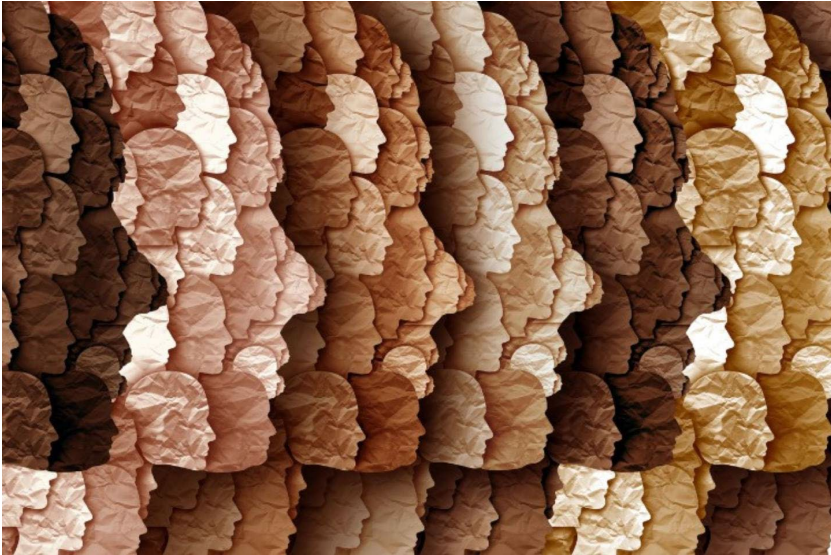




GUILDFORD
CATHEDRAL

3.00pm
25 October 2026

A SERVICE FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH



WELCOME

to Guildford Cathedral this afternoon. It is good to see you and to worship together. If you need anything, please just ask one of the stewards (they have badges around their necks). The clergy are very happy to be approached for anything you need, or just for an introduction if you are new. Don't be shy!

Black History Month

is an annually observed commemorative month originating in the United States, where it is also known as African-American History Month. It began as a way of remembering important people and events in African-American history, before it spread to other countries where it could celebrate black people worldwide. It initially lasted a week before becoming a month-long observation since 1970. It is celebrated in February in the United States and Canada, where it has received official recognition from governments, and more recently has also been celebrated in Ireland and the United Kingdom where it is observed in October.

Taking Part

Please sing as much as you can and say together the words in **bold** type. ***Please also feel free to move or dance as seems right to you.*** A large print copy of this order of service is available from the stewards.

Offering

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 stations (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.



Music today

The music today is joyfully led and supported by Soul Sanctuary Gospel Choir and Pantasy Steel Band.

Leaders and Preacher

The service is led by clergy from the Cathedral, Saint Martin of Tours, Epsom, and Saint Andrew's, Cobham. The preacher is the Reverend Moni Babatunde, who is Chair of the diocesan Racial Diversity Advisory group.

THE GATHERING

Pantasy Steel Band plays as the congregation gathers.

*Please **stand** as the ministers enter.*

Hymn



God is Love: let heaven adore him;
God is Love: let earth rejoice;
let creation sing before him,
and exalt him with one voice.
He who laid the earth's foundation,
he who spread the heavens above,
he who breathes through all creation,
he is Love, eternal Love.

God is Love: and he enfoldeth
all the world in one embrace;
with unfailing grasp he holdeth
every child of every race.
And when human hearts are breaking
under sorrow's iron rod,

**then they find that selfsame aching
deep within the heart of God.**

**God is Love: and though with blindness
sin afflicts the souls of all,
God's eternal loving-kindness
holds and guides us when we fall.
Sin and death and hell shall never
o'er us final triumph gain;
God is Love, so Love for ever
o'er the universe must reign.**

Words Timothy Rees (1874-1939)

Music: CP 442 Blaenwern, William Penfro Rowlands (1860-1937)

Welcome, with words of Archbishop Desmond Tutu

Patrick Coleman, of the Cathedral team

“I have sometimes said in big meetings where you have black and white together: Raise your hands!

“Then I have said: Move your hands, and I’ve said, Look at your hands – different colours representing different people.

“You are the Rainbow People of God.”

