



THE CATHEDRAL AND METROPOLITICAL CHURCH OF CHRIST, CANTERBURY

Choral Evensong and Celebration of Mission Partnerships



Saturday 5th July 2025

5.30pm

Nave

Canterbury Diocese: International links

"God has called us into a relationship, not only with himself, but also with one another, that our lives may be enriched as we learn and share in a partnership to bring about his mission in the world."

([The Anglican Communion](#))

Canterbury Diocese has partnership links with the Protestant Church Districts in Zossen-Fläming (near Berlin) and Markgräflerland (SW Germany); and has been in an Anglican Communion Companion Link with Madagascar for over 30 years.

Madagascar is the fourth largest island in the world – two and a half times the size of Great Britain. The first Anglican missionary arrived in Madagascar in 1864, sent by USPG and in 1874 the Diocese of Madagascar was founded. The number of Anglicans in Madagascar is now estimated to be close to 500,000.

We partner with the six dioceses in Madagascar:

- Diocese of Antananarivo. Bishop: The Rt Revd Samola Joana Ranarivelo.
- Diocese of Toamasina. Bishop: The Rt Revd Jean-Paul Solo.
- Diocese of Mahajanga. Bishop: The Rt Revd Darrell Critch.
- Diocese of Antsiranana. Bishop: The Rt Revd Jaomandiny Jean Baptiste.
- Diocese of Fianarantsoa. Bishop: The Most Revd Dr Gilbert Rateloson Rakotondravelo.
- Diocese of Toliara. Bishop: The Rt Revd Samitiana Jhonson Razafindralambo.

The Most Revd Dr Gilbert Rateloson Rakotondravelo is also Archbishop of the Province of the Indian Ocean (*which includes Mauritius and Seychelles*).

[Our Companionship Link](#)

The purpose of the Link is to extend the concept of Partnership in Mission to:

- Strengthen and encourage each other
- To exchange gifts and resources
- To gain new insights and understandings of God's mission to the world
- To commit ourselves afresh to the task of mission.

It involves a commitment to:

- Sharing
- Prayer
- Encouragement
- Communication
- Financial support

You can support your Companionship Link by:

- Forming a Parish Link with one of the Malagasy clergy and their parishes – contact the Archdeacon of Canterbury: wadam@diocant.org or the Reverend Carol Smith: carolrevd@gmail.com to find out more.
- Praying regularly for the people of Madagascar and the Companionship Link.

ORDER OF SERVICE

All stand to sing as the choir and clergy enter the Nave



Christ is the King! O friends rejoice;
brothers and sisters with one voice
tell all the world he is your choice.
Alleluia.

⁴O Christian women, Christian men,
all the world over, seek again
the Way disciples followed then.
Alleluia.

²O magnify the Lord, and raise
anthems of joy and holy praise
for Christ's brave saints of ancient days.
Alleluia.

⁵Christ through all ages is the same:
place the same hope in his great name,
with the same faith his word proclaim.
Alleluia.

³They with a faith for ever new
followed the King, and round him drew
thousands of faithful hearts and true.
Alleluia.

⁶Let love's unconquerable might
your scattered companies unite
in service to the Lord of light.
Alleluia.

⁷So shall God's will on earth be done,
new lamps be lit, new tasks begun,
and the whole church at last be one.
Alleluia.

Words: George K A Bell (1883-1958)

Tune: VULPIUS

AM 486

A welcome is offered

*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: Andrew Millington (b. 1952)

Sit as the choir sings

Psalm 65

God be merciful unto us, and bless us :
and shew us the light of his countenance, and be merciful unto us:

That thy way may be known upon earth :
thy saving health among all nations.

Let the people praise thee, O God :
yea, let all the people praise thee.

O let the nations rejoice and be glad :
for thou shalt judge the folk righteously, and govern the nations upon earth.

Let the people praise thee, O God :
let all the people praise thee.

Then shall the earth bring forth her increase :
and God, even our own God, shall give us his blessing.

God shall bless us :
and all the ends of the world shall fear 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

Reading *John 20.24-29*

Read in French by Roger Vickerman

Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'
A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

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: Francisco Guerrero (1528-99), octavi toni

Sit

Sermon The Bishop of Dover

Stand to sing



Tell all the world of Jesus,
 our Saviour, Lord and King;
 and let the whole creation
 of his salvation sing:
 proclaim his glorious greatness
 in nature and in grace;
 Creator and Redeemer,
 the Lord of time and space.

