

CHORAL EVENSONG
With the Commissioning of Eco Chaplains

Sunday 22 June 2025 at 3.30pm
The First Sunday after Trinity

We warmly welcome you to this service of Choral Evensong. An especial welcome to those who have come to support Norman Johnson, Sam Ruddock, Richard Beach, and James Lee as they are commissioned as Eco Chaplains by The Bishop of Thetford at this service.

The new Eco Chaplains have been trained to help parishes embed creation care in their mission and ministry through worship, witness, teaching, pastoral care, discipleship, buildings and land across the diocese. The primary purpose of this voluntary role is to encourage and support churches to respond to the climate and ecological crisis by advocating for environmental action, resourcing others, and helping churches on their Eco Church and net zero journey.

We are delighted to welcome Capella Dorstead who sing our service today whilst the Cathedral Choir sings Evensong in Salle. It is the choir alone that sings most of the service, but everyone is invited to participate through a sympathetic attention and prayerfulness. As the choir sings out loud, we all can sing God's praises in the quiet of our hearts.

The directions for posture throughout the liturgy are for guidance; if standing or kneeling is difficult, please feel free to remain seated.

Please may we remind you not to leave bags, including handbags, unattended in the Cathedral. Thank you.

Norwich Cathedral is committed to safeguarding all worshippers, visitors, and staff. If you have any concerns, please refer to the notices at each entrance door which give details of how to voice your concerns, or visit <http://cathedral.org.uk/safeguarding/>.

At the beginning of the service, please stand at the entrance of the choir and clergy.

Please stand at the entrance of the Choir and Clergy



For reasons of safeguarding and copyright, sound, video or photographic recording of this service is not permitted



PRECES AND RESPONSES

The setting by Kenneth Leighton (1929-1988)

Cantor O Lord, open thou our lips.

Choir And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

Cantor O God, make speed to save us.

Choir O Lord, make haste to help us.

Cantor Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:
and to the Holy Ghost;

Choir As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.

Cantor Praise ye the Lord.

Choir The Lord's name be praised.



All

**For the beauty of the earth,
For the beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies:**

***Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our sacrifice of praise.***

**For the beauty of each hour,
Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower,
Sun and moon and stars of light:**

**For the joy of ear and eye,
For the heart and brain's delight,
For the mystic harmony
Linking sense to sound and sight:**

**For the joy of human love,
Brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth and friends above,
For all gentle thoughts and mild:**

**For each perfect gift of thine,
To our race so freely given,
Graces human and divine,
Flowers of earth and buds of heaven:**

Words by F. S. Pierpoint (1835-1917)

Sit

PSALMS 50, 57

Choir

The Lord, even the most mighty God, hath spoken
and called the world, from the rising up of the sun,
unto the going down thereof.
Out of Sion hath God appeared
in perfect beauty.
Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence
there shall go before him a consuming fire,
and a mighty tempest shall be stirred up round about him.
He shall call the heaven from above
and the earth, that he may judge his people.
Gather my saints together unto me
those that have made a covenant with me with sacrifice.
And the heaven shall declare his righteousness
for God is Judge himself.
Hear, O my people, and I will speak
I myself will testify against thee, O Israel;
for I am God, even thy God.
I will not reprove thee because of thy sacrifices,
or for thy burnt-offerings
because they were not alway before me.
I will take no bullock out of thine house
nor he-goat out of thy folds.
For all the beasts of the forest are mine
and so are the cattle upon a thousand hills.
I know all the fowls upon the mountains
and the wild beasts of the field are in my sight.
If I be hungry, I will not tell thee
for the whole world is mine, and all that is therein.
Thinkest thou that I will eat bulls' flesh
and drink the blood of goats?
Offer unto God thanksgiving
and pay thy vows unto the most Highest.
And call upon me in the time of trouble
so will I hear thee, and thou shalt praise me.
But unto the ungodly said God
Why dost thou preach my laws,
and takest my covenant in thy mouth;
Whereas thou hatest to be reformed
and hast cast my words behind thee?

When thou sawest a thief, thou consentedst unto him
and hast been partaker with the adulterers.
Thou hast let thy mouth speak wickedness
and with thy tongue thou hast set forth deceit.
Thou satest, and spakest against thy brother
yea, and hast slandered thine own mother's son.
These things hast thou done, and I held my tongue,
and thou thoughtest wickedly,
that I am even such a one as thyself but I will reprove thee,
and set before thee the things that thou hast done.
O consider this, ye that forget God
lest I pluck you away, and there be none to deliver you.
Whoso offereth me thanks and praise, he honoureth me
and to him that ordereth his conversation right will I shew the
salvation of God.
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.

Choir

Be merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto me,
for my soul trusteth in thee
and under the shadow of thy wings shall be my refuge,
until this tyranny be over-past.
I will call unto the most high God
even unto the God that shall perform the cause which
I have in hand.
He shall send from heaven
and save me from the reproof of him that would eat me up.
God shall send forth his mercy and truth
my soul is among lions.
And I lie even among the children of men,
that are set on fire whose teeth are spears and arrows,
and their tongue a sharp sword.
Set up thyself, O God, above the heavens
and thy glory above all the earth.
They have laid a net for my feet,
and pressed down my soul they have digged a pit before me,
and are fallen into the midst of it themselves.
My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed
I will sing, and give praise.

Awake up, my glory; awake, lute and harp
I myself will awake right early.
I will give thanks unto thee, O Lord, among the people
and I will sing unto thee among the nations.
For the greatness of thy mercy reacheth unto the heavens
and thy truth unto the clouds.
Set up thyself, O God, above the heavens
and thy glory above all the earth.

The congregation stands for the Gloria

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.

