



THE CATHEDRAL AND METROPOLITICAL CHURCH OF CHRIST, CANTERBURY

Choral Evensong

**for St Michael and All Angels, with the blessing
and dedication of the newly restored Angel
Frieze in the Chapel of Our Lady Martyrdom**



St Michael and All Angels

29th September 2024

5.30pm

Quire

Welcome to Canterbury Cathedral for this Service

The project to restore the Angel Freize in the chapel of our Lady Martyrdom began more than 50 years ago. To complete this work four new carved stone Angels have been carefully installed into a historic frieze in Canterbury Cathedral's magnificent 15th-century Chapel of our Lady Martyrdom. The newly-carved figures by artist Nina Bilbey sit alongside five surviving historic carvings, replacing plain stone that was installed in the 1970s to fill areas that had been damaged in the late 17th century when four of the original angel carvings were obliterated by a wall-mounted monument. This restoration project, enabled by an anonymous donor, means that for the first time in nearly 400 years that all nine angels are intact and visible in the Chapel.

The almost 4m wide frieze – a broad horizontal band of stone decoration - is a prominent feature of the Chapel of our Lady Martyrdom (also known as The Deans' Chapel), and forms part of the main east wall, sited directly below the sill of the Chapel's East Window. The frieze, as with the wider Chapel, was originally constructed in Caen stone from Normandy, and there is evidence from surviving paint traces that the angels would once have had a richly coloured polychromatic scheme.

Our Lady Martyrdom is one of the most regularly used Chapels for daily prayer at the Cathedral; holding Morning Prayer (Matins) and Said Holy Communion throughout the week. Reserved for private prayer throughout the day, it is not on the main visitor route, but is visible through the gate and stone screen. The motivation of the frieze renovation project was liturgical, with the importance of the use of the space for worship a priority. The previous patched frieze was stark and intrusive to those worshipping within and observing the Chapel, as it was out of keeping with the rest of the circa 15th Century design. There was very little evidence left of the features of the four original angels so, although the new carvings could not be exactly matched to the historic scheme, they have been thoughtfully designed so as to harmonize with the remaining historic carvings.

The Dean of Canterbury, David Monteith, said: *"I am delighted that this careful studied work of restoration is complete, using the highest artistry and scholarship to achieve this 21st century intervention in such a historic site. Our earthly worship connects us with the worship of heaven, often described as involving so many angels. We will take inspiration from these new carvings to offer our own heartfelt praise, joining with the song of the angels."*

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The Book of Common Prayer (1662)

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ORDER OF SERVICE

All stand as the choir and clergy enter the Quire

Introit

Factum est silentium in caelo,
Dum committeret bellum draco cum
Michaele Archangelo. Audita est vox
millia millium dicentium: Salus, honor
et virtus omnipotenti Deo.
Millia millium ministrabant ei et
decies centena millia assistebant ei.
Alleluia.

*There was silence in heaven
When the dragon fought with the
Archangel Michael. The voice of
thousands of thousands was heard
saying: Salvation, honour and power
be to almighty God. Thousands of
thousands ministered to him and ten
hundreds of thousands stood before
him. Alleluia.*

Words: Motet for the feast of Michael the Archangel

Music: Richard Dering (c. 1580-1630)

A welcome is offered

*The Cantor and choir sing the **Preces***

O Lord, open thou our lips
and our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

O God, make speed to save us.
O Lord, make haste to help us.

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.*

Praise ye the Lord.
The Lord's name be praised.

Music: William Byrd (c. 1540-1623)

Sit as the choir sings

Psalms 138, 148

Psalm 138

I will give thanks unto thee, O Lord, with my whole heart :
even before the gods will I sing praise unto thee.

I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy Name,
because of thy loving-kindness and truth :
for thou hast magnified thy Name and thy word above all things.

When I called upon thee, thou heardest me :
and enduedst my soul with much strength.

All the kings of the earth shall praise thee, O Lord :
for they have heard the words of thy mouth.

Yea, they shall sing in the ways of the Lord :
that great is the glory of the Lord.

For though the Lord be high, yet hath he respect unto the lowly :
as for the proud, he beholdeth them afar off.

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, yet shalt thou refresh me :
thou shalt stretch forth thy hand upon the furiousness of mine enemies,
and thy right hand shall save me.

The Lord shall make good his loving-kindness toward me :
yea, thy mercy, O Lord, endureth for ever;
despise not then the works of thine own hands.

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.

Psalm 148

O praise the Lord of heaven :
praise him in the height.

Praise him, all ye angels of his :
praise him, all his host.

Praise him, sun and moon :
praise him, all ye stars and light.

Praise him, all ye heavens :
and ye waters that are above the heavens.

Let them praise the Name of the Lord :
for he spake the word, and they were made;
he commanded, and they were created.

