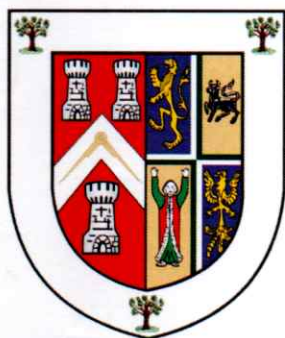


THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF CHRIST
AND THE BLESSED MARY THE VIRGIN OF WORCESTER

Provincial Grand Lodge of Worcestershire



Annual Cathedral Service 2025

Sunday 13th July 2025

We are grateful to the members of the Cathedral Chamber Choir, for their attendance today.

Director of Music: Stephen Shellard

ORGAN RECITAL

at 1.45 p.m. by W. Bro. Tim Morris, PJGD.

The Congregation will remain seated during the entrance of the First and Second Masonic processions.

The Congregation stands for the Third procession:

***The Dean of Worcester, The Very Reverend Dr Stephen Edwards, leading
His Majesty's Vice Lord-Lieutenant, Dr The Hon Gilbert Greenall, CBE***

The Congregation stands again

at 2.15p.m. when the Choir and Clergy enter by the Miserrimus Door.

The Choir will sing the

INTROIT

*Lord, for thy tender mercy's sake,
lay not our sins to our charge,
but forgive that is past, and give
us grace to amend our sinful lives.*

*To decline from sin and incline to virtue,
that we may walk in a perfect heart
[or: in an upright heart] before the
now and evermore.*

Amen.

Words: John Ledley

HYMN

1 Praise, my soul, the King of heaven,
to His feet Thy tribute bring;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
who, like me, His praise should sing?
Praise Him, praise Him, Praise Him, praise
Him, praise the Everlasting King.

3 Father-like, He tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame He knows;
in His hands He gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes.
Praise Him, praise Him, Praise Him, praise
Him,
widely as His mercy goes.

2 Praise Him for His grace and favor
to our fathers in distress;
praise Him, still the same for ever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless;
Praise Him, praise Him, Praise Him, praise
Him,
glorious in His faithfulness.

4 Angels, help us to adore Him:
ye behold Him face to face;
sun and moon, bow down before Him,
dwellers all in time and space,
Praise Him, praise Him, Praise Him, praise

Text: H. F. Lyte, 1793-1847

Music: J. Goss, 1800-1880

The congregation is welcomed by

***The Very Reverend Dr Stephen Edwards
Dean of Worcester***

The Precentor will sing and the Congregation will respond

V. O Lord, open thou our lips;

R. **And our mouth shall shew forth Thy praise.**

V. O God, make speed to save us;

R. **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

V. Glory be to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:

R. **As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end.**

Amen.

V. Praise ye the Lord;

R. **The Lord's name be praised.**

William Byrd

Please be seated.

W. Bro. Ian M. Strongman

***Provincial Grand Chaplain of the Province of Worcestershire
will call the Congregation to Thanksgiving and Remembrance.***

Blessed are the people whose God is the Lord.

Blessed is the man whose strength is in Thee, in whose heart are Thy ways; he shall not be afraid of any evil tidings.

Blessed is the man that provideth for the sick and needy; the Lord shall deliver him in time of trouble.

Blessed is the man whose unrighteousness is forgiven, and whose sin is covered.

Beloved, we are met together to worship the Lord in the beauty of this place, to confess our need of his grace and power, to sing His praise, and to give Him thanks for every blessing that is ours. And also we give glory to God for His preservation of our Fellowship through the changes and chances of the years, and for the health and harmony of its working in our land.

We remember, with thankfulness before God, the Founders and benefactors of the Lodges; those who laid their foundations in fidelity and built their walls in uprightness, and those who have supported them by their constancy and enriched them by their service.

We gather also into our remembrance all who have departed this life in God's faith and fear, especially those who have died since last we assembled and met together.

Wherefore I pray you to accompany me with a grateful heart in the words of the General Thanksgiving:

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we Thine unworthy servants do give Thee most humble and hearty thanks for all Thy goodness and loving kindness to us, and to all men. We bless Thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life, but, above all, for Thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And we beseech Thee, give us that due sense of all Thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful, and that we shew forth Thy praise, not only with our lips but in our lives; by giving up ourselves to Thy service, and by walking before Thee in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord to whom with Thee and the Holy Ghost be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

W. Bro. Michael J Dykes Deputy Provincial Grand Master,

shall be preceded to the lectern by the Provincial Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies to read:

THE FIRST LESSON

Deuteronomy, Chapter 8, verses 2 -11

Then shall be sung by the Choir

CANTICLE

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

*For he hath regarded:
the lowliness of his handmaiden.*

*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.*

Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55)

Charles Villiers Stanford – Magnificat in C minor

R.W. Bro. Stephen John Wyer, Provincial Grand Master

shall be preceded to the lectern by the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies to read:

THE SECOND LESSON

John, Chapter 12, verses 20 – 26

The Congregation stands to sing

HYMN

1

The King of love my shepherd is,
whose goodness faileth never.
I nothing lack if I am his,
and he is mine forever.

