



FESTAL EVENSONG

with the Signing of an Ecumenical Commitment for Christian Unity

Sunday 24 November 2024 at 3.30 pm

The Feast of Christ the King



Our Ecumenical Commitment for Christian Unity

Together in Christ, Bound by Love, Serving as One

Inspired by the prayer of Christ for unity, we, as Churches Together in Norfolk and Waveney, strive to embody the spirit of ecumenism.

Together in Christ

With open hearts and minds, we share a commitment to foster a harmonious and loving Christian Community that transcends denominational boundaries.

Bound by Love

By respecting and valuing each other's traditions and beliefs, we seek to foster a spirit of collaboration in spreading the message of God's love to all.

Serving as One

In this spirit of togetherness, we are living out the Gospel's call to serve, uplift and support all who live, work and visit Norfolk and Waveney. As fellow pilgrims we support one another as we journey together in faith and prayer.

Our Priorities

There are five main priorities to achieve our ecumenical commitment:

1. Sharing friendship and understanding.
2. Sharing prayer, deepening our communion with Christ and proclaiming the Gospel.
3. Helping the lost and vulnerable, and serving those who suffer poverty and disadvantage.
4. Speaking with one voice in common witness whenever we are able to do so.
5. As an intermediate body of Churches Together in England, play a full part in supporting its aims and objectives.

"I pray not only for them, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, so that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me." (Jn 17:20-21)

Together in Christ, Bound by Love, Serving as One

Church Leaders Declaration of Commitment for Christian Unity

As Leaders of Churches Together in Norfolk and Waveney we acknowledge with thankfulness:

- ❖ Our common faith in the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- ❖ Our common call to serve in God's mission.
- ❖ The diversity of our traditions and the different gifts each brings to our common life.

We rejoice in the partnership of trust and cooperation that has grown between us over recent years. We believe we are called by God to share our life more deeply, and to offer to the world a united witness and a shared service. We believe that we have been led by the Holy Spirit to make this public commitment, and as fellow pilgrims we declare to:

- ❖ Worship, pray, study and work together for the unity and mission of the Church to proclaim the Gospel to all.
- ❖ Consult together on issues affecting the common good.
- ❖ Whenever possible speak with one voice in common witness.
- ❖ Share resources wherever possible.
- ❖ Make available guidance and support to our Local Ecumenical Partnerships, Churches Together Groups, and all other ecumenical projects/ agencies in Norfolk and Waveney.
- ❖ Provide visible and positive leadership in support of these commitments.

We invite all Christians in Norfolk and Waveney to support us in this declaration to which we now commit ourselves, in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

SIGNED BY THE FOLLOWING ON THE FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING, 24TH NOVEMBER 2024, IN NORWICH CATHEDRAL	
The Revd Helen Hollands Chair in East Anglia Methodist District	
Major Howard Russell East of England Divisional Commander for the Salvation Army	
Liz Hoffbauer The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)	
The Revd Lythan Nevard Moderator for the Eastern Synod URC	
The Revd David Mayne Regional Minister Team Leader for the Eastern Baptist Association	
The Rt Revd Peter Collins Roman Catholic Bishop of East Anglia	
The Rt Revd Graham Usher Church of England Bishop of Norwich	

We welcome you to this service of Festal Evensong at Norwich Cathedral on the Feast of Christ the King.

This service is sung by the Cathedral Choir with the Lay Clerks and Choral Scholars. It is the choir alone that sings most of the service, but everyone is invited to participate through a sympathetic attention and prayerfulness. As the choir sings out loud, we all can sing God's praises in the quiet of our hearts.

The directions for posture throughout the liturgy are for guidance; if standing or kneeling is difficult, please feel free to remain seated.

Please may we remind you not to leave bags, including handbags, unattended in the Cathedral. Thank you.

Norwich Cathedral is committed to safeguarding all worshipers, visitors, and staff. If you have any concerns, please refer to the notices at each entrance door which give details of how to voice your concerns, or visit <http://cathedral.org.uk/safeguarding/>.

