



The Cathedral Church of
SAINT PETER *and*
THE HOLY AND INDIVISIBLE TRINITY
Gloucester

Praying for Gloucester

*Uniting Christian communities across the city
In partnership with
Gloucester Christian Leaders' Network*



Saturday, 31 May 2025
11.30 a.m.
The Nave

Safeguarding at Gloucester Cathedral

Gloucester Cathedral is committed to being a **safe** and **welcoming** place for **all**. The care and protection of children, young people and adults involved in the life of the Cathedral is everyone's responsibility.



If someone is in immediate danger, contact the police on 999.



Here at Gloucester Cathedral, there are two nominated people, whom you should contact if you have a safeguarding concern:

Gill Brook: safeguarding@gloucestercathedral.org.uk

The Venerable Hilary Dawson: AGlos@glosdioc.org.uk

Welcome

Today, Christians from across Gloucester and from many different traditions gather as one body to pray for God's Kingdom to come to our city. Though we come from different denominations, we are united by our shared faith in our Lord Jesus Christ and our common calling to love God and serve our neighbours.

This service is a celebration of our unity in the Spirit—a unity that strengthens our witness and deepens our impact. As we lift Gloucester before God in prayer, we do so with one heart and one purpose: to seek God's peace, justice, and blessing for all who live and work here.

May this time together renew our commitment to one another, and to the flourishing of the city we call home.



Personal photography and videography are not permitted during services.



An induction loop is available for those using hearing aids.



Large print booklets are available on request. Please ask a steward.

¶ *Gathering to Worship*

Introduction

We stand.

The Dean says

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you

All **and also with you.**

The Dean gives a welcome and introduces the service

Dear friends, welcome in the name of Christ. We gather in this house of prayer where, for over 900 years, Christians have come together in worship of Almighty God. As a monastic foundation, hospitality has been at the heart of our life together, following after the Rule of St. Benedict, who wrote, 'Let all guests who arrive be received as Christ.'

In Christ we are one body.

Members of the Cathedral community say

All **Brothers and sisters, we welcome you.**

For forty days we celebrated with joyful hearts the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, his bursting from the tomb and his defeat of the power of sin and death. He appeared to his disciples many times and told them about the kingdom of God. Now, we recall how he left this earth and returned to his Father, ascending into heaven to take his throne over all dominions and powers. Let us pray that the promised Holy Spirit, who came at that first Pentecost, may strengthen us to proclaim the good news, and to build God's Kingdom on earth.

We remain standing to sing



**Church of God, elect and glorious,
holy nation, chosen race;
called as God's own special people,
royal priests and heirs of grace:
know the purpose of your calling,
show to all his mighty deeds;
tell of love which knows no limits,
grace which meets all human needs.**

**God has called you out of darkness
into his most marvellous light;
brought his truth to life within you,
turned your blindness into sight.
Let your light so shine around you
that God's name is glorified;
and all find fresh hope and purpose
in Christ Jesus crucified.**

**Once you were an alien people,
strangers to God's heart of love;
but he brought you home in mercy,
citizens of heaven above.
Let his love flow out to others,
let them feel a Father's care;
that they too may know his welcome
and his countless blessings share.**

**Church of God, elect and holy,
be the people he intends;
strong in faith and swift to answer
each command your master sends:
royal priests, fulfil your calling
through your sacrifice and prayer;
give your lives in joyful service
sing his praise, his love declare.**

*Words, James E Seddon 1915-1983 from 1 Peter 2
© Mrs M Seddon/Jubilate Hymns Ltd.
Tune, AUSTRIA; Joseph Haydn 1732-1809*

Saying Sorry to God

Stuart Clarke from Brunswick Baptist Church says

Jesus saw the city and wept over it,
because it did not recognize the time of God's coming.
We confess our part in the self-centredness and sin
of the life of our city.

cf Luke 19.41

Peter Clarkson from Christ Church Abbeydale says

You made us to be one family,
yet we have divided humanity.
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Charles Campbell from the Church of God of Prophecy says

You were born to reconcile all people,
yet we have brought disharmony amongst races.
Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

James Addis from the Salvation Army says

You rejoice in our differences,
yet we make them a cause of enmity.
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Steve Ayers from Kendal Road Baptist Church says

Let us turn back to God as we say together:

All **Heavenly Father,**
your Son Jesus Christ prayed for his followers:
‘May they all be one.
Father, may they be one in us,
as you are in me and I am in you,
so that the world may believe that it was you who sent me.’
Today we celebrate and thank you
for the unity we already share in Jesus Christ.
Yet too often, suspicion and prejudice have separated us;
for this we are truly sorry, and we turn back to you.
Together we proclaim there is but one Body, and one Spirit,
and one hope of our calling,
one Lord, one faith, one baptism,
one God and Father of us all.
Let us be all of one heart and soul,
united in truth and peace, faith and love,
so with one mind and one voice
we glorify you through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Dean assure us of God’s forgiveness

Almighty God,
who in Jesus Christ has given us
a kingdom that cannot be destroyed,
✚ forgive us our sins,
open our eyes to God’s truth,
strengthen us to do God’s will
and give us the joy of his kingdom,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Collect

The Special Prayer for Ascension

Let us pray.

Almighty God,
your ascended Son has sent us into the world
to preach the good news of your kingdom:
inspire us with your Spirit
and fill our hearts with the fire of your love,
that all who hear your Word may be drawn to you,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

We sit.

