



**Service of Welcome
and
Inauguration of the Ministry
of
The Right Reverend Dr Jonathan Gibbs
as the
108th Bishop of Rochester**

Saturday 24th September 2022
at 2pm
at
Rochester Cathedral





Please note that this service may be recorded and/or livestreamed for those unable to attend in person. If you do not wish to appear on camera, please speak to a member of staff.

Invitations as to posture are indicative – please stand/sit as you are able.



Please do not take photographs,
sound or video recordings during the service.
As part of our safeguarding, no photography of children
is permitted in the Cathedral.



An induction loop system is installed in the Cathedral.
Hearing aid users should adjust their aid to T.



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Welcome from the Dean

It is with joy and warm expectation that we welcome Bishop Jonathan among us as the next Bishop of Rochester. We thank God for both Jonathan and Toni and look forward to their friendship and fellowship in the Gospel. We especially ask God's blessing upon Jonathan in this service of inauguration as he takes up his episcopal staff and leads the people of God in this Diocese in the years ahead.

As one of his predecessors was fond of saying, *Alleluia, On We Go!*

The Very Reverend Dr Philip Hesketh AKC DL
Dean of Rochester

About this service

This Service of Welcome and Inauguration of the Ministry of the 108th Bishop of Rochester is a celebration of the life of the Diocese and an affirmation of our common calling as the people of God, as Bishop Jonathan is welcomed to his Cathedral and Diocese. The various liturgical, symbolic, and legal elements are woven into the four parts of the service, with music, hymns and songs from Cathedral and Diocesan musicians.

The Gathering and Welcome: Once the people are gathered, Bishop Jonathan knocks on the doors of the Cathedral and is asked about his calling to this ministry by school children from a Diocesan school. The Archbishop's Mandate is presented and read aloud, Bishop Jonathan makes the declaration of assent and swears the customary oaths on the Coverdale Bible (one of the treasures of the Cathedral's Library), and representative gifts of welcome are presented.

The Inauguration of Ministry: Bishop Jonathan is placed in the episcopal seat by the Archdeacon of Canterbury (the Archbishop's representative). After being anointed, Bishop Jonathan takes up the Diocesan Crozier, the symbol of his authority and care in the Diocese. He is presented to the people and greets civic and ecumenical guests.

The Liturgy of the Word: We listen to the scriptures, Bishop Jonathan preaches, and we hold his vision for the Diocese before God in prayer.

The Sending Out: As we go out in faith, Bishop Jonathan blesses us for mission and, finally, blesses Rochester and all the communities of the Diocese from the doors of the Cathedral.

Message from Bishop Jonathan

Toni and I are so grateful for the wonderful welcome we have already enjoyed in the Diocese of Rochester, and are deeply aware of the enormous privilege and responsibility of being called here by God. We look forward greatly to getting to know you and to working with you in the years ahead.

Today's service is taking place in circumstances that none of us would have imagined even a few short days ago. The passing of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II has brought our Church, our nation and the Commonwealth into a period of deep sadness and mourning. Our prayers are with King Charles and all the members of the Royal Family as they grieve her loss, and will continue to be so in the days and years ahead.

Queen Elizabeth was a beacon of Christian faith, hope and love throughout her reign and we owe her an incalculable debt of gratitude for her remarkable leadership of both nation and Commonwealth right to the end of her life. Through all the ups and downs of the last seventy years, The Late Queen was a rock and sure foundation at the heart of our nation, leading by her example of dedicated and selfless service.

As a result, the place of the monarchy in the affections of the people of the United Kingdom has been strengthened and assured, and King Charles, as he has said, will seek to follow her example and build on his mother's legacy in the years to come. This will involve both continuity and change both in the monarchy and in our nation, and we assure him today of our loyalty, love and prayers.

I am mindful of the part the Church has to play in this time of uncertainty and transition, not least given all the turmoil that our world has been experiencing over the last few years. Part of our calling will be to embody continuity through our faithfulness to the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, as we seek to proclaim the Gospel afresh in a new generation; and part of our calling will be to embrace change, so that the Gospel may be heard and received among that new generation.

