

St Edmundsbury
Cathedral



Choral Evensong

for

Suffolk's Masons



Michael and All Angels

Sunday 27 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.

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 a 'Fairtrade Cathedral'. This order of service is printed on recycled paper.

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.

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 do whichever is most comfortable for you.
- **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.

Freemasonry in Suffolk

For over three centuries, Freemasonry has played its part in the life and communities of Suffolk. Today, Lodges across the county bring together some 3,000 Freemasons from many different backgrounds, united by the shared values of integrity, respect, friendship and public service. Freemasonry is about friendship and fellowship, but also about personal development, supporting one another and putting its values into practice in the communities in which members live and work. Across Suffolk, Freemasons give not only financial support, but also their time, skills and practical help. By working in partnership with charities, community groups and other organisations, they seek to support those in need and to strengthen community life across the county. We are particularly pleased to welcome today representatives of a number of the organisations with whom Suffolk Freemasons work.

Today's service is an opportunity to give thanks for that shared work and fellowship, to pray for all those who serve our communities, and for Suffolk's Freemasons to renew their commitment to integrity, respect, friendship and public service.

Music at today's service is provided by

The Cathedral Choir

Director of Music – Claudia Grinnell

Organist – Theodore Maher-Williams

The Order of Service

Please stand as the Sub Dean escorts the Provincial Grand Master and dignitaries to their seats.

All remain standing as a fanfare is sounded and the Dean escorts His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Suffolk to his seat before giving

The Welcome

All remain standing to sing

The Processional Hymn

**All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
him serve with fear, his praise forth tell,
come ye before him, and rejoice.**

**The Lord, ye know, is God indeed;
without our aid he did us make;
we are his folk, he doth us feed,
and for his sheep he doth us take.**

**O enter then his gates with praise,
approach with joy his courts unto;
praise, laud, and bless his name always,
for it is seemly so to do.**

**For why? The Lord our God is good;
his mercy is for ever sure;
his truth at all times firmly stood,
and shall from age to age endure.**

**To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
the God whom heaven and earth adore,
from men and from the angel-host
be praise and glory evermore. Amen.**

Words: William Kethe, d.1594

Psalm 100 in Anglo-Genevan Psalter, 1560

Music: Old Hundredth, Genevan Psalter, 1551

All remain standing as the Dean gives

The Bidding

We meet together in the presence of Almighty God and of the whole company of heaven to offer our worship and praise and thanksgiving; to bring to God the needs of the world and its peoples; and to seek God's mercy, justice and peace for ourselves and for all among whom we live and work. Especially at this time, we remember those who are affected by conflict and violence, those displaced from their homes, those facing poverty, insecurity and hardship, and all who bear the consequence of a changing climate. And we pray for Suffolk's Freemasons and all who seek to serve their communities with generosity, compassion and integrity, giving freely, abundantly and joyfully for the support and relief of those in need.

All remain standing as the Canon Theologian 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, William Smith, 1603-1645

All sit as the choir sings

The Psalmody

If the Lord himself had not been on our side,
now may Israel say :
if the Lord himself had not been on our side,
when men rose up against us;

They had swallowed us up quick :
when thy were so wrathfully displeased at us.

Yea, the waters had drowned us :
and the stream had gone over our soul.

The deep waters of the proud :
had gone even over our soul.

But praised be the Lord :
who hath not given us over for a prey unto their teeth.

Our soul is escaped even as a bird
out of the snare of the fowler :
the snare is broken, and we are delivered .

Our help standeth in the Name of the Lord :
who hath made heaven and earth.

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 124
Music: T. Armstrong*

The First Reading

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?
Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?
Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you,
the glory of the Lord shall be your rearguard.
Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.
If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.

Isaiah 58. 6-10, NRSV

Here ends the first reading.

All stand as the altar is censed and choir sings

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 B minor, T. Tertius Noble, 1867-1953

The Second Reading

A reading from the first letter of John.

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

1 John 3.16-24, 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 B minor, T. Tertius Noble, 1867-1953

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 Theologian 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

O everlasting God, who hast ordained and constituted the services of Angels and men in a wonderful order: Mercifully grant that, as thy holy Angels alway do thee service in heaven, so by thy appointment they may succour and defend us on earth; 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, William Smith, 1603-1645

All remain seated as the choir sings

The Anthem

Factum est silentium in cœlo
dum committeret bellum draco
cum Michaelē Archangelo.
Audita est vox
milia milium dicentium:
Salus, honor et virtus
omnipotentī Deo. Alleluia

*There was silence in heaven
whilst the dragon joined battle
with the Archangel Michael.
A cry was heard –
thousands of thousands saying:
‘Salvation and honour and power
be to Almighty God. Alleluia.*

Words: Revelation 12.7,10

Music: Richard Deering, c. 1580-1630

All remain seated or kneel as the Provincial Chaplain leads

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.**

The Act of Rededication for Freemasons

All Freemasons stand in their places, while everyone else remains seated. The Dean addresses Freemasons, saying

Dean As Freemasons in our county of Suffolk you are committed to values of integrity, respect, friendship and public service. As we give thanks for your fellowship and your dedication to this steadfast way of life, I invite you now to dedicate yourselves afresh to service, loyalty and grace.

All Freemasons use the following response printed in bold type.

Dean Will you clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, integrity and humility of life?
By the grace of God, we will.

Will you offer the hand of friendship to those in need, the stranger, the widow, the orphan?
By the grace of God, we will.

Will you be diligent in promoting fairness, justice and understanding?
By the grace of God, we will.

Will you work alongside others in friendship and service, encouraging generosity of heart and mind?
By the grace of God, we will.

Will you continue in acts of charity, generosity and practical care, seeking always to make a positive difference to those around you?

By the grace of God, we will.

May the Lord give you wisdom, courage, strength and love to continue as faithful servants, now and always.

All

Amen.

May the Lord give you a song in your heart and joy in your commitment that, as God blesses you, so you may be a blessing to others, now and for ever.

All

Amen.

All stand to sing

The Hymn

Closing Ode

**Now the evening shadows closing,
warn from toil to peaceful rest;
mystic arts and rites reposing,
sacred in each faithful breast.**

**God of light, whose love unceasing
doth to all thy works extend;
crown our Order with thy blessing,
build, sustain us to the end.**

**Humbly now we bow before thee,
grateful for thine aid divine;
everlasting power and glory,
mighty Architect be Thine.
So mote it be.**

Words and Music: Edward C. Deas, unknown-1944

All remain standing for

The Blessing

God keep you in the fellowship of his saints;
Christ protect you by the ministry of the angels;
the Spirit make you holy in God's service;
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

Toccata in B minor
Eugène Gigout, 1844-1925

*A retiring collection will be taken for the
Freemasons' provincial charitable fundraising initiative.
Please give as generously as you can.*

Giving

Any donations given at today's service will go to the Freemasons' provincial charitable fundraising initiative. 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. In this way a gift of £5.00 becomes £6.25 at no extra cost to you.

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