

The Chapter Letter



SUNDAY 24 NOVEMBER – SUNDAY 8 DECEMBER

BIBLE READINGS

The eternal kingdom of God in Christ

This Sunday we celebrate the Feast of Christ the King. Although a relatively new waypoint in the liturgical year, this picks up on the ancient image of Christ as King. However, as with any earthly image, it is all too easy to fall into the trap of just writing large the human image, rather than thinking about how the heavenly image of Christ as King might shape (or even radically change) our view of human authority. This same problem is found when we take the statement that we are 'made in the image of God' and start to think of God as some superhuman being rather than as the source of all that is and the point to which we are called. In short, we all too often lose the wonder, mystery and glory of how different from us God is and relax into a view that God is just 'like us – only better'.

So what does it mean to be a part of the 'eternal kingdom of Christ'? For me the starting point to this is my understanding of the saints who surround us as 'a great cloud of witnesses' – that they are not just figures of the past, but they are present alongside us as we pray and worship. The saints who have gone before us are already released from the limitations of living in a particular time and a specific place and instead live in the presence of the love of God – an existence that calls us to think very differently about what it means to live. As it was put by Benedict XVI, this eternal life 'is not an endless succession of moments in which we have to try to overcome our boredom and fear of the unending', but is 'a new quality of being, in which the bit-by-bit existence in a succession of moments is overcome'. This highlights that our own way of thinking and understanding of ourselves and the world we live in is constrained by the fact that we experience everything moment by moment – and that to understand how much we do not and cannot know, we need to realise the wonder, mystery and glory of what might be possible if we look beyond our own horizons. We may not be able to see over the horizon, but we can often see reflections and glimpses of what might be.

Again, returning to Benedict XVI, eternal life is 'not simply what comes afterwards' but a different way of thinking about the present and future. If we can bring ourselves to acknowledge this, a new way of understanding our time-bound, earthly lives becomes possible – eternal life is not something of the future but a reality of the present, and our calling is to allow the glimpses of eternal life to change the way we live our lives in the here and now. This experience can also be of great comfort when we come to great times of loss – those we love may no longer be alongside us in time and place, but they are still just as present as the saints and angels among whom we worship. It is a different type of presence, but there are numerous ways we can see these glimpses of the eternal: opening ourselves to God's presence with us in worship, joining in the eternal feast of heaven as we share the breaking of the bread in the eucharist, seeing the echo of God's creative power in the patterning of creation and, above all, seeing the wall between our own experience and the true glory of heaven broken down in Christ's death, resurrection and ascension to reign in glory. This is perhaps a pointer to the deepest meaning of Christ as King – that we acknowledge something that is beyond us, pledge our obedience to Christ, and live our lives open to the possibilities of the glories of life understood in a different way – that the glimpses may become clearer in focus, and the kingdom of God become a reality in our lives and our world.

NICK BROWN, PRECENTOR

Sunday 24 November
Sunday before Advent

Eucharist
Daniel 7.9-10,13-14
Revelation 1.4b-8
John 18.33-37

Evening Prayer
Daniel 5
John 6.1-15

Sunday 1 December
First Sunday of Advent

Eucharist
Jeremiah 33.14-16
1 Thessalonians 3.9-end
Luke 21.25-36

Evening Prayer
Joel 3.9-end
Revelation 14.13-15.4

Sunday 8 December
Second Sunday of Advent

Eucharist
Baruch 5
Philippians 1.3-11
Luke 3.1-6

Evening Prayer
Isaiah 40.1-11
Luke 1.1-25

Worship & Mission

Weekly service schedule

Details of services and music can be viewed on the Cathedral's website. Visit: www.lincolncathedral.com/orders-of-service/

Special Services

Saturday 30 November, 6pm

Advent Procession

Sunday 1 December, 3.45pm

Lighting of the Lincoln Peace Light at Evensong

Friday 6 and Saturday 7 December, 5.30pm

Carol service

Monday 23 and Tuesday 24 December

4pm each day - Service of Lessons and Carols

Tuesday 24 December, 10.30am

Carols for Families

'Tea at 4' Bible study and reflection group

Monday 25 November

The next meeting will take place in the Wickham Reading Room at 4pm when we will finish the group of sessions on the Lord's Prayer that we used during Lent.

