



CHESTER  
CATHEDRAL

# Remembrance Sunday

10<sup>th</sup> November 2024  
10.15am



Preacher:  
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.

Throughout the service, where indicated, please only stand if you feel able to do so. Part way through today's service, we will move outside for the Act of Remembrance. Please follow the directions of the stewards.

## Music

### *Motet*

Greater love hath no man

*John Ireland 1879-1962*

# 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*

## OPENING 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 be seated. The Very Revd Dr Tim Stratford, Dean of Chester, offers informal words of welcome, then says*

What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

*Micah 6:8*

We meet in the presence of God.

We commit ourselves to work in penitence and faith for reconciliation between the nations, that all people may, together, live in freedom, justice and peace.

We pray for all who in bereavement, disability and pain continue to suffer the consequences of fighting and terror.

We remember with thanksgiving and sorrow those whose lives, in world wars and conflicts past and present, have been given and taken away.

## **THE BIBLE READING**

*read by Rear Admiral (rtd) Jeremy Larken DSO*

The reading is taken from the Gospel according to St John, Chapter 15, beginning to read at the ninth verse.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.'

'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.'

*John 15: 9-17*

Here ends the reading.

# REFLECTION

The Dean

## ANTHEM

*The Cathedral Choir sings*

Many waters cannot quench love,  
neither can the floods drown it.

Love is strong as death.

Greater love hath no man than this,  
that a man lay down his life for his friends.

Who his own self bare our sins  
in his own body on the tree,

that we, being dead to sins,  
should live unto righteousness.

Ye are washed, ye are sanctified,  
ye are justified

in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Ye are a chosen generation,  
a royal priesthood, a holy nation;

that ye should show forth  
the praises of him

who hath called you out of darkness  
into his marvellous light.

I beseech you brethren,  
by the mercies of God,

that you present your bodies,

a living sacrifice,  
holy, acceptable unto God,  
which is your reasonable service.

*Song of Songs 7; John 15; John Ireland 1879-1962  
I Peter 2; I Corinthians 6; Romans 12*

## **PRAYERS**

*The Revd Canon Rosie Woodall, Vice Dean,  
leads*

Let us pray for all who suffer  
as a result of conflict,  
and ask that God may give us peace:

for the service men and women  
who have died in the violence of war,  
each one remembered by  
and known to God;  
may God give peace.

**God give peace.**

For those who love them in death as in life,  
offering the distress of our grief  
and the sadness of our loss;  
may God give peace.

**God give peace.**

For all members of the armed forces  
who are in danger this day,



remembering family, friends  
and all who pray for their safe return;  
may God give peace.

**God give peace.**

For civilian women, children and men  
whose lives are disfigured  
by war or terror,  
calling to mind in penitence  
the anger and hatreds of humanity;  
may God give peace.

**God give peace.**

For peacemakers and peacekeepers,  
who seek to keep this world  
secure and free;  
may God give peace.

**God give peace.**

For all who bear the burden and privilege  
of leadership,  
political, military and religious;  
asking for gifts of wisdom and resolve  
in the search for reconciliation and peace;  
may God give peace.

**God give peace.**

O God of truth and justice,  
we hold before you those  
whose memory we cherish, and those  
whose names we will never know.

Help us to lift our eyes above the torment  
of this broken world,  
and grant us the grace to pray  
for those who wish us harm.  
As we honour the past,  
may we put our faith in your future;  
for you are the source of life and hope,  
now and for ever. **Amen.**

*All join together in the Lord's Prayer*

**Our Father,  
who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

*Please stand, if able, to sing*

# HYMN

I vow to thee, my country,  
all earthly things above,  
entire and whole and perfect,  
the service of my love:  
the love that asks no question,  
the love that stands the test,  
that lays upon the altar  
the dearest and the best;  
the love that never falters,  
the love that pays the price,  
the love that makes undaunted  
the final sacrifice.

And there's another country  
I've heard of long ago,  
most dear to them that love her,  
most great to them that know;  
we may not count her armies,  
we may not see her King;  
her fortress is a faithful heart,  
her pride is suffering;  
and soul by soul and silently  
her shining bounds increase,  
and her ways are ways of gentleness  
and all her paths are peace.

