

SOUTHWARK
◆ CATHEDRAL ◆

CHORAL EVENSONG

WITH THE INSTALLATION OF
CANON MICHAEL BRANCH
DEAN OF ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, SOUTHWARK
AS HONORARY ECUMENICAL CANON

SUNDAY 5 MAY 2024
3.00PM



**SOU
THW
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WELCOME TO SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL

A MEMBER OF THE



ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Please ensure that all electronic devices are switched to silent.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography and video recording of the Choir is not permitted.

You are welcome to take photographs of the Cathedral but please do not take any photographs or videos during the service.

HEARING LOOP

Please switch your device to 'T'.

POSTURE

The instructions in this booklet are not prescriptive. Please sit if that is more appropriate for you.

DONATIONS



There are several donation points in the Cathedral where you can make your donation, or you can simply scan or tap the QR code, or text SOUTHWARK (Amount) to 70085 (one standard rate message is also charged). Thank you very much for your generous support of the Cathedral.

You can also support the Cathedral by buying your books from the ethical online bookseller bookshop.org and designating Southwark Cathedral shop for the 30% of purchase price donation they offer us.

CHORAL EVENSONG

Wherever you are from and however you have come to be here you are so very welcome. Our service lasts about forty minutes and is led by our Choir and clergy. This gives you the opportunity to listen to some beautifully sung choral music, to be still at the end of the day and to reflect in a place where others have brought their joys and concerns to God over many centuries.

CAN I JOIN THE CONGREGATION?

Yes, of course: if you would like to stay for the whole service, you are welcome to sit in the seats beyond the stalls where the Choir is singing, or if you have only a few minutes feel free to just sit in the nave and let the space and the music communicate something of God's beauty beyond all words.

DO I HAVE TO SAY OR DO ANYTHING?

There are places where the congregation is invited to stand and you may like to do this, but it is fine if you prefer to remain seated. You will be invited to join in with some spoken parts, printed in bold in this booklet, but you don't have to.

MAY I TAKE PHOTOGRAPHS?

Please don't take photographs so we can keep the atmosphere peaceful and the space safe. We often have children singing so you can't take pictures of the service or Choir rehearsal beforehand, though you are most welcome to take pictures after the service.

MAY I COME BACK TO ATTEND THIS SERVICE ON ANOTHER DAY?

Of course! Choral Evensong usually takes place in school term time on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at 5.30pm, on some Saturdays and on Sunday at 3.00pm. Do check the Cathedral website just to be sure: sometimes we have to vary our usual routine.

WHAT'S THE AIM OF THE SERVICE?

Choral Evensong is an opportunity to worship God and experience God's loving welcome in a holy space that can feel like a window on heaven.

WHAT IS CHORAL EVENSONG?

Choral Evensong is a form of worship which is several hundred years old and is unique to the Anglican Church. To be at Choral Evensong is like dropping in on a conversation which is already in progress – a conversation between God and human beings which began long before we were born and will go on long after we are dead. So do not be surprised, or disturbed, if there are some things in the conversation which you do not understand at first. The text of the service is drawn almost entirely from the Bible. Its main purpose is to proclaim the wonderful works of God in history and in the life and death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It also invites those who worship to respond with praise and penitence, prayer and obedience.

The service is in three parts.

The first part, which is very brief, prepares us for the story which is to follow.

The second part is the story of what God has done (and continues to do) to save his people, beginning in the Old Testament (the Psalm and the First Reading), then moving to the New Testament (the Magnificat, the Second Reading and the Nunc Dimittis) and reaching its climax as we turn to face East, looking towards the dawn of God's Kingdom, as we affirm our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

The third part is our human response to the God who has revealed himself in history, in Jesus Christ and in the Church.

WHY DOES THE CHOIR HAVE SO MUCH TO DO AND THE CONGREGATION SO LITTLE?

Whether it's your first language or not, music has a particular power, reaching out to express truths beyond words. In worship this can happen through the simplicity of a well-known hymn sung together, or as highly skilled musicians offer something more elaborate on behalf of everyone else. This is the pattern at Choral Evensong. The Choir and organist work in partnership with the building to point us towards the beauty of God that is our source and inspiration, and the congregation are freed to rest and rejoice in God's presence.

We are so glad that you are here and hope that you find the service enriching.

CANON MICHAEL BRANCH

“It is a tremendous honour to be appointed an Ecumenical Canon at Southwark Cathedral by Bishop Christopher Chessun. The two Southwark Cathedrals have maintained a close friendship and collaboration working for the Common Good for many years, which I am confident will continue to be strengthened and deepened in our shared love for Christ. In an era of change where division and differences are often emphasized, we at St George’s Cathedral are unreservedly dedicated to working for Christian Unity to highlight our shared mission with Southwark Cathedral in proclaiming in word and action that God is love and the dignity of all humankind. Pope Francis stated, ‘When Christians serve God and their neighbours, they also grow in understanding of one another. Our Lord Jesus calls us to love one another as He loves us, which means we must seek areas of unity to share the beauty of Christ with the world.’”