²Tell all the world of Jesus,
 that everyone may find
 the joy of his forgiveness—
 true peace of heart and mind:
 proclaim his perfect goodness,
 his deep, unfailing care;
 his love so rich in mercy,
 a love beyond compare.

³Tell all the world of Jesus,
 that everyone may know
 of his almighty triumph
 defeating every foe:
 proclaim his coming glory,
 when sin is overthrown
 and he shall reign in splendour—
 the King upon his throne.

Words: James Seddon (1915-83)

Tune: THORNBURY

AM 505

Sit or kneel

Acclamation and Confession

The Canon in Residence

Your word is a lantern to my feet
and a light upon our path.

O Lord, your word is everlasting:
it stands firm for ever in the heavens.

The love of Christ compels us.
We are ambassadors for him.

God forbid that we should glory
save in the cross of Christ our Lord.

Jesus said, 'Receive the Spirit:
as the Father sent me, so I send you.'
Alleluia. Thanks be to God.

Christ in you, the hope of glory.
This is the gospel we proclaim.

Christ has brought us out of darkness
to dwell in his marvellous light.

There is one body and one Spirit,
one Lord, one faith, one baptism.

Lord God, our maker and our redeemer,
this is your world and we are your people:
come among us and save us.
We have wilfully misused your gifts of creation;
Lord, be merciful:
forgive us our sin.

We have seen the ill-treatment of others
and have not gone to their aid;
Lord, be merciful:
forgive us our sin.

We have condoned evil and dishonesty
and failed to strive for justice;
Lord, be merciful:
forgive us our sin.

We have heard the good news of Christ,
but have failed to share it with others;
Lord, be merciful:
forgive us our sin.

We have not loved you with all our heart,
nor our neighbours as ourselves;
Lord, be merciful:
forgive us our sin.

The choir sings

Anthem

Ô mes très chers frères et mes
enfants bénis pour toute l'éternité,
écoutez-moi, écoutez la voix de votre
Père:

Nous avons promis de grandes
choses, on nous en a promis de plus
grandes; gardons les unes et
soupirons après les autres.

Le plaisir est court, la peine éternelle.
La souffrance est légère, la gloire
infinie. Beaucoup sont appelés, peu
sont élus; tous recevront ce qu'ils
auront mérité. Ainsi soit-il.

*O my dearest brethren, my children
blessed for all eternity,
hear me; hear the voice of your
father:*

*We have promised great things, yet
greater things have been promised to
us; let us hold the one and aspire
after the other.*

*Pleasure is brief; pain is eternal.
Suffering is light, glory is infinite.
Many are called; few are chosen. All
will receive that which they have
deserved.*

Words: Four Little Prayers of St Francis of Assisi

Music: Francois Poulenc (1899-1963)

Translation: © Signum Records

The Bishop says

God, the Father of mercies, has reconciled the world to himself
through the death and resurrection of his Son, Jesus Christ,
not counting our trespasses against us,
but sending his Holy Spirit to shed abroad his love among us.
By the ministry of reconciliation entrusted by Christ to his Church,
receive his pardon and peace to stand before him in his strength alone,
this day and evermore. **Amen.**

Sit or kneel for

Prayers Led by the Reverend Carol Smith

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

As we join our prayers with the Church Universal, so we say,
each in our own language, the prayer that Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

Notre Père...

Vater Unser...

Onze Vader...

Padre Nuestro...

Ojcze Nasz...

Baba Yetu...

E to matou Matua...

Ein Tad...

Stand to sing, during which a collection is taken



Hope of our calling: hope through courage won;
By those who dared to share all Christ had done.
Saints of today, Christ's banner now unfurled,
We bring his gospel to a waiting world.

²Hope of our calling: hope with strength empowered,
Inspired by all that we have seen and heard;
This call is ours, for we are chosen too,
To live for God in all we say and do.

³Hope of our calling: hope with grace outpoured,
From death's despair the gift of life restored;
Our call to serve, to wash each others' feet,
To bring Christ's healing touch to all we meet.

⁴Hope of our calling: hope by faith made bold;
To sow God's righteousness throughout the world;
Bring peace from conflict, fruitfulness from weeds,
The kingdom's harvest from a mustard seed.

⁵Hope of our calling: Spirit-filled, unbound,
Old joys remembered and new purpose found,
Our call refreshed by sacrament and word,
We go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Words: Ally Barrett (b. 1975)

Tune: WOODLANDS

AM 493, Tune 394

Blessing The Bishop of Dover

All remain standing as the choir and clergy depart

Organ Voluntary

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