



**BLACKBURN  
CATHEDRAL**

The Cathedral  
Eucharist  
on  
The Second  
Sunday of Lent

*Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2026*

*10.30am*

# Welcome to this morning's service

The President  
**Canon Andrew Horsfall**  
*Interim Dean*

The Deacon is  
**Canon James Lawrence**  
*Canon Missioner*

The Subdeacon is  
**Diane Warner**

The Preacher is  
**Revd Canon Professor Jeremy Duff**  
*Principal, St Pardan's Institute, Cardiff*

The service is sung by  
**The Cathedral Choir**

Directed by  
**John Robinson**  
*Organist and Director of Music*

The setting for the service is  
Berkeley Missa Brevis

*Before the service, the congregation is  
welcomed by the Deacon*

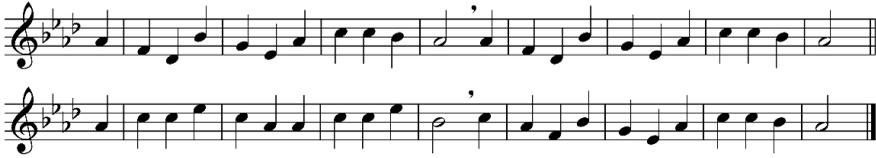
*This service is livestreamed.  
Please do not use mobile phones or recording devices*

# The Gathering

*Please stand as the ministers enter*

## Processional Hymn

ST DENIO NEH 377



Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;  
thy justice like mountains high soaring above  
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all life thou givest, to both great and small;  
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;  
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,  
and wither and perish, but naught changest thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,  
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight  
all laud we would render: O help us to see  
'tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.

*Walter Chalmers Smith (1824-1908)*

# The Greeting

*The president greets the people*

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you  
**and also with you.**

*The president introduces the celebration*

## The Prayer of Preparation

**Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

## The Prayers of Penitence

*The deacon says*

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart God will not despise.  
Let us come to the Lord, who is full of compassion,  
and acknowledge our transgressions in penitence and faith.

We confess to you our selfishness and lack of love:  
fill us with your Spirit.

Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

We confess to you our fear and failure in sharing our faith:  
fill us with your Spirit.

Christ, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

We confess to you our stubbornness and lack of trust:  
fill us with your Spirit.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

*The choir sings*

Kyrie eleison.

*Lord, have mercy upon us.*

Christe eleison.

*Christ, have mercy upon us.*

Kyrie eleison.

*Lord, have mercy upon us.*

*The president says*

Almighty God,  
who forgives all who truly repent,  
have mercy upon you,  
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,  
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,  
and keep you in life eternal;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## The Collect

Let us pray to keep Lent faithfully.

*Silence is kept – please remain standing*

Almighty God,  
you show to those who are in error the light of your truth,  
that they may return to the way of righteousness:  
grant to all those who are admitted  
into the fellowship of Christ's religion,  
that they may reject those things  
that are contrary to their profession,  
and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same;  
through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

*Please sit down*

# The Liturgy of the Word

## Old Testament Reading

*Read by Alison Harrigan-Doyle*

*(Genesis 12.1-4a)*

A reading from the book of Genesis.

The Lord said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'

So Abram went, as the Lord told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm

*(121)*

*The choir sings*

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills :  
from whence cometh my help.

My help cometh even from the Lord :  
who hath made heaven and earth.

He will not suffer thy foot to be moved :  
and he that keepeth thee will not sleep.

Behold, he that keepeth Israel :  
shall neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord himself is thy keeper :  
the Lord is thy defence upon thy right hand;

So that the sun shall not burn thee by day :  
neither the moon by night.

The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil :  
yea, it is even he that shall keep thy soul.

The Lord shall preserve thy going out, and thy coming in :  
from this time forth for evermore.

## New Testament Reading

Read by Ceri Davies

(Romans 4.1-5,13-17)

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

What are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? 'Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.' Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations') – in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand to sing*

# Gradual Hymn

DOWN AMPNEY NEH137



Come down, O love divine,  
seek thou this soul of mine,  
and visit it with thine own ardour glowing.  
O comforter, draw near,  
within my heart appear,  
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

O let it freely burn,  
till earthly passions turn  
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;  
and let thy glorious light  
shine ever on my sight,  
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

Let holy charity  
mine outward vesture be,  
and lowliness become mine inner clothing:  
true lowliness of heart,  
which takes the humbler part,  
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

And so the yearning strong,  
with which the soul will long,  
shall far outpass the power of human telling;  
for none can guess its grace,  
till we become the place  
wherein the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.

*Italian Bianco Da Siena (d. 1434) tr. R.F. Littledale (1833-90)*

# The Gospel

*The deacon says*

*(John 3.1-17)*

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

The Lord is a great God, O that today you would listen to his voice.

Harden not your hearts.

**Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?' Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

'Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

Revd Canon Professor Jeremy Duff

*There is a period of silence after the sermon for reflection.*

*Please stand with the president for*

## The Creed

Let us declare our faith in God

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is,  
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son  
is worshipped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*Please sit down for the prayers.*

*The president invites the congregation to kneel or sit down*

## **The Prayers of Intercession**

*Led by Mihaela Mladin*

*For those who are sick*

Arthur Blundell, Chris Drewe, , Margaret Young, Liam Johnson, Graham Jordan,  
Brian and Ruth Whittle, Jenni Bellamy, Ruth McGaughey, Harvey Stansfield, Eric  
Barnes, Carol Fishwick, Frank Haworth

*and those who have requested prayer*

Christopher Browne, Susan Garlick, Isla Smith, Tracey Riley, Peter Howell-Jones,  
Sarah and Ian White, Sheila Heap

*and those that mourn, remembering those who have died recently:*

John Bertalot, June Hodge

*and those whose anniversaries fall this week*

Muriel Hirst (1), May Brown, Frederick Street (2), Robert Roberts (4),  
George Durham, Evan Rimmer (5) Vasile Mladin (6)

*This response is used* Lord in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

*And at the end:* Merciful Father,  
**accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son  
our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*Please stand with the president for the peace.*

# The Liturgy of the Sacrament

## The Peace

*The president says*

Since we are justified by faith,  
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who has given us access to his grace.

*Romans 5.1,2*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**and also with you.**

*The deacon says*

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*All may exchange a sign of peace*

*During the offertory hymn a collection is taken, please give what you prayerfully can.*

*If you are a UK tax payer please use and sign the blue gift aid forms provided on your chair. Please do consider joining the Parish Giving Scheme*

## Preparation of the Table

*The deacon prepares the table*

*Please remain standing to sing the hymn*



# Taking of the Bread and Wine

God of mercy and compassion,  
your Word calls us home to faith and love.  
accept all we offer you this day;  
in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

**Amen.**

## Eucharistic Prayer



It is indeed right,  
it is our duty and our joy,  
at all times and in all places  
to give you thanks and praise,  
holy Father, heavenly King,  
almighty and eternal God,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

And now we give you thanks  
because through him you have given us the spirit of discipline,  
that we may triumph over evil and grow in grace,  
as we prepare to celebrate the paschal mystery  
with mind and heart renewed.

Therefore with angels and archangels,  
and with all the company of heaven,  
we proclaim your great and glorious name,  
for ever praising you and singing:

*The choir sings:*

Sanctus Dominus Deus Sabaoth  
Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua.  
Hosanna in excelsis.  
Benedictus qui venit in nomine  
Domini. Hosanna in excelsis.

*Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts.  
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name  
of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.*

All glory be to you, our heavenly Father,  
who, in your tender mercy,  
gave your only Son our Saviour Jesus Christ  
to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption;  
who made there  
by his one oblation of himself once offered  
a full, perfect and sufficient sacrifice  
for the sins of the whole world;  
he instituted, and in his holy gospel commanded us to continue,  
a perpetual memory of his precious death  
until he comes again.

Hear us, merciful Father, we humbly pray,  
and grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
we receiving these gifts of your creation,  
this bread and this wine,  
according to your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution,  
in remembrance of his death and passion,  
may be partakers of his most blessed body and blood;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,  
took bread and gave you thanks;  
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper  
he took the cup and gave you thanks;  
he gave it to them, saying:  
Drink this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it,  
in remembrance of me.

*The deacon says*

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:  
**Dying you destroyed our death,  
rising you restored our life:  
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Therefore, Lord and heavenly Father,  
in remembrance of the precious death and passion,  
the mighty resurrection and glorious ascension  
of your dear Son Jesus Christ,  
we offer you through him this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.

Grant that by his merits and death,  
and through faith in his blood,  
we and all your Church may receive forgiveness of our sins  
and all other benefits of his passion.  
Although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins,  
to offer you any sacrifice,  
yet we pray that you will accept this  
the duty and service that we owe.  
Do not weigh our merits, but pardon our offences,  
and fill us all who share in this holy communion  
with your grace and heavenly blessing;

through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory be yours,  
almighty Father, for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

Standing at the foot of the cross, as we join our prayers with  
those of the Church Universal, so we pray, each in our own  
language, as our Saviour taught us,

**Notre père, qui es aux cieux ... Missierna, li inti fis-smewwiet...**  
**Vater unser im Himmel ... Padre nosso, que estais nos céus...**  
**Padre nostro che sei nei cieli ... Ojczy nasz, któryś jest w niebie...**  
**Otče náš, jenž jsi na nebesích ... ي السَّمَاوَاتِ،**  
**Têve Mūsų, kuris esi danguje! ... Ein Tad, yr hwn wyt yn y nefeodd...**  
**Tatal nostru care esti in ceruri ...**

**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 those who 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.**

## **The Breaking of the Bread**

*The president breaks the consecrated bread, saying:*

Every time we eat this bread  
and drink this cup  
**we proclaim the Lord's death  
until he comes.**

*If you are able, please remain standing while the choir sings*

Agnus Dei qui tollis peccata mundi,  
miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei qui tollis peccata mundi,  
miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei qui tollis peccata mundi,  
dona nobis pacem.