Canon Michael Branch, Dean of St George’s Cathedral, Southwark

Canon Michael Branch was formed for the priesthood at Campion House, Osterley, and St John’s Seminary, Woneresh. He was ordained priest on 31 May 1997, serving as assistant priest at St Joseph’s, Roehampton and St Saviour’s, Lewisham. In 2006 he became Parish Priest of St Patrick’s, Plumstead. He then spent nine years as Parish Priest at St Peter’s, Woolwich, before taking on his present position as Dean of St George’s Cathedral. Canon Michael is delighted to have returned to the area where he originates. In fact, he was born at the top of Westminster Bridge Road and the Cathedral is where generations of his family have received the sacraments.

The title of Honorary Ecumenical Canon recognises and respects those who, through their churches and church-related organisations, have served and contributed to the lives of their local communities as well as in national and international outreach. Each Ecumenical Canon brings with them a breadth of knowledge and experience. Their appointment as an Ecumenical Canon of Southwark Cathedral is a sign of the willingness of the Cathedral community to stand beside them and those they serve. We pray that Fr Michael will enjoy being part of the life of the Cathedral, that we will continue to learn from him, and the people of St George’s Cathedral, and that he will receive encouragement and support from us. Through our partnership and commitment to pray for each other, we hope to respond to the prayer of Jesus for his disciples that ‘they may all be one’.

CHOIR

The Cathedral Choir



SETTING

Tomás Luis de Victoria (c. 1548-1611)
Magnificat quinti toni & Nunc dimittis tertii toni



RESPONSES

William Byrd (c. 1540-1623)



MUSIC BEFORE THE SERVICE

Passacaglia in D minor, BuxWV 161
Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

CHORAL EVENSONG

WITH THE INSTALLATION OF CANON MICHAEL BRANCH AS ECUMENICAL CANON

Before the start of the service, the Dean of Southwark welcomes the congregation.

Please stand as the Procession enters.

A SENTENCE FROM SCRIPTURE

Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy;
without holiness no one will see the Lord.

Hebrews 12.14

The Choir sings:

THE PRECES

O Lord, open thou our lips
And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

O God, make speed to save us;
O Lord, make haste to help us.

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.

Praise ye the Lord;
The Lord's name be praised.

Please be seated as the Choir sings:

THE PSALM

Psalm 45.1-10

My heart is inditing of a good matter :
I speak of the things which I have made unto the King.

My tongue is the pen : of a ready writer.

Thou art fairer than the children of men :
full of grace are thy lips, because God hath blessed thee for ever.

Gird thee with thy sword upon thy thigh, O thou most Mighty :
according to thy worship and renown.

Good luck have thou with thine honour : ride on, because of the word of truth,
of meekness, and righteousness; and thy right hand shall teach thee terrible
things.

Thy arrows are very sharp, and the people shall be subdued unto thee :
even in the midst among the King's enemies.

Thy seat, O God, endureth for ever :
the sceptre of thy kingdom is a right sceptre.

Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity : wherefore God, even thy
God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.

All thy garments smell of myrrh, aloes, and cassia :
out of the ivory palaces, whereby they have made thee glad.

Kings' daughters were among thy honourable women : upon thy right hand
did stand the queen in a vesture of gold, wrought about with divers colours.

Please 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.

Please be seated.

THE FIRST LESSON

Song of Solomon 4.16-5.2, 8.6-7

Read by **Frank Colson, St George's Cathedral**

The First Lesson is written in the fourth chapter of the Song of Solomon,
beginning at the sixteenth verse.

Awake, O north wind,
and come, O south wind!
Blow upon my garden
that its fragrance may be wafted abroad.
Let my beloved come to his garden,
and eat its choicest fruits.

I come to my garden, my sister, my bride;
I gather my myrrh with my spice,
I eat my honeycomb with my honey,
I drink my wine with my milk.

Eat, friends, drink,
and be drunk with love.

I slept, but my heart was awake.
Listen! my beloved is knocking.
'Open to me, my sister, my love,
my dove, my perfect one;
for my head is wet with dew,
my locks with the drops of the night.'
Set me as a seal upon your heart,
as a seal upon your arm;
for love is strong as death,
passion fierce as the grave.
Its flashes are flashes of fire,
a raging flame.
Many waters cannot quench love,
neither can floods drown it.
If one offered for love
all the wealth of one's house,
it would be utterly scorned.

Here ends the First Lesson.

