

The Chapter Letter



SUNDAY 26 NOVEMBER - SUNDAY 10 DECEMBER

'A kingdom not of this world'

As we have been reading scriptures at our daily services over the past few weeks, it is unavoidable but to notice the way that they speak of people struggling to discern God's true calling. Are God's people called to be a people of earthly power, or are we to set our sights for some greater glory beyond this earthly life? Are God's people to rule over others, or are they to be servants of all? Can we enjoy earthly comfort and heavenly joy?

As we hear these matters being approached by the people of Israel, we find a multitude of answers, some rushing journeys down metaphorical blind alleys, and despairing calls of correction from the prophets. But what we do not find is a simple template telling us what to do - how to answer the questions we find ourselves asking.

So as we approach the Feast of Christ the King we are challenged to answer the question of what sort of kingdom do we seek. Do we seek a kingdom that strives for heaven, and is willing to put aside all earthly power and comfort? Or are we actually focused on building up earthly riches whilst we wait for the heavenly reward that we hope is our just reward. Or do we seek to see our world in a different way - do we seek the heavenly vision and make it real among us? I think that our calling is to have our hearts and minds set on heaven, but firmly rooting our lives here on earth. In our worship we touch something of the otherness of God, and in our actions we can make real that otherness in a world that so obviously needs a different vision.

So rather than looking for an answer - perhaps even judging who are the winners and the losers - we should look to the different world of the kingdom of heaven. This is a kingdom that is so radically different that it cannot be easily described in words on a page - we can only approach it in the images and visions of poetry. It is a kingdom that puts aside power in deference to service - so that we have to check ourselves in all we do. It is a kingdom that we approach in the language of worship and see in the vision of praise. It is a kingdom ushered in by the Word becoming flesh - by the very vision of perfect love that is made known to us in Christ and that we will celebrate coming among us in the coming weeks.

So let us prepare for this kingdom with open hearts and songs of wonder and praise.

NICK BROWN, PRECENTOR

BIBLE READINGS

Sunday 26 November
Sunday Next Before Advent

Eucharist
Ezekiel 34.11-16, 20-24
Ephesians 1.15-end
Matthew 25.31-end

Evening Prayer
2 Samuel 23.1-7
Matthew 28.16-end

Sunday 3 December
First Sunday of Advent

Eucharist
Isaiah 64.1-9
1 Corinthians 1.3-9
Mark 13.24-end

Evening Prayer
Isaiah 1.1-20
Matthew 21.1-13

Sunday 10 December
Second Sunday of Advent

Eucharist
Isaiah 40.1-11
2 Peter 3.8-15a
Mark 1.1-8

Evening Prayer
1 Kings 22.1-28
Romans 15.4-13

Worship & Mission

Weekly service schedule

The service sheet for the coming fortnight can be viewed on the cathedral website (click link to visit)

After hours: Reflective worship

6.45pm, once a month on a Sunday

10 December 'After Hours': Walking towards Christmas Reflecting on the Patriarchs, Prophets, John the Baptist, and Mary and ending with Compline.

21 January 'After Hours': Sacred Space

18 February 'After Hours': Meditative Eucharist with prayers for healing

17 March 'After Hours': Sacred Space, explorations of penitence

Each of these occasions seeks to provide a gentle and reflective space with time to wonder, and the chance to experience the unique and serene atmosphere of the Cathedral as the day draws to a close.

Stillpoint

This is a time of guided silent prayer to be still and aware of the presence of God. All are welcome to join us. Please note the new time for Stillpoint. We meet in the Ringers Chapel from 8.45am - 9.15am on the following Mondays:

4 December 2023

8 January 2024

5 February 2024

4 March 2024

8 April 2024

Advent Procession

2 December, 6pm

This annual service marks the beginning of our spiritual preparation for the great festival of Christmas. The services takes us on a journey through the cathedral, remembering God's promises to us and ending in expectation as we remember God's promise, fulfilled through Mary, that Christ will come into the world. In words and music we reflect on the promises of the Old Testament and their fulfillment in the coming of Christ - the light who shines in our world.