*Lamb of God you take away the sins of  
the world, have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God you take away the sins of  
the world, have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God you take away the sins of  
the world, grant us peace.*

## **The Giving of Communion**

*The president says*

Jesus is the Lamb of God  
who takes away the sin of the world.  
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

**We do not presume  
to come to this your table, merciful Lord,  
trusting in our own righteousness,  
but in your manifold and great mercies.**

**We are not worthy  
so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.  
But you are the same Lord  
whose nature is always to have mercy.**

**Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,  
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ  
and to drink his blood,  
that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body  
and our souls washed through his most precious blood,  
that we might evermore dwell in him  
and he in us.  
Amen.**

*If you wish to receive Holy Communion the stewards on duty will guide you*

*If you do not wish to receive Holy Communion but would like to receive a blessing please come forward holding your service sheet*

*While you are waiting to go for communion you may wish to sit down*

## **During communion**

*The choir sings*

Thou knowest, Lord, the secrets of our hearts;  
Shut not thy merciful ears unto our pray'rs;  
But spare us, Lord most holy, O God most mighty

O holy and most merciful Saviour  
Thou most worthy Judge eternal  
Suffer us not, at our last hour  
For any pains of death, to fall from thee. Amen

*Purcell (1659-1695)*

## Prayer after Communion

*Silence is kept*

Almighty God,  
you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves:  
keep us both outwardly in our bodies,  
and inwardly in our souls;  
that we may be defended from all adversities  
which may happen to the body,  
and from all evil thoughts  
which may assault and hurt the soul;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

**Almighty God,  
we thank you for feeding us  
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.  
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies  
to be a living sacrifice.  
Send us out in the power of your Spirit  
to live and work  
to your praise and glory.  
Amen.**

*Please stand to sing*

# Final Hymn

MICHAEL 333



All my hope on God is founded;  
he doth still my trust renew.  
Me through change and chance he guideth,  
only good and only true.  
God unknown,  
he alone  
calls my heart to be his own.

Human pride and earthly glory,  
sword and crown betray his trust;  
what with care and toil he buildeth,  
tower and temple, fall to dust.  
But God's power,  
hour by hour,  
is my temple and my tower.

God's great goodness aye endureth,  
deep his wisdom, passing thought:  
splendour, light, and life attend him,  
beauty springeth out of naught.  
Evermore  
from his store  
new-born worlds rise and adore.

Still from earth to God eternal  
sacrifice of praise be done,  
high above all praises praising  
for the gift of Christ his Son.  
Christ doth call  
one and all:  
ye who follow shall not fall.

*Robert Bridges (1844-1930)  
based on the German of Joachim Neander (1650-1680)*

# The Dismissal

*The president pronounces God's blessing*

God,  
Who from the death of sin raised you to new life in Christ,  
Keep you from falling and set you in the presence of his glory.  
and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be  
with you and remain with you for ever.  
**Amen.**

*The deacon says*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

*Please do consider staying for tea or coffee after the service.*

## The Organ Voluntary

Humburg

*Guy Bovet ( b.1942*

## Notices for the Week beginning Sunday 1st March

### Next Sunday

### The Third Sunday of Lent

Old Testament Reading	Exodus 17. 1-7
Psalm	95
New Testament Reading	Romans 5. 1-11
Gospel Reading	John 4. 5-42

### John Bertalot Funeral

The funeral for Dr John Bertalot, Organ Emeritus of Blackburn Cathedral will take place on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March at 10.30am and all are warmly invited to attend. The service will be followed by refreshments in the Cathedral Crypt.

The committal will follow at 1.30pm at Pleasington Crematorium to which all also are invited to attend.

The service will be streamed live on our website and will also feature on the Cathedral's YouTube channel.

### **David Briggs Organ Concert**

On the evening of Saturday 14<sup>TH</sup> March at 7.30pm, David Briggs, International Celebrity Organist, will be giving a concert in John's memory as he improvises a live accompaniment to the 1925 silent film *The Phantom of the Opera*.

Please book tickets at [blackburncathedral.com/briggs](http://blackburncathedral.com/briggs).

### **Prayer for Healing and Renewal During Lent**

Throughout Lent, on Wednesdays 7pm - 8pm, the cathedral will hold a prayer meeting in the offices for healing and renewing of our communal life. We appreciate that not everyone is able to travel in the evenings but please pray with us from home. More details can be found on the letter available on the welcome desk. Canon James Lawrence, Canon Missioner

### **Foodbank**

Thank you for all your recent donations. This week we are collecting toiletries.

### **Wednesday Organ Concerts: March**

Starting at 12.15pm, there is no entry charge and no ticket is required. A donation of £5 per person is suggested and all are welcome to join us.

4 <sup>th</sup> March	Joshua Simoes
11 <sup>th</sup> March	Nigel Spooner
18 <sup>th</sup> March	Roger Judd
25 <sup>th</sup> March	Tom Bell