



9th August 2026
10.30am

The Revd Canon Dr Anthony Lees-Smith

The Very Revd Dr Tim Stratford

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 Brevis in C major K.220/196b

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart 1756-91

Motet

Christus factus est

Anton Bruckner 1824-96

Voluntary

Piece d'Orgue in G major (BWV 572)

JS Bach 1685-1750

Throughout the service, where indicated, please only stand if you feel able to do so.

This weekend, we welcome Queen's College Cambridge Alumni Choir to sing our services.

Children

If you have children with you, activities are available for them: please ask any sidesperson.

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.



**ROGER HEARING ASSISTANCE
IS AVAILABLE
IN THIS CATHEDRAL**

**Please ask a Welcome Team
member for a receiver**

THE GATHERING

Please stand, if able, to sing the opening hymn.

Opening Hymn

Eternal Father, strong to save,
whose arm doth bind the restless wave,
who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep
its own appointed limits keep;
O hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea.

O Saviour, whose almighty word
the winds and waves submissive heard,
who walkedst upon the foaming deep,
and calm amid the rage didst sleep:
O hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea.

O sacred Spirit, who didst brood
upon the chaos dark and rude,
and bad'st its angry tumult cease,
and gavest light and life and peace:
O hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea.

O Trinity of love and power,
our brethren shield in danger's hour;
from rock and tempest, fire and foe,
protect them whereso'er they go:
and ever let there rise to thee
glad hymns of praise from land and sea.

William Whiting 1825-78

*MELITA
J.B. Dykes 1823-76*

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 Responses

The President says

Let us give thanks to the God
of our Lord Jesus Christ,
**who has blessed us in Christ
with every spiritual blessing.**

Before the world was made,
God chose us in Christ,
**that we might be holy and blameless
before him.**

Let us praise God
for the glory of his grace,
**for the free gift he gave us
in his dear Son.**

Prayers of Penitence

Please remain standing. The Deacon says

My brothers and sisters,
as we prepare to celebrate
the presence of Christ
in word and sacrament,
let us call to mind and confess our sins.

Silence may be kept.

In the wilderness we find your grace;
you love us with an everlasting love.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

There is none but you
to uphold our cause;
our sin cries out and our guilt is great.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Heal us, O Lord,
and we shall be healed;
restore us
and we shall know your joy.
Lord, 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.

Gloria in excelsis

Please remain standing. 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.

Let your merciful ears, O Lord,
be open to the prayers
of your humble servants;
and that they may obtain their petitions
make them to ask such things
as shall please you;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please be seated.

New Testament reading

A reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans.

Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that 'the person who does these things will live by them.'

But the righteousness that comes from faith says, 'Do not say in your heart, "Who will ascend into heaven?"' (that is, to bring Christ down) 'or "Who will descend into the abyss?"' (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say?

'The word is near you,

on your lips and in your heart'
(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, 'No one who believes

in him will be put to shame.' For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'

Romans 10:5-15

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand, if able, to sing together

Gradual hymn

Not far beyond the sea, nor high
above the heavens, but very nigh
thy voice, O God, is heard.

For each new step of faith we take
thou hast more truth and light to break
forth from thy holy word.

Rooted and grounded in thy love,
with saints on earth and saints above
we join in full accord,
to grasp the breadth, length,
depth and height,
the crucified and risen might
of Christ, the incarnate Word.

Help us to press toward that mark,
and, though our vision now is dark,
to live by what we see.
So, when we see thee face to face,
thy truth and light our dwelling place
for evermore shall be.

George Bradford Caird 1917-84

CORNWALL

S.S. Wesley 1810-76

Please remain standing for the Gospel procession.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

We do not live by bread alone,
but by every word
that comes from the mouth of God.

cf Matt 4:4

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Holy Gospel

The Deacon says

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

Immediately after feeding the crowd with the five loaves and two fish, Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking towards them on the lake. But when the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified, saying, 'It is a ghost!' And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, 'Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.'

Peter answered him, 'Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.' He said, 'Come.' So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came towards Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became

frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, 'Lord, save me!' Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, 'You of little faith, why did you doubt?' When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, 'Truly you are the Son of God.'