With that in mind, I will be focusing my new ministry as Bishop of Rochester on three key priorities, which seek to build on the Diocese of Rochester's vision, "Called Together". These priorities can be summarised in three words: "**Grow, Change, Serve**".

God longs for his reign of justice and peace to flourish in our world, and how we live as followers of Jesus, seeking God's kingdom in all that we do and speaking of the good news of Christ, really matters if the Church is to further the cause of God's reign and to **grow** both spiritually and numerically. Being disciples of Jesus requires us to be ready to **change**, as we seek to grow in his likeness and to follow him in a fast-changing world, and that in turn means being ready to **serve** our communities and the wider world, demonstrating the compassion of Christ and our commitment to God's reign of justice and peace.

None of this is new. This is the calling of the Church in each generation: to live and to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ so that all people may be reconciled to God and experience his love for themselves. We as churches and as individuals are called to be beacons of Christian faith, hope and love to the communities we serve, speaking humbly yet boldly of the good news of God's love and of the hope that we have through Christ for this life and the life to come.

Our nation needs us as Christians to be faithful to our calling, especially in this time of turmoil and uncertainty. The Late Queen spoke openly about her faith and the strength she drew from it, and we should do the same, demonstrating by word and deed the love of God for all people, and working with people of all faiths and none for the good of all and the care of creation. What motivates us is the love of God in Christ, and what sustains us is the hope we have in Him.

Thank you for your support and prayers as we start out on this new journey together.

**The Right Reverend Dr Jonathan Gibbs
Bishop of Rochester**

Archbishop's Charge

To Our well beloved in Christ, **Jonathan Robert Gibbs**, now Bishop and Pastor of the Diocese of **Rochester**, Greeting

... As the Crown Nominations Commission considered prayerfully and carefully the call of the new Bishop of Rochester to share the historic and eternal gospel with a changing world, and to encourage all Christians in their witness so that more people become disciples of Jesus Christ, they discerned an especial sense of urgency around tasks and ministries which I now set before you, to guide you as you prepare to take up your new office.

As a Bishop within the Church of England you are called to share in the ministry of the Gospel of Christ, proclaiming His promise of hope and eternal life in a world of death and despair. It's in this broken world that God calls you to the servant leadership which guards the flock of Christ, exercising the ministry of a shepherd contending for and upholding the unity of the Church, and guiding them in witness and service. In the uncertainty of the world, may Christ strengthen you to confidently live out the vocation to which God has called you and His Church...

As Diocesan Bishop of Rochester you are called to lead the diocese in discerning its particular vision for God's ministry and mission, following His call to care for the sick, the hungry, the imprisoned, the stranger and the orphan around us and, in so doing, proclaiming the Good News of the God who came and lived among us that we might know and share His love for us here on Earth. Jesus who loved all alike, who counted tax collectors and fishermen as friends, invites you to bring people to Christ's table. He calls us to build a church where each living stone is valued.

As Jesus welcomed the children, the sick and the isolated into His family, you are called to lay a place for both the young and the elderly, those who are poor and those who are wealthy, those whom society loves and those whom society despises alike, and to be a safe place where God's children may gather, in all our glorious diversity and difference, and celebrate the image of God in one another. At this critical time in our stewardship of God's creation, may you have creativity to ensure God's people are characterized by the same love for this world that caused our creator to give his Son...

And finally, may you be present and part of your community as our Lord Jesus Christ was, in both the joy of the wedding at Cana and the suffering of the funeral of the widow's son, in sharing hospitality and friendship. May you serve those within it as Christ calls us to, and to care particularly for those who are suffering, distressed and isolated, seeking to ease the burdens of those we serve by our deeds and words.

