

Lincoln Cathedral



The Battle of Britain

Service of Commemoration and Thanksgiving



**Sunday 19 September 2021
at 3.00p.m.**

Welcome to Lincoln Cathedral

This service, and the other sung services during the week, are available online and we welcome all those both near and far joining our worship as it is live streamed at: <https://www.facebook.com/Lincoln.Cathedral>

Please remember to observe the measures that are in place inside the cathedral and complete the Track-and-Trace information.

Any indications for sitting, kneeling or standing are given for guidance. If you need to sit at any point during the service, please feel free to do so.

The Preparation

Music is played before the service and the distinguished guests are escorted to their seats by members of the Chapter. Please remain seated.

WELCOME

The Dean welcomes the congregation.

Stand

HYMN

During which the choir and clergy enter, and the Colours are received by the dean at the altar.

**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 forever 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 earth and from the Angel-host
be praise and glory ever more. Amen.**

Words: William Kethe (d.1594)

Tune: Old Hundredth

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

Dean We have come together to worship God:
the Father whose power sustains the world,
the Son who died so that the world might live,
the Spirit who sets us free.
As we worship him, so we remember
those who have lived and died in his service,
and in the service of others,
and we recall with gratitude
those who gave their lives for others' freedom,
especially those involved in the Battle of Britain.
We pray for all who suffer and are in need;
we ask God's help and his blessing,
that the whole creation might know
the establishment of God's kingdom of justice and peace.
Brothers and sisters, we are part of a fallen world,
and the seeds of war are in every human heart.
Let us turn to God in penitence,
seeking forgiveness and grace.

We keep silence together

All **Lord our God,
in our sin we have avoided your call.
Our love for you is like a morning cloud,
like the dew that goes away early.
Have mercy on us;
deliver us from judgement;
bind up our wounds and revive us;
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Dean The almighty and merciful Lord
grant you pardon and forgiveness of all your sins,
time for amendment of life
and the grace and strength of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

Sit

FIRST READING

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-18

read by Group Captain J Campbell, RAF Cranwell

Stand

HYMN

**O worship the King all-glorious above,
O gratefully sing his power and his love:
our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,
pavilioned in splendour and girded with praise.**

**O tell of his might, O sing of his grace,
whose robe is the light, whose canopy space.
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,
and dark is his path on the wings of the storm.**

**Thy bountiful care, what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
it streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
and sweetly distils in the dew and the rain.**

**Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
in thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail;
thy mercies how tender! How firm to the end!
Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend!**

**O measureless Might, ineffable Love,
while angels delight to worship above,
thy ransomed creation, though feeble their lays,
with true adoration shall sing to thy praise.**

Words: Robert Grant (1779-1838)

Tune: Hanover

Sit

SECOND READING

Revelation 12: 7-12

read by Group Captain S Kilvington, RAF Waddington

ANTHEM

The choir sings

*Ubi caritas et amor,
Deus ibi est.
Congregavit nos
in unum Christi amor.
Exultemus, et in ipso
iucundemur.
Timeamus, et amemus
Deum vivum.
Et ex corde diligamus
nos sincero.
Amen.*

Where charity and love are,
God is there.
Christ's love has gathered
us into one.
Let us rejoice and
be pleased in him.
Let us fear,
and let us love the living God.
And may we love each other
with a sincere heart.
Amen.

*Words: Paulinus of Aquileia
Music: Maurice Durufle*

SERMON

*The Reverend (Wing Commander) Ian Brown
Senior Chaplain, RAF Waddington*

Stand

HYMN

**Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,
be all else but naught to me, save that thou art,
be thou my best thought in the day and the night,
both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.**

**Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true Word,
be thou ever with me, and I with thee, Lord,
be thou my great Father, and I thy true son,
be thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.**

**Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight,
be thou my whole armour, be thou my true might;
be thou my soul's shelter, be thou my strong tower:
O raise thou me heavenward, great Power of my
power.**

**Riches I heed not, nor all the world's praise,
be thou mine inheritance, now and always:
be thou and thou only the first in my heart,
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art.**

**High King of Heaven, thou heaven's bright Sun,
O grant me its joys after vict'ry is won,
Great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be thou my Vision, O Ruler of all.**

*Words: Irish, c.8th century
tr. Mary Byrne (1880-1931)
Tune: Slane*

The Prayers

Sit

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

led by an RAF Chaplain. These conclude with 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.**

Stand

HYMN

during which the senior representatives of the Royal Air Force and the Associations move into position ready to lay their wreaths.

**God is Love: let heaven adore him;
God is Love: let earth rejoice;
let creation sing before him,
and exalt him with one voice.
He who laid the earth's foundation,
he who spread the heav'ns above,
he who breathes through all creation,
he is Love, eternal Love.**

**God is Love: and he enfoldeth
all the world in one embrace;
with unfailing grasp he holdeth
every child of every race.
And when human hearts are breaking
under sorrow's iron rod,
then they find that selfsame aching
deep within the heart of God.**

**God is Love: and though with blindness
sin afflicts the souls of all,
God's eternal loving-kindness
holds and guides us when we fall.
Sin and death and hell shall never
o'er us final triumph gain;
God is Love, so Love for ever
o'er the universe must reign.**

Words: Timothy Rees (1874-1939)

Tune: Hyfrydol

Remain standing

THE ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

The wreaths are laid at the altar, after which an RAF Chaplain says:

Remember in your kingdom, Lord Christ,
those who laid down their lives
for their friends and their country:
let your face shine upon them,
and, as they sacrificed themselves
to bring peace to others,
give them that lasting peace which you have won for us;
who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

The LAST POST is sounded

After the silence has been observed, REVEILLE is sounded

A senior officer of the Royal Air Force says

In friendship and in service one to another
we are pledged to keep alive
the memory of those of all nations
who died in the Royal Air Force
and in the Air Forces of the Commonwealth.
In their name we give ourselves to this noble cause.
Proudly and thankfully, we will remember them.

All **We will remember them.**

HYMN

**God is our strength and refuge,
our present help in trouble,
and we therefore will not fear,
though the earth should change!
Though mountains shake and tremble,
though swirling floods are raging,
God the Lord of hosts is with us evermore!**

**There is a flowing river
within God's holy city;
God is in the midst of her -
she shall not be moved!
God's help is swiftly given,
thrones vanish at his presence -
God the Lord of hosts is with us evermore!**

**Come, see the works of our maker,
learn of his deeds all-powerful:
wars will cease across the world
when he shatters the spear!
Be still and know your creator,
uplift him in the nations-
God the Lord of hosts is with us evermore!**

*Words: Richard Bewes, after Psalm 46
Tune: Dambusters' March by Eric Coates*

The Dismissal

BLESSING

Dean The Lord be with you

All **and also with you.**

Dean God grant to the living, grace,
to the departed, rest,
to the Church, the Queen,
the Commonwealth and all the world,
peace and concord,
and to us and all his servants life everlasting;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.

All **Amen**

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

**God save our gracious Queen,
long live our noble Queen,
God save the Queen.
Send her victorious,
happy and glorious,
long to reign over us:
God save the Queen.**

After the National Anthem, the Sanctuary Colours are returned to their bearers. The Colours are followed by the choir, clergy and distinguished guests.

Please remain in your seat until the ceremonies are complete and the processions have passed through the cathedral.

Acknowledgements

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