



# 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 Arthur Wills 1926-2020*

*Gradual: Psalm 85: 8-end*

*Communion Motet*

*All sons of Adam Anon*

*Voluntary*

*Fantasia on 'Veni Emmanuel'*

*Alec Rowley 1892-1958*

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

## **Children**

If you have children with you, they are welcome to take part in Sunday groups: please ask any sidesperson for directions.

## **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 both 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 in excess of £5,500 a day to keep open, and we urgently need your support with the loss of our regular income through the pandemic.

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](http://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*

## Opening Hymn

The advent of our King  
our prayers must now employ,  
and we must hymns of welcome sing  
in strains of holy joy.

The everlasting Son  
incarnate deigns to be;  
himself a servant's form puts on,  
to set his servants free.

Daughter of Sion, rise  
to meet thy lowly King;  
nor let thy faithless heart despise  
the peace he comes to bring.

As Judge, on clouds of light,  
he soon will come again,  
and his true members all unite  
with him in heav'n to reign.

All glory to the Son  
who comes to set us free,  
with Father, Spirit, ever One,  
through all eternity.

*Charles Coffin 1676-1749*

FRANCONIA

*trans. John Chandler 1806-76 J.B. Konig 1691-1748*

# Greeting

*The President says*

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

## Opening responses

Restore us, O Lord God of hosts:  
**show the light of your countenance,  
and we shall be saved.**

Will you not give us life again  
**that your people may rejoice in you?**

Show us your mercy, O Lord,  
**and grant us your salvation.**

## Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Lord Jesus, light of the world,  
the prophets said you would bring peace  
and save your people in trouble.  
Give peace in our hearts at Christmas  
and show all the world God's love.  
**Amen.**

*The second candle on the Advent wreath is lit.*

# Children's Prayer

## Prayers of Penitence

*Please be seated. The Deacon introduces the Prayers of Penitence.*

A voice cries out in the wilderness,  
'Make straight the way of the Lord.'  
So let us listen, and turn to the Lord  
in penitence and faith.

*cf John 1.23*

*We say together*

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
we have sinned against you  
and against our neighbour  
in thought and word and deed,  
through negligence,  
through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault.  
We are truly sorry  
and repent of all our sins.  
For the sake of your Son  
Jesus Christ, who died for us,  
forgive us all that is past  
and grant that we may serve you  
in newness of life  
to the glory of your name.  
Amen.**

# Kyrie

*The choir sings*

Kyrie eleison.

*Lord, have mercy.*

Christe eleison.

*Christ, have mercy.*

Kyrie eleison.

*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.**



# Collect

*The President says*

Let us pray.

O Lord, raise up, we pray,  
your power and come among us,  
and with great might succour us;  
that whereas,  
through our sins and wickedness  
we are grievously hindered  
in running the race that is set before us,  
your bountiful grace and mercy  
may speedily help and deliver us;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honour and glory,  
now and for ever.

**Amen.**

# THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

## New Testament reading

A reading from the Second Letter of Peter.

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise,

we wait for new heavens and a new earth,  
where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting  
for these things, strive to be found by him  
at peace, without spot or blemish; and  
regard the patience of our Lord as  
salvation.

*2 Peter 3:8-15a*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Gradual: Psalm 85: 8-end**

*The choir sings*

I will hearken what the Lord God will say  
concerning me : for he shall speak peace  
unto his people, and to his saints, that  
they turn not again.

For his salvation is nigh them that fear  
him : that glory may dwell in our land.

Mercy and truth are met together :  
righteousness and peace have kissed each  
other.

Truth shall flourish out of the earth :  
and righteousness hath looked down from  
heaven.

Yea, the Lord shall shew loving-kindness :  
and our land shall give her increase.

Righteousness shall go before him :  
and he shall direct his going in the way.

*Please stand for the Gospel procession.*

## **Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight,  
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

*cf Isaiah 40:3-5*

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

## **Holy Gospel**

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

The beginning of the good news of Jesus  
Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,  
‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of  
you, who will prepare your way;

the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight” ’,

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, ‘The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.’

