

Farewell Service
upon the retirement of
the Right Reverend Mark Ashcroft
Bishop of Bolton



The service is led by
the Lord Bishop of Manchester,
the Right Reverend Dr David Walker

Saturday, 28 January 2023
3.00 pm

Welcome to Manchester Cathedral

Safeguarding

Manchester Cathedral works hard to create safe environments where children and young people are protected and where all people, especially those who may be vulnerable for any reason, are able to worship and pursue their faith journey with encouragement and in safety. We follow the policies and procedures detailed within the Cathedral Safeguarding Handbook. We act promptly on any complaints made, and work in partnership with Manchester Diocese, the police and social care services whenever appropriate to do so. Details of our policy and how to voice a concern can be found on a dedicated page of our website and on the noticeboard at the south porch.

Live streaming

Please note that most acts of worship in Manchester Cathedral are now live streamed. Although cameras are focused on those leading worship, please be aware that your image may be inadvertently captured and streamed. If you would like further information on the position of the camera at a particular act of worship, please ask Cathedral Staff upon arrival.

Visiting Manchester Cathedral from July 2021

For your personal safety, the Dean and Chapter strongly encourage you to continue to wear face masks and use the hand sanitisers provided when visiting the Cathedral.

Hearing-loop

Manchester Cathedral has a hearing-loop.
Please set your hearing aid to setting T.

Have you turned off your mobile phone?

Please make sure that you have turned off your mobile phone and any other electronic equipment that might interrupt the service.

Photography

Please do not use cameras, photo-imaging devices or recording equipment during the service.

Musicians

The organ is played by Geoffrey Woollatt, Sub-Organist.
The vocal soloist is Katie Ritson, accompanied by Olly Hamilton.

Large-print
copies of this booklet are also available.

Music before the service

Intrada

John Ireland (1879-1962)

All stand as the procession enters.

Bishop God in Christ has revealed his glory.
All **Come let us worship.**

Bishop From the rising of the sun to its setting
All **the Lord's name is greatly to be praised.**

Bishop Give him praise, you servants of the Lord.
All **O praise the name of the Lord!**

Bishop The Lord of glory be with you.
All **The Lord bless you.**

Words of welcome and introduction are said.

All **Faithful one, whose word is life:
come with saving power
to free our praise,
inspire our prayer
and shape our lives,
for the kingdom of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Hymn

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been thou for ever wilt be.

Refrain: *Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided,
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Great is thy faithfulness...

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Great is thy faithfulness...

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Great is thy faithfulness...

Faithfulness

William M Runyan

Thomas Obadiah Chisholm (1866-1960)

Prayers of Penitence

Dean The grace of God has dawned upon the world
 through our Saviour Jesus Christ,
 who sacrificed himself for us to purify a people as his own.
 Let us confess our sins.

cf. Titus 2.11-14

Dean Christ came in humility to share our lives:
 forgive our pride.
 Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Dean Christ came with good news for all people:
 forgive our silence.
 Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

Dean Christ came in love to a world of suffering:
 forgive our self-centredness.
 Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Bishop May almighty God,
 who sent his Son into the world to save sinners,
 bring you his pardon and peace, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

The Collect for the Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

Bishop Almighty God,
 whose Son revealed in signs and miracles
 the wonder of your saving presence:
 renew your people with your heavenly grace,
 and in all our weakness
 sustain us by your mighty power;
 through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
 who is alive and reigns with you,
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

First Reading

Exodus 34.1-10

Sit

read by Barbara Adeuja

The Lord said to Moses, 'Cut two tablets of stone like the former ones, and I will write on the tablets the words that were on the former tablets, which you broke. Be ready in the morning, and come up in the morning to Mount Sinai and present yourself there to me, on the top of the mountain. No one shall come up with you, and do not let anyone be seen throughout all the mountain; and do not let flocks or herds graze in front of that mountain.' So Moses cut two tablets of stone like the former ones; and he rose early in the morning and went up on Mount Sinai, as the Lord had commanded him, and took in his hand the two tablets of stone. The Lord descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name, 'The Lord.' The Lord passed before him, and proclaimed,

'The Lord, the Lord,
a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger,
and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness,
keeping steadfast love for the thousandth generation,
forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin,
yet by no means clearing the guilty,
but visiting the iniquity of the parents
upon the children
and the children's children,
to the third and the fourth generation.'

And Moses quickly bowed his head towards the earth, and worshipped. He said, 'If now I have found favour in your sight, O Lord, I pray, let the Lord go with us. Although this is a stiff-necked people, pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us for your inheritance.'

He said: I hereby make a covenant. Before all your people I will perform marvels, such as have not been performed in all the earth or in any nation; and all the people among whom you live shall see the work of the Lord; for it is an awesome thing that I will do with you.

All This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Hymn

Remain seated.

1. You were the Word at the beginning,
 one with God the Lord Most High;
 your hidden glory in creation,
 now revealed in you our Christ

Chorus What a beautiful name it is!
 What a beautiful name it is!
 The name of Jesus Christ my King!
 What a beautiful name it is -
 nothing compares to this.
 What a beautiful name it is,
 the name of Jesus.

2. You didn't want heaven without us,
 So, Jesus, you brought heaven down.
 My sin was great, your love was greater;
 what could separate us now?

