



GUILDFORD
CATHEDRAL

150 YEARS OF
Mothers' UNION
Join us, Join in

Lighting the way for
generations to come



Mothers' Union Diocesan Festival Eucharist



Tuesday 17 March 2026, 11am

The Annunciation of our Lord
to the Blessed Virgin Mary
(transferred from 25 March)

WELCOME TO GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL FOR THE ANNUAL MOTHERS' UNION SERVICE TO CELEBRATE LADY DAY

The Principal Feast Day on 25 March - *The Annunciation of our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary* – has traditionally been of great significance to the Mothers' Union. It is the day on which the Church celebrates the visit of the Angel Gabriel to Mary, sent by God to give her the news that she had found favour with God, and was to bear a son. Mary's son was to be named Jesus, and would be called the 'Son of the Most High'. This year we celebrate the Feast on Tuesday 17 March to avoid a clash with the Installation of the Archbishop of Canterbury, The Most Reverend Sarah Mullally, on Wednesday 25 March.

As we celebrate the Annunciation we remember our members throughout the world and give thanks for the work of the Mothers' Union worldwide in this 150th Anniversary year. We send our special thanks and love to our indoor members for their support and prayers.

We are very grateful to the Right Reverend Paul Davies, Bishop of Dorking, who is presiding and The Reverend Betty Hayes who is preaching at the service today, and to the Elmbridge Choir for leading our sung worship under their director Hugh Beckwith.

You may wish to pray in a few moments of silence before our service begins: Our theme is "Join in, join up".

The picture on the front cover is of Mary Sumner, founder of the Mothers Union.

RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION

All who are baptized or confirmed are welcome to receive the bread and wine. There is no obligation to drink from the common cup. However, please do not dip your wafer in the wine. If you would prefer to receive a blessing, please keep your hands at your sides. Gluten-free bread is available **at the front of the nave**; if you would like to receive this, please mention this to one of the stewards before the service, if possible.

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.

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 take these to the sacristy. On behalf of all at Guildford Cathedral, thank you.



ORGANIST

The organ is played by Jozef Gaszka, Organ Scholar

MUSIC AT COMMUNION

Sanctus and Benedictus

Text: 'Complete Anglican Hymns Old and New' (972)

Michael Forster (b.1946) based on 'Sanctus' and 'Benedictus'

*Music: CP 507 Slane, Irish traditional melody harmonised
by Erick Routley (1917-1982)*

Agnus Dei

Text: 'Complete Anglican Hymns Old and New' (978)

Michael Forster (b.1946) based on 'Agnus Dei'

*Music: CP 411 Repton, arranged from the oratorio 'Judith'
by C. H. H. Parry (1848-1918)*

The Gathering

WELCOME The Reverend Canon Rachel Young

All stand and turn to face the back of the nave.

ENTRANCE AND PROCESSION OF BANNERS

As the organist plays, the clergy and bishop process up the aisle, followed by the procession of MU banners. All turn to face the front once the banners have all passed.

The diocesan banner is presented at the High Altar; the hymn follows.

HYMN

Praise to the Lord,
the Almighty, the King of creation;
O my soul, praise him,
for he is thy health and salvation:
 all ye who hear,
 now to his temple draw near,
 joining in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord,
who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
shieldeth thee gently from harm,
or when fainting sustaineth:
 hast thou not seen
 how thy heart's wishes have been
 granted in what he ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord,
who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
surely his goodness and
mercy shall daily attend thee:
 ponder anew
 what the Almighty can do,
 if to the end he befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord!
O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath,
come now with praises before Him!
 Let the Amen
 sound from his people again:
 gladly for aye we adore him!

*Words: Joachim Neander (1650-1680) translated by Catherine
Winkworth (1827-1878)
Music: CP 558 Lobe den Herren (Praxis Pietatis), German 17th
century melody harmonised by the Editors of The Chorale Book for
England 1863*

THE GREETING

We gather in the name of the living God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you

All and also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God;
All to the God who gives us love, light and truth.

Sit **PRAYER OF PREPARATION**

All **Almighty God,**
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your **Holy Spirit,**
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through **Christ our Lord.**
Amen.