He hath made them fast for ever and ever :
he hath given them a law which shall not be broken.

Praise the Lord upon earth :
ye dragons, and all deeps;

Fire and hail, snow and vapours :
wind and storm, fulfilling his word;

Mountains and all hills :
fruitful trees and all cedars;

Beasts and all cattle :
worms and feathered fowls;

Kings of the earth and all people :
princes and all judges of the world;

Young men and maidens, old men and children, praise the Name of the Lord :
for his Name only is excellent, and his praise above heaven and earth.

He shall exalt the horn of his people; all his saints shall praise him :
even the children of Israel, even the people that serveth him.

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

Old Testament Reading

Daniel 10.4-21

On the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was standing on the bank of the great river (that is, the Tigris), I looked up and saw a man clothed in linen, with a belt of gold from Uphaz around his waist. His body was like beryl, his face like lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and the sound of his words like the roar of a multitude. I, Daniel, alone saw the vision; the people who were with me did not see the vision, though a great trembling fell upon them, and they fled and hid themselves. So I was left alone to see this great vision. My strength left me, and my complexion grew deathly pale, and I retained no strength. Then I heard the sound of his words; and when I heard the sound of his words, I fell into a trance, face to the ground.

But then a hand touched me and roused me to my hands and knees. He said to me, 'Daniel, greatly beloved, pay attention to the words that I am going to speak to you. Stand on your feet, for I have now been sent to you.' So while he was speaking this word to me, I stood up trembling. He said to me, 'Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words have been heard, and I have come because of your words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia opposed me for twenty-one days. So Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, and I left him there with the prince of the kingdom of Persia, and have come to help you understand what is to happen to your people at the end of days. For there is a further vision for those days.'

While he was speaking these words to me, I turned my face towards the ground and was speechless. Then one in human form touched my lips, and I opened my mouth to speak, and said to the one who stood before me, 'My lord, because of the vision such pains have come upon me that I retain no strength. How can my lord's servant talk with my lord? For I am shaking, no strength remains in me, and no breath is left in me.'

Again one in human form touched me and strengthened me. He said, 'Do not fear, greatly beloved, you are safe. Be strong and courageous!' When he spoke to me, I was strengthened and said, 'Let my lord speak, for you have strengthened me.' Then he said, 'Do you know why I have come to you? Now I must return to fight against the prince of Persia, and when I am through with him, the prince of Greece will come. But I am to tell you what is inscribed in the book of truth. There is no one with me who contends against these princes except Michael, your prince.'

Stand as the choir sings

Magnificat

My soul doth magnify the Lord :
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
For he hath regarded :
the lowliness of his handmaiden.
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.

Music: Arvo Pärt (b. 1935)

Sit

New Testament Reading

Revelation 5

Then I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll written on the inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals; and I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, 'Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?' And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it. And I began to weep bitterly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. Then one of the elders said to me, 'Do not weep. See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.'

Then I saw between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders a Lamb standing as if it had been slaughtered, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. He went and took the scroll from the right hand of the one who was seated on the throne. When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. They sing a new song: 'You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God saints from every tribe and language and people and nation; you have made them to be a kingdom and priests serving our God, and they will reign on earth.'

Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, singing with full voice,
'Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might
and honour and glory and blessing!'
Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing,
'To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb
be blessing and honour and glory and might
for ever and ever!'
And the four living creatures said, 'Amen!' And the elders fell down and worshipped.

Stand as the choir sings

Nunc Dimittis

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.

Music: Amy Summers (b. 1996)

Turn East and say together the

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God 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 catholic Church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The Cantor and choir sing the **Versicles and Responses**

The Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.

Sit or kneel

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil. Amen.*

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.
And grant us thy salvation.

O Lord, save the King.
And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Endue thy ministers with righteousness.
And make thy chosen people joyful.

O Lord, save thy people.
And bless thine inheritance.

Give peace in our time, O Lord.
*Because there is none other that fighteth for us,
but only thou, O God.*

O God, make clean our hearts within us.
And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

Music: William Byrd (c. 1540-1623)

The Collects

O everlasting God, who hast ordained and constituted the services of Angels and men in a wonderful order: Mercifully grant that, as thy holy Angels always do thee service in heaven, so by thy appointment they may succour and defend us on earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed; give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that both, our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that, by thee, we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. *Amen.*

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Sit as the choir sings the Anthem. During the Anthem, the Chapter and members of the Cathedral Fabric Advisory Committee will go in procession to the chapel of Our Lady Martyrdom.

When the procession has arrived in the Chapel of our Lady Martyrdom the Dean leads the litany

The Litany to The Holy Angels

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

God the Father of heaven,

have mercy on us.

God the Son, Redeemer of the World,

have mercy on us.