At the beginning of the service, please stand at the entrance of the choir and clergy.

Please note that this service is livestreamed.

At 3.25pm, please stand as the Lord Mayor and a representative of His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant are escorted to their seats.



For reasons of safeguarding and copyright, sound, video or photographic recording of this service is not permitted



THE VERSICLES AND RESPONSES

The setting by Kenneth Leighton

Precentor O Lord, open thou our lips.

Choir And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

Precentor O God, make speed to save us.

Choir O Lord, make haste to help us.

Precentor Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:
and to the Holy Ghost;

Choir As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.

Precentor Praise ye the Lord.

Choir The Lord's Name be praised.

WELCOME *The Bishop of Norwich, The Right Revd Graham Usher, welcomes the congregation and introduces the service*

OFFICE HYMN

Tune: Aurelia



All **The Church's one foundation
Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
She is his new creation
By water and the word:
From heaven he came and sought her
To be his holy Bride,
With his own blood he bought her,
And for her life he died.**

**Elect from every nation,
Yet one o'er all the earth,
Her charter of salvation
One Lord, one faith, one birth;
One holy name she blesses,
Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses
With every grace endued.**

**'Mid toil, and tribulation,
And tumult of her war,
She waits the consummation
Of peace for evermore;
Till with the vision glorious
Her longing eyes are blest,
And the great Church victorious
Shall be the Church at rest.**

**Yet she on earth hath union
With God the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion
With those whose rest is won:
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we
Like them, the meek and lowly,
On high may dwell with thee.**

Words by Samuel Stone (1839-1900)

Sit

THE SIGNING OF THE ECUMENICAL COMMITMENT FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

*Liz Hoffbauer, convener of Churches Together in Norfolk and Waveney,
introduces the signing of the covenant*

During the signing of the document we remain seated to sing:

HYMN

Tune: Be Still



All **Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here.
Come, bow before him now, with reverence and fear.
In him no sin is found, we stand on holy ground.
Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here.**

**Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around;
He burns with holy fire, with splendour he is crowned.
How awesome is the sight, our radiant King of light!
Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.**

**Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.
He comes to cleanse and heal, to minister his grace.
No work too hard for him, in faith receive from him;
Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.**

*Words by David Evans (b.1957)
© Thankyou Music*

PRAYERS FOR CHURCH UNITY

Prayers for the unity of all Christian people are led by:

The Rt Revd Peter Collins, Bishop of East Anglia

The Revd David Mayne, Regional Minister Team Leader for the Eastern Baptist Association

The Revd Lythan Nevard, Moderator for the Eastern Synod URC

Major Howard Russell, East of England Divisional Commander for the Salvation Army

Dr Ian Watson, County Ecumenical Officer

The response is used:

All **Jesus, Lord of the Church,
in your mercy, hear us.**

PSALM 133

Choir Behold, how good and joyful a thing it is brethren,
to dwell together in unity!
It is like the precious ointment upon the head,
that ran down un-to the beard:
even unto Aaron's beard,
and went down to the skirts of his clothing.
Like as the dew of Hermon:
which fell up-on the hill of Sion.
For there the Lord promised his blessing:
and life for ever-more.

Stand Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:
and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.

Sit

THE FIRST LESSON: *Daniel 5* read by *The Revd Helen Hollands, Chair of East Anglia Methodist District*

At the end silence is kept for a short time for reflection.

Stand

THE MAGNIFICAT *the Chichester service setting by William Walton*

Choir

My soul doth magnify the Lord:
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
For he hath regarded:
the lowliness of his hand-maiden.
For behold, from henceforth: all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me: and holy is his Name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him:
throughout all generations. He hath shewed strength with his arm:
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat:
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things:
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel:
as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.

Sit

THE SECOND LESSON: *John 6.1-15* read by *The Dean of Norwich, The Very Revd Dr Andrew Braddock*

At the end silence is kept for a short time for reflection.