Jonathan – scripture calls us to 'speak out on behalf of the voiceless, and for the rights of all who are vulnerable' [Prov 31:8], to challenge cultures of hierarchy and deference, and create a space that honours the trust and hope that people place in the church of God. You are called to be a seeker and speaker of truth and justice, and to ensure that the Diocese of Rochester is a place where children and vulnerable adults are safe, and the highest standards of safeguarding are upheld.

Jonathan – all goodness comes from God alone. Tend to your own spiritual life, in prayer and study, that you may hear His word, receive His spirit, and do His work.

So may the Lord of heaven, who gives you the will to undertake these things, give you also the strength to perform them, and by his divine providence may his holy angels succour and defend you on earth, and may his Grace and Blessing be with you at all times. Amen

++Justin Cantuar, 24 May 2022

Music before the service:

From 1.30pm, musicians from Christ Church Tunbridge Wells play

I cast my mind to Calvary (O Praise the Name)
The splendour of the King (How great is our God)
Light of the world (Here I am to worship)

From 1.45pm, Jeremy Lloyd, Assistant Director of Music and Sub Organist plays

March on a theme by Handel – Alexandre Guilmant (1837-1911)
Alla Marcia – John Ireland (1879-1962)

Order of Processions

At 1.45pm, please REMAIN SEATED for the following processions:

[To the Nave Transepts:]

(verger)

Diocesan Licensed Lay Ministers

Diocesan Clergy

[To the Quire Stalls:]

(verger)

Chaplain of King's School, Rochester

Kings Scholars

Headmaster, King's Preparatory School, Rochester

Principal, King's School Rochester

Priests-Vicar

Ecumenical Canons of Honour

Honorary Canons

At 1.55pm, as an organ fanfare is sounded, please STAND for the following procession:

[To the Quire Presbytery seating]

(Cross)

Visiting clergy

Ecumenical guests and Religious

Visiting Chapters

Visiting Archdeacons

Bishops

(verger)

[To seats by the Pulpitum Platform]

Diocesan Registrar (and Deputy)

Diocesan Chancellor (and Deputy)

[To the Quire Crossing:]

The Mayor of Medway

The High Sheriff of Kent

The Lord-Lieutenant of Kent, escorted by the Dean

The Gathering and Welcome

At 2.00pm, the Foundation Procession enters the Nave during the hymn

(Cross and lights)
Choir
Chapter
Archdeacons
Dean of Rochester
Bishop of Tonbridge
Vesturer of Canterbury Cathedral
Archdeacon of Canterbury

Hymn



- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Christ is made the sure foundation,
And the precious corner-stone,
Who, the two walls underlying,
Bound in each, binds both in one,
Holy Sion's help for ever,
And her confidence alone.</p> | <p>3 To this temple, where we call thee,
Come, O Lord of hosts, today;
With thy wonted loving-kindness,
Hear thy people as they pray;
And thy fullest benediction
Shed within its walls for ay.</p> |
| <p>2 All that dedicated city,
Dearly loved by God on high,
In exultant jubilation
Pours perpetual melody,
God the One, in Threefold glory,
Singing everlastingly.</p> | <p>4 Here vouchsafe to all thy servants
Gifts of grace by prayer to gain;
Here to have and hold for ever,
Those good things their prayers obtain,
And hereafter, in thy glory,
With thy blessed ones to reign.</p> |
| <p>5 Laud and honour to the Father,
Laud and honour to the Son,
Laud and honour to the Spirit,
Ever Three and ever One,
One in love, and One in splendour,
While unending ages run. Amen.</p> | |

Sit

Introduction

Dean Brothers and sisters in Christ,
today we gather in the presence of Almighty God
to welcome and inaugurate the ministry of Jonathan,
108th Bishop of Rochester,
and to place him in the episcopal seat of his cathedral church.
As the successor to Justus, first bishop of Rochester,
now Jonathan is called
to be our bishop in this place at this time,
the chief shepherd of Christ's flock in this diocese
and guardian of the faith of the apostles,
in which faith women and men are called through the ages
to follow Christ in joyful service.
As he begins his ministry among us,
let us pray that we may all be faithful to our vocation
and strengthened in our calling as the people of God.