God the Holy Spirit,

have mercy on us.

Saint Michael, who was ever the defender of the people of God,

pray for us.

Saint Gabriel, who announced to Blessed Mary the Incarnation of the Divine Word,

pray for us.

Saint Raphael, who restored sight to the blind,

pray for us.

All you holy Angels, who stand around the high and lofty throne of God,

pray for us.

Who cry to him continually: Holy, Holy, Holy,

pray for us.

Who dispel the darkness of our minds and give us light,

pray for us.

Who are the messengers of heavenly things to all people,

pray for us.

Who have been appointed by God to be our guardians,

pray for us.

Who always behold the Face of our Father who is in Heaven,

pray for us.

Who rejoice over one sinner that repents,

pray for us.

Who brought good tidings when Christ was born,

pray for us.

Who comforted him in His agony,

pray for us.

Who sat in white garments at his sepulchre,

pray for us.

Who appeared to the disciples as he went up into Heaven,

pray for us.

Who shall go before him bearing the standard of the Cross when he comes to judgment,

pray for us.

Who offer to God the prayers of those who pray,

pray for us.

Who assist us at the hour of death,

pray for us.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Bless the Lord, all you Angels:

You that are mighty in strength, that fulfil his commandments, and listen to the voice of his words.

Amen

Let us pray

O God, who in your mercy send your Angels to keep guard over us, grant that we may be continually defended by their protection

and may rejoice eternally in their company,

through Jesus Christ Our Lord,

Who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

on God now and forever

Amen.

The Dean censes the Frieze and then says the prayer of blessing

Blessing of the Angel Freize

Almighty God, who in the ministries of the angels and the lives of the saints show us something of your glory upon earth, bless + we pray the image of these angels and grant that as we look upon them we may be reminded of the virtues and holiness of the angels and be inspired by them to seek your will in all things. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The Angel Frieze is sprinkled with holy water before the party return to the Cathedral Quire.

The procession will then return to the Quire. After the service, there will be an opportunity for members of the congregation to view the frieze in the chapel.

Anthem

Michael, Michael,

Archangel of the King of Kings.

Give ear to our voices.

We acknowledge thee to be the

Prince of the citizens of heaven:

And at thy prayer God sends His angels unto men,

That the enemy with cunning craft shall not prevail.
To do the hurt he craves
To weary men.
Yea, thou hast the dominion of perpetual Paradise,
And ever do the holy angels honour thee.
Thou wast seen in the Temple of God,
A censer of gold in thy hands,
And the smoke of it fragrant with spices
Rose up till it came before God.
Thou with strong hand didst smite the cruel dragon,
And many souls didst rescue from his jaws.
Then was there a great silence in heav'n,
And a thousand thousand saying 'Glory, to the Lord King'.
Hear us, Michael,
Hear us, Greatest angel,
Come down a little
From thy high seat,
To bring us the strength of God
And the light'ning of His mercy.
And do thou, Gabriel,
Lay low our foes,
And thou, Raphael,
Heal our sick,
Purge our disease,
Heal our sick,
Ease our pain.
And give us to share
In the joys of the blessed.

Words: Medieval Latin by Alcuin of York (c. 735-804)
Translated by Helen Waddell (1889-1965)

Music: Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

Sit or Kneel

Prayers *concluding with*

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all evermore. Amen.**

Stand to sing

Hymn *during which a collection is taken*

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How shall I sing that majesty
 which angels do admire?
 Let dust in dust and silence lie;
 sing, sing, ye heavenly choir.
 Thousands of thousands stand around
 thy throne, O God most high;
 ten thousand times ten thousand sound
 thy praise; but who am I?

³Enlighten with faith's light my heart,
 inflame it with love's fire;
 then shall I sing and bear a part
 with that celestial choir.
 I shall, I fear, be dark and cold,
 with all my fire and light;
 yet when thou dost accept their gold,
 Lord, treasure up my mite.

²Thy brightness unto them appears,
 whilst I thy footsteps trace;
 a sound of God comes to my ears,
 but they behold thy face.
 They sing, because thou art their Sun;
 Lord, send a beam on me;
 for where heaven is but once begun
 there alleluias be.

⁴How great a being, Lord, is thine,
 which doth all beings keep!
 Thy knowledge is the only line
 to sound so vast a deep.
 Thou art a sea without a shore,
 a sun without a sphere;
 thy time is now and evermore,
 thy place is everywhere.

Words: John Mason (c 1645-94)

Tune: COE FEN

AM 663

Remain standing for

The Blessing

God keep you in the fellowship of his saints;
 Christ protect you by the ministry of the angels;
 the Spirit make you holy in God's service;
 and the blessing of God almighty,
 the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
 be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

All remain standing as the choir and clergy depart

Organ Voluntary