



DURHAM
CATHEDRAL

Evensong

on

The Second Sunday before Lent

Sexagesima

Sunday 23 February 2025

3.30 p.m.



Welcome to Durham Cathedral

*Inspired by our saints, Cuthbert and Bede,
the mission of Durham Cathedral
is to offer everyone the opportunity
to encounter God and know God's love in Jesus Christ.*

*Flowers are an important part of our adorning of the Cathedral Church
for divine service on many occasions during the year.*

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This service is sung by the City of London Chamber Choir

Voluntary

Please stand at the entry of the choir and ministers

Hymn

O gladsome light, O grace
Of God the Father's face,
The eternal splendour wearing;
Celestial, holy, blest,
Our Saviour Jesus Christ,
Joyful in thine appearing.

Now, ere day fadeth quite,
We see the evening light,
Our wonted hymn outpouring;
Father of might unknown,
Thee, his incarnate Son,
And Holy Spirit adoring.

To thee of right belongs
All praise of holy songs,
O Son of God, Lifegiver;
Thee, therefore, O Most High,
The world doth glorify,
And shall exalt for ever.

*Greek, before 4th century,
by Robert Bridges*

*NUNC DIMITTIS, Melody for Nunc dimittis translated
in the Genevan Psalter supplied by Louis Bourgeois
harmony by Claude Goudimel*

Welcome and Introduction

The Reverend Daniel Parkinson

Minister Let us humbly confess our sins to almighty God.

Please kneel

All Almighty and most merciful Father;
We have erred, and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep.
We have followed too much
the devices and desires of our own hearts.
We have offended against thy holy laws.
We have left undone those things
which we ought to have done;
And we have done those things
which we ought not to have done;
And there is no health in us.
But thou, O Lord,
have mercy upon us, miserable offenders.
Spare thou them, O God, which confess their faults.
Restore thou them that are penitent;
According to thy promises declared unto mankind
in Christ Jesu our Lord.
And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake;
That we may hereafter
live a godly, righteous, and sober life,
To the glory of thy holy Name.

All Amen.

Minister The almighty and merciful Lord
grant unto you pardon and remission of all your sins,
time for amendment of life,
and the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

All

**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:
for thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Please stand

Preces

Richard Ayleward

Cantor

O Lord, open thou our lips.

Choir

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 sit

Praise the Lord,
 for it is a good thing to sing praises unto our God :
 yea, a joyful and pleasant thing it is to be thankful.
 The Lord doth build up Jerusalem :
 and gather together the out-casts of Israel.
 He healeth those that are broken in heart :
 and giveth medicine to heal their sickness.
 He telleth the number of the stars :
 and calleth them all by their names.
 Great is our Lord, and great is his power :
 yea, and his wisdom is infinite.
 The Lord setteth up the meek :
 and bringeth the ungodly down to the ground.
 O sing unto the Lord with thanksgiving :
 sing praises upon the harp unto our God;
 Who covereth the heaven with clouds,
 and prepareth rain for the earth :
 and maketh the grass to grow upon the mountains,
 and herb for the use of men;
 Who giveth fodder unto the cattle :
 and feedeth the young ravens that call upon him.
 He hath no pleasure in the strength of an horse :
 neither delighteth he in any man's legs.
 But the Lord's delight is in them that fear him :
 and put their trust in his mercy.
 Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem :
 praise thy God, O Sion.
 For he hath made fast the bars of thy gates :
 and hath blessed thy children within thee.
 He maketh peace in thy borders :
 and filleth thee with the flour of wheat.
 He sendeth forth his commandment upon earth :
 and his word runneth very swiftly.
 He giveth snow like wool :
 and scattereth the hoar-frost like ashes.

He casteth forth his ice like morsels :
who is able to abide his frost?
He sendeth out his word, and melteth them :
he bloweth with his wind, and the waters flow.
He sheweth his word unto Jacob :
his statutes and ordinances unto Israel.
He hath not dealt so with any nation :
neither have the heathen knowledge of his laws.

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 sit

First Lesson

Genesis 1: 1—2: 3

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

And God said, 'Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.' So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

And God said, 'Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.' And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, 'Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.' And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

And God said, 'Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.' And it was so. God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

And God said, 'Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.' So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.' And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

And God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.' And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.'

