



CHESTER
CATHEDRAL

Cathedral Eucharist

The Birth of The Blessed Virgin Mary

8th September 2024
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

Communion Service in C *John Ireland 1879-1962*

Gradual

Psalm 146

Motet

Ave Maria

Claudio Monteverdi 1567-1643

Voluntary

Fuga sopra il Magnificat (BWV 733)

J S Bach 1685-1750

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

We are delighted to welcome The Cathedral Choir back this morning after their summer break. Today we celebrate the Birth of The Blessed Virgin Mary, to whom this Cathedral is dedicated.

Children

If you have children with you, they are welcome to take part in Sunday groups: please ask any sidesperson for directions.

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

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

Sing we of the blessèd Mother
who received the angel's word,
and obedient to his summons
bore in love the infant Lord;
sing we of the joys of Mary
at whose breast that child was fed,
who is Son of God eternal
and the everlasting bread.

Sing we, too, of Mary's sorrows,
of the sword that pierced her through,
when beneath the cross of Jesus
she his weight of suffering knew,
looked upon her Son and Saviour
reigning high on Calvary's tree,
saw the price of our redemption
paid to set the sinner free.

Sing again the joys of Mary
when she saw the risen Lord,
and in prayer with Christ's apostles,
waited on his promised word:
from on high the blazing glory
of the Spirit's presence came,
heav'nly breath of God's own being,
manifest through wind and flame.

Sing the greatest joy of Mary
when on earth her work was done,
and the Lord of all creation
brought her to his heav'nly home:
virgin mother, Mary blessed,
raised on high and crowned with grace,
may your Son, the world's redeemer,
grant us all to see his face.

G.B. Timms 1910-97

*ABBOT'S LEIGH
Cyril Taylor 1907-91*

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

Blessed is she who had faith
that the Lord's promise would be fulfilled.
All generations shall call her blessed.

Blessed is she among women
and blessed is the fruit of her womb.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit.
Holy is his name.

Prayers of Penitence

Please be seated. The Deacon says

Born of a woman, born under the law,
Christ has redeemed us
from the curse of sin:
let us come to him
that he may heal us
and set us free:

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence,
through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son
Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you
in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen.**

Kyrie

The choir sings

Kyrie eleison.
Christe eleison.
Kyrie eleison.

*Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
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 stand, if you are able.

Gloria in excelsis

The choir sings

Glory be to God on high,
and in earth peace, good will towards men.
We praise thee, we bless thee,
we worship thee, we glorify thee,
we give thanks to thee for thy great glory,
O Lord God, heavenly King,
God the Father almighty.
O Lord, the only-begotten Son,
Jesu Christ: O Lord God,
Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away
the sins of the world, receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God
the Father, have mercy upon us.
For thou only art holy;
thou only art the Lord;
thou only, O Christ,
with the Holy Ghost, art the Most High,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

Collect

The President says

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God,
who stooped to raise fallen humanity
through the child-bearing of blessed Mary:
grant that we, who have seen your glory
revealed in our human nature
and your love made perfect
in our weakness,
may daily be renewed in your image
and conformed to the pattern of your Son
Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please be seated.

New Testament reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

Acts 1:12-14

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Psalm 146

Please remain seated as the choir sings

Praise the Lord, O my soul; while I live will
I praise the Lord : yea, as long as I have any
being, I will sing praises unto my God.

O put not your trust in princes, nor in any
child of man : for there is no help in them.

For when the breath of man goeth forth
he shall turn again to his earth :
and then all his thoughts perish.

Blessed is he that hath the God of Jacob
for his help :
and whose hope is in the Lord his God;

Who made heaven and earth, the sea,
and all that therein is :
who keepeth his promise for ever;

Who helpeth them to right that suffer
wrong : who feedeth the hungry.

The Lord looseth men out of prison :
the Lord giveth sight to the blind.

The Lord helpeth them that are fallen :
the Lord careth for the righteous.

The Lord careth for the strangers,
he defendeth the fatherless and widow :

as for the way of the ungodly, he turneth it upside down.

The Lord thy God, O Sion,
shall be King for evermore :
and throughout all generations.

Please stand for the Gospel procession.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hail, Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with you.

Blessèd are you among women,
and blessèd is the fruit of your womb.

cf Luke 1:28,42

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Holy Gospel

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

Mary said,

‘My soul magnifies the Lord,

and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
for he has looked with favour on the
lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will
call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things
for me,
and holy is his name.
His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the
thoughts of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from
their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our
ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants for
ever.'

