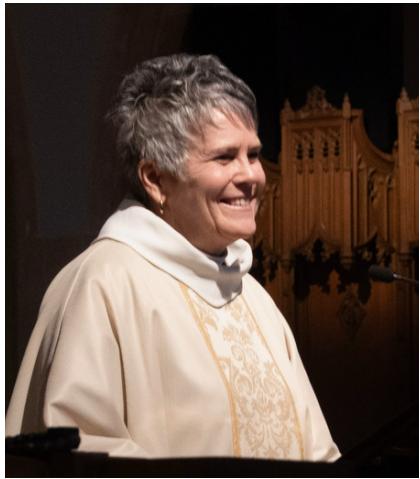


Lent and Easter 2026



Welcome to this Holy Season



Leading up to Easter, Lent and Holy Week are part of a liturgical framework that offers us the opportunity to pause and simply be.

At Christ Church Cathedral Ottawa, you will find a beautiful sacred space and a warm soul embrace. Come and let the music wash over you, the words speak to you, and the rituals hold you.

Our troubled world makes our hearts heavy, so being able to set our burdens down for even just a short time is a gift. God is always waiting, always attentive, always available to receive us.

So consider entering into this season, open to receiving what you need, whether that be consolation or community, peace or encouragement, or something else.

And may the grace of fresh perspective and renewed hope in the new life of Christ be with you this Easter.

The Very Reverend Beth Bretzlaff
Dean



The Music of Lent and Easter



The prayer and introspection of Lent, the powerful and rich sequence of Holy Week, the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday itself – this has always been for me an extraordinarily affecting period in the Church Year. It has likewise inspired some of the deepest and most profound musical expression in the sacred canon.

Here at Christ Church Cathedral our team of choristers and organists

explore and perform music from this heritage in its most appropriate and rewarding context: liturgies that are rich and variegated, that inspire prayerful pauses in our lives and that illuminate and reflect, especially, the triumph of Palm Sunday, the confusion and disarray of Maundy Thursday and the Last Supper, the pain and desolation of Good Friday and, ultimately, the bright victory of Easter.

James Calkin
Director of Music

Lent

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday | February 18th | 12.05 | 7 pm

We mark the beginning of Lent with two sung services: at noon led by a cantor and in the evening by our Boy and Girl Choristers with Lay Clerks. The music, spare and simple, invites a “holy Lent of self-examination, penitence, [and] prayer”, psalms, the Lent Prose, and anthems by Rawsthorne, Wesley and Farrant.

Contemplative Prayer

Thursdays | 12.05 pm

In the course of this gentle, noonday service a short musical meditation is offered on the Cathedral's great organ; music that enfolds the listener, taking us, for a moment, to a different place and time.

Choral Evening Prayer | Evensong

Sunday | February 22nd, March 1st, 8th, 15th | 4 pm

On the cusp of a new week, our choirs will offer a sequence of four afternoon liturgies in both Book of Common Prayer and contemporary forms. A feature of musical life in cathedrals around the world, choral evening prayer (or evensong) offers the listener music and words of great beauty; its pattern and rhythms a comforting pause in busy lives.

Holy Week | The Great Triduum



At the climax of the season is the narrative arc of Christ's Passion and Resurrection that flows seamlessly from day to day and is marked with major choral liturgies on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter morning.

Palm Sunday

Sunday | March 29th | 8.30 | 10.30 am

The 10.30 am service is sung by our Boys, Girls, Lay Clerks and Choral Scholars. The pivot from triumph to tragedy is rendered in music by James Whitbourn ("Set me as a seal"), John Ireland ("Ex ore innocentium"), and Edward Elgar ("Ave verum corpus"). The introit and eucharistic setting are from the Solemn Masses of Louis Vierne and Jean Langlais.

Organ Meditation for Passiontide

Sunday | March 29th | 4 pm

James Calkin performs Julius Reubke's "Sonata on the 94th Psalm". In his magnum opus of 1857 Reubke (1834-58) left one of the great programmatic works of the German symphonic tradition – every bit an equal to the better-known compositions of Franz Liszt. Based on the 94th psalm, themes of wickedness, pride, sorrow, vengeance and justice are vividly and powerfully depicted.

Monday to Wednesday in Holy Week

March 30th, 31st, April 1st | 12.05 pm

These quiet, reflective services are held in the Chancel, accompanied by a cantor.

