



DURHAM
CATHEDRAL

Evensong

on

The First Sunday in Lent

Sunday 9 March 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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Please stand at the entry of the Choir and ministers

Hymn There's a wideness in God's mercy,
 Like the wideness of the sea;
 There's a kindness in his justice,
 Which is more than liberty.
 There is no place where earth's sorrows
 Are more felt than up in heaven;
 There is no place where earth's failings
 Have such kindly judgement given.

 For the love of God is broader
 Than the measure of man's mind;
 And the heart of the Eternal
 Is most wonderfully kind.
 But we make his love too narrow
 By false limits of our own;
 And we magnify his strictness
 With a zeal he will not own.

 There is plentiful redemption
 In the blood that has been shed;
 There is joy for all the members
 In the sorrows of the head.
 There is grace enough for thousands
 Of new worlds as great as this;
 There is room for fresh creations
 In that upper home of bliss.

 If our love were but more simple,
 We should take him at his word;
 And our lives would be all gladness
 In the joy of Christ our Lord.

Welcome and Introduction

The Reverend Canon Professor Simon Oliver

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.
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

William Smith

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.

Please sit

Thy hands have made me and fashioned me :
 O give me understanding,
 that I may learn thy commandments.
They that fear thee will be glad when they see me :
 because I have put my trust in thy word.
I know, O Lord, that thy judgements are right :
 and that thou of very faithfulness
 hast caused me to be troubled.
O let thy merciful kindness be my comfort :
 according to thy word unto thy servant.
O let thy loving mercies come unto me, that I may live :
 for thy law is my delight.
Let the proud be confounded,
 for they go wickedly about to destroy me :
 but I will be occupied in thy commandments.
Let such as fear thee, and have known thy testimonies :
 be turned unto me.
O let my heart be sound in thy statutes :
 that I be not ashamed.
My soul hath longed for thy salvation :
 and I have a good hope because of thy word.
Mine eyes long sore for thy word :
 saying, O when wilt thou comfort me?
For I am become like a bottle in the smoke :
 yet do I not forget thy statutes.
How many are the days of thy servant :
 when wilt thou be avenged of them that persecute me?
The proud have digged pits for me :
 which are not after thy law.
All thy commandments are true :
 they persecute me falsely; O be thou my help.
They had almost made an end of me upon earth :
 but I forsook not thy commandments.
O quicken me after thy loving-kindness :
 and so shall I keep the testimonies of thy mouth.

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

Jonah 3

The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, 'Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.' So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, 'Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!' And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. Then he had a proclamation made in Nineveh: 'By the decree of the king and his nobles: No human being or animal, no herd or flock, shall taste anything. They shall not feed, nor shall they drink water. Human beings and animals shall be covered with sackcloth, and they shall cry mightily to God. All shall turn from their evil ways and from the violence that is in their hands. Who knows? God may relent and change his mind; he may turn from his fierce anger, so that we do not perish.'

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

After a short silence, all stand with the Choir

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

Jesus also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: 'Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax-collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, "God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax-collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income." But the tax-collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner!" I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.'

After a short silence, all stand with the Choir

Nunc dimittis

Thomas Morley: First Service

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

William Smith

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 First Sunday in Lent

O Lord,
who for our sake didst fast forty days and forty nights:
Give us grace to use such abstinence,
that, our flesh being subdued to the Spirit,
we may ever obey thy godly motions
in righteousness and true holiness,
to thy honour and glory,
who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost,
one God, world without end.
Amen.

The Collect for the First Day of Lent (commonly called Ash Wednesday)

Almighty and everlasting God,
who hatest nothing that thou hast made,
and dost forgive the sins of all them that are penitent:
Create and make in us new and contrite hearts,
that we worthily lamenting our sins,
and acknowledging our wretchedness,
may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy,
perfect remission and forgiveness;
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

Nolo mortem peccatoris

sung by the Choir

Nolo mortem peccatoris:
haec sunt verba Salvatoris.

*I do not desire the death of a sinner:
these are the words of the Saviour.*

Father, I am thine only Son,
sent down from heaven mankind to save;
Father, all things fulfilled and done
according to thy will I have.
Father, my will now all is this:
Nolo mortem peccatoris.

Father, behold my painful smart,
taken for man on every side,
e'en from my birth to death most tart,
no kind of pain have I denied,
but suffered all, and all for this:
Nolo mortem peccatoris.

John Redford

Thomas Morley

Prayers and the Grace

The Reverend Canon Professor Simon Oliver

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 Take up thy cross, the Saviour said,
If thou wouldst my disciple be;
Deny thyself, the world forsake,
And humbly follow after me.

Take up thy cross, let not its weight
Fill thy weak spirit with alarm;
His strength shall bear thy spirit up,
And brace thy heart, and nerve thine arm.

Take up thy cross, nor heed the shame,
Nor let thy foolish pride rebel;
Thy Lord for thee the cross endured,
To save thy soul from death and hell.

Take up thy cross then in his strength,
And calmly sin's wild deluge brave,
'Twill guide thee to a better home,
And lead to victory o'er the grave.

Take up thy cross, and follow Christ,
Nor think till death to lay it down;
For only he who bears the cross
May hope to wear the glorious crown.

To thee, great Lord, the One in Three,
All praise forevermore ascend:
O grant us in our home to see
The heavenly life that knows no end.

Charles Everest

BRESLAU, *Melody from As Hymnodus Sacer Leipzig 1625*
arranged by F Mendelssohn

The Blessing

Minister Christ give you grace to grow in holiness,
to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you, and remain with you always.

Choir Amen.

Voluntary A Fancy

William Byrd

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., **Evening Prayer** is said in the Quire on Monday, **Evensong** is sung in the Quire from Tuesday to Saturday (live-streamed Monday to Friday).

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

Next Sunday—the Second Sunday of Lent: **Holy Communion** (BCP) is celebrated at 8.00 a.m., the **Sung Eucharist** is celebrated at 10.00 a.m., **Matins** is sung at 11.30 a.m., **Evensong** is sung at 3.30 p.m., and there is a DCCA recital by the Durham Cathedral Consort of Singers at 5.30 p.m.

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.

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 choirs from Durham Cathedral and Newcastle Cathedral 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.

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.)

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 11 March. We gather after Evensong in the South Transept.

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*The Cathedral Office, The College, Durham DH1 3EH—Tel: (0191) 386 4266
enquiries@durhamcathedral.co.uk www.durhamcathedral.co.uk*

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