

Please stand as the ministers enter

The Gathering

Welcome Canon Stephen Cherry welcomes the congregation and guest preacher to the Cathedral.

Bishop In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

Bishop The Lord be with you
All **and also with you.**

Bishop This is the day that the Lord has made.
All **Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Words of Introduction

Hymn

O Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness
bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
with gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,
kneel and adore him: the Lord is his name.

Low at his feet lay thy burden of carefulness:
high on his heart he will bear it for thee,
comfort thy sorrows, and answer thy
prayerfulness,
guiding thy steps as may best for thee be.

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Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness
of the poor wealth thou wouldst reckon as thine:
truth in its beauty, and love in its tenderness,
these are the offerings to lay on his shrine.

These, though we bring them in trembling and
fearfulness,
he will accept for the name that is dear;
mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness,
trust for our trembling and hope for our fear.

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
with gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,
kneel and adore him: the Lord is his name.

Sit or Kneel

Prayers of Penitence and Thanksgiving

Bishop Let us ask God to have mercy on us
and to prosper the work of our hands.
Let us ask God to forgive our delusion of
self-sufficiency
so that we may praise him for his provision and
goodness.

Bishop Lord, you give us this good earth,
yet we take your generous gifts for granted.

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

The Blessing

Bishop God the Father, who created the world,
Give you grace to be wise stewards of his
creation.

All **Amen.**

Bishop God the Son, who redeemed the world,
Inspire you to go out as labourers into his
harvest.

All **Amen.**

Bishop God the Holy Spirit, whose breath fills the whole
of creation,
Help you to bear his fruits of love, joy and peace.

All **Amen**

Bishop 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 Dismissal

Bishop Freely you have received, freely give.
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Stand

Hymn

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty,
the King of creation;
O my soul, praise him, for he is
thy health and salvation:
all ye who hear, now to his temple draw near,
joining in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things
so wondrously reigneth,
shieldeth thee gently from harm, or
when fainting sustaineth: hast thou not seen
how thy heart's wishes have been
granted in what he ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper
thy work and defend thee;
surely his goodness and mercy
shall daily attend thee:
ponder anew
what the Almighty can do,
if to the end he befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that
is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath, some now
with praised before him!
Let the Amen
sound from his people again:
gladly for aye we adore him!

Bishop Lord, you give us this good earth,
But we squander its rich resources.
Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

Bishop Lord, you give us this good earth,
But we fail to share your bounty with all your
children.

All Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Bishop May God, who held nothing back in love for you
forgive you and free you from your sins,
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,
and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Bishop Let us now give thanks to God,
the God of all the peoples of the earth.

Bishop For the colour and forms of your creation
and our place within it,
we bring our thanks, good Lord:
All **your mercy endures for ever.**

Bishop For our daily food,
and for those whose work and skill
bring your good gifts to us,
we bring our thanks, good Lord:

All **your mercy endures for ever.**

Bishop For the gifts and graces inspired
in human minds and hearts;
for insight and imagination,
for the skills of research
which bring healing and fulfilment to the lives
of many;
we bring our thanks, good Lord:
All **your mercy endures for ever.**

Bishop For the light and shades of the changing
seasons,
and their variety and dependability;
for new life and growth out of barrenness and
decay;
we bring our thanks, good Lord:
All **your mercy endures for ever.**

Bishop For new hope and strength in our communities,
especially in your Church
and among all you call to serve you,
we bring our thanks, good Lord:
All **your mercy endures for ever.**

Bishop For all in whose lives we see
goodness, kindness, gentleness, patience and
humility,
and all the fruit of the Spirit,
we bring our thanks, good Lord:
All **your mercy endures for ever.**

Bishop For the life we have been given,
and for all those whom you have given us to
share it,
we bring our thanks, good Lord:
All **your mercy endures for ever. Amen.**

Will you do all that you can to assist your church in
addressing this vital, but often difficult, aspect of its
calling?

Candidates **With the help of God, I will.**

Will you be prayerful in this task and seek the help
and support of others to assist you in this work.

Candidates **With the help of God, I will.**

Bishop I thank you for your willingness to serve the church in
this capacity and I commission you in the name of the
Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit for the
ministry of a Local Giving Officer in the Church.

*The candidates are presented with a small token to remind them of their
new ministry.*

The Bishop then prays with these words

Loving God, as we give you thanks for your generous
goodness towards us so may your grace be upon
these your children as they serve you in the midst of
their local congregations. Grant to them the spirit of
encouragement and of wisdom and give to them
vision, devotion and integrity. Guard them in your
love protect them by your Holy Spirit; through Jesus
Christ, our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Come see his hands and his feet,
the scars that speak of sacrifice,
hands that flung stars into space
to cruel nails surrendered.

This is our God...

So let us learn how to serve,
and in our lives enthrone him;
each other's need to prefer,
for it is Christ we're serving.

