SOUTHWARK ◆ CATHEDRAL ◆

Choral Eucharist

The First Sunday of Advent



Sunday 27 November 2022 11.00am

Welcome to Southwark Cathedral

a member of the



Electronic devices

Please ensure that all mobile phones and other electronic devices are turned off.

Photography

No photos, videos or recordings may be taken during the service.

Hearing Loop

Please switch your device to 'T'.

Collection

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Setting • Mass for Five Voices William Byrd (c.1540-1623)

Cover image: 'heart-cross-anchor', photograph by Nheyob

from **Wikimedia Commons** [retrieved November 23, 2022]. Original source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Saint_Teresa_of_the_Child_Jesus_Catholic_Church_(Springfield,_Ohio)_-_stained_glass,_heart-cross-anchor.JPG

Music before the Service

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, BWV 645 by J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Please stand as the procession enters.

Hymn

NEH 11

O come, O come, Emmanuel! Redeem thy captive Israel That into exile drear is gone, Far from the face of God's dear Son.

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee. O Israel.

O come, thou Wisdom from on high! Who madest all in earth and sky, Creating man from dust and clay: To us reveal salvation's way.

O come, O come, Adonaï, Who in thy glorious majesty From Sinai's mountain clothed in awe, Gavest thy folk the ancient Law.

O come, thou Root of Jesse! draw The quarry from the lion's claw; From those dread caverns of the grave, From nether hell, thy people save.

O Come, thou Lord of David's Key! The royal door fling wide and free; Safeguard for us the heavenward road, And bar the way to death's abode.

O come, O come, thou Dayspring bright! Pour on our souls thy healing light; Dispel the long night's lingering gloom, And pierce the shadows of the tomb. O Come, Desire of Nations! show Thy kingly reign on earth below; Thou Corner-stone, uniting all, Restore the ruin of our fall. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.

Tune: Veni Emmanuel adapted from a French Missal by Thomas Helmore (1811-1890)

Text:
Cologne 1710, based on the
ancient Advent Antiphons
trans. T. A. Lacey (1853-1931) et al.

The Gathering

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

The Lord be with you.

All and also with you.

The President welcomes the congregation and introduces the lighting of the first candle on our Advent Crown. When the candle is lit, the following prayer is said:

God of Abraham and Sarah, and all the patriarchs of old, you are our Father too.
Your love is revealed to us in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of David.
Help us in preparing to celebrate his birth to make our hearts ready for your Holy Spirit to make his home among us.
We ask this through Jesus Christ, the light who is coming into the world.

All Amen.

Prayers of Penitence

'The axe is laid at the root of the trees; every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down.'

But confident in God's mercy, let us confess our sins.

AII Father eternal, giver of light and grace, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour, in what we have thought, in what we have said and done. through ignorance, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We have wounded your love and marred your image in us. We are sorry and ashamed, and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us. forgive us all that is past; and lead us out from darkness to walk as children of light. Amen.

Kyrie Eleison

Sung by the Choir in Greek.

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

The Absolution

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The Collect

Let us pray.

Almighty God,

give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light,

now in the time of this mortal life,

in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day,

when he shall come again in his glorious majesty

to judge the living and the dead,

we may rise to the life immortal;

through him who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

All Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

Please sit.

First Reading

Isaiah 2.1-5

Read by members of Junior Xpress

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come

the mountain of the LORD's house

shall be established as the highest of the mountains,

and shall be raised above the hills;

all the nations shall stream to it.

Many peoples shall come and say,

'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,

to the house of the God of Jacob;

that he may teach us his ways

and that we may walk in his paths.'

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

The Advent Prose

The response is:



Drop down, ye hea-vens, from a-bove,* and let the skies pour down right-eous-ness.

Be not wroth very sore, O Lord, neither remember iniquity forever: thy holy cities are a wilderness, Sion is a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation: our holy and our beautiful house, where our fathers praised thee. **R**

We have sinned, and are as an unclean thing, and we all do fade as a leaf: and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away: thou hast hid thy face from us: and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities. **R**



Drop down, ye hea-vens, from a-bove,* and let the skies pour down right-eous-ness.

Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know me and believe me: I, even I, am the Lord, and beside me there is no Saviour: and there is none that can deliver out of my hand. **R**

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, my salvation shall not tarry:
I have blotted out as a thick cloud thy transgressions: Fear not, for I will save thee: For I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Redeemer. **R**

Second Reading

Romans 13.11-13a

Read by members of Junior Xpress

A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Romans.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; let us live honourably as in the day.

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

The Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

All Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

All Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Matthew 24.36-44

The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said, 'But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Please sit.

