

St Edmundsbury
Cathedral



Choral Evensong

with the admission of the

**Organ Scholar and
Head and Deputy Head Choristers**

Sunday 6 September 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.

Worship has been offered here since medieval times and, whether you are a regular worshipper or if this is your first time in church, you are welcome and invited to be part of that long tradition today. Everything you need is found in this service booklet.

Today is the beginning of the new choir year and so Evensong includes the admission of our new organ scholar, Theodore (Theo) Maher-Williams. Theo comes to us from Manchester where he has been studying composition at the Royal Northern College of Music and also working as Organ Scholar at St Ann's, a large city-centre church in Manchester. Also in the service, we will admit Lydia and Rupert as Head Choristers and Alice and Liam as Deputy Head Choristers. Please support and pray for them as they carry out these roles this year.

If you are new to our congregation and would like to learn more about the life of the Cathedral community, please speak to one of the wardens or clergy, or visit our website: stedscathedral.org. Alternatively, you can complete one of the 'new member cards' available at the west end of the Cathedral.



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



Children are very welcome at the Cathedral – we're glad they are here and please do not worry if younger children make some noise and move around. Feel free to make use of our children's area and to move in and out of the Cathedral during the service. You are welcome to feed your

baby in the Cathedral, and changing facilities can be found in the Cathedral Centre toilets; please ask a warden for directions.

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, on 07736 994036 or email tanyadawson@stedscathedral.org. Alternatively, you can speak to any of the clergy or wardens on duty here today.

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

Accessibility

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

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 Canon Pastor and Sub Dean gives

The Welcome

After the welcome, all stand to sing

The Processional Hymn

**Angel-voices ever singing
round thy throne of light,
angel-harps for ever ringing,
rest not day nor night;
thousands only live to bless thee
and confess thee
Lord of might.**

**Thou who art beyond the farthest
mortal eye can scan,
can it be that thou regardest
songs of sinful man?
Can we know that thou art near us,
and wilt hear us?
Yea, we can.**

**Yea, we know that thou rejoicest
o'er each work of thine;
thou didst ears and hands and voices
for thy praise design;
craftsman's art and music's measure
for thy pleasure
all combine.**

In thy house, great God, we offer
of thine own to thee;
and for thine acceptance proffer
all unworthily
hearts and minds and hands and voices
in our choicest
psalmody.

Honour, glory, might, and merit
thine shall ever be,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
blessèd Trinity.
Of the best that thou hast given
earth and heaven
render thee.

Words: Francis Pott, 1832-1909

Music: Edwin George Monk, 1819-1900

All remain standing for

The Acclamation

All I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;
I will make music to my God while I have my being.

Psalm 104.35

All remain standing as the Canon Precentor and choir sing

The Opening Responses

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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, Bernard Rose, 1916-1996

The Psalmody

O God, my heart is ready, my heart is ready :
I will sing and give praise with the best member that I have.

Awake, thou lute, and harp : I myself will awake right early.

I will give thanks unto thee, O Lord, among the people :
I will sing praises unto thee among the nations.

For thy mercy is greater than the heavens :
and thy truth reacheth unto the clouds.

Set up thyself, O God, above the heavens :
and thy glory above all the earth.

That thy beloved may be delivered :
let thy right hand save them, and hear thou me.

God hath spoken in his holiness :
I will rejoice therefore, and divide Sichem,
and mete out the valley of Succoth.

Gilead is mine, and Manasses is mine :
Ephraim also is the strength of my head.

Judah is my law-giver, Moab is my wash-pot :
over Edom will I cast out my shoe,
upon Philistia will I triumph.

Who will lead me into the strong city :
and who will bring me into Edom?

Hast not thou forsaken us, O God :
and wilt not thou, O God, go forth with our hosts?

O help us against the enemy : for vain is the help of man.

Through God we shall do great acts :
and it is he that shall tread down our enemies.

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 108

Music: Ivor Atkins, 1869-1953

All sit for

The First Reading

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel.

The word of the Lord came to me: Mortal, what is this proverb of yours about the land of Israel, which says, 'The days are prolonged, and every vision comes to nothing'? Tell them therefore, 'Thus says the Lord God: I will put an end to this proverb, and they shall use it no more as a proverb in Israel.' But say to them, The days are near, and the fulfilment of every vision. For there shall no longer be any false vision or flattering divination within the house of Israel. But I the Lord will speak the word that I speak, and it will be fulfilled. It will no longer be delayed; but in your days, O rebellious house, I will speak the word and fulfil it, says the Lord God.