Lighting of the Lincoln Peace Light

3 December, 3.45pm

In this service, we will kindle the Lincoln Peace Light that will be maintained in the Morning Chapel throughout the Christmas Season. From this light, organisations can light their own peace light as a symbol of the light that is Christ the Prince of Peace shining more brightly in our communities.

Licencing a new Bishop's Chaplain, Installing a Vice Chancellor and praying for the work of a Succentor!

At Evensong on Tuesday 5 December we will be welcoming three people to new roles within the cathedral and diocese:

- The Bishop of Lincoln will licence Nick Nawrockyi as his new Chaplain.

- Tom Wilson, who is our Senior Lay Vicar, will be installed as Vice Chancellor. This role will see him contribute to developments in the area of research and links with higher education.

- Alan Moses will be prayed for as he begins the role of Succentor. This will involve him taking on some of the Precentor's duties for arranging and delivering the liturgical life of the cathedral while the Precentor will also be covering the role of Interim Dean.

We welcome you to attend Evensong if you can. Keep these people in your prayers as they prepare to take up new roles.

'Tea at 4' Discussion & Reflection Group

The next meeting takes place at 4pm on Monday 11 December in the Wickham Reading Room. This is a time for reflection and discussion on reading the Gospel Reading for the previous day. There is no need for special preparation - and all are welcome!

Community

The Very Revd Alec Knight

We have received the sad news that the Very Revd Alec Knight, who was Dean of Lincoln from 1998-2006, died on Tuesday 21 November. Our prayers are with his wife, Sheelagh, and the members of their family. Funeral details will be announced in due course.

Lincoln Cathedral Community Association - Committee 2023

At the LCCA AGM on Monday 13 November, three new committee members were elected. We are pleased that Margaret McGregor, Cynthia Goalby and Ian Taylor are joining us to help the LCCA support the cathedral community this coming year.

Ian Taylor was also elected as one of our Deanery Synod representatives and Simon Crookall was re-elected as Lay Vice-Chair for a further year. The committee would also thank Elaine Johnson for her years of service on the committee, particularly her work in producing InHouse with which we are pleased that she has agreed to continue.

A full list of committee members is posted on the LCCA notice board in the north choir transept (opposite the vergers' vestry) where you will also find other LCCA information. The committee look forward to speaking to you over refreshments in the Chapter House after Sunday morning Eucharist.

For further information or if you have any ideas for social events or visits, please contact the LCCA Secretary (Andrea) at lcca@lincolncathedral.com.

The Friends Carols by Candlelight concert

We're looking forward to two wonderful evenings of Christmas music on Tuesday 12 and Wednesday 13 December at 7pm. Tickets are still available through Eventbrite via the Cathedral website and a pre-concert dinner in the cathedral café can be booked by calling 01522561654 or by emailing kienan@meadowbrownrestaurants.com by 5 December to reserve a table.

Events

Christmas by Candlelight

5 December, 7.30pm

An incredible West End Cast and live band perform classic Christmas Hits as you have never heard them before!

'It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas', so join us for this magical evening of best loved festive hits performed live by Candlelight.

Benjamin Britten's A Ceremony of Carols

8 December, 7pm

Join us on Friday 8 December for a special performance of Britten's classic, festive favourite in the atmospheric surroundings of St Hugh's Choir.

Tickets include a lantern-light tour of the Cathedral with reception of wine and canapés.

Carols by Candlelight

12-13 December, 7pm

Join us in Lincoln Cathedral for a magical evening of popular carols performed by Lincoln Cathedral Choir in the atmospheric surrounding of the candle-lit nave of the Cathedral. Carols by Candlelight is in aid of the Association of the Friends of Lincoln Cathedral. The choir is conducted by Aric Prentice with Jeffrey Makinson playing the Cathedral's renowned Father Willis organ.

For more details of forthcoming events and to book your tickets, go to our website at www.lincolncathedral.com/events/