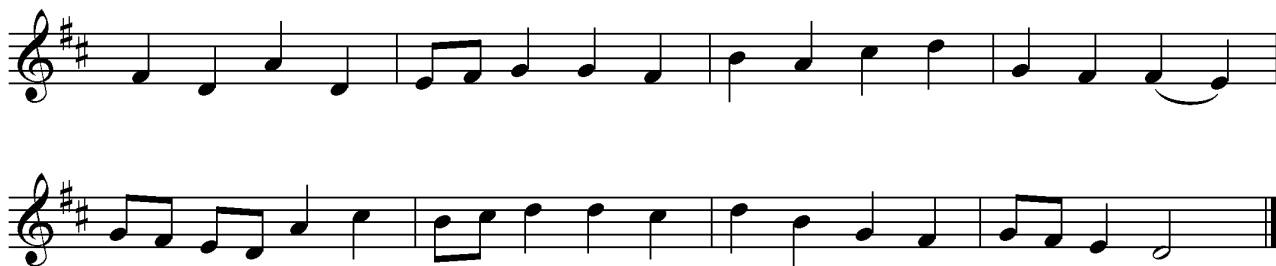
Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

*Sit or Kneel*

**Prayers**      *led by the Minor Canon, concluding with*

**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*



Firmly I believe and truly  
God is Three, and God is One;  
and I next acknowledge duly  
manhood taken by the Son.

<sup>3</sup>Simply to his grace and wholly  
light and life and strength belong,  
and I love supremely, solely,  
him the holy, him the strong.

<sup>2</sup>And I trust and hope most fully  
in that Manhood crucified;  
and each thought and deed unruly  
do to death, as he has died.

<sup>4</sup>And I hold in veneration,  
for the love of him alone,  
Holy Church as his creation,  
and her teachings as his own.

<sup>5</sup>Adoration ay be given,  
with and through the angelic host,  
to the God of earth and heaven,  
Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

*Words:* John Henry Newman (1801-1890)

*Tune:* HALTON HOLGATE AM 634i

*Remain standing for*

## **The Blessing**

The Spirit of truth lead you into all truth,  
give you grace to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
and strengthen you to proclaim the word and works of God;  
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 procession departs*

## **Organ Voluntary**

*A retiring collection is made for Readers' Ministry in the Diocese*