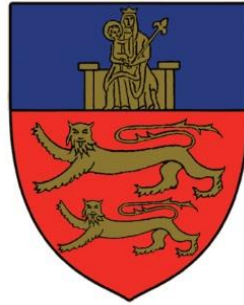


# Lincoln Cathedral

Yesterday, Today, Forever  
Enduring faith, inspiring stories, living history.



## The Battle of Britain A Service of Commemoration and Thanksgiving



Sunday 17 September 2023  
at 3pm



## The Preparation

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

### WELCOME

*The Interim Dean welcomes the congregation.*

*Stand*

### HYMN

*During which the choir and clergy enter, and the Colours are received by the Interim 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)*

*Music: Genevan Psalter 1551*

## PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

*Precentor* 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 God, 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.**

*Interim 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**

Deuteronomy 9.3-6

*read by Air Commodore Andrew Dicken OBE ADC MA FCMI RAF, 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 Wing Commander Colin Melvin, RAF Waddington*

## ANTHEM

*The choir sings **Greater love** by John Ireland:*

Many waters cannot quench love,  
neither can the floods drown it. Love is strong as death.  
Greater love hath no man than this,  
that a man lay down his life for his friends.  
Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree,  
That we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness.  
Ye are washed, ye are sanctified,  
ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus.  
Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation;  
That ye should show forth the praises of him  
who hath call'd you out of darkness into his marvellous light.  
I beseech you brethren, by the mercies of God,  
that you present your bodies, a living sacrifice, holy,  
acceptable unto to God, which is your reasonable service.

*Song of Songs 8, St John 15, I Peter 2, I Corinthians 6; Romans 12*

## SERMON

*The Reverend (Wing Commander) Alex Hobson  
College Chaplain, RAF College Cranwell*

*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.8<sup>th</sup> century tr. Mary Byrne (1880-1931)*

*Tune: Traditional Irish melody*

## **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: William Rowlands*

*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 *during which the Sanctuary Colours are returned to their bearers.*

**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

### 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!**

*After the National Anthem, 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.*

*As you leave the cathedral there will be a retiring collection to support the work of the Royal Air Force Association.*

### **Acknowledgements**

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