So God created humankind in his image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.' God said, 'See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.' And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

After a short silence, all stand with the Choir

Magnificat

Thomas Walmisley in D minor

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.

Please sit

Second Lesson

Matthew 6: 25-end

Jesus said to his disciples, 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, "What will we eat?" or "What will we drink?" or "What will we wear?" For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.'

After a short silence, all stand with the 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.

Please face east

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;
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 Lesser Litany, Responses and Collects

Richard Ayleward

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

Please kneel

Cantor Let us pray.

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.

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.

The Collect for the Second Sunday before Lent (Sexagesima)

O Lord God,
who seest that we put not our trust in any thing that we do:
Mercifully grant that by thy power
we may be defended against all adversity;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Collect for peace

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.

The Collect for aid against all perils

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 sit

Anthem

Like as the hart

sung by the choir

Like as the hart desireth the water-brooks :
so longeth my soul after thee, O God.
My soul is athirst for God, yea, even for the living God :
when shall I come to appear before the presence of God?
My tears have been my meat day and night :
while they daily say unto me, Where is now thy God?

*Psalm 42: 1 - 3**Herbert Howells***Prayers and the Grace***The Reverend Daniel Parkinson**The prayers conclude with the Grace***All**

**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.**

*The minister offers words of farewell and announces the final hymn**Please stand to sing the hymn***Hymn**

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,
Be all else but naught to me, save that thou art,
Be thou my best thought in the day and the night,
Both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,
Be thou ever with me, and I with thee, Lord,
Be thou my great Father, and I thy true son,
Be thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight,
Be thou my whole armour, be thou my true might,
Be thou my soul's shelter, be thou my strong tower,
O raise thou me heavenward, great Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Be thou my inheritance now and always,
Be thou and thou only the first in my heart,
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, thou heaven's bright Sun,
O grant me its joys after vict'ry is won,
Great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

*Irish, c 8th century,
translated by Mary Byrne*

*SLANE, Traditional Irish melody,
harmonised by Erik Routley*

The Blessing

Dean The peace of God, which passeth 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.

Voluntary

Daily services this week

*At 8.30 a.m., **Morning Prayer** (live-streamed) is said in the Feretory from Monday to Saturday.*

*At 12.30 p.m., **Holy Communion** is celebrated each weekday in the North Transept. These services are not live-streamed.*

*At 5.30 p.m., **Evensong** is sung from Monday to Wednesday and on Friday and Saturday in the Quire, and **Evening Prayer** is said in the Quire on Thursday (live-streamed Monday to Friday).*

***Compline** is said on Monday at 8.45 p.m. (live-streamed only).*

*Next Sunday—the Sunday next before Lent (Quinquagesima): **Holy Communion** (BCP) is celebrated at 8.00 a.m., the **Sung Eucharist** is celebrated at 10.00 a.m., **Morning Prayer with Address** is said at 11.30 a.m., and **Evensong** is sung at 3.30 p.m. Next Sunday's services are sung by St Peter's Consort, Belfast.*

The Office for the Royal Maundy: Thursday 17 April at 11.00 a.m.

On Maundy Thursday, HM The King, accompanied by HM The Queen, will distribute the Royal Maundy at Durham Cathedral to 152 men and women who have undertaken Christian service of note in their local communities. The service will be attended by these recipients and their guests together with representatives of the Diocese of Durham and the County. Worshipping members of local churches including the Cathedral can enter a ballot to receive two seats (one for you and one for a guest). **You need to send an email to maundy@durhamcathedral.co.uk before Monday 17 March with your full name and date of birth and the full name and date of birth of your guest.** Ballot entries (up to a maximum of 200 seats) will be drawn out of a hat on Monday 24 March and successful entrants notified. Please note that the guest list will be shared confidentially with the police for security purposes. (Our worship for Holy Week will not be affected although some services will take place in alternative locations and the Chrism Eucharist will move to Monday of Holy Week at 11.00 a.m.)

Ash Wednesday: 5 March

Please join us to mark the beginning of Lent with special services throughout the day—including Holy Communion (BCP) in the Feretory at 7.30 a.m. and the Sung Eucharist with the Imposition of Ashes at 5.30 p.m. Ashes are also imposed at the Eucharist at 12.30 p.m.