After a short period of silent prayer:

God our Father, Lord of all the world,
through your Son you have called us into the fellowship
of your universal Church:
hear our prayer for your faithful people
that in their vocation and ministry
each may be an instrument of your love,
and give to your servant, Jonathan, our bishop,
the needful gifts of grace;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All Amen.

Stand

Reception

During the hymn, the Chapter, Archdeacons, Dean, and Bishop of Tonbridge, proceed to the west end of the Nave

Turn to face the Great West Doors

Hymn



**1 From heav'n you came helpless babe
Enter'd our world your glory veil'd
Not to be served but to serve
And give Your life that we might live.
*This is our God, the Servant King –
He calls us now to follow Him
To bring our lives as a daily offering
of worship to the Servant King***

**2 There in the garden of tears
My heavy load He chose to bear.
His heart with sorrow was torn
Yet "Not my will, but yours", He said.
*Refrain***

**3 Come see His hands and His feet -
The scars that speak of sacrifice
Hands that flung stars into space
To cruel nails surrendered.
*Refrain***

The Servant King (AM489) (420)

Graham Kendrick (b.1950)

Bishop Jonathan arrives at the Great West Doors and knocks three times with his pastoral staff

Dean Let the doors be opened, that we may welcome our bishop.

An organ fanfare is sounded and the doors are opened

Dean Bishop Jonathan, we welcome you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ
to your diocese and cathedral church.

All In the name of the Lord, we welcome you!

Bishop Peace be with you
All and also with you.

Emmanuel Bode, Maja Sobek and Ledare Young from Bennett Memorial Diocesan School, Tunbridge Wells, ask the following questions:

Who are you and why do you request entry?

Bishop I am Jonathan, a servant of Jesus Christ
and I come as one seeking the grace of God,
a pilgrim with you in faith and service.

Why have you been sent to us?

Bishop I am sent as your Diocesan Bishop to proclaim the love of Christ
and with you to worship God with heart and soul, mind and strength.

How do you come among us and with what confidence?

Bishop I come knowing nothing except Jesus Christ and him crucified,
trusting that his strength is made perfect in my weakness.

Dean Let us humble ourselves together,
enter the house of the Lord,
and seek God's mercy and strength.

During the hymn, the procession moves to the Nave platform



**4 So let us learn how to serve
And in our lives enthrone Him.
Each other's needs to prefer
For it is Christ we're serving.
*This is our God, the Servant King –
He calls us now to follow Him
To bring our lives as a daily offering
of worship to the Servant King***

The Servant King (AM489) (420)

Graham Kendrick (b.1950)

Sit

Mandate

The Archdeacon of Canterbury and Diocesan Chancellor stand at the Nave Platform lectern

Archdeacon Mr Dean, I bring you greetings from the Archbishop of Canterbury, and present to you his Mandate.

The Archdeacon hands the Mandate to the Dean who hands the Mandate to the Chancellor

Dean Let the Mandate be read.

The Chancellor reads the Mandate and then returns it to the Archdeacon

Declaration and Oaths

Dean Bishop Jonathan, I ask you, in the presence of God and before this congregation, to make the Declaration of Assent which you in turn will require of those to hold your licence to any office within this diocese.

The Church of England is part of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church, worshipping the one true God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It professes the faith uniquely revealed in the Holy Scriptures and set forth in the catholic creeds, which faith the Church is called upon to proclaim afresh in each generation. Led by the Holy Spirit, it has borne witness to Christian truth in its historic formularies, the Thirty-nine Articles of Religion, The Book of Common Prayer and the Ordering of Bishops, Priests and Deacons. In the declaration you are about to make, will you affirm your loyalty to this inheritance of faith as your inspiration and guidance under God in bringing the grace and truth of Christ to this generation and making Him known to those in your care?