Chorus What a beautiful name it is!
 What a beautiful name it is!
 The name of Jesus Christ my King!
 What a beautiful name it is -
 nothing compares to this.
 What a beautiful name it is,
 the name of Jesus.

Bridge Death could not hold you.
 The veil tore before you.
 You silence the boast of sin and grave.
 The heavens are roaring
 the praise of your glory,
 For you are raised to life again.
 You have no rival.
 You have no equal.
 Now and forever God you reign.
 Yours is the kingdom,
 yours is the glory,
 yours is the name above all names.

Chorus What a powerful name it is!
 What a powerful name it is!
 The name of Jesus Christ my King!
 What a powerful name it is -
 nothing can stand against.
 What a powerful name it is,
 the name of Jesus.

Words and music: Ben Fielding and Brooke Ligertwood

Second reading

Remain seated

John 12:20-36

read by Sally Ashcroft

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, ‘Sir, we wish to see Jesus.’ Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, ‘The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour.

‘Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—“Father, save me from this hour”? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.’ Then a voice came from heaven, ‘I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.’ The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder.

Others said, 'An angel has spoken to him.' Jesus answered, 'This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people[e] to myself.' 33 He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die. The crowd answered him, 'We have heard from the law that the Messiah remains for ever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?' Jesus said to them, 'The light is with you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness may not overtake you. If you walk in the darkness, you do not know where you are going. While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light.'

This is the word of the Lord.

All

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

The Right Reverend Mark Ashcroft
Bishop of Bolton

Hymn

Please stand

Here is love, vast as the ocean,
lovingkindness as the flood;
when the Prince of Life my ransom,
shed for me his precious blood.
Who his love will not remember?
Who can cease to sing his praise?
He shall never be forgotten,
through heaven's everlasting days.

On the mount of crucifixion,
fountains opened deep and wide;
through the floodgates of God's mercy
flowed the vast and gracious tide.
Grace and love like mighty rivers
poured incessant from above,
and heaven's peace and perfect justice
kissed a guilty world in love.

Let me all thy love accepting,
love thee ever all my days.
Let me seek thy Kingdom only
and my life be to thy praise.
Thou alone shalt be my glory;
nothing in the world I see:
Thou hast cleansed and sanctified me;
thou thyself hast set me free.

In thy truth thou dost direct me
by thy Spirit through thy word;
and thy grace my need is meeting,
as I trust in thee, my Lord.
All thy fullness thou art pouring
in thy love and power in me,
without measure, full and boundless,
as I yield myself to Thee.

Dim Ond Iesu
Robert Lowry

William Rees (1802-1883)

Affirmation of Faith

Remain standing

Dean Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

All **Though he was divine,
he did not cling to equality with God,
but made himself nothing.
Taking the form of a slave,
he was born in human likeness.
He humbled himself
and was obedient to death,
even the death of the cross.
Therefore God has raised him on high,
and given him the name above every name:
that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bow,
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

cf. Philippians 2.6-11

Intercessions

Sit

The Right Reverend Mark Davies

Bishop of Middleton

Prayers of intercession incorporate this response

All Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

ending

All Lord of the Church,
**hear our prayer
and make us one in heart and mind,
to serve you with joy for ever.
Amen.**

Bishop Gathering our prayers and praises into one,
Let us pray as our Saviour taught us.

All **Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom,
the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

Presentation

Hymn

There is a Redeemer,
Jesus, God's own Son,
precious Lamb of God, Messiah,
Holy One.

Refrain: *Thank you, O my Father,
for giving us your Son,
and leaving your Spirit till
the work on earth is done.*

Jesus, my Redeemer,
name above all names,
precious Lamb of God, Messiah,
O for sinners slain.

Refrain: *Thank you, O my Father...*

When I stand in glory,
I will see his face,
and there I'll serve my King for ever,
in that holy place.

Refrain: *Thank you, O my Father...*

Melody Green (b. 1946)

Commissioning

The Bishop of Bolton

Bishop Those who are baptized are called to worship and serve God.

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

All **With the help of God, I will.**

Bishop Will you persevere in resisting evil,
and, whenever you fall into sin,
repent and return to the Lord?

All **With the help of God, I will.**

Bishop Will you proclaim by word and example
the good news of God in Christ?

All **With the help of God, I will.**

Bishop Will you seek and serve Christ in all people,
loving your neighbour as yourself?

All **With the help of God, I will.**

Bishop Will you acknowledge Christ's authority over human society,
by prayer for the world and its leaders,
by defending the weak, and by seeking peace and justice?

All **With the help of God, I will.**

Bishop Will you strive to safeguard the integrity of creation,
and sustain and renew the life of the earth?

All **With the help of God I will.**

Bishop May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith,
that you may be rooted and grounded in love
and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit.

All **Amen.**

Blessing and Sending Out

The Bishop of Bolton

Bishop May God the Father,
who led the wise men by the shining of a star
to find the Christ, the Light from Light,
lead you in your pilgrimage to find the Lord.

All **Amen.**

Bishop May God who has brought us out of darkness
give us a place with the saints in light
in the kingdom of his Son.

All **Amen.**

Bishop May the light of the glorious gospel of Christ
shine in your hearts and transform you lives,
to bring his light to others.

All **Amen.**

Bishop And the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

Bishop Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

All **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

*Refreshments are served after the service,
to which all are warmly invited.*