

St Edmundsbury
Cathedral



Choral Evensong

on the

Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary

with the

Blessing of the Marriage of

Karen & Yen

Sunday 16 August 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. Rooted in the foundation of the ancient Abbey of St Edmund, we hold our Benedictine principles close. Built on that heritage, the Cathedral today continues to proclaim the Christian faith through our work in worship, mission, hospitality and sustainability, underpinned by our values of faith, welcome, compassion and confidence.

St Edmundsbury Cathedral is part of the **Inclusive Church** Network. As such, we believe in a church which celebrates and affirms every person and does not discriminate on grounds of age, disability, economic power, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, learning disability, mental health, neurodiversity, or sexuality.

St Edmundsbury Cathedral is committed to the **safeguarding**, care and nurture of everyone within our community. If you have any concerns about your own or another's welfare, please contact our Cathedral Safeguarding Officer, Tanya Dawson, at tanyadawson@stedscathedral.org or on 07736 994036. Alternatively, you can speak to any of the clergy or wardens on duty here today.

Music at today's service is led by the Quinquagesima Choir, directed by Michael Hodges and accompanied by John Ross.

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

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.

St Edmundsbury Cathedral is committed to **environmental action** and is also a 'Fairtrade Cathedral'. This order of service is printed on recycled paper.

The Order of Service

All stand as the choir and ministers enter, followed by Karen and Yen.

The Dean gives

The Welcome and Introduction

Dear friends in Christ,
we gather with Karen and Yen to celebrate their love,
faithfulness, and commitment to one another
as they receive God's blessing upon their marriage.
As we hear God's word,
and recall today Mary's example of steadfast love and devotion,
we pray that their life together
may be a sign of God's faithful love,
full of joy and mutual devotion.

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.

All remain standing for

The Hymn

**Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
whose trust, ever child-like, no care could destroy,
be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.**

**Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,
be there at our labours, and give us, we pray,
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.**

**Lord of all kindliness, Lord of all grace,
your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,
be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.**

**Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,
be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.**

Words: Jan Struther, 1901-1953

Music: Slane, Traditional Irish melody

All remain standing for

A Sentence of Scripture

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

1 John 4.16

All remain standing 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.
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.
The Lord's name be praised.

Music: Preces and Responses, Philip Radcliffe, 1905-1986

All sit as the choir sings

The Psalmody

Lord, remember David : and all his trouble;

How he sware unto the Lord :
and vowed a vow unto the Almighty God of Jacob;

I will not come within the tabernacle of mine house :
nor climb up into my bed;

I will not suffer mine eyes to sleep,
nor mine eye-lids to slumber :
neither the temples of my head to take any rest;

Until I find out a place for the temple of the Lord :
an habitation for the mighty God of Jacob.

Lo, we heard of the same at Ephrata :
and found it in the wood.

We will go into his tabernacle :
and fall low on our knees before his footstool.

Arise, O Lord, into thy resting-place :
thou, and the ark of thy strength.

Let thy priests be clothed with righteousness :
and let thy saints sing with joyfulness.

For thy servant David's sake :
turn not away the presence of thine Anointed.

The Lord hath made a faithful oath unto David :
and he shall not shrink from it;

Of the fruit of thy body : shall I set upon thy seat.

If thy children will keep my covenant, and my testimonies
that I shall learn them :
their children also shall sit upon thy seat for evermore.

For the Lord hath chosen Sion to be an habitation for himself :
he hath longed for her.

This shall be my rest for ever :
here will I dwell, for I have a delight therein.

I will bless her victuals with increase :
and will satisfy her poor with bread.

I will deck her priests with health :
and her saints shall rejoice and sing.

There shall I make the horn of David to flourish :
I have ordained a lantern for mine Anointed.

As for his enemies, I shall clothe them with shame :
but upon himself shall his crown flourish.

All 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.

Words: Psalm 132

The First Reading

A reading from the Song of Solomon.

I am a rose of Sharon,
 a lily of the valleys.
As a lily among brambles,
 so is my love among maidens.
As an apple tree among the trees of the wood,
 so is my beloved among young men.
With great delight I sat in his shadow,
 and his fruit was sweet to my taste.
He brought me to the banqueting house,
 and his intention towards me was love.
Sustain me with raisins,
 refresh me with apples;
 for I am faint with love.
O that his left hand were under my head,
 and that his right hand embraced me!
I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem,
 by the gazelles or the wild does:
do not stir up or awaken love
 until it is ready!