Bishop I, Jonathan Robert Gibbs, do so affirm, and accordingly declare my belief in the faith which is revealed in the Holy Scriptures and set forth in the catholic creeds and to which the historic formularies of the Church of England bear witness; and in public prayer and administration of the sacraments, I will use only the forms of service which are authorized or allowed by Canon.

Jusleen Virdee and Nathaniel Rushton, Kings Scholars, present the Coverdale Bible to the Bishop who places his right hand upon it

The Bishop makes the Oath of Allegiance to His Majesty the King, the Oath of Due Obedience to the Archbishop of Canterbury, and the Oath of Fidelity to the Cathedral and Diocese

Bishop I, Jonathan Robert Gibbs, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to His Majesty King Charles III, his heirs and successors, according to law: So help me God.

In the Name of God. Amen. I, Jonathan Robert Gibbs, Chosen Bishop of the Church and See of Rochester do profess and promise all due reverence and obedience to the Archbishop and Metropolitan Church of Canterbury and to their successors: So help me God, through Jesus Christ.

I, Jonathan Robert Gibbs, by divine permission Bishop of Rochester (duly elected and confirmed), now commit myself to the mission entrusted to me which I can fulfil only by the grace of Christ. I promise that I will be a faithful pastor and true Father in God to the clergy and people of this Diocese. I solemnly declare that I will observe diligently the Constitution and Statutes of this Cathedral Church, and will encourage and promote its worship and mission. With the help of God, and responding to his liberating love in Christ, I will endeavour to serve all who live or work in the communities of this Diocese of Rochester.

The Bishop takes his seat on the Nave Platform

Choir Anthem

1 View me, Lord, a work of thine:
Shall I then lie drowned in night?
Might thy grace in me but shine,
I should seem made all of light.

2 Cleanse me, Lord, that I may kneel
At thine altar, pure and white;
They that once thy mercies feel,
Gaze no more on earth's delight.

3 Worldly joys, like shadows fade
When the heavenly light appears;
But the covenants thou hast made,
Endless, know nor days, nor years.

4 In thy word, Lord, is my trust,
To thy mercies fast I fly;
Though I am but clay and dust,
Yet thy grace can lift me high.

Gifts of Welcome from the Diocese

Five gifts, each representing one of the five Called Together priorities of the Diocese, are presented to the Bishop by representatives from across the life of the Diocese

Matthew Girt (Diocesan Secretary) and Magali van der Merwe (Diocesan Community Engagement and Social Action Manager) present a cup, saying

We pray for you as you lead us in mission and enable us to show our faith in both words and action.

The Reverend Trudi Oliver (Vicar of St Mary Gravesend and Chaplain to St George's School) and Jashan Rattanpal (a pupil at St George's School) present a wooden finger labyrinth, saying

We pray for you as you model, teach and inspire everyday faith within the diversity of the Diocese.

The Reverend Cathy Knight-Scott (Vicar of St John the Evangelist Sidcup with All Saints Footscray) and Nadia Hytnyk (a representative of the Ukrainian community) present a large candle and salt, saying

(in English) We pray for you as you encourage us to be both salt and light in the communities where we live and work.

(in Ukrainian) Єпископе, ми молимося за Вас, коли ви заохочуєте нас бути і сіллю, і світлом у громадах, де ми живемо та працюємо.

Giovanni Parrales (project worker at St Francis Strood) and Mayowa Oyinloye (project worker at St Mark Gillingham) present a large map of the diocese, saying

We pray for you as you help us hear, see and respond to the prophetic voice.

Jane Rosam (Licensed Lay Minister and General Synod Member) and Isaac Hamlyn present a fruit tree, saying

We pray that as you embrace the challenge that truly caring for the environment brings, you lead us well in our response.

Welcome by Diocesan Link Bishops

Messages of welcome from our Overseas Link Bishops – the Diocese of Rochester enjoys flourishing overseas links with the Anglican dioceses of Harare in Zimbabwe, and Kondo and Mpwapwa in Tanzania, and a similar partnership with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Estonia.

