

St Edmundsbury
Cathedral



Choral Evensong

with Prayers of Love and Faith for

Chrissie & Jenny Smart

Saturday 2 May 2026

3.30 pm

Welcome to St Edmundsbury Cathedral

St Edmundsbury Cathedral is Suffolk's Cathedral. It is a place of worship and mission; a place of welcome and hospitality, serving the Diocese, County and beyond. At St Edmundsbury Cathedral, we hold our Benedictine principles close. Principles such as love, care, hospitality and community. They are reflected in how we work with each other, how we talk about the Cathedral, and how we reach out to the whole of Suffolk and beyond. Our values are faith, welcome, compassion and confidence and they are demonstrated across our areas of work in worship, mission, hospitality and sustainability. The Cathedral is committed to the safeguarding, care and nurture of everyone within our community. Everyone is welcome, always.

Musicians

Today's service is sung by The Choristers of Great St Mary's, Cambridge
directed by Alex Berry, Director of Music

The organ is played by
Stanley Godfrey, Organist & Assistant Director of Music

To assist you at today's service, please take note of the following information.

Accessibility

- An induction loop system is in operation.
- Large-print orders of service are available.
- The order of service indicates whether to sit or stand, however please feel free to adopt the posture with which you are most comfortable.

Photography, Filming and Live-streaming

- For safeguarding reasons, members of the public are not permitted to take photographs or video recordings during the service.
- Please note that this service will be livestreamed on YouTube. If you do not want to appear in this please inform a warden or vergers.
- Photographs, video or livestream footage in which you may appear could be used by the Cathedral at any time and appear in the public domain including social media.
- Please ensure your mobile phones are turned to silent.

The Order of Service

The Dean gives

The Welcome

Dear friends in Christ,
we gather with Chrissie and Jenny to celebrate with them
their love, faithfulness, and commitment.
We come to hear God's holy word,
and to surround Chrissie and Jenny with our love and prayer
as they seek the blessings of God's kingdom
in their life together.

God of wonder and of joy:
grace comes from you,
and you alone are the source of life and love.
Without you, we cannot please you;
without your love, our deeds are worth nothing.
Send your Holy Spirit,
and pour into our hearts
that most excellent gift of love,
that we may worship you now
with thankful hearts
and serve you always with willing minds;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All

Amen.

Everyone remains seated as the choir sings

The Introit

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:
Such a Way, as gives us breath:
Such a Truth, as ends all strife:
Such a Life, as killeth death.

Come, My Light, my Feast, my Strength:
Such a Light, as shows a feast:
Such a Feast, as mends in length:
Such a Strength, as makes his guest.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:
Such a Joy, as none can move:
Such a Love, as none can part:
Such a Heart, as joys in love.

Words: George Herbert, 1593-1633

Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958

An Opening sentence

God is love, and those who live in love live in God,
and God lives in them.

1 John 4.16

Everyone stands as the Canon Precentor and choir sing

The Opening Responses

O Lord, open thou our lips.

And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

O God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glorify 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.

Music: Preces, Peter Aston, 1938-2013

Everyone sits for

The Psalmody

Help me, Lord, for there is not one godly man left :

for the faithful are minished from among the children of men.

They talk of vanity every one with his neighbour :

they do but flatter with their lips, and dissemble in their
double heart.

The Lord shall root out all deceitful lips :

and the tongue that speaketh proud things;

Which have said, With our tongue will we prevail :

we are they that ought to speak, who is lord over us?

Now for the comfortless trouble's sake of the needy :

and because of the deep sighing of the poor,

I will up, saith the Lord :
and will help every one from him that swelleth against him,
and will set him at rest.

The words of the Lord are pure words :
even as the silver, which from the earth is tried, and purified
seven times in the fire.

Thou shalt keep them, O Lord :
thou shalt preserve him from this generation for ever.

The ungodly walk on every side :
when they are exalted, the children of men are put to
rebuke.

Everyone stands

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.

Words: Psalm 12

Everyone sits as Reverend Maria Price reads

The Old Testament Lesson

A reading from the book of Ruth.

Naomi said to Ruth, 'See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.' But Ruth said, 'Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die, I will die—there will I be buried. May the Lord do thus and so to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!' When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

Ruth 1.15-18, NRSV

Here ends the first reading.

Everyone remains seated for

The Prayers of Dedication and Thanksgiving

The Magnificat

My soul doth magnify the Lord:
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

For he hath regarded:
the lowliness of his hand-maiden.

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 shewed 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.

The New Testament Lesson

A reading from the Gospel of Luke.

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, ‘What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?’ They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, ‘Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?’ He asked them, ‘What things?’ They replied, ‘The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.’ Then he said to them, ‘Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?’ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, ‘Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.’ So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight.

They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?' That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!' Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Luke 24.13-35, NRSV

Here ends the second reading.

Everyone stands for

The Nunc Dimittis

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.

Music: Nunc Dimittis, Geoffrey Burgon, 1941-2010

Everyone remains standing and turns to face east for

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 Catholick Church;
The Communion of Saints;
The Forgiveness of sins;
The Resurrection of the body,
And the life everlasting. Amen.**

The Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.
Let us pray.

All sit or kneel as the Canon Precentor and choir sing

The Lesser Litany

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Lord's Prayer

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.

The Responses

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 of the Day

Almighty God, who hast called thy Church to witness that thou wast in Christ reconciling the world to thyself: help us so to proclaim the good news of thy love that all who hear it may be drawn unto thee; through him who was lifted up on the cross, and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Second 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 Third 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.

Music: Responses, Peter Aston, 1938-2013

Everyone sits for

The Anthem

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you.
Remain in my love.
This is my commandment:
that you love one another, as I have loved you.
God is love, and those who live in love,
live in God and God lives in them.
God is love.
If you keep my commandments,
love one another, as I have loved you.
Then your joy will be complete.
If you keep my commandments, and you love on another,
your joy will be complete.

Words: John 15.9-12

Music: Simon Lole, b. 1957

Everyone remains seated or kneels for

The Blessing Prayers

Everyone stands to sing

The Hymn

**My song is love unknown,
my Saviour's love to me,
love to the loveless shown,
that they might lovely be.
O who am I,
that for my sake
my Lord should take
frail flesh, and die?**

**He came from his blest throne,
salvation to bestow;
but men made strange, and none
the longed-for Christ would know.
But O, my Friend,
my Friend indeed,
who at my need
his life did spend!**

**Here might I stay and sing:
no story so divine;
never was love, dear King,
never was grief like thine!
This is my Friend,
in whose sweet praise
I all my days
could gladly spend.**

Words: Samuel Crossman, 1624-1683

Music: Love Unknown, John Ireland, 1879-1962

Everyone remains standing as the Dean gives

The Blessing

God the Holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love,
defend you on every side, and guide you in truth and peace;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All

Amen.

Everyone remains standing as the choir and clergy depart and the organist plays

The Organ Voluntary

Giving

St Edmundsbury Cathedral is a charitable organisation, dependent on your donations for our ongoing work of worship, service and hospitality.

Please give as generously as you can. If you do not carry cash you can donate using one of the contactless giving points or by scanning the QR code below.

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