THE INSTITUTION & INSTALLATION OF AN ECUMENICAL CANON

At the end of the First Lesson, the Bishop of Southwark is verged to the Tower Steps and is joined by the Residentiary Canons. The Ecumenical Canon designate stands before the Bishop. All others remain seated.

THE PRESENTATION & INSTITUTION

The Dean presents the Ecumenical Canon designate to the Bishop of Southwark, saying:

Bishop Christopher, I present to you Canon Michael Branch, Dean of St George's Cathedral, Southwark, to be instituted and installed as an Honorary Ecumenical Canon of this Cathedral Church.

The Bishop reads the Deeds of Institution and says to the Ecumenical Canon designate:

Receive this cure, your care and ours. Be diligent so to take your part with your brothers and sisters in the life of this holy place that here the word of God may be faithfully preached, the people of God served and the Gospel proclaimed; and in all things so uphold the honour and dignity of our Cathedral and Collegiate Church that it may be a true Mother to the Churches of our Bishopric.

The Bishop blesses the new Ecumenical Canon.

The peace of God, which passes all understanding,
keep your heart and mind in the knowledge and love of God,
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord;
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

THE INSTALLATION

The new Ecumenical Canon stands. The Bishop hands the mandates to the Dean and invites him to proceed with the Installation.

Mr Dean, I bid you proceed to the Installation of this our brother as Honorary Ecumenical Canon.

The Residentiary Canons place an Ecumenical Canon's collar upon the new Canon, who is then conducted to his stall and caused to sit therein. Once in place, the Dean says:

By virtue of this instrument, I, Mark David Oakley, Dean of this Cathedral and Collegiate Church, do receive you and do admit and invest you as an Honorary Ecumenical Canon of this Cathedral and Collegiate Church, together with all that belongs to the office and dignity to which you have been instituted; and do assign you your stall in the Quire of our Cathedral Church belonging to your Canonry; in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The new Ecumenical Canon is given a copy of the Constitution and Statutes of the Cathedral. Then, he says:

Mr Dean, I, Michael Branch, Honorary Ecumenical Canon of this Cathedral and Collegiate Church of St Saviour and St Mary Overie, Southwark, do promise that with my brothers and sisters of this Cathedral Church I will faithfully bear witness to Christ, proclaim the Good News of God's love for all and with you seek that unity for which Christ prayed.

The new Ecumenical Canon invites the congregation to pray.

Let us pray.

O God, the King of Glory, who art ever adored by thy holy angels, yet delightest in the praises of the children of God: Prosper with thy blessing, we beseech thee, the work of this Cathedral Church; that they who minister or worship here may offer unto thee true and laudable service, for thy honour and glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The Dean prays for the new Ecumenical Canon.

The Lord preserve your going out and your coming in from this time forth and evermore. May God the Father enlighten you with the radiance of his truth. May the good Spirit of God fill you with reverence, strength and tranquillity. May our Lord Jesus, who walks with his disciples, be the guide of your journey, both now and for ever.

All Amen.

Canon Michael Branch is welcomed with applause. Then, all return to their places.

Please stand as the Choir sings:

THE MAGNIFICAT

Magnificat anima mea Dominum;
et exsultavit spiritus meus
in Deo salutari meo,

Quia respexit humilitatem
ancillae suae;

Ecce enim ex hoc beatam me dicent
omnes generationes.

Quia fecit mihi magna, qui potens est,
et sanctum nomen eius,

Et misericordia eius a progenie in
progenies timentibus eum.

Fecit potentiam in brachio suo;
dispersit superbos
mente cordis sui;

deposuit potentes de sede,
et exaltavit humiles;

esurientes implevit bonis
et divites dimisit inanes.

Suscepit Israel puerum suum, recordatus
misericordiae suae,
sicut locutus est ad patres nostros,
Abraham et semini eius in saecula.

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 has sent empty
away.

He remembering his mercy hath holpen
his servant Israel :
as he promised to our forefathers,
Abraham and his seed for ever.

Gloria Patri, et Filio,
et Spiritui Sancto,

sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper:
et in Saecula saeculorum. Amen.

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.

Please be seated.

THE SECOND LESSON

Revelation 3.14-end

Read by **Canon Michael Rawson, Sub Dean & Pastor**

The Second Lesson is written in the third chapter of the Revelation of St John, beginning at the fourteenth verse.

'And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the origin of God's creation:

'I know your works; you are neither cold nor hot. I wish that you were either cold or hot. So, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I am about to spit you out of my mouth. For you say, "I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing." You do not realize that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. Therefore I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire so that you may be rich; and white robes to clothe you and to keep the shame of your nakedness from being seen; and salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see. I reprove and discipline those whom I love. Be earnest, therefore, and repent. Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me. To the one who conquers I will give a place with me on my throne, just as I myself conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches."

