



# 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*

Mass in G minor

*Ralph Vaughan Williams 1872-1958*

*Gradual*

Psalm 1

*Motet*

O God, the King of glory *Henry Purcell 1659-95*

*Voluntary*

Allegro risoluto (Plymouth Suite)

*Percy Whitlock 1903-46*

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

## **Bell Sunday**

Today is Bell Sunday, an annual national day to celebrate the contribution that bell ringers make to the worshipping life of our churches. We're delighted to welcome some of our ringers to the service this morning.

## **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](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 the hymn during which the choir and clergy enter the Cathedral.*

## Opening Hymn

When morning gilds the skies,  
my heart awaking cries,  
    may Jesus Christ be praised:  
alike at work and prayer  
to Jesus I repair;  
    may Jesus Christ be praised.

The sacred minster bell  
it peals o'er hill and dell,  
    may Jesus Christ be praised:  
O hark to what it sings,  
as joyously it rings,  
    may Jesus Christ be praised.

The night becomes as day,  
when from the heart we say,  
    may Jesus Christ be praised:  
the powers of darkness fear,  
when this sweet chant they hear,  
    may Jesus Christ be praised.

Be this, while life is mine,  
my canticle divine,  
    may Jesus Christ be praised:  
be this the eternal song  
through all the ages on,  
    may Jesus Christ be praised.

*German 19<sup>th</sup> century*                      *LAUDES DOMINI*  
*tr. Edward Caswall 1814-78*    *Joseph Barnby 1838-96*

## 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.**

God raised Christ from the dead  
**and enthroned him at his right hand  
in the heavenly realms.**

When Christ, who is our life, is revealed,  
**we too will be revealed  
with him in glory.**

## **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*

What God has prepared  
for those who love him,  
he has revealed to us through the Spirit;  
for the Spirit searches everything.  
Therefore, let us in penitence  
open our hearts to the Lord,  
who has prepared good things  
for those who love him.

*1 Corinthians 2.9,10*

**O King enthroned on high,  
filling the earth with your glory:  
holy is your name,  
Lord God almighty.**

**In our sinfulness we cry to you  
to take our guilt away,  
and to cleanse our lips  
to speak your word,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

## **Kyrie**

*The choir sings*

Kyrie eleison.	<i>Lord, have mercy.</i>
Christe eleison.	<i>Christ, have mercy.</i>
Kyrie eleison.	<i>Lord, have mercy.</i>

## **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.

O God the King of glory,  
you have exalted  
your only Son Jesus Christ  
with great triumph  
to your kingdom in heaven:  
we beseech you, leave us not comfortless,  
but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us  
and exalt us to the place  
where our Saviour Christ is gone before,  
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.

In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred and twenty people) and said, 'Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus—for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.'

So one of the men who have accompanied us throughout the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.' So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed and said, 'Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from

which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.' And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

*Acts 1:15-17, 21-end*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Gradual: Psalm I**

*The choir sings*

Blessed is the man that hath not walked in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stood in the way of sinners : and hath not sat in the seat of the scornful.

But his delight is in the law of the Lord : and in his law will he exercise himself day and night.

And he shall be like a tree planted by the water-side : that will bring forth his fruit in due season.

His leaf also shall not wither : and look, whatsoever he doeth, it shall prosper.

As for the ungodly, it is not so with them :  
but they are like the chaff, which the wind  
scattereth away from the face of the earth.

Therefore the ungodly shall not be able to  
stand in the judgement : neither the sinners  
in the congregation of the righteous.

But the Lord knoweth the way of the  
righteous : and the way of the ungodly shall  
perish.

*Please stand for the Gospel procession.*

## **Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Go, and make disciples of all nations,  
says the Lord, and  
remember I am with you always  
to the end of the age.

*Matthew 28.19,20*

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

## **Holy Gospel**

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus looked up to heaven and prayed: 'Father, I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them.

And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled.

But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in

themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

*John 17:6-19*

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 Canon Richard Walker

*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

We pray for God to fill us with his Spirit.

*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*

God has made us one in Christ.  
He has set his seal upon us and,  
as a pledge of what is to come,  
has given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts.  
Alleluia.

*cf 2 Corinthians 1.22*

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

O thou, who at thy Eucharist didst pray  
that all thy Church might be for ever one,  
grant us at every Eucharist to say  
with longing heart and soul, 'Thy will be done.'  
Oh, may we all one Bread, one Body be,  
one through this Sacrament of unity.



# Preparation of the Altar

*The President prays*

Lord of all and source of our joy,  
receive our sacrifice  
of praise and thanksgiving.  
Keep us in the love of Christ  
and bring us to the vision of his glory;  
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**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,  
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

For he is our great high priest  
who has entered once for all  
into the heavenly sanctuary,

evermore to pour upon your Church  
the grace and comfort of your Holy Spirit.  
He is the one who has gone before us,  
who calls us to be united in prayer  
as were his disciples in the upper room  
while they awaited his promised gift,  
the life-giving Spirit of Pentecost.

Therefore all creation yearns  
with eager longing  
as angels and archangels  
sing the endless hymn of praise:

### *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,  
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, 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*

O God, the King of glory,  
who hast exalted thine only Son Jesus Christ  
with great triumph into heaven:  
We beseech thee, leave us not comfortless;  
but send to us thine Holy Ghost  
to comfort us,  
and exalt us unto the same place  
where our Saviour Christ is gone before us.  
Amen.

*Collect, Sunday after Ascension, BCP*

*Henry Purcell 1659-95*

# Post Communion Prayer

*The President says*

Let us pray.

Eternal God, giver of love and power,  
your Son Jesus Christ has sent us  
into all the world  
to preach the gospel of his kingdom:  
confirm us in this mission,  
and help us to live  
the good news we proclaim;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

# THE DISMISSAL

## Hymn

*Please stand, if you are able, to sing*

O Breath of Life,  
                  come sweeping through us,  
revive your Church with life and pow'r;  
O Breath of Life, come cleanse, renew us,  
and fit your Church to meet this hour.

O Breath of Love, come breathe within us,  
renewing thought and will and heart;  
come, love of Christ, afresh to win us,  
revive your Church in ev'ry part!

O Wind of God, come bend us, break us,  
till humbly we confess our need;  
then in your tenderness remake us,  
revive, restore – for this we plead.

Revive us, Lord; is zeal abating  
while harvest fields are vast and white?  
Revive us, Lord, the world is waiting –  
equip thy Church to spread the light.

*E.A. Porter Head 1850-1936*

*SPIRITUS VITAE*

*Mary Jane Hammond 1878-1964*

# Blessing

*Please remain standing. The President says*

The Spirit of truth lead you into all truth,  
give you grace  
to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
and strengthen you  
to proclaim the word and works of God;  
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*

Christ has gone up on high.  
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

Allegro risoluto (Plymouth Suite)

*Percy Whitlock 1903-46*

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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