Sit **PRAYERS OF PENITENCE**

The deacon invites people to make their confession

The grace of God has dawned upon the world
through our Saviour, Jesus Christ,
who sacrificed himself for us to purify a people as his own.
Let us confess our sins.

All **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.

The bishop says the absolution

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.

Stand **GLORIA IN EXCELSIS**

All Glory be to God in heaven,
Peace to those who love you well;
On the earth let all your people
Speak your grace, your wonders tell.
Lord, we praise you for your glory,
Mighty Father, heaven's King;
Hear our joyful adoration
And accept the thanks we bring.

Only Son of God the Father,
Lamb who takes our sin away,
Now with God in triumph seated –
For your mercy, Lord we pray;
Jesus Christ, most high and holy,
Saviour, you are God alone
In the glory of the Father,
With the Spirit: Three-in-One!

Text: After 'Gloria in Excelsis', Michael Perry (1942-1996)

Music: Anglican Hymns Old and New (603); Ode to Joy by Ludwig von Beethoven (1770-1827), arranged by Christopher Tambling (1964-2015)

COLLECT

Almighty God,
whose most dear Son went not up to joy
but first he suffered pain,
and entered not into glory before he was crucified:
mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross,
may find it none other than the way of life and peace;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All Amen.

Sit **MARY SUMNER AND THE BEGINNING**
Presented by Edd Catt, MU Vice President

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Isaiah 43.18-21

Read by Dorothea Nattress

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

Do not remember the former things,
or consider the things of old.
I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.
The wild animals will honour me,
the jackals and the ostriches;
for I give water in the wilderness,
rivers in the desert,

to give drink to my chosen people,
the people whom I formed for myself
so that they might declare my praise.

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Stand **HYMN**

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord;
unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of his word;
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his Name;
make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
his mercy sure, from age to age to same;
his holy Name, the Lord, the Mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might;
powers and dominions lay their glory by;
proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word,
firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and for evermore!

*Words: CP 362 Luke 1.46-55; Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926-2024)
Music: Woodlands, Walter Greatorex (1877-1949)*

Sit **THE MOTHERS' UNION IN THE PRESENT**
Presented by Liz Newhouse, MU Trustee

Stand **GOSPEL READING** Luke 1. 26-38

Read by Kim Darby, Vice President

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

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sit **THE ADDRESS**

The Reverend Betty Hayes, MU Chaplain

Stand **THE CREED**

Let us declare our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Amen.

Sit **THE FUTURE OF THE MOTHERS' UNION**

Presented by Sylvia Taylor, MU President

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

led by Rosemary Gooding and Kate Pearman

The following response is used

Lord, in your mercy,

All hear our prayer.

We commit ourselves to the work of Jesus Christ through our membership, saying together the Mothers' Union Prayer.

**All Loving Lord,
we thank you for your love so freely given to us all.
We pray for families around the world.
Bless the work of the Mothers' Union
as we seek to share your love
through the encouragement, strengthening
and support of marriage and family life.
Empowered by your spirit,
may we be united in prayer and worship
and, in love and service
reach out as your hands across the world,
in Jesus' name.
Amen.**

Merciful Father,
**accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

Stand **THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT**

THE PEACE

In the tender mercy of our God,
the dayspring from on high shall break upon us,
to give light to those who dwell in darkness
and in the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
All and also with you.

The deacon says

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may share a sign of peace with one another.

HYMN and PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

In Christ alone my hope is found,
he is my light, my strength, my song;
this cornerstone, this solid ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My comforter, my all in all,
here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone who took on flesh,
fulness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones he came to save:
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
the wrath of God was satisfied –
for every sin on him was laid;
here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground his body lay,
light of the world by darkness slain:
then bursting forth in glorious day
up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory
sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
for I am his and he is mine –
bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
this is the power of Christ in me;
from life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
can ever pluck me from his hand;
till he returns or calls me home,
here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

Words and Music: Stuart Townend (b. 1963) and Keith Getty (b. 1974)

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and good,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.
We give you thanks and praise
that the Virgin Mary heard with faith the message of the angel,
and by the power of your Holy Spirit
conceived and bore the Word made flesh.
From the warmth of her womb
to the stillness of the grave
he shared our life in human form.