Matthew 14:22-33

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 Dean

A brief period of silence is kept for reflection.

Nicene Creed

Please stand. 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 the power of the Spirit,
and in union with Christ,
let us pray to the Father.

*After each petition the following response
may be used*

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

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

Christ is our peace.
He has reconciled us to God
in one body by the cross.
We meet in his name and share his peace.

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.

*Please remain standing as we sing together,
during which a collection is taken.*

Offertory Hymn

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.

In 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.

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

Drop thy still dews 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.

Breathe 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!

John Whittier 1807-92

REPTON

C. Hubert H. Parry 1848-1918

Preparation of the Altar

The President says

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power,
the glory, the splendour, and the majesty;
for everything in heaven
and on earth is yours.

**All things come from you,
and of your own do we give you.**

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, it is our duty and our joy,
at all times and in all places
to give you thanks and praise,
holy Father, heavenly King,
almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

For he is your living Word;
through him you have created all things
from the beginning,
and formed us in your own image.

Through him you have freed us
from the slavery of sin,
giving him to be born of a woman
and to die upon the cross;
you raised him from the dead
and exalted him to your right hand on high.
Through him you have sent upon us
your holy and life-giving Spirit,
and made us a people
for your own possession.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and singing:

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

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and as we follow his example
and obey his command,
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us his body and his blood;
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.

Therefore, heavenly Father,
we remember his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross;
we proclaim his mighty resurrection
and glorious ascension;

we look for the coming of your kingdom,
and with this bread and this cup
we make the memorial
of Christ your Son our Lord.

The Deacon says

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

The President continues

Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts
in the presence of your divine majesty,
renew us by your Spirit,
inspire us with your love
and unite us in the body of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before you
in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty,
in songs of everlasting praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and
power be yours for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Please be seated.

The Lord's Prayer

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

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

Draw near with faith.
Receive the body
of our Lord Jesus Christ
which he gave for you,
and his blood which he shed for you.
Eat and drink
in remembrance that he died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts
by faith with thanksgiving.

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 and anyone can receive 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.*

During communion, the choir sings a motet.

Communion motet

Christus factus est pro nobis obediens
usque ad mortem autem crucis. Propter
quod et Deus exaltavit illum et dedit illi
nomen, quod est super omne nomen

*Christ became obedient unto death, even
death upon the cross. Wherefore God hath
chosen him to be exalted; his name is of the
Father, which is higher than all other.*

Gradual for Maundy Thursday

Phil 2:8-9

Anton Bruckner 1824-96

Trans. John Rutter b.1945

Post Communion Prayer

The President says

Let us pray.

God of our pilgrimage, you have willed
that the gate of mercy should stand open
for those who trust in you:

look upon us with your favour

that we who follow the path of your will
may never wander from the way of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE DISMISSAL

Hymn

Please stand, if you are able, to sing.

Go forth and tell! O Church of God awake!
God's saving news to all the nations take:
proclaim Christ Jesus, Saviour, Lord and King,
that all the world his worthy praise may sing.

Go forth and tell! God's love embraces all;
he will in grace respond to all who call;
how shall they call if they have never heard
the gracious invitation of his word?

Go forth and tell! Where still the darkness lies;
in wealth or want, the sinner surely dies:
give us, O Lord, concern of heart and mind,
a love like yours which cares for all mankind.

Go forth and tell! The doors are open wide:
share God's good gifts – let no one be denied;
live out your life as Christ your Lord shall choose,
your ransomed pow'rs for his sole glory use.

Go forth and tell! O Church of God arise!
Go in the strength which Christ your Lord
supplies;
go till all nations his great name adore
and serve him, Lord and King, for evermore.

James Edward Seddon 1915-1983

WOODLANDS

Walter Greatorex 1877-1949

Blessing

Please remain standing. The President says

Christ, who has nourished us with himself
the living bread,
make you one in praise and love,
and raise you up at the last day;
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

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

*Please remain standing as the choir, servers
and clergy process out of the Cathedral, and
then be seated for the organ voluntary.*

Voluntary

Piece d'Orgue in G major (BWV 572)
JS Bach 1685-1750

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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