This is our God...

The Commissioning

The congregation sits. The candidates stand

Alistair Jenkins, the Diocesan Stewardship Adviser, presents the candidates.

Right Reverend Father in God, I present these our sisters and brothers in faith to be commissioned to serve as Local Giving Officers.

Addressing the candidates the bishop says

God is the Lord of all creation and, in the service of His Kingdom, we are called to be wise stewards of his abundant provision.

Those who will serve as Local Giving Officers are particularly called to assist their local church, through prayerful teaching, encouragement and practical action, in addressing the need for generous and sacrificial financial giving.

Sit

Liturgy of The Word

The Old Testament Reading - I Chronicles 29:10 – 15

King David and the people of Israel have given abundant resources for the building of the Temple.

¹⁰Then David blessed the Lord in the presence of all the assembly; David said: 'Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our ancestor Israel, for ever and ever. ¹¹Yours, O Lord, are the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty; for all that is in the heavens and on the earth is yours; yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. ¹²Riches and honour come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and it is in your hand to make great and to give strength to all. ¹³And now, our God, we give thanks to you and praise your glorious name. ¹⁴'But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to make this freewill-offering? For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you. ¹⁵For we are aliens and transients before you, as were all our ancestors; our days on the earth are like a shadow, and there is no hope.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Psalm

I will offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving.

How shall I repay the Lord
for all the benefits he has given to me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation
and call upon the name of the Lord. **R**

I will fulfil my vows to the Lord
in the presence of all his people.

Precious in the sight of the Lord
is the death of his faithful servants. **R**

O Lord, I am your servant,
your servant, the child of your handmaid;
you have freed me from my bonds.

I will offer to you a sacrifice of thanksgiving
and call upon the name of the Lord. **R**

I will fulfil my vows to the Lord
in the presence of all his people.

In the courts of the house of the Lord,
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.
Alleluia. **R**

Psalm 116:12 – end

Your Son Jesus Christ is the first-fruits of the
resurrection
and will reap the harvest of the dead at the end of
time:

we pray that he will gather us all together
with those who have gone before
in the banquet of the age to come.

Lord of creation,
in your mercy hear us.

All

Source of all life
and giver of all that is good,
hear our prayers and grant us all that is in
accordance with your will; through Jesus Christ
our Lord.

All

Amen.

Stand

Hymn

From heaven you came, helpless babe,
entered our world, your glory veiled;
not to be served, but to serve,
and give your life that we might live.

*This is our God, the Servant King,
he calls us now to follow him,
to bring our lives as a daily offering
of worship to the Servant King.*

There is the garden of tears,
my heavy load he chose to bear;
his heart with sorrow was torn,
'Yet not my will but yours,' he said.

This is our God...

You have created the universe by your eternal
Word,
and have blessed humankind
in giving us dominion over the earth:
we pray for the world,
that we may honour and share its resources,
and live in reverence for the creation
and in harmony with one another.
Lord of creation,

All in your mercy hear us.

Your Son has promised that the Spirit
will lead us into all truth:
we pray for the community in which you have set
us,
for one another and for ourselves,
that we may be generous with the gifts we have
received
and that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit
in love and joy and peace.
Lord of creation,

All in your mercy hear us.

You have given your people a rich land,
yet by sin we have made a world of suffering and
sorrow:
we pray for those who bear the weight of
affliction,
that they may come to share
the life of wholeness and plenty.
Lord of creation,

All in your mercy hear us.

The New Testament Reading - 2 Corinthians 9:6 – 15

St Paul seeks a generous response from the Corinthians for a collection for the Christians at Jerusalem.

⁶The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. ⁹As it is written, 'He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures for ever.' ¹⁰He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; ¹²for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. ¹³Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, ¹⁴while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. ¹⁵Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Stand

Hymn

Teach me my God and King
In all things thee to see;
And what I do in anything
To do it as for thee.

A man that looks on glass,
on it may stay his eye;
or, if he pleaseth, through it pass,
and then the heaven espy.

All may of thee partake;
nothing can be so mean
which, with this tincture, *For thy sake*,
will not grow bright and clean.

A servant with this clause
makes drudgery divine;
who sweeps a room, as for thy laws,
makes that and the action fine.

This is the famous stone
that turneth all to gold;
for that which God doth touch and own
cannot for less be told.

Sit

The Sermon

Dr John Preston
National Stewardship Officer

Stand

The Creed

Bishop Let us declare our faith in God.

All **We believe in God the Father
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;
father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Sit or Kneel

Intercessions

Let us offer our prayers to God for the life of the world and for
all God's people in their daily life and work.

Lord of creation,
we see that the fields are ripe for harvesting:
we pray for your Church,
that it may be ready to gather fruit for eternal life.
Lord of creation,

All **in your mercy hear us.**