The word of the Lord came to me: Mortal, the house of Israel is saying, 'The vision that he sees is for many years ahead; he prophesies for distant times.' Therefore say to them, Thus says the Lord God: None of my words will be delayed any longer, but the word that I speak will be fulfilled, says the Lord God.

The word of the Lord came to me: Mortal, prophesy against the prophets of Israel who are prophesying; say to those who prophesy out of their own imagination: 'Hear the word of the Lord!' Thus says the Lord God, Alas for the senseless prophets who follow their own spirit, and have seen nothing!

Your prophets have been like jackals among ruins, O Israel. You have not gone up into the breaches, or repaired a wall for the house of Israel, so that it might stand in battle on the day of the Lord. They have prophesied falsehood and lying divination; they say, 'Says the Lord', when the Lord has not sent them, and yet they wait for the fulfilment of their word! Have you not seen a false vision or uttered a lying divination, when you have said, 'Says the Lord', even though I did not speak?

Therefore thus says the Lord God: Because you have uttered falsehood and prophesied lies, I am against you, says the Lord God. My hand will be against the prophets who see false visions and utter lying divinations; they shall not be in the council of my people, nor be enrolled in the register of the house of Israel, nor shall they enter the land of Israel; and you shall know that I am the Lord God. Because, in truth, because they have misled my people, saying, 'Peace', when there is no peace; and because, when the people build a wall, these prophets smear whitewash on it. Say to those who smear whitewash on it that it shall fall. There will be a deluge of rain, great hailstones will fall, and a stormy wind will break out. When the wall falls, will it not be said to you, 'Where is the whitewash you smeared on it?' Therefore thus says the Lord God: In my wrath I will make a stormy wind break out, and in my anger there shall be a deluge of rain, and hailstones in wrath to destroy it. I will break down the wall that you have smeared with whitewash, and bring it to the ground, so that its foundation will be laid bare; when it falls, you shall perish within it; and you shall know that I am the Lord. Thus I will spend my wrath upon the wall, and upon those who have smeared it with whitewash; and I will say to you, The wall is no more, nor those who smeared it— the prophets of Israel who prophesied concerning Jerusalem and saw visions of peace for it, when there was no peace, says the Lord God.

Ezekiel 12.21-13.16, NRSV

Here ends the first reading.

The choir stands while the congregation remains seated for

The Admission of the Organ Scholar, and Head and Deputy Head Choristers

The Canon Precentor and Director of Music lead the Organ Scholar and Choristers to be installed to the Pavement, where they stand in front of the Sub Dean.

The Sub Dean says

All O sing unto the Lord a new song:
let the congregation of saints praise him.

All O praise God in his holiness:
let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord.

Addressing the Sub Dean, the Canon Precentor says

Canon Matthew, I present to you Theodore Maher-Williams to be installed as Organ Scholar of this Cathedral Church. I ask that you admit him and bless him in the presence of the Cathedral community.

Sub Dean I thank you for your presentation.

Addressing Theodore, the Sub Dean says

Do you believe, so far as you know your own heart, that God has called you to serve in this place?

Theodore I do.

Will you play your part in the mission and ministry of this Cathedral Church, as we seek to serve the people of our Cathedral community, Diocese and County of Suffolk?

Theodore With the help of God I will.

Will you, to the best of your ability, be faithful and diligent in the making of the music of this place, that our Cathedral may grow more and more as a beacon of faith, hope and love?

Theodore With the help of God I will.

Addressing the Cathedral musicians and community, the Sub Dean says

All Will you support, pray for and uphold Theodore?
We will.

Addressing Theodore, the Sub Dean says

I now admit you as Organ Scholar of this Cathedral Church, in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Director of Music says

Canon Matthew, I present to you Lydia and Rupert, to be made Head Choristers, and Alice and Liam to be made Deputy Head Choristers of this Cathedral Church. I have found them fitting, attentive and trustworthy, and I ask you to admit and to bless them in the presence of the Cathedral community.

Addressing the candidates, the Sub Dean says

Lydia, Rupert, Alice and Liam, you are entrusted today with positions of honour, leadership and authority in the Cathedral Choir. You are to set an example to others in your conduct, and to give of your best in the worship of this place. Will you accept these new responsibilities?

Answer **I will.**

The Sub Dean awards the appropriate medals and says the following words.