*Cecil Spring-Rice 1859-1919*

*THAXTED*  
*Gustav Holst 1874-1934*

# ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

*We move out of the Cathedral to gather by the War Memorial – please follow after the processions as directed. When all are gathered, all then sing the following hymn, accompanied by the City of Chester Band.*

O God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
our shelter from the stormy blast,  
and our eternal home.

Under the shadow of thy throne  
thy saints have dwelt secure;  
sufficient is thine arm alone,  
and our defence is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,  
or earth received her frame,  
from everlasting thou art God,  
to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in thy sight  
are like an evening gone;  
short as the watch that ends the night  
before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream,  
will bear us all away;  
we fly forgotten, as a dream  
dies at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
be thou our guard while troubles last,  
and our eternal home!

*Isaac Watts 1674-1748*

*based on Psalm 90*

*ST ANNE*

*William Croft 1678-1727*

*The Dean says*

We gather to remember before God,  
and commend to his safe keeping,  
those who have died  
for their country in war;  
those whom we knew  
and whose memory we treasure;  
and all who have lived and died  
in the service of the peoples of the world.

*The Revd Canon Anthony Lees-Smith, Canon  
Missioner, reads*

A reading from the prophet, Micah.

God shall judge between many peoples,  
and shall arbitrate  
between strong nations far away;  
they shall beat their swords  
into ploughshares,  
and their spears into pruning-hooks;  
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
neither shall they learn war anymore.

*Micah 4. 3*

# ACT OF COMMITMENT

*Major Revd Paul Robinson CF, Chaplain to 4th Battalion Duke of Lancaster's Regiment, says*

Let us pledge ourselves anew  
to the service of God  
and our fellow men and women:  
that we may help, encourage  
and comfort others,  
and support those working  
for the relief of the needy  
and for the peace and welfare  
of the nations.

Will you strive for all that makes for  
peace?

**We will.**

Will you seek to heal the wounds of war?

**We will.**

Will you work for a just future for all  
humanity?

**We will.**

Almighty God,  
stretch forth your mighty arm to  
strengthen and protect the armed forces:  
grant that meeting danger with courage  
and all occasions with discipline and loyalty,

they may truly serve  
the cause of justice and peace;  
to the honour of your holy name,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*A short silence may follow; the Parade is then called to attention.*

## **ACT OF REMEMBRANCE**

*Lieutenant Colonel K J Nixon RE, Commanding Officer, 75 Engineer Regiment says*

They shall grow not old  
as we that are left grow old:  
age shall not weary them,  
nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun  
and in the morning  
we will remember them.

**We will remember them.**

*from For the Fallen  
Laurence Binyon (1869-1943)*

## **THE LAST POST**

## **THE SILENCE**

# THE REVEILLE

# THE KOHIMA EPITAPH

*Lt Col John Greener, Commanding Officer, 22 Multi-Role Medical Regiment, says*

When you go home  
tell them of us and say,  
for your tomorrow,  
we gave our today.

*The Parade stands at ease.*

# THE WREATH LAYING

*The Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire, places a wreath at the War Memorial, followed by Councillor Robert Bisset, Chairman of Cheshire West and Chester Council; The Right Worshipful Lord Mayor of Chester, Councillor Razia Daniels; The Duke of Westminster; Mrs Samantha Dixon MP; then those from military, city, service and other dignitaries.*



*At the end, the Dean prays*

Ever-living God,  
we remember those whom you have  
gathered from the storm of war  
into the peace of your presence;  
may that same peace calm our fears,  
bring justice to all peoples  
and establish harmony among the nations,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## **THE BLESSING**

*The Dean says*

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 faint-hearted;  
support the weak;  
help the afflicted;  
honour all people;  
love and serve the Lord;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be amongst you and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**

*The Chester City Band plays over the last two lines of the National Anthem and then all sing*

## **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!

*Author unknown c1745*                      **NATIONAL ANTHEM**  
*popularised by Thomas Arne 1710-78*

*The Choir, followed by Servers, Clergy and the wreath layers return to the Cathedral via the South West Porch.*

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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