Prayers of Penitence and Forgiveness

Human sin disfigures the whole creation,
which groans with eager longing for God’s redemption.
Let us confess our sin in penitence and faith. *cf Romans 8.22,23*

Lord God, our maker and our redeemer,
this is your world and we are your people:
come among us and save us.

If we have wilfully misused your gifts of creation;
Lord, be merciful:
forgive us our sin.

If we have seen the ill-treatment of others
and have not gone to their aid;
Lord, be merciful:
forgive us our sin.

If we have condoned evil and dishonesty
and failed to strive for justice;
Lord, be merciful:
forgive us our sin.

If we have heard the good news of Christ,
but have failed to share it with others;
Lord, be merciful:
forgive us our sin.

If we have not loved you with all our heart,
nor our neighbours as ourselves;
Lord, be merciful:
forgive us our sin.

The bishop says

May the God of love and power
forgive you and free you from your sins,
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,
and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Racial Justice Project for a Memorial to the Enslaved of Barbados at St Martin of Tours, Epsom

Revd Judith Mitchell

For over 200 years, the story of John Brathwaite's life was told through the words of his nieces on the memorial they erected to him after his death in Epsom in 1800. But in 2020 we heard a different story, revealed in his will where the 'property' he left to his relatives included the enslaved people on his plantations in Barbados. And later we heard that others, who were familiar with that story, felt unwelcome in our church. So began a journey to create a new memorial to give voice to those who had suffered from enslavement and who previously had no presence in our church. I am grateful to the Dean and the Cathedral for the opportunity to say a few words about the creative workshops run by our artist Christina Peake in which members of the Barbadian communities in south London and Reading have shared their reflections and experiences to feed into Christina's creation of the new memorial.

Taking our Sins and Sorrows to the Cross

You are now invited to take your holding cross, and come forward to place it around the large cross on the chancel steps. With it, please bring the sins of your own life, and the sorrows you carry for yourself, your family and people, and lay them down with the crucified Christ.

As we do so, Soul Sanctuary Gospel Choir leads the singing of Amazing Grace:

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please sit **FIRST READING** Acts 8.26-39

read by Umair Asif, diocesan Racial Diversity Enabler

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.'

The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' He commanded the chariot to

stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalms 23

Sung by Soul Sanctuary Gospel Choir

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 12.12-27

read by Dr John Padwick, Lay Minister, Saint Martin's Epsom

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot were to say, 'Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear were to say, 'Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you', nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.'

On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honourable we clothe with greater honour, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honour to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Time for Reflection

Soul Sanctuary Gospel Choir – Total Praise – William Smallwood

Address

Reverend Moni Babatunde

Healing and Life from the Cross

Please come forward once more and take back a holding cross – it doesn't have to be the same one you brought, as Christ has lifted our sins and sorrows through his Cross and Resurrection.

The Pantasy Steel Band lifts our souls and lives with joyful music as we rejoice in our freedom in Christ.

Commitment to Racial Justice

led by Shirley Mensa, from Saint Andrew's Cobham

Please hold your cross as we make this commitment together.

Earlier in the service, we laid our olivewood crosses at the foot of the large cross, bringing before God the hurt and injustice caused by racism.

Now we have taken up our crosses again, we are reminded that our Christian faith calls us not only to pray for change, but to be part of that change.

Every person is created in the image of God, deserving of dignity, respect and belonging.

Together, we are called to challenge injustice and work to build a Church and a society where everyone is valued.

As we hold our crosses, let us make a commitment before God and one another to put Christ's love into action.

I am going to ask you a series of questions about our commitment to racial justice, inclusion and belonging.

After each question, I invite you to respond together with the words: 'With God's help, we will.'

These are not simply words for this moment. They are promises we are making to carry into our everyday lives.

Let us make this commitment together.

Will you recognise the God-given dignity of every person and treat each person with respect, compassion and love?

With God's help, we will.

Will you listen to the experiences of those affected by racism, seek to understand their stories and learn from histories that have too often been overlooked?

With God's help, we will.

Will you challenge racism, prejudice and discrimination, and have the courage to speak up when others are treated unjustly?

With God's help, we will.

