



Leicester Cathedral
A beating heart for City and County

SUNDAY WORSHIP

from the Community
of Leicester Cathedral

with Farewell to
The Revd Canon Dr Johannes Arens

Sunday 4 October 2020
The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

The Revd Canon Alison Adams, Canon Pastor and Sub-Dean, leads the service.

Christopher Ouvry-Johns, Director of Music plays on the Organ of St Bartholomäus, Friesach

Wer nur den lieben Gott lässt walten BWV642 *Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)*
(*'If thou but suffer God to guide thee'*)

Welcome and Greeting

We meet in the presence of God, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Canon Alison continues with words of welcome.

Today is the seventeenth Sunday after Trinity. Today also, we are saying farewell to Canon Johannes Arens who has taken up a new post as Transition Priest in the Holy Spirit Team with responsibility for St. Andrew's Jarrom Street and with a focus of developing chaplaincy engagement with De Montfort University. Over the last few years, Johannes has very ably led our liturgical and musical life here at the Cathedral in his role as Canon Precentor, helping to navigate well such milestones as the burial of King Richard III and two Royal visits. He will be much-missed by many, as will his family. We wish him, Esther, Richard and Lilian well as they make this new move.

Jesus said, 'What are you looking for?... Come and see.' *John 1.38, 39*
Where have you noticed God in these last days?
What do you want to learn from God today?

A short silence is kept.

God gathers us across the distance.
Let us worship God together.

Penitence Asking for God's forgiveness and healing

The gospel calls us to turn away from sin
and be faithful to Christ.
As we offer ourselves to him in penitence and faith,
we renew our confidence and trust in his mercy.

Silence is kept.

Eternal God, you have made us for yourself;
enable us to be the people you have created us to be.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Son of God, through your death you give us life;
enable us to press on in your company that we may live anew.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Spirit of God, you come to equip us in truth;
help us to bear fruit as your true followers today.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Absolution God's forgiveness for us

The almighty and merciful Lord
grant you pardon and forgiveness of all your sins,
time for amendment of life,
and the grace and strength of the Holy spirit.
Amen.

Prayer Collect for the Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

Let us pray.

Almighty God,
you have made us for yourself,
and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you:
pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself,
and so bring us at last to your heavenly city
where we shall see you face to face;
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.
Amen.

The First Reading

Philippians 3.4b–14

Read by Peter Lewis

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians.

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Reading

Matthew 21.33–46

Read by Richard Arens

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew.

Jesus said, 'Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watch-tower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, "They will respect my son." But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, "This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance." So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' They said to him, 'He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.'

Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures:

"The stone that the builders rejected

has become the cornerstone;

this was the Lord's doing,

and it is amazing in our eyes"?

Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.'

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Reflection

The Revd Canon Dr Johannes Arens

Anna Cowen, accompanied by David Cowen, sings

Ave Maria

Giulio Caccini (1551–1618)

John Freeman leads

Prayers of Intercession

The following response is used

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

and this response may be used at the end:

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

The prayers conclude with The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done; on
earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Dean David says a few words as Canon Johannes leaves us.

The Hymn

**Holy God, we praise thy name;
Lord of all, we bow before thee!
All on earth thy sceptre own,
all in heaven above adore thee.
Infinite thy vast domain,
everlasting is thy reign.**

**Hark! The loud celestial hymn,
angel choirs above are raising;
cherubim and seraphim,
in unceasing chorus praising,
fill the heavens with sweet accord,
holy, holy, holy Lord.**

**Holy Father, holy Son,
Holy Spirit, three we name thee,
while in essence only one
undivided God we claim thee;
and, adoring, bend the knee
while we own the mystery.**

**Spare thy people, Lord, we pray,
by a thousand snares surrounded;
keep us without sin today;
never let us be confounded.
Lo, I put my trust in thee,
never, Lord, abandon me.**

The Blessing and Dismissal

God the Father,
who has given to his Son the name above every name,
strengthen you to proclaim Christ as Lord;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

Until we meet again,
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

Christopher Ouvry-Johns plays on the Cathedral Organ

Hymn Prelude on Angel Voices

Francis Jackson (b. 2 October 1917)

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