Stand

THE NUNC DIMITTIS *the Chichester service setting by William Walton*

Choir Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace:
according to thy word. For mine eyes have seen:
thy salvation; which thou hast prepared:
before the face of all people; to be a light to lighten the Gentiles:
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Minister I believe in God
All **the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
Born of the Virgin Mary,
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, dead, and buried;
He descended into hell;
The third day he rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
And sitteth on the right hand of God
the Father Almighty;
From thence he shall come to judge the quick
and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost;
The holy Catholick Church;
The communion of saints;
The forgiveness of sins;
The resurrection of the body,
And the life everlasting.
Amen.**

THE PRAYERS

The setting by Kenneth Leighton

Precentor The Lord be with you

Choir And with thy spirit.

Precentor Let us pray.

Kneel or sit

Choir Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Our Father, which art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name;

thy kingdom come; thy will be done;

in earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive them that trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation;

but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Precentor O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

Choir And grant us thy salvation.

Precentor O Lord, save the King.

Choir And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Precentor Endue thy Ministers with righteousness.

Choir And make thy chosen people joyful.

Precentor O Lord, save thy people.

Choir And bless thine inheritance.

Precentor Give peace in our time, O Lord.

Choir Because there is none other that fighteth for us,
but only thou, O God.

Precentor O God, make clean our hearts within us.

Choir And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

There follow three Collects: the first for the day, the second for Peace, and the third for Aid against all Perils.

THE ANTHEM *Let all the world*

Choir Let all the world in every corner sing,
My God and King!
The heavens are not too high,
His praise may thither fly;
The earth is not too low,
His praises there may grow.
Let all the world in every corner sing,
My God and King!

Let all the world in every corner sing,
My God and King!
The Church with psalms must shout,
No door can keep them out;
But above all, the heart
Must bear the longest part.
Let all the world in every corner sing,
My God and King!

Words by George Herbert (1593-1633)
Music by Kenneth Leighton (1929-88)

THE SERMON *The Right Revd Mike Royal, General Secretary of Churches Together in England (CTE), Apostolic Pastoral Congress's Diocesan Bishop of the Inner Birmingham Diocese, and Bishop for Social Engagement Strategies*

Stand
HYMN

Tune: Guiting power

during which a collection is taken, and the clergy move to the High Altar



All Christ triumphant, ever reigning,
Saviour, Master, King,
Lord of heaven, our lives sustaining,
Hear us as we sing:

*Yours the glory and the crown,
The high renown, the eternal name.*

**Word incarnate, truth revealing,
Son of Man on earth!
Power and majesty concealing
By your humble birth:**

**Suffering servant, scorned, ill-treated,
Victim crucified!
Death is through the cross defeated,
Sinners justified:**

**Priestly King, enthroned for ever
High in heaven above!
Sin and death and hell shall never
Stifle hymns of love:**

**So, our hearts and voices raising
Through the ages long,
Ceaselessly upon you gazing,
This shall be our song:**

*Words by Michael Saward (1932-2015)
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RESPONSORY

Precentor Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Choir Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David.

Precentor Let us pray:
O Christ, the king of glory,
who through the everlasting gates
didst ascend to thy Father's throne,
and open the kingdom of heaven to all believers:
grant that, whilst thou dost reign in heaven,
we may not be bowed down to the things of the earth,
but that our hearts may be lifted up
whither thou, our redemption, art gone before; who with
the Father and the Holy Spirit livest and reignest,
one God, world without end.
Choir Amen.

We remain standing as the Dean of Norwich gives the Blessing:

THE BLESSING

Christ our King make you faithful and strong to do his will,
that you may reign with him in glory;
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 *sung by the Precentor and Choir*

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Allegro from Symphonie No. 2 by Louis Vierne (1870-1937)

Transformed by Christ

Prayerful

Pastoral

Prophetic