

WELCOME

We welcome you to Chester Cathedral!
It is a place where the mission of the church to proclaim God's love is central, and your welcome presence here for worship helps to strengthen this vital act of witness.

We're a paperless Cathedral and are working environmentally to save paper. The service can be downloaded to your device using the QR code at the back of the nave, or by visiting [Services - Chester Cathedral](#). Hymns, readings and responses will be presented on the screens.

Music

Communion setting

Missa Ego flos campi

Juan Gutiérrez de Padilla 1590-1664

Gradual Psalm 22: 25-end

Motet

Vinea mea electa *Francis Poulenc 1899-1963*

Voluntary

Kyrie, Gott Heiliger Geist BWV 671

J.S. Bach 1685-1750

Receiving Communion

We warmly invite Christians of all denominations to come and receive bread and wine at the distribution of Holy Communion. Gluten-free wafers are available; please indicate to the priest if you require one. If you prefer not to receive you are invited either to come forward for a blessing or to remain in your seat.

We are offering the chalice to every communicant at all communion stations. **Please do not intinct (dip) the wafer yourself.** If you prefer only to receive the wafer, then please do so.

COLLECTION

The Cathedral costs around £6000 a day to keep open, and we need your support.

We invite you to generously give to ensure our future:

A collection will be taken during the service; donations can otherwise be left with cash or using the

Contactless Donation Plates.

A sidesperson can help you with this.

Via the Cathedral Website

www.chestercathedral.com/donate

We need your help to make sure that services like this one can continue and that we can keep the doors open for everyone. Thank you for your generous contributions.

THE GATHERING

Please stand, if able, to sing the hymn during which the choir and clergy enter the Cathedral.

Opening Hymn

Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour,
first-begotten from the dead,
thou alone, our strong defender,
liftest up thy people's head.
Alleluya, alleluya,
Jesu, true and living Bread!

Here our humblest homage pay we;
here in loving reverence bow;
here for faith's discernment pray we,
lest we fail to know thee now.
Alleluya, alleluya,
thou art here, we ask not how.

Though the lowliest form doth veil thee
as of old in Bethlehem,
here as there thine angels hail thee,
branch and Flower of Jesse's stem.
Alleluya, alleluya,
we in worship join with them.

Paschal Lamb, thine Offering, finished
once for all when thou wast slain,
in its fullness undiminished
shall for evermore remain,
Alleluya, alleluya,,
cleansing souls from every stain.

Life-imparting heavenly Manna,
stricken Rock with streaming side,
heaven and earth with loud hosanna
worship thee, the Lamb who died,
Alleluya, alleluya,,
risen, ascended, glorified!

G.H. Bourne 1840-1925

ST HELEN

George Martin 1844-1916

Greeting

The President says

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you
and also with you.

Informal words of welcome may be added.

Opening sentences

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Here are words you may trust. Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead:

he is our salvation, our eternal glory.

If we die with him, we shall live with him;
if we endure, we shall reign with him.

For he has broken the power of death
**and brought life and immortality
to light through the gospel.**

Children's prayer

The President prays for the children and young people as they go to their Sunday groups.

Prayers of Penitence

Please be seated. The Deacon says

Christ our passover lamb
has been sacrificed for us.
Let us therefore rejoice
by putting away all malice and evil
and confessing our sins
with a sincere and true heart.

1 Corinthians 5.7,8

**Father, we have sinned
against heaven and against you.
We are not worthy
to be called your children.
We turn to you again.
Have mercy on us,
bring us back to yourself
as those who once were dead
but now have life
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Kyrie

The choir sings

Kyrie eleison.
Christe eleison.
Kyrie eleison.

*Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.*

Absolution

The President says

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you
from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you
in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Please stand, if you are able.

Gloria in excelsis

The choir sings

Gloria in excelsis Deo, et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis. Laudamus te, benedicimus te, adoramus te, glorificamus te, gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam. Domine Deus, rex coelestis, Deus pater omnipotens, Domine fili unigenite Jesu Christe. Domine Deus, agnus Dei, filius patris. Qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis. Qui tollis peccata mundi, suscipe deprecationem nostram. Qui sedes ad dexteram patris, miserere nobis. Quoniam tu solus sanctus, tu solus Dominus, tu solus altissimus, Jesu Christe. Cum sancto spiritu, in Gloria Dei patris. Amen.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Collect

The President says

Let us pray.

Almighty God, who through
your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ
have overcome death and opened to us
the gate of everlasting life:
grant that, as by your grace going before us
you put into our minds good desires,
so by your continual help
we may bring them to good effect;
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Please be seated.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

New Testament reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:
'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.
In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth.'

The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Acts 8:26-end

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual: Psalm 22: 25-end

The choir sings

My praise is of thee in the great congregation : my vows will I perform in the sight of them that fear him.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied : they that seek after the Lord shall praise him; your heart shall live for ever.

All the ends of the world shall remember themselves, and be turned unto the Lord : and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before him.

For the kingdom is the Lord's : and he is the Governor among the people.

All such as be fat upon earth : have eaten and worshipped.

All they that go down into the dust shall kneel before him : and no man hath quickened his own soul.

My seed shall serve him : they shall be counted unto the Lord for a generation.

They shall come, and the heavens shall declare his righteousness : unto a people that shall be born, whom the Lord hath made.

Please stand for the Gospel procession.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Jesus said, 'All who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day.'

John 6.40

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear

much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

John 15:1-8

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

After the gospel procession has returned to the altar, and after the preacher's opening prayer, please be seated.

Sermon

The Revd Tina Lightfoot, Cathedral Curate

After the sermon, a brief period of silence is kept. Please stand, if you are able.

