



GUILDFORD
CATHEDRAL

6pm
10 May 2026

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER CHORAL EVENSONG



WELCOME

EASTERTIDE

The Great Fifty Days of Eastertide form a single festival period in which the tone of joy created at the Easter Vigil is sustained through the following seven weeks, and the Church celebrates the gloriously risen Christ.

Early Christians gave the name Pentecost to this whole fifty-day span. In those places where the custom of lighting the Easter Candle at the beginning of Easter is followed, the lit Candle stands prominently in church for all the Eastertide services. The Alleluia appears frequently in liturgical speech and song and the gold and white vestments along with the decoration of churches and fresh flowers after the austerity of Lent emphasize the joy and brightness of the season.

On the fortieth day there has, from the late fourth century, been a particular celebration of Christ's ascension. He commissions his disciples to continue his work, he promises the gift of the Holy Spirit, and then he is no longer among them in the flesh. The ascension is therefore closely connected with the theme of mission. The arrival of the promised gift of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost completes and crowns the Easter Festival.

COLLECTION

Your support makes a real difference to the ministry and mission of Guildford Cathedral. If you would like to support this work on a regular basis it's very simple to set up a direct debit via the Parish Giving Scheme. The phone number is 0333 002 1271, and the Cathedral reference code is 170617001. One-off donations can be made using the Gift Aid envelopes or a contactless donation by using the contactless collection plates on your way out, or the contactless box (by the west doors of the Cathedral) or our QR code. If you use the contactless plates or box and you are a taxpayer, please complete a green gift aid envelope and write 'contactless donation' on the front; please put the envelope in the plate or the cash box at the west end. We also welcome the donation of foreign coins and notes; please



see the notice at the back of this booklet. On behalf of all at Guildford Cathedral, thank you.

PARTICIPATION IN THE SERVICE

We sing the hymns and say together the words in **bold** type. Although posture is suggested please do whatever is most comfortable for you. **A large print copy of this order of service is available from the stewards.**

PRECES AND RESPONSES

Humphrey Clucas (b.1941)

CANTICLES

James MacMillan (b.1959)

The Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis this evening are set by the contemporary Scottish composer James MacMillan (b. 1959). To help us to understand the music and listen informatively, here are some notes written by the composer.

“The Magnificat was commissioned by the BBC for the first choral evensong of the new Millennium, at Wells Cathedral. The choral writing is simple and homophonic, each phrase punctuated by an introspective instrumental echo. The music gradually builds to a joyous climax in the doxology.

The Nunc Dimittis was commissioned by Winchester Cathedral and is based on similar material. Some of the organ interjections are audibly recognisable from the Magnificat, but the vocal lines have been modally altered. The principal feature of this movement is an unusual unison melody involving treble, alto and tenor voices, with the sesquialtera stop. Some of the climactic music from the Magnificat is recalled for the final Amen. The work opens and closes with quiet ethereal low notes on the organ and in the basses.”

Katherine Dienes-Williams, our Master of the Choristers, adds the following:

“The organ part of the Magnificat is striking - at once calm and tonal, it begins slowly to be punctuated by thematic material in the right hand which sounds similar to the 'birdsong' motifs prevalent in Olivier Messiaen's music, 'singing' as they do above the static chordal harmonic language. This harmonic chordal writing is echoed in the choral parts, before the two musical components become inherently intertwined, each inspiring the other. The listener is left poised at the top of a musical mountain before the organ introduces the doxology through strident chords, disrupting the previous tonal harmonic flow and blazing with the glory of God, to usher in the words 'Glory be to the Father'. An extensive 'Amen' refers the listener back to the earlier musical motifs. This is inspired liturgical writing, combining elements of the miracle of the annunciation exulted by Mary in her canticle and the indescribable strength of love and mercy God shows for his people in ways which our 'comfortable ear' might find challenging - just as this moment challenges us all.

