

CHESTER
CATHEDRAL

Cathedral Eucharist

Advent Sunday

29th November 2026
10.30am

President:
The Very Revd Dr Tim Stratford

Preacher:
The Revd Canon Rosie Woodall

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
Messe solennelle — *Louis Vierne 1870-1937*

Gradual — People look east — *Trad.*

Motets
O nata lux — *Ghislaine Reece-Trapp b.2003*
Candle in the night — *Janet Gardner 2014*

Voluntary
Allegro risoluto (Symphonie II)
Louis Vierne 1870-1937

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

Children

We welcome members of Children's Church and Saturday Singing Club to take part in our service this morning.

We also welcome Josie, one of the members of Children's Church, to be admitted to communion today.

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 yoursel**f. If you prefer only to receive the wafer, then please do so.

COLLECTION

The Cathedral costs around £8000 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

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.

Opening hymn

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice, rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou rod of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save,
and give them vic'try o'er the grave.

O come, thou dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.

O come, thou key of David, come
and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.

O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times didst give the Law,
in cloud and majesty and awe.

Rejoice, rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

from the 'Great O Antiphons' *VENI EMMANUEL*
trans. John Mason Neale 1818-1866 *French Missal*

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

With love and compassion,
come, Lord Jesus.

With judgement and mercy,
come, Lord Jesus.

In power and glory,
come, Lord Jesus.

In wisdom and truth
come, Lord Jesus.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Lord Jesus, light of the world,
born in David's city of Bethlehem,
born like him to be a king:
be born in our hearts at Christmas,
be King of our lives today.
Amen.

The first candle on the Advent wreath is lit.

Prayers of Penitence

Please be seated. The Deacon says

When the Lord comes, he will bring to
light the things now hidden in darkness,
and will disclose the purposes of the heart.
Therefore in the light of Christ
let us confess our sins.

cf 1 Corinthians 4:5

We say together

Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.

We have not loved you
with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours
as ourselves.
In your mercy
forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.
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.

Please remain seated.

Collect

The President says

Let us pray.

Almighty God,
as your kingdom dawns,
turn us from the darkness of sin
to the light of holiness,
that we may be ready to meet you
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Please remain seated.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

New Testament reading

A reading from the prophecy of Isaiah.

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence -
as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil -
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
We have all become like one who is

unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity for ever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Isaiah 64:1-9

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please remain seated as Saturday Singing Club sings.

Gradual

People, look East. The time is near of the crowning of the year. Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the

table. People, look east and sing today: Love, the guest, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim, shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together. People, look east and sing today: Love, the star, is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth. Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming. People, look east and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Eleanor Farjeon 1881-1965 alt. *Besançon Carol*
French traditional carol

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.

Jesus said to his disciples:
'In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in clouds" with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

'From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

‘But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch.

Therefore, keep awake - for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.’

Mark 13:24-end

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 Canon Precentor

After the sermon, a brief period of silence is kept. Please stand, if you are able.

Affirmation of Faith

The President says

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family in heaven
and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us with power
from on high.**

**We believe in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

Please be seated.

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

God will speak peace to his people,
to those who turn to him in their hearts.

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.

Please remain standing as we sing together.

Offertory Hymn

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice.

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone.

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come.

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

Bernadette Farrell b 1957 *CHRIST BE OUR LIGHT*
Bernadette Farrell

Please remain standing.

Admission of the Baptised to Communion

Those to be admitted stand with the President.

We are God's pilgrim people.
We share in the story
of God's love for the world,
God's love in Christ, calling us to himself,
God's love in the Spirit,
giving strength for our journey of faith.
We celebrate this love in word and song,
we feed on Jesus in bread and wine
and make him known
through our life together.
As the people of God in this place,
we share the responsibility
of encouraging one another
in our worship
and supporting one another
in our discipleship,
by our example and our prayers.

Josie, you love God, you follow Jesus, and you live the Christian life. Do you wish to receive Holy Communion?
Yes.

We welcome you in Jesus' name to receive communion with us.

Those to be admitted return to their seats.

Preparation of the Altar

The President prays

As the grain once scattered in the fields
and the grapes once dispersed
on the hillside
are now united on this table
in bread and wine,
so, Lord, may your whole Church
soon be gathered together
from the corners of the earth
into your kingdom.
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.