3

Perverse and foolish, oft I strayed,
but yet in love he sought me;
and on his shoulder gently laid,
and home, rejoicing, brought me.

5

Thou spread'st a table in my sight;
thy unction grace bestoweth;
and oh, what transport of delight
from thy pure chalice floweth!

2

Where streams of living water flow,
my ransomed soul he leadeth;
and where the verdant pastures grow,
with food celestial feedeth.

4

In death's dark vale I fear no ill,
with thee, dear Lord, beside me;
thy rod and staff my comfort still,
thy cross before to guide me.

6

And so through all the length of days,
thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house forever.

THE ADDRESS

V.W. Bro. The Reverend Canon Huw Mosford, PGChap, DepProvGM

shall be preceded to the lectern by the Provincial Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies to read:

The Congregation remains seated for the

ANTHEM

*Light out of darkness Thou hast brought
Within the shadow of Thy Cross
Now burns a light, and we are taught
The truer truths of human loss.*

*Wast Thou a sinner ? Thou hast borne
The sinner's sentence and his shame
Thy side was pierced, Thy forehead torn,
Thy sad heart broken by our blame.*

*But so a beacon light Thon sent
To signal through our night of grief;
How Love upon His mission went
Crown'd with sorrow's sharpset wreath.*

*Enough it was we needed Thee,
Our misery alone did pray
And Mercy answered eagerly,
And trod for us steep Calvary's way.*

*So let us answer sorrow's cry !
The past is dead : search not its grave
For hidden faults ! the remedy
Is ours to seek, to find and save.*

Music: Sir Edward Elgar (1857-1934)

The Congregation sits, for the Prayers led by
W. Bro. Ian M Strongman
Provincial Grand Chaplain of the Province of Worcestershire

Let us pray:

O LORD our God, let Thine eyes be open and let Thine ears attend the prayer that is made in this place. Let Thy priests be clothed with salvation and let Thy saints rejoice in goodness. The Lord God be with us as he was with our fathers; let Him not leave us nor forsake us, that we may incline our hearts unto Him to walk in His way.

Amen.

Let us pray for our King and people:

O LORD our heavenly Father, high and mighty, King of kings, Lord of lords, we humbly beseech Thee to bless our gracious Sovereign King Charles and all the Royal Family. Give wisdom and understanding to all who are set in authority over us, and grant that the people of our land may meet all times of testing with discipline, devotion and courage.

Amen.

Let us pray for the Order (*in the words of an ancient Masonic Prayer*):

O LORD God, the first builder of man as it were a temple, Thou who has promised that, where two or three are gathered together in Thy Name, Thou wilt be in the midst of them, vouchsafe now to bless all our undertakings and grant that we may be faithful brothers. Let grace and peace be multiplied unto us, through the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. O Lord God, add to our faith virtue, and to godliness brotherly love, and to brotherly love charity; and grant, O Lord, that Masonry may be blessed throughout the world, and Thy peace be upon us, and grant that we may be all united as one, through our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth for ever and ever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

OUR FATHER who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation. But deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Congregation stands.
During the singing of this hymn a collection will be taken which will be divided between

Worcester Cathedral
and the
Worcestershire Freemasons Charity

HYMN

Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty,
hold me with thy powerful hand:
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore,
feed me now and evermore.

Open now the crystal fountain,
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fiery cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through:
Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer,
be thou still my strength and shield,
be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side:
Songs and praises, songs and praises,
I will ever give to thee,
I will ever give to thee.

Text P.W. Williams, 1727-1796
Music: J.Hughes, 1873-1932

All remain standing for

THE BLESSING

*The Very Reverend Dr Stephen Edwards
Dean of Worcester*

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

God save our gracious King,
Long live our noble King,
God save the King.
Send him victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us,
God save the King.

Thy choicest gifts in store
On him be pleased to pour,
Long may he reign.
May he defend our laws,
And ever give us cause,
To sing with heart and voice,
God save the King.

*Choir and Clergy will process out of the Cathedral.
Masonic processions then will process out by the Miserrimus Door.*

*Members of the Congregation are asked to resume their seats after
the first Masonic Procession, and remain in their places
until all the processions have left the Cathedral.*

2025 / 24.5