The Inauguration of Ministry

Stand

Hymn

during which the Chapter, Archdeacons, Dean, Bishop of Tonbridge, Bishop of Rochester and Archdeacon of Canterbury move to the Quire



**1 Before the throne of God above
I have a strong, a perfect plea:
A great High Priest, whose Name is Love,
Who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on his hands,
My name is written on his heart;
I know that while in heaven he stands
No tongue can bid me thence depart,
No tongue can bid me thence depart.**

**2 When Satan tempts me to despair,
And tells me of the guilt within,
Upward I look, and see him there
Who made an end of all my sin.
Because the sinless Saviour died,
My sinful soul is counted free;
For God, the Just, is satisfied
To look on him and pardon me,
To look on him and pardon me.**

**3 Behold him there! the risen Lamb!
My perfect, spotless Righteousness,
The great unchangeable I AM,
The King of glory and of grace!
One with my Lord, I cannot die;
My soul is purchased by his blood;
My life is hid with Christ on high,
With Christ, my Saviour and my God,
With Christ, my Saviour and my God.**

Before the Throne of God (AM 598) Vikki Cook

*v1-3 Charitie Lees De Chenez (1841-1923)
V4-5 J.M. Neale (1818-1866)*

Remain standing

Enthronement

Dean Mr Archdeacon, on behalf of the Chapter of this Cathedral Church of Christ and the Blessed Virgin Mary, Rochester, we now ask you to place our Bishop in his episcopal seat as the Mandate of our Metropolitan requires.

Archdeacon By virtue of the Mandate of the Most Reverend Father in God Justin Portal by Divine Providence Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, I, William Jonathan Adam, Archdeacon of the Cathedral and Metropolitical Church of Christ in Canterbury, induct and install you, Jonathan Robert Gibbs, into possession of the Bishopric of Rochester with its rights and dignities and all its opportunities for service; and I place you in the episcopal seat of this Cathedral Church of Christ and the Blessed Virgin Mary, Rochester, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

May God sustain you and establish you in righteousness and holiness in the Church; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

Sit

The Bishop moves to the Quire Crossing to kneel before the Quire Altar

Anointing

Bishop of
Tonbridge Jonathan, remember your baptism into Christ;
Remember your ordination in the Church of God.

May God,
who anointed the Christ with the Holy Spirit at his baptism,
anoint and empower you to bring good news to the poor,
to proclaim release to the captives,
to set free those who are oppressed
and to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.

The Archdeacon of Rochester anoints the Bishop's forehead

The Archdeacon of Tonbridge anoints the Bishop's left hand

The Interim Archdeacon of Bromley & Bexley anoints the Bishop's right hand

Bishop of
Tonbridge The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face to shine upon you
and be gracious to you;
the Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you
and give you peace.

All Amen.

Taking up of the Diocesan Crozier

Stand

The Dean takes the Diocesan Crozier and hands it to the Bishop of Rochester

Dean Bishop Jonathan, receive this Diocesan crozier
as a sign of your authority and care in the Diocese of Rochester.

Bishop of
Tonbridge Keep watch over the whole flock
in which the Holy Spirit has appointed you shepherd.

**All Encourage the faithful,
restore the lost,
build up the Body of Christ.**

Presentation of the Bishop

The Bishop of Rochester turns to face the people

Dean My brothers and sisters in Christ, I present to you Jonathan, Bishop of Rochester.