Choral Mattins during the Autumn Term

Our Choral Mattins services will return for the autumn term on the following dates: **8 December**

Stillpoint

This is a time of guided silent prayer to be still and aware of the presence of God. We meet in the Ringers Chapel from 8.45am to 9.15am on the following Mondays: **2 December, 6 January**

After hours: Reflective Worship

6.45pm, once a month on a Sunday

22 December - Sacred Space

Enjoy a gentle and reflective space with time to wonder, and the chance to experience the unique atmosphere of the Cathedral as the day draws to a close.

Reintroducing the weekday morning Eucharist

From Monday 2 December there will be a Eucharist at 8.30am each weekday, following Morning Prayer. It will last about 20 minutes. The weekly service schedule will indicate where the Eucharist will be celebrated.

Community

LCCA Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Lincoln Cathedral Community Association will take place on Monday 25 November in the Chapter House at 7.00pm with refreshments available from 6.30pm. If you would like to help us by joining the committee, please get in touch with Andrea, LCCA secretary at lcca@lincolncathedral.com for details. Please note that all completed nomination forms including proposer and seconder details need to be submitted by Monday 18 November.

Lincoln Cathedral Quiz

Don't forget to hand in your Lincoln Cathedral Quiz answer sheets by Advent Sunday (Sunday 1st December). Completed sheets can be dropped in to the Vergers' Vestry, Fundraising, or the Music Department.

Recruitment of new members of Chapter

We are looking to recruit new non-executive members of Chapter, the Cathedral's governing body. There are further details on the Current Vacancies page of the Cathedral website. Potential applicants are invited to contact the Dean at simon.jones@lincolncathedral.com for an informal conversation.

Events

Artisan market

Friday 6 and Saturday 7 December, 10am-4pm

Enjoy a sparkling gem of a craft fair in the beautiful setting of the Cathedral's Chapter House. Discover a carefully-curated choice of local crafters and artists ready to share their traditional and contemporary skills with you. Find something special as a festive gift or treat yourself!

Saturday 7 December

Festive Family Day - 10am to 3.30pm

Join us at the Table for the Nation for Christmas Crafts, including making your own Christingle, and creating a 3D angel decoration to take away. There will also be story times and a Nativity Trail to complete.

Lincoln Vocal Academy - 10.30am

Join us in the Nave for some Christmas music to bring festive cheer from our friends at Lincoln Vocal Academy. This recital is free with your Cathedral admission.

Ready Steady Choir concert - 11.30am

Ready Steady Choir is our youngest choir, made up of children of primary school age. Come and hear them give a Christmas recital in the Nave. This recital is free with your Cathedral admission.

Mindful Mile

Tuesday 10 December, 12.30pm

We invite you to join us for the last Mindful Mile of 2024 as Ben asks the question 'How the land needs man and man needs the land'. Starting at the west front, we'll take a moment out of a busy day to reconnect with the outdoors as we complete three laps of the Cathedral.

Carols by Candlelight

Tuesday 10 and Wednesday 11 December, 7pm

Join us for two magical evenings of popular carols performed by Lincoln Cathedral Choir in the atmospheric surroundings of the candle-lit nave. The choir will be conducted by the brilliant Aric Prentice with the extremely talented Jeffrey Makinson playing the Cathedral's renowned Father Willis organ.

The Snowman with Live Orchestra

Saturday 14 December and Sunday 15 December

The heart-warming story will be accompanied by a live orchestra who will bring the score to life and make the most of the incredible acoustics of the Cathedral. The nave will be lit to create a magical atmosphere ensuring an unforgettable experience for adults and children alike. Tickets are almost completely sold out, the only screenings with available seats are **14 December at 8.30pm** and **15 December at 7.30pm**

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