Sermon

The Dean of Southwark

The Creed

Please stand.

All We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

Please sit or kneel.

Prayers of Intercession

Led by Sarah Mann

These responses may be used:

Lord, in your mercy,

All hear our prayer.

(or)

Lord, hear us.

All Lord, graciously hear us.

And at the end:

Merciful Father,

All accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Please stand.

The Peace

ΑII

In the tender mercy of our God, the dayspring from on high shall break upon us, to give light to those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

A collection is received during the hymn.

Hymn

NEH 16

Sion hears the watchmen shouting,
Her heart leaps up with joy undoubting,
She stands and waits with eager eyes;
See her Friend from heaven descending,
Adorned with truth and grace unending!
Her light burns clear, her star doth rise.
Now come, thou precious Crown,
Lord Jesu. God's own Son!

Hosanna!
Let us prepare
To follow there,
Where in thy supper we may share.

Every soul in thee rejoices;

From men and from angelic voices

Be glory given to thee alone!

Now the gates of pearl receive us,

Thy presence never more shall leave us,

We stand with Angels round thy throne.

Earth cannot give below

The bliss thou dost bestow.

Alleluya!

Grant us to raise,

To length of days,

The triumph-chorus of thy praise.

Tune: Wachet Auf Text:

Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608)

Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608)

arr. J. S. Bach (1685-1750) trans. F. C. Burkitt (1865-1935)

Please remain standing.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right,

it is our duty and our joy,

at all times and in all places

to give you thanks and praise,

holy Father, heavenly King,

almighty and eternal God,

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

And now we give you thanks

because you sent him to redeem us from sin and death

and to make us inheritors of everlasting life;

that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world,

we may with joy behold his appearing,

and in confidence may stand before him.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and saying:

The Choir sings, in Latin:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth, heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The President continues:

Accept our praises, heavenly Father, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, and as we follow his example and obey his command, grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these gifts of bread and wine may be to us his body and his blood:

who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

All Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life:
Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Accept through him, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of thanks and praise, and as we eat and drink these holy gifts in the presence of your divine majesty, renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love and unite us in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

All Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for ever and ever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Awaiting his coming in glory, 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.

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

All Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.

Invitation to Communion

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

All Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.

Please follow the directions of the Stewards. If you wish to receive from the chalice please go to the point of administration after receiving the host. Please do not dip the host into the chalice. If you would like to receive a blessing please bow your head.

During the distribution, the Choir sings, in Latin:

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.

Followed by:

Anthem • Adam lay ybounden

Music: Boris Ord (1897-1961)

Text: unknown, Middle English

Adam lay ybounden, Bounden in a bond; Four thousand winter Thought he not too long.

And all was for an apple, An apple that he took. As clerkës finden written In their book.

Ne had the apple taken been, The apple taken been, Ne had never Our Lady, A-been heavené queen.

Blessed be the time That apple taken was! Therefore we moun singen Deo gracias!

(Thanks be to God!)

Prayer after Communion

Please stand.

Let us pray.

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

All Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory, Amen.

Please sit.

Notices

The Blessing

Please stand.

The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, scatter the darkness from before your path, and make you ready to meet him when he comes 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.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ, Amen.

Hymn

NEH 9

Lo! he comes with clouds descending, Once for favoured sinners slain; Thousand thousand saints attending Swell the triumph of his train: Alleluya!

God appears, on earth to reign.

Every eye shall now behold him
Robed in dreadful majesty;
Those who set at nought and sold him,
Pierced and nailed him to the tree,
Deeply wailing
Shall the true Messiah see.

Those dear tokens of his passion Still his dazzling body bears, Cause of endless exultation To his ransomed worshippers: With what rapture Gaze we on those glorious scars!

Yea, Amen! let all adore thee, High on thine eternal throne; Saviour, take the power and glory: Claim the kingdom for thine own: O come quickly! Alleluya! Come, Lord, come!

Tune: Helmsley Thomas Olivers (1725-1799)

Please remain standing.

The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. In the name of Christ. Amen.

Voluntary

Apparition de l'Église Éternelle by Olivier Messiaen (1908-1992)

Please leave the Cathedral by the north-west doors and the Millennium Courtyard. Please consider supporting us by giving using the contactless donation points if you have not set up a regular payment. Thank you for joining us. We look forward to welcoming you back.

