CHESTER
CATHEDRAL

Remembrance Sunday

8th November 2026
10.15am

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

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
My soul, there is a country
Hubert Parry 1848-1918

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 as you leave the Cathedral; 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.

THE GATHERING

OPENING HYMN

Please stand, if able, to sing

All my hope on God is founded;
he doth still my trust renew.
me through change and chance he guideth,
only good and only true.
God unknown, he alone
calls my heart to be his own.

Pride of man and earthly glory,
sword and crown betray his trust;
what with care and toil he buildeth,
tower and temple, fall to dust
but God's power, hour by hour,
is my temple and my tower.

God's great goodness aye endureth,
deep his wisdom, passing thought:
splendour, light and life attend him,
beauty springeth out of naught.
Evermore from his store
new-born worlds rise and adore.

Daily doth th'Almighty giver
bounteous gifts on us bestow;
his desire our soul delighteth,
pleasure leads us where we go.
Love doth stand at his hand;
joy doth wait on his command.

Still from earth to God eternal
sacrifice of praise be done,
high above all praises praising
for the gift of Christ his Son.
Christ doth call one and all:
ye who follow shall not fall.

Joachim Neander 1650-80 *MICHAEL*
para. Robert Bridges 1844-1930
Herbert Howells 1892-1983

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

The reading is taken from St Paul's Letter to the Romans.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or

famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?
As it is written,
'For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.'

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:31-39

Here ends the reading.

REFLECTION

The Revd Canon Rosie Woodall,
Canon Precentor and Vice Dean

ANTHEM

The Cathedral Choir sings

My soul, there is a country
far beyond the stars,
where stands a wingèd sentry
all skilful in the wars:
there, above noise and danger,
sweet Peace sits crowned with smiles,
and One, born in a manger,
commands the beauteous files.
He is thy gracious Friend,
and — O my soul, awake! —
did in pure love descend
to die here for thy sake.
If thou canst get but thither,
there grows the flow'r of Peace,
the Rose that cannot wither,
thy fortress and thy ease.
Leave then thy foolish ranges,
for none can thee secure
but One who never changes,
thy God, thy life, thy cure.

Henry Vaughan 1621-95

Hubert Parry 1848-1918

PRAYERS

The Revd Canon Dr Anthony Lees-Smith,
Canon Missioner, 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.

HYMN

Please stand, if able, to sing

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*
Hubert Parry 1848-1918

We move out of the Cathedral to gather by the War Memorial – please follow after the processions as directed. A collection will be taken as you leave the Cathedral.

ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

When we 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 *ST ANNE*
based on Psalm 90 *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.

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

The Dean 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 Jamie Walkworth 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

Lieutenant Colonel Adam Taylor, 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's representative, Jamie Christon DL, 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 Margaret Parker; The Duke of Westminster's Representative, Nicholas Dobbs; Mrs Samantha Dixon MP; Councillor Razia Daniels on behalf of Aphra Brandreth MP; Police and Crime Commissioner Mr Dan Price, 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*

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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