Maundy Thursday

Thursday | April 2nd | 7 pm

Sung by our Lay Clerks and Choral Scholars, the music this night captures both the self-sacrificial love of the Last Supper as well as the shocking betrayal and abandonment that followed. One of the few opportunities anywhere in this country to hear Arvo Part's "Beatitudes" in this devastatingly affective context.

Solemnity of the Lord's Passion

Friday | April 3rd | Noon

Sung this year by our Girls Choir with Lay Clerks, this ascetic service at noon features bracing and arresting music by Sanders ("The Reproaches"), Lotti ("Crucifixus") and Pergolesi ("Stabat Mater").

Good Friday Sacred Concert

Friday | April 3rd | 3 pm

Under the direction of Andrew McAnerney, the Lay Clerks and Choral Scholars accompanied by strings and continuo will perform Dieterich Buxtehude's "Membra Jesu nostri". This sung devotion by a master of the German baroque comprises seven short cantatas each illuminating a part of the wounded, crucified body of Christ. Feet, knees, hands, side, breast, heart, and face; each tableau of suffering an expression of penitence and a plea for redemption by the faithful on this darkest of days.

A Vigil for Easter | Easter Day

Saturday | April 4th | 8 pm

Sunday | April 5th | 8.30 | 10.30 am

The music of the Queen of Festivals demands and inspires freshness and vitality. Here at CCC Ottawa our choirs, organists and guest musicians will offer an explosion of sound from contemporary and late twentieth century sources. From the organ Charles Tournemire's "Improvisation sur Victimae Paschali" and C-M Widor's "Toccata". From our Boy and Girl Choristers, Lay Clerks and Choral Scholars Michael McCarthy's "Vidi Aquam", Jonathan Dove's "Missa Brevis" and Martin Baker's "Christus Vincit". Not least, the singing of the entire community in hymns and descants of splendour and celebration!



Find the Churchmice

When you are at Christ Church Cathedral, make sure to keep your eyes open for our four resident mice, who love to meet new people. Lecternmouse, Pulpitmouse, Deanmouse, and Bishopmouse are whimsical and each have very particular characters. Our clergy will be happy to help you find them. We only ask that once you know where the mice are, that you show others, so they can share in the fun. Happy searching!

Consider Donating

All our ministry and music are funded by you — visitors, friends and members of our Cathedral. Please consider making a donation via the Tip Tap machine in the foyer, using the QR code in the pews, putting a cheque or cash in the collection plate, sending an e-transfer to info@ottawacathedral.ca or visiting www.ottawacathedral.ca.

Thank you for your generosity!



Christ Church Cathedral Ottawa

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Lent | Holy Week | Easter Services

Ash Wednesday | February 18th

12.05 pm | Sung Eucharist | Imposition of Ashes

7 pm | Choral Eucharist | Imposition of Ashes

Wednesdays in Lent

12.05 pm | Eucharist

Thursdays in Lent

12.05 pm | Contemplative Prayer with Organ Meditation

First | Second Sundays in Lent | February 22nd | March 1st

8.30 am | Holy Eucharist

10.30 am | Choral Eucharist | Prayers for Healing

Noon | Exodus: From Slavery to Freedom Lenten Study

4 pm | Choral Evening Prayer | Choral Evensong

Third Sunday in Lent | March 8th

8.30 am | Holy Eucharist

10.30 am | Choral Eucharist | Prayers for Healing

Noon | Annual Vestry Meeting

4 pm | Choral Evensong

Fourth | Fifth Sundays in Lent | March 15th | 22nd

8.30 am | Holy Eucharist

10.30 am | Choral Eucharist | Prayers for Healing

Noon | Exodus: From Slavery to Freedom Lenten Study

4 pm | Choral Evensong (only March 15th)

Palm | Passion Sunday | March 29th

8.30 am | Holy Eucharist with Blessing of Palms

10.30 am | Choral Eucharist with Palm Procession

4 pm | Organ Meditation for Passontide

Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | March 30th | 31st | April 1st

12.05 pm | Sung Eucharist

Maundy Thursday | April 2nd

12.05 pm | Contemplative Prayer

7 pm | Choral Eucharist with Stripping of the Altar

Good Friday | April 3rd

Noon | Solemnity of the Lord's Passion

1 to 3 pm | Cathedral Open for Quiet Meditation

3 pm | Sacred Concert for Good Friday

Holy Saturday | April 4th

8 pm | A Vigil for Easter

Easter Day | April 5th

8.30 am | Holy Eucharist

10.30 am | Festal Eucharist