*Mark 1:1-8*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

## **Sermon**

The Dean

*Please stand if you are able.*

## **Nicene Creed**

**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 joyful expectation  
of his coming to our aid  
we pray to Jesus.

*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*

May the God of peace  
make you completely holy,  
ready for the coming  
of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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.



# Preparation of the Altar

Look upon us in mercy not in judgement;  
draw us from hatred to love;  
make the frailty of our praise  
a dwelling place for your glory.

**Amen.**

# Eucharistic Prayer

*The President says*

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 and good  
to give you thanks and praise,  
almighty God and everlasting Father,  
through Jesus Christ your Son.  
For when he humbled himself to come  
among us in human flesh,  
he fulfilled the plan you formed  
before the foundation of the world  
to open for us the way of salvation.  
Confident that your promise  
will be fulfilled, we now watch for the day

when Christ our Lord  
will come again in glory.  
And so we join our voices  
with angels and archangels  
and with all the company of heaven  
to proclaim your glory  
for ever praising you and singing:

*The choir sings*

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts.  
heaven and earth are full of thy glory.  
Glory be to thee, O Lord most high.  
Blessed is he that cometh  
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*

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died:**

**Christ is risen:**

**Christ will come again.**

*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*

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*

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.  
**Jesus Christ is holy,  
Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.**



# Agnus Dei

*The choir sings*

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy 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 both communion stations – please do not intinct (dip) the wafer.*

# Communion Motet

*sung by the choir*

All sons of Adam rise up with me,  
go lov the blissed Trinitie.

Sing we nowell, nowell, nowell,

cry Kyrie with hosanna,

sing Sabaoth, sing alleluja,

now save us all Emanuel.

Then spak archangel Gabriel,

said Ave Mary mild,

the Lord of Lordis is with thee,

now sall thou go with child.

*Ecce ancilla Domini.*

Then said the virgin young:  
as thou hes said so mot it be.

Welcom be heavin's king.

There cam a ship fair sailland then,  
sanct Michael was the stieresman,  
sanct John sat in the horn.

Our Lord harpit, our Lady sang  
and all the bells of heav'n they rang  
on Christsonday at morn.

Then sang the angels all and sum:

*lauda Jerusalem, Dominum,*

*lauda Deum tuum, Sion.*

The sons of Adam answered them:  
sing glore be to thee God and man,  
the Father and the Sprit also,  
with honour and perpetual jo.

*Anon*

# Post Communion Prayer

*The President says*

Let us pray.

Father in heaven,  
who sent your Son to redeem the world  
and will send him again to be our judge:  
give us grace so to imitate him  
in the humility and purity  
of his first coming  
that, when he comes again,  
we may be ready to greet him  
with joyful love and firm faith;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

# THE DISMISSAL

## Blessing

*Please stand. The President says*

May God himself, the God of peace,  
make you perfect and holy,  
and keep you safe and blameless,  
in spirit, soul and body,  
for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ;  
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*

As we await our coming Saviour,  
go in the light and peace of Christ.  
**Thanks be to God.**

# Hymn

The Saviour will come, resplendent in joy;  
the lame and the sick new strength will enjoy.  
The desert, rejoicing, shall burst into flower,  
the deaf and the speechless  
will sing in that hour!

The Saviour will come, like rain on the earth,  
to harvest at last his crop of great worth.  
In patience await him, with firmness of mind;  
both mercy and judgement his people will find.

The Saviour will come, his truth shall we see:  
where lepers are cleansed  
and captives set free.

No finely clad princeling in palace of gold,  
but Christ with his people, O wonder untold!

*Based on Isaiah 35*  
*Michael Forster b 1946*

*LAUDATE DOMINUM*  
*C.H.H. Parry 1848-1918*

# Dismissal of Clergy, Servers and Choir

*The President says to them*

The Lord be with you,  
*and also with you.*

Let us bless the Lord,  
*thanks be to God.*

## Voluntary

Fantasia on 'Veni Emmanuel'

*Alec Rowley 1892-1958*

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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