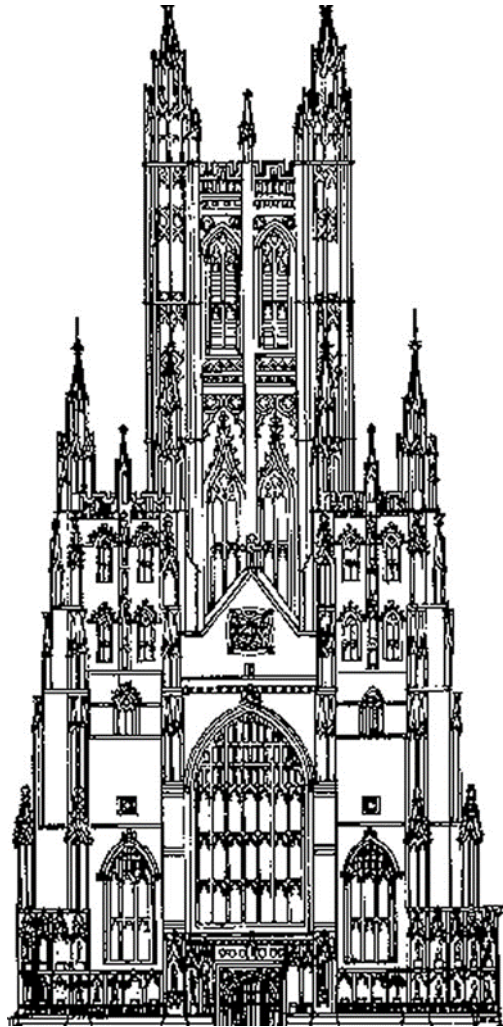




THE CATHEDRAL AND METROPOLITICAL CHURCH OF CHRIST, CANTERBURY

Choral Evensong

with Farewell to Choir Members



12th July 2026

5.30pm

Quire

Welcome to Canterbury Cathedral for this Service

The Choir of Canterbury Cathedral comprises separate treble lines of boy choristers (aged 7-13) and girl choristers (aged 12-18), as well as 12 professional adult singers, known as Lay Clerks and Choral Scholars. These musicians continue a centuries-old tradition of singing at the Cathedral that dates to its foundation by St Augustine in 597AD.

Today's service is the last at which the Choir will sing before commencing its summer break. On this occasion we bid farewell to four boy choristers, James, Bohdan, Toby, and George, (having bidden farewell to another chorister, James, when his voice changed earlier this year) and to three girl choristers, Daisy, Florence, and Alexandra. Their contribution to the life of the Choir during recent years has been immense; we wish them all the very best of luck in the next stages of their lives. At the same time, we hope that they will always consider Canterbury Cathedral to be home.

Additionally, we bid farewell to James and Stephen, two of our Choral Scholars who have spent the past academic year with the Choir. We also say goodbye to Stephanie, our Organ Scholar, and to Ellen, Alto Lay Clerk. We wish them all the very best as they pursue new opportunities. We are delighted that Lydia will remain with the Choir next year.

During the Choir's summer break, Cathedral services will be sung by a variety of visiting choirs. The Cathedral Choir will resume its duties on Tuesday 1st September.

David Newsholme
Director of Music



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 SERVICE

All stand as the choir and clergy enter the Quire

*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: William Smith (c. 1603-45)

Sit as the choir sings

Psalm 60

O God, thou hast cast us out, and scattered us abroad :
thou hast also been displeased; O turn thee unto us again.

Thou hast moved the land, and divided it :
heal the sores thereof, for it shaketh.

Thou hast shewed thy people heavy things :
thou hast given us a drink of deadly wine.

Thou hast given a token for such as fear thee :
that they may triumph because of the truth.

Therefore were thy beloved delivered :
help me with thy right hand, and hear me.

God hath spoken in his holiness, I will rejoice, and divide Sichem :
and mete out the valley of Succoth.

Gilead is mine, and Manasses is mine :
Ephraim also is the strength of my head; Judah is my law-giver;

Moab is my wash-pot; over Edom will I cast out my shoe :
Philistia, be thou glad of me.

Who will lead me into the strong city :
who will bring me into Edom?

Hast not thou cast us out, O God :
wilt not thou, O God, go out with our hosts?

O be thou our help in trouble :
for vain is the help of man.

Through God will we do great acts :
for it is he that shall tread down our enemies.

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

Old Testament Reading *2 Samuel 7.18-29*

Read by Dr David Newsholme, Director of Music

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 C

Sit

New Testament Reading *Luke 19.41-20.4*

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 C

Turn East and say together the

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth:
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.
He descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic Church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

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

The Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

Sit or kneel

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon 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. Amen.*

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.
And grant us thy salvation.

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: William Smith (c. 1603-45)

The Collects

O God, who hast prepared for them that love thee such good things as pass man's understanding: Pour into our hearts such love toward thee, that we, loving thee above all things, may obtain thy promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *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.*

Sit as the choir sings

Anthem

I was glad when they said unto me : We will go into the house of the Lord.

Our feet shall stand in thy gates : O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is built as a city : that is at unity in itself.

O pray for the peace of Jerusalem : they shall prosper that love thee.

Peace be within thy walls : and plenteousness within thy palaces.

Words: Psalm 122.1-3, 6-7

Music: Charles Hubert H Parry (1848-1918)

Kneel or sit

Prayers *concluding with*

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all evermore.
Amen.**

Stand to sing the hymn, during which a collection will be received

If you would prefer, use the QR code



During the singing of the hymn, those choristers who are leaving process to the High Altar with the Dean, the Precentor, and the Director of Music



Angel-voices ever singing
round thy throne of light,
angel-harps for ever ringing,
rest not day nor night;
thousands only live to bless thee
and confess thee
Lord of might.

³Yea, we know that thou rejoicest
o'er each work of thine;
thou didst ears and hands and voices
for thy praise design;
craftsman's art and music's measure
for thy pleasure
all combine.

²Thou who art beyond the farthest
mortal eye can scan,
can it be that thou regardest
songs of sinful man?
Can we know that thou art near us,
and wilt hear us?
Yea, we can.

⁴In thy house, great God, we offer
of thine own to thee;
and for thine acceptance proffer
all unworthily
hearts and minds and hands and voices
in our choicest
psalmody.

⁵Honour, glory, might, and merit
thine shall ever be,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
Blessed Trinity.
Of the best that thou hast given
earth and heaven
render thee.

Words: Francis Pott (1832-1909)

Tune: ANGEL VOICES

AM 589

Once the collection has been received, the leaving boy and girl choristers are presented with a bound copy of Handel's Messiah

Informal words are spoken and then the Dean blesses the leaving choristers

Loving God, the saints and angels delight to worship you in heaven.
We thank you for all those who have sung your praises in this Cathedral
through the centuries and all that they have brought to this community.
We pray for Daisy, Florence, Alexandra, James, Bohdan, Toby, and
George who leave us as choristers today. Surround them with your love
and bless them in their life, that all they say and do may give you the
glory.

We make our prayer in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Blessing

All remain standing as the choir and clergy depart

Organ Voluntary

Played by Jamie Rogers, Assistant Director of Music



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