Luke 1:46-55

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 Rosie Woodall

After the sermon, a brief period of silence is kept. Then 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

In the power of the Spirit
and in union with Christ,
let us pray to the Father.

*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

Unto us a child is born,
unto us a son is given,
and his name shall be called
the Prince of Peace.

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

For Mary, mother of our Lord,
God's holy name be praised,
who first the Son of God adored,
as on her child she gazed.

The angel Gabriel brought the word
she should Christ's mother be;
Our Lady, handmaid of the Lord,
made answer willingly.

The heav'nly call she thus obeyed,
and so God's will was done;
the second Eve love's answer made
which our redemption won.

She gave her body for God's shrine,
her heart to piercing pain,
and knew the cost of love divine
when Jesus Christ was slain.

Dear Mary, from your lowliness
and home in Galilee,
there comes and joy and holiness
to ev'ry family.

Hail, Mary, you are full of grace,
above all women blest;
and blest your Son, whom your embrace
in birth and death confessed.

John Raphael Peacey 1896-1971 ST BOTOLPH
Gordon Slater 1896-1979

Please remain standing.

Preparation of the Altar

The President prays

God our Father, your handmaid Mary
fed your Son at her virgin breast.

Nourish us at this table
with the bread of heaven
and the cup of salvation.

Through 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 and good,
our duty and our salvation,
almighty Father, ever-living God,
to give you thanks and praise
for the work of your grace
in the Blessed Virgin Mary.

For by the overshadowing
of your Holy Spirit she conceived
and bore the Word made flesh.

At the cross she kept her vigil,
and saw the saving work of your Son
brought to its perfection.

She rejoiced in his resurrection,
and joining her prayers
with those of the apostles,
was filled with the gift
of your promised Spirit.

In her you show us
the greatness of your love,
and the wonderful purpose
you intend for all your children.

Therefore we join our voice with hers,
and all the company of heaven,
as they sing with joy
the hymn of your glory:

The choir sings

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts,
heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord most high.
Blessed is he that cometh in the name
of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The President continues

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit,

that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood
of your dear Son.

On the night before he died
he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.
He broke the bread, gave it to them
and said: Take, eat; this is my body
which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended
he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them
and said: 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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence
his sacrifice made once for all
upon the cross.
Bringing before you the bread of life
and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

The Deacon says

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

The President continues

Lord of all life,

help us to work together for that day

when your kingdom comes

and justice and mercy

will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,

gather us in your loving arms

and bring us with the Blessed Virgin Mary

and all the saints

to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ,

and in Christ,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

all honour and glory are yours,

O loving Father, for ever and 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

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

O Lamb of God, that takest away

the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away

the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away

the sins of the world, grant us thy 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

Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum;

benedicta tu in mulieribus,

et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesu.

Sancta Maria, Mater Dei,
ora pro nobis peccatoribus,
nunc et in hora mortis nostrae. Amen.

*Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee;
blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.*

Luke 1:28, 42

Claudio Monteverdi 1567-1643

Post Communion Prayer

The President says

Let us pray.

God most high, whose handmaid
bore the Word made flesh:
we thank you that in this sacrament
of our redemption
you visit us with your Holy Spirit
and overshadow us by your power;
strengthen us to walk with Mary
the joyful path of obedience
and so to bring forth the fruits of holiness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE DISMISSAL

Hymn

Please stand, if you are able, to sing

Ye watchers and ye holy ones,
bright seraphs, cherubim and thrones,
raise the glad strain, alleluia!
Cry out dominions, principedoms, powers,
virtues, archangels, angels' choirs,
 Alleluia, alleluia,
 alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

O higher than the cherubim,
more glorious than the seraphim,
lead their praises, alleluia!
O Mary, bearer of the Word,
most gracious, magnify the Lord,
 Alleluia, alleluia,
 alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Respond, ye souls in endless rest,
ye patriarchs and prophets blest,
alleluia, alleluia!
Ye holy Twelve, ye martyrs strong,
all saints triumphant, raise the song
 Alleluia, alleluia,
 alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

O friends, in gladness let us sing,
supernal anthems echoing,
alleluia, alleluia!

To God the Father, God the Son,
and God the Spirit, Three in One,
Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Athelstan Riley 1858-1945 LASST UNS ERFREUEN
alt. Melody from Geistliche Kirchengesang,
ad. Ralph Vaughan Williams 1872-1958

Blessing

Please remain standing. The President says

Christ the Son of God, born of Mary,
fill you with his grace
to trust his promises and obey his will;
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

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

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

Voluntary

Fuga sopra il Magnificat (BWV 733)

J S Bach 1685-1750

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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