



Civic Service

19th May 2024
3.00 pm

in the presence of
The Right Worshipful
The Lord Mayor of Chester,
Councillor Razia Daniels

accompanied by
The Deputy Lord Mayor,
The Sheriff of Chester,
and The Town Clerk



CHESTER
CATHEDRAL

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 entrance to the quire, or by visiting [Services - Chester Cathedral](#)

Music

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| <i>Responses</i> | Joanna Forbes L'Estrange <i>b.1971</i> |
| <i>Canticles</i> | Evening Service in G <i>Francis Jackson 1917-2022</i> |
| <i>Psalm</i> | 98 |
| <i>Anthem</i> | The Spirit of the Lord is upon me <i>Edward Elgar 1857-1934</i> |
| <i>Voluntary</i> | Marche Pontificale (Symphonie I) <i>Charles-Marie Widor 1844-1937</i> |

COLLECTION

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

We invite you to generously give to ensure our future:

A retiring collection will be taken at the end of the service; donations can 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 ORDER OF PROCESSION

Town Clerk
Lord Mayor's Attendant
Sword & Mace
Lord Mayor and Consort
Sheriff & Consort
Deputy Lord Mayor & Consort

Lord Lieutenant Cadet
Honorary Recorder of Chester Steven Everett DL
and Melinda Everett

Mayor & Mayoress of Cheshire East
Mayor & Mayoress of Wirral
Chairman & Consort of Flintshire

Deputy Mayor & Mayoress of Wrexham
Deputy Mayor & Consort of Ellesmere Port

Kenny Nixon - 75 Engineer Regiment
Michael Ankers and Paul Fagan - Cheshire
Constabulary
Andrew Grey - Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service

Honorary Alderman John Ebo and Sue Stanley
Honorary Alderman Neil Sullivan
and Annette Sullivan
Hon Alderman Andrew Needham
and Christine Needham
Honorary Freeman Barbara Owen and Guests
David and Janet Bignall
Caroline Ellis and Guest

Councillor Simon Eardley and Kate Vaughan
Councillor Phil Marshall and Lucy Marshall

Please stand if you are able. The Cathedral procession will enter during the hymn.

Opening Hymn

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
to his feet thy tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven.
Who like me his praise should sing?
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise the everlasting King!

Praise him for his grace and favour
to our fathers in distress;
praise him still the same forever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise him! Praise him!
Glorious in his faithfulness.

Father-like he tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame he knows;
in his hands he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes.
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise him! Praise him!
Widely as his mercy flows.

Angels, help us to adore him;
ye behold him face to face;
sun and moon bow down before him,
dwellers all in time and space.
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise with us the God of grace!

H. F. Lyte 1793-1847

*PRAISE MY SOUL
John Goss 1800-1880*

The Preces *sung by the choir*

○ Lord, open thou our lips.
And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

○ God, make speed to save us.
○ 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.

Joanna Forbes L'Estrange

The Welcome

Please be seated. The Very Revd Dr Tim Stratford, Dean says

We have come together in the presence of Almighty God and of the whole company of heaven to offer to him through our Lord Jesus Christ our worship and praise and thanksgiving; to give thanks for all the good things God has bestowed upon us: health, family, home, friends, employment, freedom, democracy and the rule of law, and acknowledge our failures and receive God's forgiveness and grace.

As we pray for ourselves and for the people of Cheshire West and Chester, we come to celebrate our shared life together; we pray especially for Councillor Razia Daniels and look forward to her term as Lord Mayor. We also come to pray for all of our councillors who represent our local communities. Through their service, may we know more truly the greatness of God's love, justice and purpose for the society we live in.

We remain seated as the Cathedral choir sing the psalm set for the day.

Psalm 98

O sing unto the Lord a new song :
for he hath done marvellous things.
With his own right hand, and with his holy
arm : hath he gotten himself the victory.

The Lord declared his salvation : his
righteousness hath he openly shewed in
the sight of the heathen.

He hath remembered his mercy and truth
toward the house of Israel : and all the
ends of the world have seen the salvation
of our God.

Shew yourselves joyful unto the Lord, all
ye lands : sing, rejoice, and give thanks.

Praise the Lord upon the harp : sing to the
harp with a psalm of thanksgiving.

With trumpets also and shawms :
O shew yourselves joyful before the Lord
the King.

Let the sea make a noise, and all that
therein is: the round world, and they that
dwell therein.