Celebrating St Cuthbert 2025

We are looking forward to celebrating St Cuthbert, our patron saint whose shrine church this is. We will sing a special service of Evensong with a Procession to the Shrine on **Friday 21 March at 6.00 p.m.** The service is sung by Durham Cathedral Choir and the preacher is Professor Dee Dyas, Professor of the History of Christianity and Director of the Centre for Pilgrimage Studies at the University of York and a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society. We very much hope you will be with us on this special day which epitomises so much of what Durham Cathedral stands for. Please bring guests with you too. All congregational seating is unreserved. The service will last about one hour and drinks will be served in church afterwards.

On **Saturday 22 March**, during the day, there will be family activities in the Cathedral on the theme of St Cuthbert. There is also a Pilgrimage Walk from St Mary and St Cuthbert's Church, Chester-le-Street, to Durham Cathedral leaving at 10.30 a.m. or you can join at Finchale Priory, leaving at 1.15 p.m. and arriving at the Cathedral in time for a celebration of the Eucharist at 4.00 p.m. (see below). You can get to Chester-le-Street by train or to Finchale Priory by bus from Durham County Hall. The latter will leave County Hall at 12.15 p.m. (Cars may be parked at County Hall free of charge that day.) The bus to Finchale costs £7. You don't need to book onto the pilgrimage itself but you do need to book the bus:

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/finchale-camino-annual-pilgrimage-2025-tickets-1249436270519

And, at 4.00 p.m., there will be a celebration of the Eucharist in honour of St Cuthbert sung by Durham Cathedral Choir and Newcastle Cathedral Choir at which the president and preacher is the Bishop of Jarrow, the Right Reverend Sarah Clark. You are welcome to attend and sit in the congregation. Seats are free for all and you don't need to tell us if you are coming.

Lent Talks 2025

Let Us Pray: Learning and Living the Prayers of the Church

This Lent you are warmly invited to Durham Cathedral for our series of Sunday afternoon Lent Talks. Speakers from a range of traditions will introduce a special prayer which has helped them pray over the years. Talks take place in the Quire of Durham Cathedral on Sundays after Evensong and will conclude with silence as all are invited to use the prayer for ourselves in a time of quiet meditation.

Sunday 9 March—Encountering Joy:

The Prayer of Simeon in the Nunc Dimittis

The Reverend Canon Charlie Allen

Canon Chancellor, Durham Cathedral

Sunday 16 March—Inspiration, Motivation and Blessing: Psalm 84

Canon Jeffrey Hewitt

former Head Verger and Lay Canon Emeritus, Durham Cathedral

Sunday 23 March—Prostrating with Humility, Repenting in the Heart:

The Lenten Prayer of St Ephrem the Syrian

Fr Justin Mihoc

Priest in the Romanian Orthodox Patriarchate

and Rector of the Parish of St Cuthbert and St Bede, Durham

Sunday 30 March—Faith, Love, Vision – and Dogged Determination

Mrs Sue Snowdon, *HM Lord Lieutenant of County Durham*

Sunday 6 April—All hearts are open, all desires known:

The Collect for Purity

The Right Reverend Sarah Clark, *Bishop of Jarrow*

Sunday 13 April (Palm Sunday*)—Inestimable Love:

The General Thanksgiving from the Book of Common Prayer

The Very Reverend Dr Philip Plyming, *Dean of Durham*

Where and when? 4.30 p.m. to 5.00 p.m., the Quire, Durham Cathedral (entry via main door). The talks will follow on from Evensong which starts at 3.30 p.m. However, all are welcome whether or not you attend Evensong. The talks are free and no tickets are required. The talks will be livestreamed on the Cathedral's YouTube page. *Note: Palm Sunday's talk will start at 5.00 p.m. in the Galilee Chapel, prior to Bach's St John's Passion being sung at 6.00 p.m. in the Cathedral.

Student Tuesday

Students are always welcome at Durham Cathedral, but we extend a particular welcome at Evensong on Tuesdays during term-time, after which we gather for food and fellowship in the Deanery. The next Student Tuesday is on 25 February. We gather after Evensong in the South Transept.

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