



CHRIST CHURCH  
**CATHEDRAL**  
A CATHEDRAL FOR THE CITY

Sunday, October 12, 2025 — Harvest Thanksgiving, Year C

Choral Evensong  
4.00 p.m.

Book of Common Prayer (BCP), p. 20

Officiant: The Reverend Ross Bliss

Music for the Responses: Richard Ayleward (d. 1669)

Setting for the Canticles: Dorian Service — Tamsin Jones (*living composer*)

*This service is being broadcast live on the Internet. By attending, you acknowledge and consent to the fact that video images of you may appear there.*

Prelude: Choral-partita on 'O Jesu, all mein Leben bist du' (*excerpts*) Petr Eben (d. 2007)

*All stand as able when the chancel party enters.*

Preces & Responses

*remain standing*

*Officiant* O Lord, open thou our lips.

*Choir* And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

*Officiant* O God, make speed to save us.

*Choir* O Lord, make haste to help us.

*Officiant* Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

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

*Officiant* Praise ye the Lord.

*Choir* The Lord's name be praised.

For the fruit of all creation,  
thanks be to God.  
Gifts bestowed on every nation,  
thanks be to God.  
For the ploughing, sowing, reaping,  
silent growth while we are sleeping,  
future needs in earth's safekeeping,  
thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labour,  
God's will is done.  
In the help we give our neighbour,  
God's will is done.  
In our worldwide task of caring  
for the hungry and despairing,  
in the harvests we are sharing,  
God's will is done.

For the harvests of the Spirit,  
thanks be to God.  
For the good we all inherit,  
thanks be to God.  
For the wonders that astound us,  
for the truths that still confound us,  
most of all that love has found us,  
thanks be to God.

*Text: Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000). © 1970 Hope Publishing Co.  
Music: Melody West trad., harm. The English Hymnal, 1906, alt.*

Psalm 144

*all are now seated*

Blessed be the Lord my strength :  
who teacheth my hands to war and my fingers to fight;  
My hope help and my fortress my castle and deliverer  
my defender in whom I trust :  
who subdueth my people that is under me.  
Lord, what is man that thou hast such respect unto him :  
Or the son of man that thou so regardest him?  
Man is like a thing of nought :  
his time passeth away like a shadow.  
Bow thy heavens O Lord and come down :

touch the mountains and they shall smoke.  
 Cast forth thy lightning and tear them :  
 shoot out thine arrows and consume them.  
 Send down thy hand from above :  
 deliver me and take me out of the great waters,  
 from the hand of strange children;  
 Whose mouth talketh of vanity :  
 and their right hand is a right hand of wickedness.  
 I will sing a new song until thee O God :  
 and sing praises unto thee upon a ten-stringed lute.  
 Thou hast given victory unto kings :  
 and hast delivered David thy servant from the peril of the sword.  
 Save me and deliver me from the hand of strange children :  
 whose mouth talketh of vanity  
 and their right hand is a right hand of iniquity.  
 That our sons may grow up as the young plants :  
 and that our daughters may be as the polished corners of the temple.  
 That our garners may be full and plenteous with all manner of store :  
 that our sheep may bring forth thousands and ten thousands in our streets.  
 That our oxen may be strong to labour that there be no decay :  
 no leading into captivity and no complaining in our streets.  
 Happy are the people that are in such a case :  
 yea blessed are the people who have the Lord for their 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.

First Reading

Nehemiah 6.1-16

<i>Reader</i>	The Word of the Lord.
<i>People</i>	<b>Thanks be to God.</b>

Canticle: Magnificat

*sung by the choir, all standing*

My soul doth magnify the Lord,  
 and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.  
 For he hath regarded  
 the lowliness of his handmaiden.  
 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 showed 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.

Second Reading

John 15:12-27 / *all seated*

*Reader*     The Word of the Lord.  
*People*       **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle: Nunc dimittis

*all standing*

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 Apostles' Creed

*remain standing*

*Officiant*   I believe in God  
*All say*       **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 Catholic Church;  
the Communion of Saints;  
the Forgiveness of sins;  
the Resurrection of the body,  
and the Life everlasting. Amen.

#### Lesser Litany & the Lord's Prayer

*Officiant* The Lord be with you.

*Choir* And with thy spirit.

*Officiant* Let us pray.

*All kneel.*

*Choir* Lord, have mercy upon us.  
Christ, have mercy upon us.  
Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Choir* 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 them that trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil. Amen.

#### Suffrages

*the congregation remains kneeling*

*Officiant* O Lord, show thy mercy upon us.

*Choir* And grant us thy salvation.

*Officiant* O Lord, save the King.

*Choir* And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.  
*Officiant* Endue thy Ministers with righteousness.  
*Choir* And make thy chosen people joyful.  
*Officiant* O Lord, save thy people.  
*Choir* And bless thine inheritance.  
*Officiant* Give peace in our time, O Lord.  
*Choir* Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.  
*Officiant* O God, make clean our hearts within us.  
*Choir* And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

## Collect of the Day

American Book of Common Prayer, p. 194

*Officiant* Almighty and gracious Father, we give thee thanks for the fruits of the earth in their season and for the labour of those who harvest them. Make us, we beseech thee, faithful stewards of thy great bounty, for the provision of our necessities and the relief of all who are in need, to the glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.  
*Choir* Amen.

## Fixed Collects

*Officiant* 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 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.  
*Choir* Amen.  
*Officiant* 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.  
*Choir* Amen.

## Anthem

Thou visitest the earth, and blessest it.  
 Thou crownest the year with thy goodness.

*Text: Psalm 65. 9-12*  
*Music: Maurice Greene (d.1755)*

## Homily

The Reverend Ross Bliss

Let all creation bless the Lord,  
till heaven with praise is ringing.  
Sun, moon, and stars, peal out a chord,  
stir up the angels' singing.  
Sing, wind and rain! Sing, snow and sleet!  
Make music, day, night, cold, and heat:  
exalt the God who made you.

All living things upon this earth,  
green fertile hills and mountains,  
sing to the God who gave you birth;  
be joyful, springs and fountains.  
Lithe waterlife, bright airborne birds,  
wild roving beasts, tame flocks and herds:  
exalt the God who made you.

O men and women everywhere,  
lift up a hymn of glory;  
all you who know God's steadfast care,  
tell our salvation's story.  
No tongue be silent; sing your part,  
you humble souls and meek of heart:  
exalt the God who made you.

*Words: Song of Creation (Song of the Three 35-51); para. Carl P. Daw, Jr. (1944-)  
Para. © 1989 Hope Publishing Co.  
Music: melody Kirchengesange, Berlin, 1566; arr. The English Hymnal, 1906, alt.*

Prayers of the Community

*all kneel with the officiant*

Prayer of John Chrysostom

BCP p. 24

*Officiant* Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to  
make our common supplications unto thee; and dost promise that when  
two or three are gathered together in thy Name thou wilt hear their  
requests: Fulfill now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants,  
as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world  
knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting.

*People* **Amen.**

## The Grace

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

Voluntary: Choral partita on 'O Jesu, all mein Leben bist du' (*Final*)

Petr Eben (d. 2007)



### Assisting with Today's Service

*Sidespeople*    Jen Purkis, Gwyneth Evans

*Verger*        Bob Fearnley

*Musicians*    The Cathedral Schola  
                    Oriol Chapman, *organ scholar*  
                    Mark McDonald, *Assistant Director of Music*

*Readers*        Jen Purkis, Gwyneth Evans

*Camera and Tech Team*    The Cathedral Technical Team



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