The thematic birdsong idea continues in the organ part of the Nunc Dimittis, with the composer calling for the use of very characteristic stops to decorate the very low voice parts, which seem to give voice to the text of an old man, Simeon, groaning under the weight of his earthly life - a juxtaposition perhaps of the spirit of God floating above a human's earthly mortality. Again, the choral writing and organ writing become intertwined in dramatic fashion, leading the listener in an unbroken sweep of harmonic sound to the doxology, with its strident blazing chords and emphatic final Amen, sung by the bass voices to a very low note.”

OFFICIANT AND PREACHER

The officiant this evening is The Reverend Canon Rachel Young and The Very Reverend Bob Cooper, Dean of Guildford, is the preacher.

Please stand as the procession enters to organ music

Stand

OPENING VERSICLES AND RESPONSES

○ Lord, open thou our lips
and our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

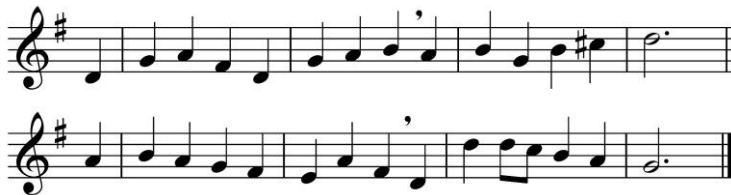
○ God, make speed to save us.
○ Lord, make haste to help us.

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.

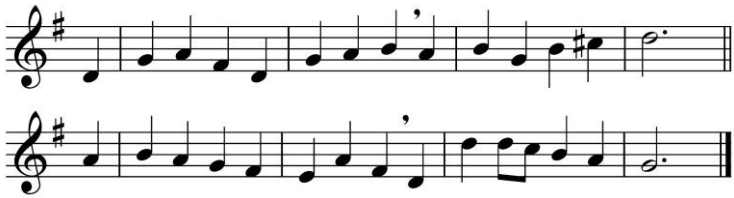
WELCOME The Very Reverend Bob Cooper

HYMN



All praise to our redeeming Lord,
who joins us by his grace,
and bids us, each to each restored,
together seek his face.

He bids us build each other up;
and, gathered into one,
to our high calling's glorious hope
we hand in hand go on.



The gift which he on one bestows
we all delight to prove;
the grace through every vessel flows,
in purest streams of love.

Ev'n now we think and speak the same,
and cordially agree;
concentred all, through Jesus' name,
in perfect harmony.

We all partake the joy of one,
the common peace we feel,
a peace to sensual minds unknown,
a joy unspeakable.

And if our fellowship below
in Jesus be so sweet,
what height of rapture shall we know
when round his throne we meet!

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Music: CP 371 (ii) St Magnus, Jeremiah Clarke (c.1673-1707)

Sit **PSALM 87, 36.5-10**

Her foundations are upon the holy hills :
the Lord loveth the gates of Sion more than all the dwellings of Jacob.
Very excellent things are spoken of thee :
thou city of God.
I will think upon Rahab and Babylon :
with them that know me.
Behold ye the Philistines also :

and they of Tyre, with the Morians; lo, there was he born.
And of Sion it shall be reported that he was born in her :
and the most High shall stablish her.
The Lord shall rehearse it when he writeth up the people :
that he was born there.
The singers also and trumpeters shall he rehearse :
All my fresh springs shall be in thee.

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.

Thy mercy, O Lord, reacheth unto the heavens :
and thy faithfulness unto the clouds.
Thy righteousness standeth like the strong mountains :
thy judgements are like the great deep.
Thou, Lord, shalt save both man and beast;
How excellent is thy mercy, O God :
and the children of men shall put their trust
under the shadow of thy wings.
They shall be satisfied with the plenteousness of thy house :
and thou shalt give them drink of thy pleasures, as out of the river.
For with thee is the well of life :
and in thy light shall we see light.
O continue forth thy loving-kindness unto them that know thee :
and thy righteousness unto them that are true of heart.

