

St Edmundsbury  
Cathedral



# A Service of Light and Hope

being a light... belonging... building community...

*A service in solidarity with The Children's Society  
and to raise awareness of  
'Growing Younger Sunday'  
across the Diocese of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich.*

*service broadcast*

**Sunday 31 January 2021 at 5.30 pm**

## Welcome to St Edmundsbury Cathedral

Growing Younger Sunday celebrates youth and families' ministry across the Diocese and helps us all to appreciate, to celebrate and to learn from one another as co-pilgrims on our faith journey. This service also gives thanks for the ways in which young people are supported: we hear from Hannah Ratcliffe, East of England Regional Advisor for The Children's Society and the impact of some of the work that is being undertaken to support young people in times of particular need. We are also thankful to Catherine Cox, a parent and a teacher who takes the lead from young people who have written prayers especially commissioned by Bishop Martin and Bishop Mike for today's Growing Younger Sunday.

Whilst this Service of Light and Hope is introduced and brought to a close by the Reverend Sarah Geileskey, Cathedral Curate and advocate for children, families and young people, the service is led by children and young people. Thank you to all who have lent their voice by contributing readings and images, selecting and recording music and leading prayers. Thanks in particular to members of the Cathedral's Junior Church, Youth Group and Youth Choir as well as to students of County Upper School and Sextons Manor Primary School in Bury St Edmunds along with pupils from Cockfield Primary School and their families and teachers who have encouraged and supported them in their participation.

Further information about Growing Younger Sunday can be found at [www.cofesuffolk.org](http://www.cofesuffolk.org) and details of work at the Cathedral with Children Families and Young People, including Discovery Detectives trails, our work with schools, Junior Church, Diddy Disciples, choirs and youth group can be found on the Cathedral website.

If you would like to make a donation to the work of The Children's Society, there is a 'donate' button on their website [www.childrenssociety.org.uk](http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk)

*giftaid it*

No collections are presently taken during our services. However, if you would like to make a donation please make your gift using the contactless giving box or by placing your donation into the giving box as you leave after the service. If you are a UK taxpayer, consider using a Gift Aid envelope (remembering to fill in your details and sign it) or making a written declaration allowing the Chancellor to add 25% to your gift. In this way a gift of £5.00 becomes £6.25 at no extra cost to you. Our Parish Giving scheme allows you to give regularly by Direct Debit - do speak with one of the wardens or stewards or contact the Cathedral office for further information. **Thank you.**

Service order extracts from *The Children's Society Christingle services & Common Worship* © The Central Board of Finance of The Church of England.  
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*The service begins with organ music from St Edmundsbury Cathedral*

## **The Welcome**

*On this day, appointed by The Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich as 'Growing Younger Sunday' our service is led by young people from across the community, bringing hope and increasing awareness of the work of The Children's Society. Following an introduction by the Reverend Sarah Geileskey, Amelia leads an*

## **Opening Prayer**

In the darkness of winter  
and in the darkness of our broken world,  
the light of Christ shines  
Giving us courage and hope.

Christ is our light.  
The light shines in the darkness  
**and the darkness has never put it out.**

**All**

Enlightening God, as we offer this our Service of Hope,  
light up our hearts as we praise you,  
our minds as we hear you; and  
our souls as we receive you.

**All**

**Amen.**

*As Theo lights the first candle, Iona and Elena read*

## **Scriptural Reflection**

- give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,  
for his steadfast love endures forever.
- give thanks to the God of gods,  
for his steadfast love endures forever.
- give thanks to the Lord of lords,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;

who alone does great wonders,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;  
who by understanding made the heavens,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;  
who spread out the earth on the waters,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;  
who made the great lights,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;  
the sun to rule over the day,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;  
the moon and stars to rule over the night,  
for his steadfast love endures forever.

*Psalm 136 1-9, NRSV*

## **Visual Reflection**

*We see a series of images reminding us of the beauty, power and complexity of the whole of creation, from the moment of conception to the ancient of days: an intricate network of life into which we have all been born and to which we all belong.*

*The music accompanying these images is Light of the World by Chris Tomlin chosen, arranged and played by violinist Anika and Theo on the keyboard.*

*As Theo lights the second candle, Alfie reads*

## **The Warmth of Hope**

A match strikes,  
a taper flares and hovers.  
Sizzling wick, an explosion of light and heat.  
Candlelight bursting upwards and outwards, casting shadows.  
A myriad of flickering, flames dancing, mesmerising.  
Burning, swirling scent spirals, surrounds and disappears.  
Pooling wax captured and cupped, finally  
overflowing, sliding and cooling,  
moulding patterns as it moves towards the earth.  
These tiny lights chasing away darkness,  
revealing bright glimmers of hope in their warmth.

*Kim Judge, 2021*

*As Theo lights the third candle, Anika reads*

## **Scriptural Reflection**

Thus says God, the Lord,  
who created the heavens and stretched them out,  
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,  
who gives breath to the people upon it  
and spirit to those who walk in it:  
I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness,  
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;  
I have given you as a covenant to the people,  
a light to the nations,  
to open the eyes that are blind,  
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,  
from the prison those who sit in darkness.  
I am the Lord, that is my name;  
my glory I give to no other

*Isaiah 42.5-8, NRSV*

*As Theo lights the fourth candle, pupils from Cockfield Primary School read*

## **Scriptural Reflection**

For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light.  
Live as children of light,  
for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true.