Lord of all life,
you created the universe,
where all living things reflect your glory.
You give us this great and beautiful earth,
to discover and to cherish.

And now we give you thanks
because in his coming
the day of our deliverance has dawned;
and through him
you will make all things new,
as he comes in power and triumph
to judge the world.

You made us all,
each wonderfully different,
to join with the angels
and sing your praise:

The choir sings

Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus,
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua.
Hosanna in excelsis.

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

The President continues

We thank you, loving Father,
because, when we turned away,
you sent Jesus, your Son.

He gave his life for us on the cross
and shows us the way to live.
Send your Holy Spirit
that these gifts of bread and wine
may be for us Christ's body and his blood.

On the night before he died,
when darkness had fallen,
Jesus took bread.
He gave thanks, broke it,
and shared it with his disciples, saying:
'This is my body, given for you.
Do this to remember me.'

After they had eaten,
he took the cup of wine, gave thanks,
and shared it with his disciples, saying:
'This is my blood, poured out for you
and for many, for the forgiveness of sins.'

So Father, with this bread and this cup
we celebrate his love,
his death, his risen life.
As you feed us with these gifts,
send your Holy Spirit,
and change us more and more
to be like Jesus our Saviour.
Help us, Father, to love one another,
as we look forward to that day
when suffering is ended,
and all creation is gathered
in your loving arms.

And now with all your saints
we give you glory,
through Jesus Christ,
in the strength of the Spirit,
today and for 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

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 offered at all communion stations – please do not intinct (dip) the wafer.

Communion motets

The Cathedral Choir sings

O nata Lux de Lumine, Jesu redemptor saeculi, dignare clemens supplicum laudes preces que summere.
Qui carne quondam contegi, dignatus es pro perditis, nos membra confer effici tui beati corporis.

O Light born of Light, Jesus, redeemer of the world, with loving-kindness deign to receive suppliant praise and prayer.
Thou who once deigned to be clothed in flesh for the sake of the lost, grant us to be members of thy blessed body.

Latin hymn for Feast of the Transfiguration
Ghislaine Reece-Trapp b.2003

Saturday Singing Club Choir sings

Candle in the night, beaming with delight,
cast a peaceful aura mid the shadows grim.
Dancing to and fro, it sheds a golden glow
that sparks a flame within the heart and soul.
Shine your light in the darkest night,
though it may be just a glimmer.
One small spark can brighten up the dark,
everywhere you go let it shine.

This little light of mine,
oh, I'm going to let it shine.
Everywhere I go, my light will be aglow.
Shine, shining ever bright
in the darkest night,
when hope seems out of sight.
Oh, soon that tiny spark
will brighten up the dark.
Everywhere you go, let it shine.
Everywhere you go, let your candle glow.
Everywhere you go, let it shine. Glow.

Janet Gardner, 2014

Post Communion Prayer

The President says

Let us pray.

O Lord our God,
make us watchful and keep us faithful
as we await the coming
of your Son our Lord;
that, when he shall appear,
he may not find us sleeping in sin
but active in his service
and joyful in his praise;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE DISMISSAL

Hymn

Please stand to sing the hymn.

Lo! he comes with clouds descending,
once for favoured sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train:
alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
God appears, on earth to reign.

Every eye shall now behold him
robed in dreadful majesty;
we who set at nought and sold him,
pierced and nailed him to the tree,
deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
deeply wailing,
shall the true Messiah see.

Those dear tokens of his passion
still his dazzling body bears,
cause of endless exultation
to his ransomed worshippers:
with what rapture, with what rapture,
with what rapture,
gaze we on those glorious scars!

Yea, Amen! let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory:
claim the kingdom for thine own:
O come quickly! O come quickly!
O come quickly!
Alleluia! Come, Lord, come!

Charles Wesley 1707-88 *HELMSLEY*
Wesley's Select Hymns 1765

Blessing

Please remain standing. The President says

Christ the Sun of Righteousness
shine upon you,
scatter the darkness
from before your path,
and make you ready to meet him
when he comes in glory;
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.

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

Voluntary

Allegro risoluto (Symphonie II)
Louis Vierne 1870-1937

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Material from Common Worship included in this service is copyright © The Archbishop's Council 2000-2008
Scripture quotations are from New Revised Standard Version Bible: Anglicized Edition, copyright © 1989, 1995 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
CCLI Licence Number: 177097