The Bishop is greeted with applause and then responds

Sit

The Archdeacons, Dean and Bishop of Tonbridge return to their stalls

The Vesturer and Archdeacon of Canterbury move to seats in the Presbytery

As the choir sings the Te Deum Laudamus, civic and ecumenical representatives are presented to the Bishop and Toni Gibbs by the Diocesan Secretary

The Lord-Lieutenant of Kent, The Lady Colgrain

The Mayor of Medway, Cllr Jan Aldous

The High Sheriff of Kent, Russell Race JP DL

Co-Chairs of Kent Church Leaders:

 The Right Reverend Rose Hudson-Wilkin (Bishop of Dover)

 The Reverend Helen Hollands (Methodist Superintendent Minister in the South Kent Circuit)

Kent County Council Chair, Cllr Lesley Game

Lord Robert Sackville-West, Chair of Trustees, Kent Community Foundation

The Reverend Agnita Oyawale, Bromley Town Centre Chaplain

Margaret Wooding Jones, Clergy Spouses Coordinator

presents flowers to Toni Gibbs on behalf of ROCS Connect

Te Deum Laudamus
sung by the choir

We praise thee, O God : we acknowledge thee to be the Lord.
All the earth doth worship thee : the Father everlasting.
To thee all Angels cry aloud :
the heavens and all the powers therein.
To thee Cherubin and Seraphin : continually do cry,
Holy, Holy, Holy : Lord God of Sabaoth;
Heaven and earth are full of the Majesty : of thy glory.
The glorious company of the Apostles : praise thee.
The goodly fellowship of the Prophets : praise thee.
The noble army of Martyrs : praise thee.
The holy Church throughout all the world : doth acknowledge thee;
The Father : of an infinite Majesty;
Thine honourable, true : and only Son;
Also the Holy Ghost : the Comforter.
Thou art the King of glory : O Christ.
Thou art the everlasting Son : of the Father.
When thou tookest upon thee to deliver man :
thou didst not abhor the Virgin's womb.
When thou hadst overcome the sharpness of death :
thou didst open the kingdom of heaven to all believers.
Thou sittest at the right hand of God : in the glory of the Father.
We believe that thou shalt come : to be our judge.
We therefore pray thee, help thy servants :
whom thou hast redeemed with thy precious blood.
Make them to be numbered with thy Saints : in glory everlasting.
O Lord, save thy people and bless thine heritage :
govern them and lift them up for ever.
Day by day we magnify thee:
and we worship thy name ever world without end.
Vouchsafe, O Lord : to keep us this day without sin.
O Lord, have mercy upon us : have mercy upon us.
O Lord, let thy mercy lighten upon us : as our trust is in thee.
O Lord, in thee have I trusted : let me never be confounded.

John Ireland (1879-1962) in F

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: Isaiah 42.1-9

read by Sarah Poole, Lay Chair of Diocesan Synod from the Nave Platform

A reading from the prophecy of Isaiah.

Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.
He will not cry or lift up his voice,
or make it heard in the street;
a bruised reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.
He will not grow faint or be crushed
until he has established justice in the earth;
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

Thus says God, the Lord,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:
I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness,
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people,
a light to the nations,
to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.
I am the Lord, that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to idols.
See, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth,
I tell you of them.

Reader For the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Stand

Hymn

during which the Gospel Procession moves to the Nave Platform



**In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
Here in the love of Christ I stand.**

**In Christ alone! - who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save:
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied-
For every sin on him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.**

**There in the ground his body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory,
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am his and he is mine—
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.**

*Stewart Townend (b 1963) and Keith Getty (b 1974) (AM 678)
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Remain standing

Gospel: Mark 6.30-46

read by the Reverend Canon Jeremy Blunden, Rector of St George and St Barnabas Beckenham, Bishop's Adviser on BAME matters, Clergy Chair of Diocesan Synod

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, 'Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.' For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things. When it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, 'This is a deserted place, and the hour is now very late; send them away so that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy something for themselves to eat.' But he answered them, 'You give them something to eat.' They said to him, 'Are we to go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread, and give it to them to eat?' And he said to them, 'How many loaves have you? Go and see.' When they had found out, they said, 'Five, and two fish.' Then he ordered them to get all the people to sit down in groups on the green grass. So they sat down in groups of hundreds and of fifties. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to his disciples to set before the people; and he divided the two fish among them all. And all ate and were filled; and they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. Those who had eaten the loaves numbered five thousand men.