Lydia, Rupert, Alice and Liam, I now admit you to your new positions of responsibility in our Cathedral Choir. Seek what is good and true. Be kind and helpful to others. May the Lord grant you the joy of true service and the wisdom and strength to fulfil it, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Sub Dean blesses the newly admitted Organ Scholar and Choristers, saying

God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit,
✠ bless, preserve and keep you;
strengthen you in your calling,
inspire you in your music,
and fill you with joy in your service;
that through your gifts the praises of God may be sung,
hearts uplifted, and lives drawn closer to Christ. Amen.

The congregation greets those newly admitted with applause.

The newly admitted Organ Scholar and Choristers return to their places.

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 E, Herbert Murrill, 1909-1952

The Second Reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the inland regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, 'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?' They replied, 'No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.' Then he said, 'Into what then were you baptized?' They answered, 'Into John's baptism.' Paul said, 'John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.' On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied— altogether there were about twelve of them.

He entered the synagogue and for three months spoke out boldly, and argued persuasively about the kingdom of God. When some stubbornly refused to believe and spoke evil of the Way before the congregation, he left them, taking the disciples with him, and argued daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. This continued for two years, so that all the residents of Asia, both Jews and Greeks, heard the word of the Lord.

God did extraordinary miracles through Paul, so that when the handkerchiefs or aprons that had touched his skin were brought to the sick, their diseases left them, and the evil spirits came out of them. Then some itinerant Jewish exorcists tried to use the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, 'I adjure you by the Jesus whom Paul proclaims.' Seven sons of a Jewish high priest named Sceva were doing this. But the evil spirit said to them in reply, 'Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?' Then the man with the evil spirit leapt on them, mastered them all, and so overpowered them that they fled out of the house naked and wounded. When this became known to all residents of Ephesus, both Jews and Greeks, everyone was awestruck; and the name of the Lord Jesus was praised. Also many of those who became believers confessed and disclosed their practices. A number of those who practised magic collected their books and burned them publicly; when the value of these books was calculated, it was found to come to fifty thousand silver coins. So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed.

Acts 19.1-20, 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 E, Herbert Murrill, 1909-1952

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

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 and everlasting God, give unto us the increase of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain that which thou dost promise, make us to love that which thou dost command; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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: Preces and Responses, Bernard Rose, 1916-1996

All remain seated as the choir sings

The Anthem

I was glad when they said unto me:
We will go into the house of the Lord.
Our feet shall stand in thy gates: O Jerusalem.
Jerusalem is built as a city: that is at unity in itself.
O pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
they shall prosper that love thee.
Peace be within thy walls: and plenteousness within thy palaces.

Words: Laetatus sum, Psalm 122 BCP

Music: Sir Hubert Parry, 1848-1918

All remain seated or kneel for

The Prayers

The prayers end with

All **The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all, evermore.
Amen.**

All stand to sing

The Hymn

During which a collection is taken.

**How shall I sing that majesty
which angels do admire?
Let dust in dust and silence lie;
sing, sing, ye heavenly choir.
Thousands of thousands stand around
thy throne, O God most high;
ten thousand times ten thousand sound
thy praise; but who am I?**

**Thy brightness unto them appears,
whilst I thy footsteps trace;
a sound of God comes to my ears,
but they behold thy face.
They sing, because thou art their Sun;
Lord, send a beam on me;
for where heaven is but once begun,
there alleluias be.**

**Enlighten with faith's light my heart,
in flame it with love's fire,
then shall I sing and take my part
with that celestial choir.
I shall, I fear, be dark and cold,
with all my fire and light;
yet when thou dost accept their gold,
Lord, treasure up my mite.**

**How great a being, Lord, is thine,
which doth all beings keep!
Thy knowledge is the only line
to sound so vast a deep.
Thou art a sea without a shore,
a sun without a sphere;
thy time is now and evermore,
thy place is everywhere.**

Words: John Mason, 1646-1694

Music: Coe Fen, Ken Naylor, 1931-1991

All remain standing for

The Blessing

All remain standing as the Canon Precentor and choir sing

The Final Responses

The Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.
Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Music: Preces and Responses, Bernard Rose, 1916-1996

All remain standing as the procession departs and Richard Cook, Assistant Director of Music, plays

The Organ Voluntary

Postlude on a Ground
Herbert Murrill, 1909-1952

The Friends of the Cathedral Choirs (FOCC) support our choirs in many practical ways. Please consider joining the FOCC who put on a number of events during the year for congregation as well as choirs to enjoy. For more information, visit stedscathedral.org/friends-of-the-cathedral-choir.

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.

If you are a UK taxpayer, please 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.

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