Will you help build a Church and a society where people of every ethnicity and background are welcomed, their voices are heard, their gifts are celebrated and everyone belongs?

With God's help, we will.

Will you carry this commitment beyond this Cathedral, allowing the love of Christ to shape your words, your choices and your actions every day?

With God's help, we will.

May we leave here today determined not only to speak of justice and belonging, but to live them out in all that we do!

We will now hear *Still I Rise* by Maya Angelou, read by the young people of St Andrew's Church.

This powerful poem speaks of resilience, dignity and the courage to rise above oppression and injustice. Its message reminds us that, even in the face of discrimination and adversity, the human spirit can endure and rise again.

As we listen, may we reflect on the struggles of those who have gone before us, the courage of those who continue to challenge injustice today, and our own responsibility to help build a future where everyone can flourish and belong.

Still I Rise

read by Nayah, Catherine, Thandiwe, and Amare

You may write me down in history
With your bitter, twisted lies,
You may tread me in the very dirt
But still, like dust, I'll rise.

Does my sassiness upset you?
Why are you beset with gloom?
'Cause I walk like I've got oil wells
Pumping in my living room.

Just like moons and like suns,
With the certainty of tides,
Just like hopes springing high,
Still I'll rise.

Did you want to see me broken?
Bowed head and lowered eyes?
Shoulders falling down like teardrops.
Weakened by my soulful cries.

Does my haughtiness offend you?
Don't you take it awful hard
'Cause I laugh like I've got gold mines
Diggin' in my own back yard.

You may shoot me with your words,
You may cut me with your eyes,
You may kill me with your hatefulness,
But still, like air, I'll rise.

Out of the huts of history's shame

I rise

Up from a past that's rooted in pain

I rise

I'm a black ocean, leaping and wide,

Welling and swelling I bear in the tide.

Leaving behind nights of terror and fear

I rise

Into a daybreak that's wondrously clear

I rise

Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave,

I am the dream and the hope of the slave.

I rise I rise

I rise.

THE SENDING OUT

Final (Collect) Prayer and Blessing

The Canon Missioner – Canon Mike Branscombe

Eternal light, shine into our hearts,
eternal goodness, deliver us from evil,
eternal power, be our support,
eternal wisdom, scatter our ignorance,
eternal pity, have mercy upon us;
that with all our heart and mind and soul and strength
we may seek your face and be brought by your infinite mercy
to your holy presence;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
lives and reigns, now and for ever.

Amen.

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 everyone;
love and serve the Lord,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Hymn

13

Verse 1 & 2

**We shall overcome
We shall overcome
We shall overcome some day
Down in my heart I do believe
We shall, we shall, we shall, we shall
We shall overcome some day.**

Verse 3

**Down in my heart I do believe
We shall, we shall, we shall, we shall
We shall overcome some day**

Vamp

**We shall, we shall overcome (x10)
Down in my heart I do believe**

We shall, we shall, we shall, we shall (x3)
We shall overcome some day.

Pantasy Steel band plays as we leave.

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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 in place, to ensure good practice throughout the community. Chapter has overall responsibility for Safeguarding, and the Safeguarding Leadership Group reports to Chapter every month on the progress of our Safeguarding journey and any issues arising. The members of the Safeguarding Leadership Group are listed below and can be contacted at any time on any Safeguarding concern you may have about yourself or another member of the Cathedral Community.

Lizzie Post (Cathedral Safeguarding Officer)

01483 547884 safeguarding@guildford-cathedral.org

Louise Musgrove (Safeguarding Lead)

07941 182323 ChiefOperatingOfficer@guildford-cathedral.org

Chris Pilgrim (Chapter Safeguarding Representative)

HOW DO I GET IN TOUCH?

TO CONTACT THE CATHEDRAL CLERGY

The Dean dean@guildford-cathedral.org

The Canon Missioner missioner@guildford-cathedral.org
01483 547871

Revd Patrick Coleman patrick.coleman@guildford-cathedral.org
01483 547876

CATHEDRAL OFFICE NUMBER

01483 547862

If you call and there is no answer, please leave a message, especially if you need a priest in an emergency.