Prayer Walking Experiences

Steve Parsons from Kendall Road Baptist Church, Mary Pearce from St Catharine's Church, and Bruce Clifford from the Christian Leaders' Network share their experiences of Praying for Gloucester.

¶ *Listening to God's Word*

Scripture Reading

*Read by Emma Williams
from The Church of God of Prophecy*

A reading from the Gospel of Luke.

When Jesus came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to set free those who are oppressed,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.”

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

4.16-21

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Address

*Given by The Reverend Dr John McNeill
Gloucestershire Methodist Circuit*

We stand to sing



**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.**

**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.**

*Words, Stuart Townend 1963- and Keith Getty 1974-
Tune, IN CHRIST ALONE; Stuart Townend 1963- and Keith Getty 1974-*

We sit.

Prayers

Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

Jeremiah 29.7

The people's prayers for the city are presented, while Yas Poole sings.

Stuart Clarke from Brunswick Baptist Church says

Heavenly Father, as we approach Pentecost, let your Holy Spirit come afresh on us, to proclaim good news among those who've not yet heard; to bring new sight to the blinkered, new joy to the sad, comfort to the broken hearted, freedom to the addicted, light to those in darkness; and to focus on the story of the life of Jesus, and grow to become more like Christ - as his body.

Your kingdom come.

All **Your will be done.**

Jeshurun Newton from St Barnabas says

Let us pray for those who are elected to public office in our city...

May peace abound and righteousness flourish,
that we may vanquish injustice and wrong:

Your kingdom come.

All **Your will be done.**

Hilary Cass from St James and All Saints with Christ Church says

Let us pray for those who make their living in our city...

May your people know the dignity of their identity in Christ
that they may know peace in their word, rest and leisure:

Your kingdom come.

All Your will be done.

Christy Reji from Emmanuel Family Church says

Let us pray for the young people of our city...

May the children come to you
that they may not be afraid:

Your kingdom come.

All Your will be done.

Jane Orr from St Catharine's says

Let us pray for those in our communities affected by mental health
problems and those who work with them...

May your healing oil sooth anguish
and may all come to recognise your affirming love:
Your kingdom come.

All Your will be done.

Donna Adlington from The Salvation Army says

Let us pray for those who are homeless and for safe streets...

Help us to proclaim the good news of salvation,
and grant us the needful gifts of your grace:

Your kingdom come.

All Your will be done.

A Responsive Lord's Prayer

Our Father in Heaven,

All **remind us constantly that you are parent to all your children,
whoever, or wherever they are or come from.**

Hallowed be your name.

Your Kingdom come,

All **establishing peace and justice, hope and life for all peoples.**

Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

All **Disturb us into awareness of the needs of others.**

Forgive us our sins,

All **our pride and our prejudices.**

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation,

All **Especially keep our hearts and minds open
to see the good in others.**

Deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom,

All **just and true,**

the power,

All **gentle and fair,**

and the glory,

All **shot through with the colours of love,**

are yours for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

¶ *Going Out to Serve God*

We stand to sing



**Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won;
angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.**

***Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.***

**Lo, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
for her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting:**

**No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of Life;
life is naught without thee: aid us in our strife;
make us more than conquerors through thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above:**

*Words, French, 19th century, Edmund Budry 1854-1932
tr. Richard Hoyle 1875-1939
Tune, MACCABAEUS; G. F. Handel 1685-1759*

Commission

The Christian leaders stand, and the people pray for them

All 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 those whom you have called to lead us,
that in their vocation and ministry
each may be an instrument of your love,
and give to your servants 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.
Amen.

The Dean invites us all to affirm our baptismal call

Those who are baptized are called to worship and serve God.
Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

All With the help of God, I will.

Will you persevere in resisting evil,
and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

All With the help of God, I will.

Will you proclaim by word and example
the good news of God in Christ?

All With the help of God, I will.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all people,
loving your neighbour as yourself?

All With the help of God, I will.

Will you acknowledge Christ's authority over human society,
by prayer for the world and its leaders,
by defending the weak, and by seeking peace and justice?

All With the help of God, I will.

May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith,
that you may be rooted and grounded in love
and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit.

All Amen.

Blessing

God who has called you is faithful.
May the Father, whose glory fills the heavens,
cleanse you by his holiness
and send you to proclaim his word.

All **Amen.**

May Christ, who has ascended to the heights,
pour upon you the riches of his grace.

All **Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit, the comforter,
equip you and strengthen you in your ministry.

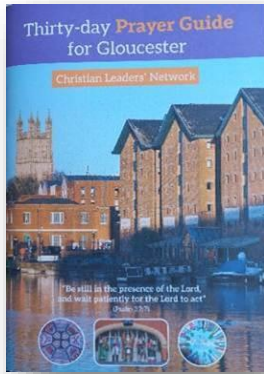
All **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty,
✙ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

All are warmly welcome to join us in our daily celebration of Holy Communion, which will take place in the Nave shortly and will last for around 25 minutes.

To help you continue praying for Gloucester:



*Take a Prayer Guide
(copies are available
to take as you leave)*

*Scan the QR code for
the prayer-walking app
that covers every street*



For more information and prayer resources go to: pray4gloucester.uk

What Next? *As you go home, you may like to ask how God might be calling you to help grow unity, by for example praying or studying or worshipping or working together with other Christians in your community.*

Grateful thanks *to the Dean and Chapter of Gloucester Cathedral for hosting today's service; to The Salvation Army Band, led by Bandmaster Phil Webb; to all who have shared in leading; and those who have contributed to the planning and praying, those who have taken part behind the scenes, and to all who have come and shared in the event. God bless you all.*



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