*Ephesians 5.8-10, NRSV*

## **Musical Reflection**

O Taste and See  
by Vaughan Williams

Voices from the Cathedral Choir support  
young soloist, Freya Horseman-Sewell

*We hear*

## **A Reflection**

Hannah Ratcliffe  
The Children's Society  
East of England Regional Adviser

*As Theo lights the fifth candle, Stella reads*

## **One Lit Candle**

Are you that lit candle that shows someone the way,  
shining brightly in the night, as well as in the day?  
Are you that lit candle, that keeps someone else from stumbling?  
In serving one another, our experience can be humbling.  
Are you that lit candle, the one that's shining bright?  
Walking away from darkness leading down the path that's right?

Or are you that lit candle with a clear reflection  
continuing to shine in the midst of much rejection?

Are you that lit candle sitting high up on the hill?  
A beacon burning brightly that the truth might be revealed?

Are you that lit candle with a perfect glow?  
Yes! The tiniest of embers can show others where to go!

Are you that lit candle brightening everybody's smile?  
Bringing them the strength, the hope, to walk the extra mile?

Maybe you're that lit candle, but afraid, and so you're hiding,  
obscuring to those around you the light of God that is abiding  
in your heart and in the world and in each of us today.

*Adapted from a poem originally written by Sandra Juanita Nailing, 2014*

*As Theo lights the sixth candle, Amy reads*

## **Scriptural Reflection**

You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

*Matthew 5.14-16, NRSV*

## **Visual Reflection**

*We see a series of images reminding us of the light and hope we see in the world around us; the bringers of hope and those who serve others.*

*The music accompanying these images is Mozart's Ave Verum Corpus, selected and played by Tudor, a young cellist.*

*As Theo lights the seventh candle, Phoebe leads*

## **Christingle Reflection**

As our Christmas and Epiphany celebrations come to a close on this Candlemas Day, in solidarity with the Children's Society as we light our giant Christingle, we consider: the orange as we pray for the world in which we live.  
Lord in your mercy

**All** **Hear our prayer.**

the ribbon wrapped all around the world  
praying that all would know the embracing love of God.  
Lord in your mercy

**All** **Hear our prayer.**

the sweets and dried fruit  
as we give thanks for the seasons of our lives and pray for a just sharing of God's abundant gifts among all people.  
Lord in your mercy

**All** **Hear our prayer.**

the warmth and light of candle  
that by our prayer and action all who live without hope this day will find hope and peace in Christ, the light of the world.  
Lord in your mercy

**All** **Hear our prayer.**

*James leads*

## **A Closing Prayer**

Loving Lord,  
We thank you for the light in our lives,  
For those who give us love and hope.

We thank you for the work of The Children's Society  
As it brings light to children and young people who feel  
Unloved or without hope.

Help us to always be a light shining in the darkness  
So that we can share the abundant gifts and love of God  
with those around us.

In the name of Jesus Christ,  
the light of the world.

**Amen.**

## **Growing Younger Sunday Prayer**

*Catherine Cox, a parent and teacher leads the Growing Younger Sunday  
Diocesan Prayer.*

Loving Lord, on this day we give thanks to you for our  
children and young people; for their vibrancy; their passion;  
their sense of injustice and their desire to build a better  
world. We ask your forgiveness for the times we have  
overlooked them or not considered them.

Loving Lord, on this day we pray that we, your Church, might  
continually work to create places where children and young  
people feel that they truly belong, where they can offer gifts  
and share in witness to your kingdom.

Help us to grow leaders who will love and care; teach and  
inspire our young ones.

We ask that we may learn from them.

Loving Lord, we ask that your light shines brightly through our children and young people. Strengthen them to be proud witnesses for Your kingdom and shining examples to all they meet. Help them to always walk in your Spirit and live by faith. We ask that we may, with them, serve you in the world with love and faith and hope.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All**

**Amen.**

*Revd Sarah Geileskey gives*

## **The Blessing**

May the light that is Jesus lead us always.

May our hearts be more for those around us than for ourselves.

May God give us comfort and peace.

And may the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and the Holy Spirit, be with you and all those you love,

Now and forever.

**All**

**Amen.**

## **Organ Music**

We hear the St Edmundsbury Cathedral Organ as we acknowledge our grateful thanks to all who have contributed to today's service.

Accompanying activity sheets and children's resources can be found in the children, families and young people area of the Lifelong Learning section of the St Edmundsbury Cathedral website.

To find out more about the Cathedral's work with Children, Families and Young People, in the first instance please contact

Kim Judge  
Discovery Centre  
[dcoffice@stedscathedral.org](mailto:dcoffice@stedscathedral.org)

Revd Sarah Geileskey  
Cathedral Curate  
[curate@stedscathedral.org](mailto:curate@stedscathedral.org)

or for choir-related enquiries  
Naomi Sturges  
[liturgy.admin@stedscathedral.org](mailto:liturgy.admin@stedscathedral.org)

10.00 am  
Fridays

music  
movement  
story  
craft  
for  
pre-schoolers  
toddlers  
& babies

St Edmundsbury Cathedral 



[curate@stedscathedral.org](mailto:curate@stedscathedral.org) for info

**Diddy Disciples**



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Looking for fun baby activities? Look no further...

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The Dean: The Very Reverend Joe Hawes  
The Canon Pastor & Sub Dean: The Reverend Canon Matthew Vernon  
The Canon Precentor: The Reverend Canon Philip Banks  
The Cathedral Curate: The Reverend Sarah Geileskey  
The Cathedral Curate: The Reverend Ben Edwards  
Assistant Director of Music: Richard Cook  
Conductor: William Saunders

*William Saunders is currently overseeing the Cathedral's music  
in this period before our new Director of Music begins in May 2021*

[www.steds cathedral.org](http://www.steds cathedral.org)