Song of Solomon 2.1-7, NRSV

Here ends the first reading.

All stand as the choir sings and the altar is censed.

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.

Music: Magnificat in D, Edward Bairstow, 1874-1946

The Second Reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

When the disciples had come together, they asked Jesus, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

Acts 1.6-14, NRSV

Here ends the second reading.

All stand as the choir sings

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 in D, Edward Bairstow, 1874-1946

All remain standing and turn 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 Catholic 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

○ Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.
And grant us thy salvation.
○ Lord, save the King.
And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.
Endue thy ministers with righteousness.
And make thy chosen people joyful.
○ Lord, save thy people.
And bless thine inheritance.
Give peace in our time, ○ Lord.
Because there is none other that fighteth for us,
but only thou, ○ God.
○ God, make clean our hearts within us.
And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

The Collect of the Day

Almighty God, who didst look upon the lowliness of the
Blessed Virgin Mary and didst choose her to be the mother of
thy only Son: grant that we who are redeemed by his blood
may share with her in the glory of thine eternal kingdom;
through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord. Amen.

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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: Preces and Responses, Philip Radcliffe, 1905-1986

All remain seated as the choir sings

The Anthem

Bring us, O Lord God, at our last awakening
into the house and gate of heaven,
to enter into that gate and dwell in that house,
where there shall be no darkness nor dazzling,
but one equal light;
no noise nor silence, but one equal music;
no fears or hopes, but one equal possession;
no ends or beginnings, but one equal eternity,
in the habitations of thy glory and dominion,
world without end.

Words: John Donne, 1572-1631

Music: William Harris, 1883-1973

All remain seated as the Dean gives

The Homily

All remain seated as Karen and Yen stand before the Dean for

The Dedication and Blessing

Karen and Yen,
you have committed yourselves to each other in marriage,
and your marriage is recognized by law.
The Church of Christ understands marriage to be,
in the will of God,
the union of a man and a woman,
for better, for worse,
for richer, for poorer,
in sickness and in health,
to love and to cherish,
till parted by death.
Is this your understanding of the covenant and promise
that you have made?

Karen and Yen respond

It is

The Dean says to Yen

Yen, have you resolved to be faithful to your wife,
forsaking all others,
so long as you both shall live?

Yen That is my resolve, with the help of God.

The Dean says to Karen

Karen, have you resolved to be faithful to your husband,
forsaking all others,
so long as you both shall live?

Karen That is my resolve, with the help of God.

The Dean blesses Karen and Yen's wedding rings

Heavenly Father, by your blessing
let these rings be to Karen and Yen
a symbol of unending love and faithfulness
and of the promises they have made to each other;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The Dean says to the congregation

Karen and Yen have here affirmed
their Christian understanding and resolve
in the marriage which they have begun.
Will you, their families and friends,
support and uphold them in their marriage,
now and in the years to come?

All We will.

Karen and Yen say together

Heavenly Father,
we offer you our souls and bodies,
our thoughts and words and deeds,
our love for one another.
Unite our wills in your will,
that we may grow together
in love and peace
all the days of our life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Dean says

Almighty God give you grace to persevere,
that God may complete in you
the work he has already begun,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

God the Father,
God the Son,
God the Holy Spirit,
bless, preserve and keep you;
the Lord mercifully grant you the riches of his grace.
that you may please him both in body and soul.
and, living together in faith and love,
may receive the blessings of eternal life.

All **Amen.**

The congregation congratulate Karen and Yen with applause!

All stand to sing

The Hymn

During the hymn a collection is taken.

**Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down;
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesu, thou art all compassion,
pure unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation;
enter every trembling heart.**

**Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.**

**Finish then thy new creation,
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation,
perfectly restored in thee,
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise!**

Words: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Music: Blaenwern, William Rowlands, 1860-1937

All stand as the Dean gives

The Blessing

Christ the Son of God, born of Mary,
fill you with grace to trust his promises and obey his will;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

All remain standing as the procession departs and the organist plays

The Organ Voluntary

Festive March
Henry Smart, 1813-1879

Giving

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