Stand 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.

Chants: Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924) and Thomas Attwood (1765-1838)

Sit **OLD TESTAMENT** Zechariah 8.1-13 read by Shirley-Margaret Lloyd

The first lesson is written in the eighth chapter of the prophecy of Zechariah, beginning at the first verse.

The word of the Lord of hosts came to me, saying: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I am jealous for Zion with great jealousy, and I am jealous for her with great wrath. Thus says the Lord: I will return to Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem; Jerusalem shall be called the faithful city, and the mountain of the Lord of hosts shall be called the holy mountain. Thus says the Lord of hosts: Old men and old women shall again sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each with staff in hand because of their great age. And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in its streets. Thus says the Lord of hosts: Even though it seems impossible to the remnant of this people in these days, should it also seem impossible to me, says the Lord of hosts? Thus says the Lord of hosts: I will save my people from the east country and from the west country; and I will bring them to live in Jerusalem. They shall be my people and I will be their God, in faithfulness and in righteousness.

Thus says the Lord of hosts: Let your hands be strong - you that have recently been hearing these words from the mouths of the prophets who were present when the foundation was laid for the rebuilding of the temple, the house of the Lord of hosts. For before those days there were no wages for people or for animals, nor was there any safety from the foe for those who went out or came in, and I set them all against one another. But now I will not deal with the remnant of this people as in the former days, says the Lord of hosts. For there shall be a sowing of peace; the vine shall yield its fruit, the ground shall give its produce, and the skies shall give their dew; and I will cause the remnant of this people to possess all these things. Just as you have been a cursing among the nations, O house of Judah and house of Israel, so I will save you and you shall be a blessing. Do not be afraid, but let your hands be strong.

Here ends the first lesson.

Please remain seated for tonight's setting of the Canticles.

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 shewed 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.

Text: Luke 1.46-55

NEW TESTAMENT Revelation 21.22 - 22.5

The second lesson is written in the twenty-first chapter of the Revelation to John, beginning at the twenty-second verse.

I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. Its gates will never be shut by day - and there will be no night there. People will bring into it the glory and the honour of the nations. But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practises abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life. Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign for ever and ever.

Here ends the second lesson.

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.

Text: Luke 2. 29-32

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 catholick Church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

THE LESSER LITANY, LORD'S PRAYER AND PRECES

The Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

*Sit or
kneel* 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.

○ Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.
And grant us thy salvation.

○ Lord, save the King.
And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Endue thy Ministers with righteousness.
And make thy chosen people joyful.

○ Lord, save thy people.
And bless thine inheritance.

Give peace in our time, ○ Lord.
Because there is none other that fighteth for us,
but only thou, ○ God.

○ God, make clean our hearts within us.
And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

God our redeemer,
who hast delivered us from the power of darkness
and brought us into the kingdom of thy Son:
grant, that as by his death he hath recalled us to life,
so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy;
through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord,
who liveth and reigneth with thee,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

THE COLLECT FOR PEACE

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.

THE COLLECT FOR AID AGAINST ALL PERILS

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.

Sit **ANTHEM**

It is a thing most wonderful,
almost too wonderful to be,
that God's own Son should come from heav'n,
and die to save a child like me.

And yet I know that it is true:
He chose a poor and humble lot,
and wept and toiled and mourned and died
for love of those who loved Him not.

I sometimes think about the cross,
and shut my eyes, and try to see
the cruel nails and crown of thorns,
and Jesus crucified for me.

But even could I see Him die,
I could but see a little part
of that great love which, like a fire,
is always burning in His heart.

And yet I want to love Thee, Lord;
O light the flame within my heart,
that I may love Thee more and more,
until I see Thee as Thou art.