Immediately he made his disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. After saying farewell to them, he went up on the mountain to pray.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Hymn

during which the Gospel Procession returns to the Quire



**No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till he returns or calls me home,
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand!**

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Once the Sermon has been introduced, please sit

Sermon

by the Bishop of Rochester from the Nave Platform

After the Sermon, remain seated as musicians from Christ Church Tunbridge Wells play:

How deep the Father's love for us – Stuart Townend (b.1963)

Prayers

led by Terry Morgan, Julie Ibrahim and Andy Barnett from St John Chatham from the Nave Platform

Intercessor Lord God, whose Son sent his followers to go and make disciples of all nations; send us out as your witnesses, to share the good news of your mighty love for us and to grow your church, that the communities of this Diocese might overflow with life in all its fullness.

Lord, hear us and encourage us to grow.

All Lord, graciously hear us.

Intercessor Lord God, who removes the veil from our minds that we might perceive your glory and be changed into the same image from glory to glory; open our hearts to all that you are making anew in your church, that we may share the gospel afresh in each generation and transform our communities in faith, hope and love.

Lord, hear us and enable us to change.

All Lord, graciously hear us.

Intercessor Lord God, whose Son was sent not to be served but to serve, and to give his life, a ransom for many; grant us the gifts of the Spirit that we may minister to each other in fellowship, seek out the lonely and the lost, and show your love for the world in action and service.

Lord, hear us and equip us to serve.

All Lord, graciously hear us.

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**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.**

The Sending Out

Stand

Hymn *during which the Foundation Procession moves to the Nave*



**We have a gospel to proclaim,
Good news for all throughout the earth,
The gospel of a Saviour's name:
We sing his glory, tell his worth.**

**Tell of his birth at Bethlehem,
Not in a royal house or hall,
But in a stable dark and dim:
The Word made flesh, a light for all.**

**Tell of his death at Calvary,
Hated by those he came to save,
In lonely suffering on the Cross:
For all he loved his life he gave.**

Fulda (486) ~ William Gardiner in Sacred Melodies 1815

Edward Burns (b. 1938)

Blessing *(from the Nave Platform)*

Bishop Our help is in the name of the Lord
All who has made heaven and earth.

Bishop Blessed be the name of the Lord
All now and forever. Amen.

Bishop May the boldness of the Spirit transform you,
may the gentleness of the Spirit lead you,
may the gifts of the Spirit equip you
to serve and worship God;
and the blessing of God almighty,
✠ the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

Hymn

during which the Foundation Procession moves through the Great West Doors



**Tell of that glorious Easter morn,
Empty the tomb, for he was free:
He broke the power of death and hell
That we might share his victory.**

**Tell of his reign at God's right hand,
By all creation glorified:
He sends his Spirit on his Church,
To live for him, the Lamb who died.**

**Now we rejoice to name him King:
Jesus is Lord of all the earth.
This gospel-message we proclaim;
We sing his glory, tell his worth.**

Fulda (486) ~ William Gardiner in Sacred Melodies 1815

Edward Burns (b. 1938)

Turn to face the Great West Doors

Blessing of the Diocese *(from the Great West Doors)*

Bishop God bless the communities of Rochester,
Medway, north and west Kent
and the London Boroughs of Bromley and Bexley,
and all who live and work in this Diocese of Rochester;
may he visit you with his mercy, surround you with his love,
and fill your hearts with courage, strength and peace;
and the blessing of God almighty,
✠ the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

The Dismissal

Dean Let us go in the peace of Christ.

All Thanks be to God!

Dean Let us go in the power of Christ.

All Blessed be God our strength and our salvation!

Organ Voluntary:

Grand Choeur in D, Alla Handel, Op. 18 No.1 – Alexandre Guilmant (1837-1911)

Please remain standing as the processions depart

A retiring collection will be taken for the Companion Dioceses

The Cathedral Church of Christ
and the Blessed Virgin Mary