Here ends the Second Lesson.

Please stand as the Choir sings:

THE NUNC DIMITTIS

Nunc dimittis servum tuum, Domine,
secundum verbum tuum in pace:

Quia viderunt oculi mei
salutare tuum

Quod parasti ante faciem omnium
populorum:

Lumen ad revelationem gentium, et
gloriam plebis tuae Israel.

Gloria Patri, et Filio,
et Spiritui Sancto,

sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper:
et in Saecula saeculorum. Amen.

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

**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.
On 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.**

The Minister and Choir sing:

THE LESSER LITANY, LORD'S PRAYER & RESPONSES

The Lord be with you;
And with thy spirit.

Please be seated or kneel.

Let us pray.

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.

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

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

Endue thy ministers with righteousness;
And make thy chosen people joyful.

O Lord, save thy people;
And bless thine inheritance.

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

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

Followed by:

THE COLLECTS

Almighty Father, whose blessed Son before his passion didst pray for his disciples, that they might be one as thou and he are one; Grant that thy Church, being bound together in love and obedience to thee, may be united in one body by the one Spirit, that the world may believe in him whom thou hast sent, thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

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 both 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.

Amen.

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.

Amen.

Please be seated as the Choir sings:

THE ANTHEM

Recessit Pastor noster • Tomás Luis de Victoria (c. 1548-1611)

Recessit pastor noster
fons aquae vivae
ad cuius transitum sol obscuratus est:
Nam et ille captus est, qui captivum
tenebat primum hominem:
hodie portas mortis et seras pariter
Salvator noster dirupit.
Destruxit quidem claustra inferni
et subvertit potentias diaboli.

Our Shepherd is departed, the fount of
living water,
At whose passing the sun was darkened,
For even he was made captive who was
holding captive the first man.
Today the gates of death and their bars
as well our Savior has destroyed.
Indeed He has destroyed the strongholds
of the underworld
And he has overthrown the powers of
the devil.

THE SERMON

The Very Rev'd Dr Mark Oakley, Dean of Southwark

Please remain seated or kneel for:

THE PRAYERS

Led by **Canon Kathryn Fleming, Precentor**

The prayers conclude with:

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

Please stand to sing:

THE FINAL HYMN

NEH 484* (tune 167)



The Church's one foundation
Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
She is his new creation
By water and the word:
From heaven he came and sought her
To be his holy Bride,
With his own blood he bought her,
And for her life he died.

Elect from every nation,
Yet one o'er all the earth,
Her charter of salvation
One Lord, one faith, one birth;
One holy name she blesses,
Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses
With every grace endued.

'Mid toil, and tribulation,
And tumult of her war,
She waits the consummation
Of peace for evermore;
Till with the vision glorious
Her longing eyes are blest,
And the great Church victorious
Shall be the Church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union
With God the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion
With those whose rest is won:
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we
Like them, the meek and lowly,
On high may dwell with thee.

TUNE: AURELIA

S. S. Wesley (1810-1876)

TEXT:

Samuel Stone (1839-1900)

THE BLESSING

The Bishop of Southwark

The peace of God,
which passes all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds
in the knowledge and love of God,
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

THE VOLUNTARY

Prelude and Fugue in G major, BWV 550 • J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Thank you for joining us. Please leave the Cathedral by the North West doors and the Millennium Courtyard. Please consider supporting us by giving using the contactless donation points if you have not set up a regular payment. We look forward to welcoming you back.

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SOUTHWARK

◆ CATHEDRAL ◆

Welcome to Southwark Cathedral. Set on the south bank of the River Thames in one of the most vibrant and diverse communities in London, this building has been a constant witness in a place of change.

The first church was built on this site around the year 606. First a convent, then a monastery, it became in 1106 the Augustinian Priory of St Mary Overie. With Westminster Abbey and St Bartholomew the Great in Smithfield it is one of the three remaining great monastic churches of London. At the Reformation the Priory became a parish church and it remains so for the people of Bankside. In 1905, as south London was rapidly expanding, the church was consecrated as the cathedral for the new Diocese of Southwark.

As well as a place of constant witness to our faith in Jesus Christ, this church has a momentous and proud history and has had links with many famous and influential characters including St Thomas Becket, Geoffrey Chaucer, William Shakespeare and Charles Dickens.

In the 20th century this cathedral was at the heart of the new movement in theology termed 'South Bank Religion'. This movement asked challenging questions of people about faith in the modern age which continue to be explored at Southwark Cathedral which describes itself as 'inclusive: faithful: radical'.

Whatever has brought you here today, you are most welcome. Become part of the life here if you can; it will change your life as you encounter with us our living God.

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