Words: William Walsham How (1823-97)

Music: Philip Moore (b. 1943)

SERMON The Very Reverend Bob Cooper

*Sit or
kneel*

THE PRAYERS

The prayers conclude with

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all evermore. Amen.**

Stand

HYMN



Jesu, our hope, our heart's desire,
thy work of grace we sing;
Redeemer of the world art thou,
its Maker and its King.

How vast the mercy and the love
which laid our sins on thee,
and led thee to a cruel death,
to set thy people free!

But now the bonds of death are burst,
the ransom has been paid;
and thou art on thy Father's throne,
in glorious robes arrayed.

○ may thy mighty love prevail
our sinful souls to spare;
○ may we stand around thy throne,
and see thy glory there.

Jesu, our only joy be thou,
as thou our prize wilt be;
in thee be all our glory now
and through eternity.

All praise to thee who art gone up
triumphantly to heaven;
all praise to God the Father's name,
and Holy Ghost be given.

Words: Latin c. 8th century tr John Chandler (1806-1876)

*Music: CP 169 Metzler's Redhead No 66, Richard Redhead (1820-1901)
contributed to George Metzler's Ancient Hymn Melodies 1859*

BLESSING

God the Father,
by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead,
strengthen you to walk with him in his risen life;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Flourish for an occasion *William Henry Harris (1883-1973)*

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WHAT'S HAPPENING?

SERVICES TODAY

7.30am Morning Prayer *in the Lady Chapel*

8am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) *in the Lady Chapel*

9.45am Cathedral Eucharist *followed by an informal Instrumental Concert by boy choristers at the west end of the Cathedral*

6pm Choral Evensong

SERVICES THIS WEEK

Morning Prayer *in the Lady Chapel*

8am Tuesday

8.30am Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

9am Saturday

Holy Communion *in the Lady Chapel*

8.30am Tuesday

9am Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

9.30am Saturday

Evening Prayer

4.00pm Saturday

5.30pm Wednesday, Thursday

Choral Evensong

5.30pm Monday, Tuesday

Choral Eucharist

5.30pm Friday *for Matthias, Apostle*

7pm Thursday *for Ascension Day – see more information overleaf*

SERVICES NEXT SUNDAY 17 MAY

ANNIVERSARY OF THE CATHEDRAL'S CONSECRATION

7.30am Morning Prayer *in the Lady Chapel*

8am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) *in the Lady Chapel*

9.45am Cathedral Eucharist

6pm Choral Evensong

ASCENSION DAY

Thursday 13 May, 7pm Choral Eucharist

Ascension Day is one of the great feasts of the Christian year, and one we celebrate with particular joy here at the Cathedral. Forty days after Easter, we mark the moment when the Risen Christ; having appeared to his disciples, broken bread with them, and opened their minds to the scriptures Jesus was taken up into glory, promising the gift of the Holy Spirit to come. It is not an ending but a coronation: the affirmation that the crucified and risen Lord reigns over all things. As a Cathedral, we gather to sing the Church's prayer and to ground ourselves in the rhythms of faith that have shaped Christian life for two thousand years. Do come and join us on Thursday evening - bring a friend, bring a neighbour, and let us together lift our voices and our hearts. Dean Bob.

ASKING FOR PRAYER AND INTERCESSION

Please contact the Dean's Virger and his team on 01483 547877 or via virger@guildford-cathedral.org if you would like to add a name to the list of people prayed for in services. Please ensure that you have appropriate permission to do so. Canon Mavis continues to operate a confidential prayer group, and you can contact her to request confidential prayer on 01483 808097 or via mavis.wilson@guildford-cathedral.org.

SERVE AT THE HEART OF OUR WORSHIP

Have you ever considered playing a more active part in our cathedral services? We are looking for people willing to serve as servers, lay chalice assistants, intercessors or lesson readers. You certainly don't need to take on all of these - even offering for just one would be a tremendous blessing to our worshipping community. Training will be held after the Sunday morning Eucharist, 11.15am-12.30pm, as follows:

TODAY Sunday 10 May – for lay chalice assistants

Sunday 14 June – *this session will be rearranged for lesson readers*

For more information, speak to Canon Rachel Young or please email her (Rachel.young@guildford-cathedral.org).