In him new light has dawned upon the world
and you have become one with us
that we might become one with you
in your glorious kingdom.

Therefore earth unites with heaven
to sing a new song of praise;
we too join with angels and archangels
as they proclaim your glory without end:

**All Holy, most holy, all holy the Lord,
in power and wisdom for ever adored!
The earth and the heavens are full of your love;
our joyful hosannas re-echo above!**

**Blessèd, most blessèd, all blessèd is He
whose life makes us whole
and whose death sets us free;
who comes in the name of the Father of light,
let endless hosannas resound in the height.**

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:

**All Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.**

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 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.

All Amen.

Sit **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

As our Saviour has taught us, so we pray

**All 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 forever.
Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.

**All Though we are many, we are one body
because we all share in one bread.**

AGNUS DEI

**All O Lamb of God, come cleanse our hearts
and take our sin away.
O Lamb of God, your grace impart,
and let our guilty fear depart,
have mercy, Lord, we pray,
have mercy, Lord, we pray.**

**O Lamb of God, our lives restore,
our guilty souls release.
Into our lives your Spirit pour,
and let us live for evermore
in perfect heav'nly peace,
in perfect heav'nly peace.**

GIVING OF COMMUNION

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.
**All Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

All who are baptized or confirmed are welcome to receive the bread and wine. There is no obligation to drink from the common cup. However, please do not dip your wafer in the wine. If you would prefer to receive a blessing, please keep your hands at your sides. Gluten-free bread is available from the bishop at the front of the nave.

MOTETS sung by the choir

Steal away, steal away to Jesus.
My Lord, he calls me, he calls me by the thunder.
The trumpet sounds within'a my soul.
I ain't got long to stay here.

Steal away, steal away to Jesus.
Green trees a'bendin', poor sinner stands a'tremblin'.
The trumpet sounds within'a my soul.
I ain't got long to stay here.
Steal away, steal away to Jesus.

*Words: traditional spiritual
Music: Gwyneth Walker (b. 1947)*

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face to shine upon you,
and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you,
and give you peace.
Amen.

Words: The Blessing of Aaron

Music: John Rutter (b. 1945)

CONGREGATIONAL SONG

King of kings, Majesty,
God of Heaven living in me.
Gentle Saviour, closest friend,
Strong Deliverer, beginning and end.
All within me falls at Your throne

*Your Majesty, I can but bow,
I lay my all before You now.
In royal robes I don't deserve
I live to serve Your Majesty.*

Earth and Heaven worship You,
Love eternal, Faithful and True.
Who bought the nations, ransomed souls,
Brought this sinner near to Your throne.
All within me cries out in praise.

Words and Music: Jarrod Cooper (b. 1970)

Stand **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

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.

All Amen.

THE PERSONAL PRAYER OF MARY SUMNER

We pray together

**All All this day, O Lord,
let me touch as many lives as possible for thee;
and every life I touch, do thou by thy spirit quicken,
whether through the word I speak,
the prayer I breathe, or the life I live.
Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

HYMN

During the hymn the diocesan banner is retrieved, and banner-bearers move to stand by their banners

Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won;
angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.

*Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.*

Lo, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
for her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting:

*Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.*

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of Life;
life is naught without thee: aid us in our strife;
make us more than conquerors through thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above:

Words: French, 19th century, Edmond Budry (1854-1932),

tr Richard Hoyle (1875-1939)

Music: CP 160 Maccabaeus, George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

BLESSING

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 upon you, and remain with you always.

All Amen.

The deacon dismisses the people

Go in the peace of Christ.

All Thanks be to God.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

*During the Organ Voluntary, the diocesan banner leads the Branch
Banners down the central aisle. The clergy and bishop follow.*

Everyone is invited to refreshments at the back of the Cathedral after the service.

As you move towards the reception, a collection will be taken for the work of the Cathedral and the Mothers' Union.

This service is held at Guildford Cathedral by kind permission of the Chapter of Guildford Cathedral.

MOTHERS' UNION IN THE GUILDFORD DIOCESE

Mothers' Union Diocesan Chaplain Revd Betty Hayes

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With thanks to our Administrator, Lesley Templeman.

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