Sit

THE FIRST LESSON: *Genesis 24.1-27*

At the end of the reading, silence is kept for a short time of reflection.

Stand

THE MAGNIFICAT

Choir

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.

The setting in E flat by Herbert Brewer (1865-1928)

Sit

THE SECOND LESSON: *John 4.1-15*

At the end of the reading, silence is kept for a short time of reflection.

Stand

THE NUNC DIMITTIS

Choir

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.

The setting in E flat by Herbert Brewer (1865-1928)

THE CREED

All

**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 RESPONSES *The setting by Kenneth Leighton (1929-1988)*

Cantor The Lord be with you
Choir And with thy spirit.

Cantor Let us pray.

Kneel or sit

Choir 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.

Cantor O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.
Choir And grant us thy salvation.

Cantor O Lord, save the King.
Choir And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

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

Cantor O Lord, save thy people.
Choir And bless thine inheritance.

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

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

THE COLLECTS

The Cantor sings the three collects. The first for the day, the second for Peace and the third for Aid against all Perils.

ANTHEM *For lo, I raise up*

Choir For lo, I raise up that bitter and hasty nation,
Which march through the breadth of the earth,
To possess the dwelling places that are not theirs.
They are terrible and dreadful,
Their judgment and their dignity proceed from themselves.
Their horses also are swifter than leopards,
And are more fierce than the evening wolves.
And their horsemen spread themselves,
Yea, their horsemen come from far.
They fly as an eagle that hasteth to devour,
They come all of them for violence;
Their faces are set as the east-wind,
And they gather captives as the sand.
Yea, he scoffeth at kings,
And princes are a derision unto him.
For he heapeth up dust and taketh it.
Then shall he sweep by as a wind that shall pass over,
And be guilty,
Even he, whose might is his God.
Art not Thou from everlasting,
O Lord, my God, mine Holy One?
We shall not die.
O Lord, thou hast ordained him for judgment,
And thou, O Rock hast established him for correction.
I will stand upon my watch and set me upon the tower,
And look forth to see what he will say to me,
And what I shall answer concerning my complaint.
And the Lord answered me and said:
The vision is yet for the appointed time,
And it hasteth toward the end, and shall not lie,
Though it tarry, wait for it, because it will surely come.
For the earth shall be filled
with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord,

As the waters cover the sea.
But the Lord is in his holy temple:
Let all the earth keep silence before Him.

Music by Sir Charles Villiers Stanford
Words: Habakkuk 1:6-12, 2:1-3, 14, 20 (adapted)

Sit

SERMON *The Revd Dr Peter Doll, Vice-Dean and Canon Librarian*

COMMISSIONING OF ECO CHAPLAINS

Those to be commissioned as Eco-chaplains come to stand before the Bishop of Thetford, who says

Sisters and brothers, God has made each of us stewards of the bounty of creation. God's extravagant love and generosity means that all can be fed, and all can have homes, and all can thrive, providing each takes stewardship of the fragile earth seriously. God showed that most perfectly in the sending of his Son, who came that we might have life and have it in abundance.

God has called each of you to the ministry of Eco-Chaplain in this diocese. You are to be encouragers and supporters of churches as they seek to respond to the climate and ecological crisis.

Do you believe that God is calling you to this ministry?

They reply **I do so believe.**

Will you encourage your sisters and brothers in Christ as they seek to find ways to live and minister more sustainably?

They reply **I will.**

Let us pray.

God of beauty and of bounty,
bless these your servants in their ministry as Eco-Chaplains;
give them confidence and sensitivity in their mission,
that they may encourage and energise your people
to embrace change, rejoice in their natural surroundings
and recognise the love of God for all creation,
by the power of your Spirit and in the love of Christ.

All

Amen.

God of creation
as we marvel on the wonder of creation,
we thank you for the wonderful world you have given us:
help us to see the world through your eyes,
and to work together to return the world
to a place where all life thrives;
where waters run clear and rain quenches the thirst of the crops;
where the wind brings freshness and changes of weather;
where ice holds back the floods;
where sun and moon continue to light up our lives,
and where the rainbow marks your promise of love
and holds us together in our diversity.

All

Amen.

Stand
HYMN

Tune: Lasst uns erfreuen



All

**All creatures of our God and King,
Lift up your voice and with us sing
Alleluia, Alleluia!
Thou burning sun with golden beam,
Thou silver moon with softer gleam:
 *O praise him, O praise him,
 Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!***

**Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
Ye clouds that sail in heaven along,
O praise him, Alleluia!
Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,
Ye lights of evening, find a voice:**

**Thou flowing water, pure and clear,
Make music for thy Lord to hear,
Alleluia, Alleluia!
Thou fire so masterful and bright,
That givest man both warmth and light:**

**Dear mother earth, who day by day
Unfoldest blessings on our way,
O praise him, Alleluia!
The flowers and fruits that in thee grow,
Let them his glory also show:**

**Let all things their Creator bless,
And worship him in humbleness,
O praise him, Alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
And praise the Spirit, three in One:**

Words by St Francis of Assisi

THE BLESSING

The Bishop of Thetford gives the Blessing

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.

All God the Father, who created the world,
give you grace to be wise stewards of his creation.
Amen.

All God the Son, who redeemed the world,
inspire you to go out as labourers into his harvest.
Amen.

All God the Holy Spirit, whose breath fills the whole of creation,
help you to bear his fruits of love, joy and peace.
Amen.

All And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father,
the Son, and the Holy Ghost,
be amongst you and remain with you always.
Amen.

THE DISMISSAL

Sung by the Choir and Cantor

ORGAN VOLUNTARY *Theme with Variations* by Hendrik Andriessen (1892-1981)

Transformed by Christ:
Prayerful, Pastoral, Prophetic