Text:

Charles Wesley

(1707-1788)

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Notices

The First Sunday of Advent

Sunday 27 November 2022

Worship

Sunday 27 November The First Sunday of Advent

8.30am Morning Prayer (online & in person)

Officiant The Dean

9.00am Eucharist (in person)

Preacher The Dean

10.55am Choral Eucharist (online & in person)

Preacher The Dean

3.00pm Evening Prayer

Officiant Canon Andrew Zihni, Precentor

6.00pm Advent Procession (online & in person)

Monday 28 November - Friday 2 December

9.00am Morning Prayer (online & in person)

9.30am Eucharist (in person, Tuesday only)

12.30pm Midday Prayer (in person only)

with the Litany of Reconciliation of the Community of

the Cross of Nails (Fridays only)

12.45pm Eucharist (in person only)

5.30pm Choral Evensong or Evening Prayer (in person only)

Saturday 3 December

9.00am Morning Prayer (online & in person)

9.30am Eucharist (in person only)

4.00pm Choral Evensong or Evening Prayer (in person only)

Sunday 4 December

The Second Sunday of Advent

8.30am Morning Prayer (online & in person)

Officiant Canon Jay Colwill, Missioner

9.00am Eucharist (in person)

Preacher Canon Jay Colwill, Missioner

10.55am Choral Eucharist (online & in person)

Preacher Canon Jay Colwill, Missioner

3.00pm Choral Evensong with

The Installation of the Bishop of Croydon

The Installation & Collation of the Archdeacon of

Croydon

The Licensing of Rev'd Anne Stevens

and The Dedication of the Chapel of Reconciliation

Preacher The Bishop of Southwark

6.00pm Compline (online only)

Officiant The Rev'd Dr Thomas Sharp, Succentor

This week we pray for:

Those who are sick

Elisa Logan, Dan Frisch, Helen Shipley, Alan Birss, Neil Clark, Peter Barham, Sue Blenkinsop, Elizabeth Pullen, George Turner, Margaret Lockhart, Mark Smith, Norma Ashe Watt, Rachel Bonnington, Tony Nokling, Bill & Caro Rathbone, Eric Pillinger, Cathy Walker

Sarah Rawlins, Nigel Bachmann, Frances Crunden, Steph Stevenson, June Smith, Graeme Clugston, Linda Scott Garnett, Elizabeth Hall, Olu Adams, Charlotte Davis, Barbara Martin, Terry O'Brien, Dinah Kormi, Harriette Kevill-Davies, Angie Brown, Teddy Thomson-Moore, Duncan Swann, David Southwell, Jo Rumbell, Ann Morisy, David Ives, Ian Ford, Christine Hill, Linda Munt, Jonathan Green, Sr Nan CSF, Gloria Elorriaga Mejia, Soji Temilade, Hugh Preedy, Jean Penney, Godfrey Ashby, Bea Jones, Jean McCarthy, Victoria Vashlynn

Those who have died recently

Elizabeth Ward, Rita Pengelly, Lyn Biggs, Crispin Harrison, Michelle Shipley, Eileen Gillies, Joyce Philipps, Adriana Carrington, Agnes Crandall, Mikki Leach, Elena Neverova

Year's mind

Simon Paul Bailey, John Gerard Murphy, Eddy Moore, Carl I Kopp, Robert Lee, David John Levy, Stephen Edward Bronsdon, Carl Ramsey Al-Uzaizi, Derek Butt, Frederick Busgith

Clergy preaching away

Canon Jeremy Clark-King (St Christopher's, Walworth)

Cathedral listeners

Our team of Cathedral listeners will be on duty following the Choral Eucharist every Sunday. You can find them, ready and waiting in the Retrochoir. If you would like to speak to someone, please go to see them after the service.

If you would like to join our small team of Cathedral listeners, please contact the Sub Dean michael.rawson@southwark.anglican.org

Children and Young Families

Children and young people are an important part of our Cathedral family and play a vital role in our life together. We would love to encourage your children to join one of our Sunday groups for young people.

Crèche

During the 11am Sunday Eucharist, crèche facilities are available in the Harvard Chapel for accompanied children under 4.

Junior Xpress

This group, for children in school years 1 to 6, meets with two adult leaders at 11am on Sundays in the Susanna Barford Room (downstairs from Lancelot's Link) for a programme of stories and activities designed to help them grow in their faith and understanding. They re-join the Cathedral community in church in time for Holy Communion.

A Safe Church

Any issues relating to the safeguarding of children or vulnerable adults should be directed to the Cathedral Safeguarding Officers:

Cherry James cherry.james@southwark.anglican.org

Helen Quintrell hmqmc3@gmail.com

Jill Tilley jill.tilley@southwark.anglican.org

Concerns can be brought to any member of the clergy.

Advent

Advent Procession, Sunday 27 November, 6.00pm

Today we begin the season of Advent. The Advent Procession is a wonderful way to begin. Come and enjoy wonderful seasonal music which takes us from darkness to light.