VISION AND STRATEGY CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

As you are all aware, the Vision and Strategy process has been running throughout this year. On Sunday 14 June after the 9.45am service there will be a congregation meeting in the nave to launch the new vision for the cathedral and an opportunity to ask questions and meet together. The meeting will be up to an hour, and all of you are warmly invited. This is a really exciting time for the cathedral and the future and I do hope all of you will come along. Dean Bob.

AN INVITATION TO COFFEE AND CAKE

Kate and I would love to welcome all members of the Cathedral congregations for a morning of coffee and cake at “The not-the-deanery” (56 Manor Way, Onslow Village, GU2 7RP) from 10am to 12.30pm on Saturday 18 July. It will be a lovely opportunity to get everyone together for fellowship and fun, in the (hopefully!) glorious sunshine of mid-summer. We look forward to seeing you all then. Dean Bob

GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM AUGUST 2026

We will once again be going on pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham in 2026. The pilgrimage will run from Friday 28 – Sunday 30 August, with the option of staying until after breakfast on Monday 31 August. We are very pleased that Dean Bob will be accompanying us. The pilgrimage provides opportunities to take part in the rich liturgies of the Shrine, Sunday Eucharist at St. Mary’s Parish Church, a visit to the Slipper Chapel and Roman Catholic shrine, or quiet reflection in the grounds of the Shrine and walking in the lovely Norfolk countryside near the Shrine. Fellowship and deepening of faith is at the heart of the pilgrimage. The cost, full board including breakfast, lunch and dinner in the Shrine refectory will be approximately £290 or £200 per person, depending on whether you depart on the Monday or Sunday. We still have two places available. If you are interested in joining us, or would like more information, then please contact Donald Thompson, in person at the Cathedral, or via email, don230224@gmail.com

FOREIGN CURRENCY FOR THE CATHEDRAL

Our grand total has increased to £32,227 following recent donations. Many thanks to all who have contributed. The scheme welcomes gifts of foreign (and

UK) banknotes and coins - anything from a few coins to large accumulations and collections. Some supporters are putting aside current UK coppers and small silver as well. The age, validity and country of origin of the currency is not important. Donations can be left with the sacristy or at the office, labelled for the **Coins Scheme**. If you cannot get to the Cathedral, please contact me on 37petherwin@gmail.com and I can collect from your home. Your support is greatly valued. John Mitchell

ABBOT'S HOSPITAL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT VOLUNTEER

Abbot's Hospital, Guildford's historic High Street Almshouse, is seeking a volunteer to help develop contacts with the people of Guildford and the area, and organisations and bodies interested in charities such as ours; to publicise activities and news relating to the Hospital through a newsletter and social media; to keep social media up to date; and to facilitate events in the Hospital involving the public. This role is initially for a volunteer but could develop over time. The volunteer would work closely with the Master and Governors. If you might be interested in helping, please contact Ian Bowler, the Master, at master@abbotshospital.org.

CANON RACHEL'S RETIRING DATE

Canon Rachel Young will be retiring at the end of July, and her final Sunday here will be Sunday 26 July. She and her husband Nigel will be moving in August to their house in East Yorkshire.

TAIZÉ PRAYER SERVICE

The next service of Taizé prayer at the Cathedral will be on Wednesday 22 July at 8pm. Everyone is welcome to this quiet, meditative service of sung chants, Bible readings and prayer. For more information please contact Canon Rachel Young (Rachel.young@guildford-cathedral.org) particularly if you would like to join the 4-part singing group that supports the congregational singing.

SAFEGUARDING AT GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL

The Cathedral is committed to Safeguarding as an integral part of its ministry and mission, promoting a safer culture and the welfare of every child, young person and adult. As such, the Cathedral has robust policies, procedures and guidelines