Nicene Creed

The President says

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit
and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified
under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated
at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father
and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the
prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic
and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection
of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.**

Amen.

Please be seated.

Prayers of Intercession

In joy and hope let us pray to the Father.

After each petition the following response may be used

Jesus, Lord of life,
in your mercy, hear us.

At the end

Merciful Father,
**accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

The Peace

Please stand. The President says

The risen Christ came
and stood among his disciples and said,
'Peace be with you.'
Then were they glad
when they saw the Lord. Alleluia!
The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

The Deacon says

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Offertory Hymn

Tell his praise in song and story,
bless the Lord with heart and voice;
in my God is all my glory,
come before him and rejoice.
Join to praise his name together,
he who hears his people's cry;
tell his praise, come wind or weather,
shining faces lifted high.

To the Lord whose love has found them
cry the poor in their distress;
swift his angels camped around them
prove him sure to save and bless.
God it is who hears our crying
though the spark of faith be dim;
taste and see! Beyond denying
blessed are those who trust in him.

Taste and see! In faith draw near him,
trust the Lord with all your powers;
seek and serve him, love and fear him,
life and all its joys are ours:
true delight in holy living,
peace and plenty, length of days;
come, my children, with thanksgiving
bless the Lord in songs of praise.

In our need he walks beside us,
ears alert to every cry;
watchful eyes to guard and guide us,
love that whispers 'It is I'.
Good shall triumph, wrong be righted,
God has pledged his promised word;
so with ransomed saints united
join to praise our living Lord!

Timothy Dudley-Smith b.1926

ABBOT'S LEIGH

Cyril V. Taylor 1907-1992

Please remain standing.

Preparation of the Altar

The President prays

Be present, be present,
Lord Jesus Christ,
our risen high priest;
make yourself known
in the breaking of bread.

Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
almighty and eternal Father,
and in these days of Easter
to celebrate with joyful hearts
the memory of your wonderful works.

For by the mystery of his passion
Jesus Christ, your risen Son,
has conquered the powers
of death and hell
and restored in men and women
and children the image of your glory.
He has placed them once more in paradise
and opened to them the gate of life eternal.

And so, in the joy of this Passover,
earth and heaven resound with gladness,
while angels and archangels
and the powers of all creation
sing for ever the hymn of your glory.

The choir sings

Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus,
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua.
Hosanna in excelsis.
Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini.
Hosanna in excelsis.

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes
in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.*

The President continues

Lord, you are holy indeed,

the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power
of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood
of our Lord Jesus Christ;

who, in the same night
that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples,
saying: Take, eat; this is my body
which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.

The Deacon says

Jesus Christ is Lord:

**Lord, by your cross and resurrection
you have set us free.**

You are the Saviour of the world.

The President continues

And so, Father, calling to mind
his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once
for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection
and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial
of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice
of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you
this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours,
almighty Father, for ever and ever.
Amen.

Please be seated.

The Lord's Prayer

The Lord's Prayer can be offered in your own language.

Rejoicing in God's new creation, as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**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.**

Breaking of the Bread

The President says

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many,
we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

Giving of Communion

The President says

Alleluia!

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

Therefore let us keep the feast.

Alleluia!

Agnus Dei

The choir sings

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
dona nobis pacem.

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the
world, have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the
world, have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the
world, grant us peace.*

*All Christians are welcome to receive Holy
Communion or a blessing. Sidespeople will direct
and assist the congregation in coming forward.
The chalice is now offered at all communion
stations – please do not intinct (dip) the wafer.*

Communion motet

The choir sings

Vinea mea electa, ego te plantavi:
quomodo conversa es in amaritudinem,
ut me crucifigures et Barrabbam
dimitteres.

Sepivi te, et lapides elegi ex te,
et ædificavi turrim.

*O vineyard, my chosen one. I planted thee.
How is thy sweetness turned into bitterness,
to crucify me and take Barabbas in my place?
I protected thee; I took the hard stones away from
thy path, and built a tower in thy defence.*

Third Responsory for Good Friday

Francis Poulenc 1899-1963

Post Communion Prayer

The President says

Let us pray.

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ
is the way, the truth, and the life:
grant us to walk in his way,
to rejoice in his truth,
and to share his risen life;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.
Amen.

THE DISMISSAL

Hymn

Please stand, if you are able, to sing

Jerusalem the golden,
with milk and honey blest,
beneath thy contemplation
sink heart and voice opprest.
I know not, O I know not,
what social joys are there,
what radiancy of glory,
what light beyond compare.

They stand, those halls of Sion,
conjubilant with song,
and bright with many an angel,
and all the martyr throng;
the Prince is ever in them,
the daylight is serene,
the pastures of the blessèd
are decked in glorious sheen.

There is the throne of David,
and there, from care released,
the song of them that triumph,
the shout of them that feast;
and they who, with their Leader,
have conquered in the fight,
for ever and for ever
are clad in robes of white.

O sweet and blessed country,
shall I ever see thy face?
O sweet and blessed country,
shall I ever win thy grace?
Exult, O dust and ashes!
The Lord shall be thy part:
his only, his for ever,
thou shalt be, and thou art!

Bernard of Cluny 12th century

EWING

Alexander Ewing 1830-1895

Blessing

Please remain standing. The President says

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

God the Father, by whose glory
Christ was raised from the dead,
strengthen you to walk with him
in his risen life;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

The Deacon says

We are raised to new life with Christ.
Go in his peace. Alleluia, alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

*Please remain standing as the procession
leaves, and then be seated for the organ
voluntary.*

Voluntary

Kyrie, Gott Heiliger Geist BWV 671

J.S. Bach 1685-1750

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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