Advent Study Day, Saturday 17 December, 10.00am - 3.00pm

There will be an Advent Study Day with the Dean at the Cathedral. The day will be based around the Dean's Christmas book, *Bethlehem Bound*, which is available from the Cathedral Shop. Booking details will be available next week.

Live streaming of services - important notice

As you will be well aware we stream a number of services from the Cathedral on a regular basis. This is much appreciated by those who, for a number of reasons, cannot be physically in the Cathedral but want to share in worship here. This was a new element to our witness and life that emerged from the pandemic. We would like to be able to reintroduce some elements of the liturgy that have yet to be restored. In particular, we would like to have the Gospel read from the centre of the nave. This would mean that some members of the congregation would be visible in the livestream, something that we have so far avoided. We are therefore giving notice that we will reintroduce this part of the liturgy from Sunday 4 December. If you would prefer not to be visible please sit in the north transept or at the very edge of the nave seating. We will also be putting a regular notice explaining this in our orders of service.

Robes Winter Night Shelter 2023

We are pleased to announce that the Robes Winter Night Shelter will be operating again next year out of Christchurch, Blackfriars on Friday nights from 6 January until 24 March. We are really grateful for the offers to volunteer we have received so far.

If you would like help, please contact:

Neil (nptryner@gmail.com) or Amanda (amanda.c.hill@googlemail.com).

We will be in touch in the coming weeks to begin firming up safeguarding training needs, registration and availability.

Also, if you can help our guests by donating new socks and underwear for men, please leave them with the clergy or vergers. Your help will make a real difference to our guests.

Robes Sponsored SleepOut

Thank you to all who supported the Robes SleepOut last Friday – those who slept out, all who sponsored them and, not least, Maggie Still and the committee from the congregation who organised the event. Thanks also to Paul Timms and the vergers for making it all possible.

There is still time to sponsor someone who slept out and thereby give your support to this wonderful and much-needed work.

J. S. Bach's Mass in B minor with the Merbecke Choir & Belsize Baroque

Saturday 3 December, 7.00pm

Join us this Advent for the annual Merbecke Choir concert along with the Belsize Baroque and professional soloists on Saturday 3 December. The concert will be preceded at 7pm by a talk by Mark Seow who is a violinist, musicologist, writer and broadcaster. Mark will discuss this choral masterpiece before the concert starts at 7.30pm.

One of the Baroque period's most celebrated choral masterpieces, this Mass was Bach's last major work before he died. Bach composed his Mass in B minor around 1748–49, a year before his death in 1750. Despite its sheer scale and grandeur, Bach didn't even give the work a name, and it exists only as a collection of itinerant manuscripts. Bach never heard the Mass performed in its entirety; in fact, it was not until 1859, more than a century after Bach died, that the entire work was performed at a single sitting.

Tickets can be bought via Eventbrite https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/mass-in-b-minor-jsbach-with-the-merbecke-choir-and-belsize-baroque-tickets-440820013527?aff=ebdsoporgprofile

Community Soup

As part of the Cathedral's response to the cost of living and energy crises we are planning to provide free soup and bread on Thursday lunchtimes at 1.15pm. To make this a reality we will need volunteers to make vegetarian soup (we are hoping to source free vegetables and bread from the Borough Food Cooperative and Borough Market) as well as hosting the sessions, including set up and clearing away. There will be a rota, so we envisage commitment being once a month.

Please do email the Sub Dean (michael.rawson@southwark.anglican.org) if you are interested or would like further details.



Welcome to Southwark Cathedral. Set on the south bank of the River Thames in one of the most vibrant and diverse communities in London, this building has been a constant witness in a place of change.

The first church was built on this site around the year 606. First a convent, then a monastery, it became in 1106 the Augustinian Priory of St Mary Overie. With Westminster Abbey and St Bartholomew the Great in Smithfield it is one of the three remaining great monastic churches of London. At the Reformation the Priory became a parish church and it remains so for the people of Bankside. In 1905, as south London was rapidly expanding, the church was consecrated as the cathedral for the new Diocese of Southwark.

As well as a place of constant witness to our faith in Jesus Christ, this church has a momentous and proud history and has had links with many famous and influential characters including St Thomas Becket, Geoffrey Chaucer, William Shakespeare and Charles Dickens.

In the 20th century this cathedral was at the heart of the new movement in theology termed 'South Bank Religion'. This movement asked challenging questions of people about faith in the modern age which continue to be explored at Southwark Cathedral which describes itself as 'inclusive: faithful: radical'.

Whatever has brought you here today, you are most welcome. Become part of the life here if you can; it will change your life as you encounter with us our living God.

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