Let the floods clap their hands, and let the hills be joyful together before the Lord : for he is come to judge the earth.

With righteousness shall he judge the world : and the people with equity.

Please stand if you are able for the Gloria

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.

Please be seated.

The First Lesson

read by Councillor Razia Daniels, Lord Mayor

The first reading is written in the prophecy of Isaiah, chapter fifty-eight, beginning at the sixth verse.

Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,

and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,

and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you, the
glory of the Lord shall be your rearguard.
Then you shall call, and the Lord will
answer; you shall cry for help,
and he will say, Here I am.

If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of
evil,

if you offer your food to the hungry

and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.

The Lord will guide you continually,
and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water,
whose waters never fail.

Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;

you shall raise up the foundations of
many generations;

you shall be called the repairer of the
breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

Isaiah 58:6-12

Here ends the Old Testament reading.

Please stand if you are able for the Gospel canticle, the Magnificat, sung by the choir

The Magnificat

My soul doth magnify the Lord: and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

For he hath regarded:
the lowliness of his hand-maiden.

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 showed 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.

Luke 1: 46 – 55

Francis Jackson 1917-2022

Please be seated.

The Second Lesson

read by Cllr Simon Eardley

The second reading is written in the fifth chapter of the gospel according to Matthew, beginning at the first verse.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

‘Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

‘Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

‘Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

‘Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

‘Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

‘Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

‘Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

‘Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:1-10

Here ends the New Testament reading.

Please stand if you are able for the Gospel canticle, the Nunc Dimittis, sung by the choir

The 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.

Luke 2:29–32

Francis Jackson

We remain standing and turn to face east as we acknowledge our faith.

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 Lesser Litany and Suffrages

sung by the choir

The Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.

Please be seated.

Let us pray.

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

Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. Amen.

O Lord, show 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.

The Collects for the day, for peace and for aid against all perils

God, who as at this time didst teach the hearts of thy faithful people, by the sending to them the light of thy Holy Spirit; Grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgement in all things, and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the same Spirit, one God, world without end. 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.

The Anthem

The Cathedral Choir sings

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He hath anointed me to preach the Gospel to the poor: He hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted to preach deliverance to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind – to preach the acceptable year of the Lord; to give unto them that mourn a garland for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called the trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He might be glorified. For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden that causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations. The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He hath anointed me to preach the Gospel.

Isaiah 61:1-3, 11

Edward Elgar 1857-1934

The Homily

The Dean

The Prayers

Led by Revd Dr Lesley Cooke, Chaplain to the Lord Mayor. The response is

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

At the end, we pray together

**Lord God, our Father,
we give you humble and hearty
thanks for this place in which
you have called us to live and work.
We thank you for all
who are part of the community,
especially those
whose care and concern
prompt them to public service.
We give you thanks for the work of
Cheshire West and Chester Council
and of all the organisations
contributing to our life here.
We pray that you would
unite us in community,
that we may ever have a true care
for one another, and may always
seek the common good;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Please stand if you are able, to sing the hymn.

Offertory Hymn

Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty,
hold me with thy powerful hand:
bread of heaven,
feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through:
strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death, and hell's destruction
land me safe on Canaan's side:
songs of praises
I will ever give to thee.

William Williams 1717-91

*CWM RHONDDA
John Hughes 1873-1932*

Please remain standing.

The Act of Commitment in Office

Let us now pledge ourselves anew
to the service of God
and to our fellow men and women,
and to the offices
to which we have been elected:

**Lord God our Father,
we pledge ourselves to serve you
and all humankind,
in the cause of peace,
for the relief of want and suffering,
and for the praise of your name.
Guide us by your Spirit;
give us wisdom;
give us courage;
give us hope;
and keep us faithful,
now and always.
Amen.**

Blessing

given by the Dean

Go forth into the world in peace;
be of good courage;

hold fast that which is good;
render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted;
support the weak;
help the afflicted;
honour everyone;
love and serve the Lord,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

We sing together the National Anthem

**God save our gracious King,
long live our noble King,
God save the King.
Send him victorious,
happy and glorious,
long to reign over us:
God save the King.**

**Thy choicest gifts in store
on him be pleased to pour,
long may he reign.
May he defend our laws,
and ever give us cause,
to sing with heart and voice,
God save the King.**

Please remain standing as the procession leaves, then be seated for the remainder of the organ voluntary.

The Voluntary

Marche Pontificale (Symphonie I)

Charles-Marie Widor 1844-1937

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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