

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL

CHORAL EVENSONG

IN CELEBRATION OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE MOTHERS' UNION



Lighting the way for
generations to come



TUESDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER 2026
5.30PM

WELCOME

This booklet contains all you will need to follow the service. Please ask a Steward if you would like a large-print copy.

This service will be live-streamed and broadcast online via the Cathedral's website, YouTube channel and Facebook pages. Typically, services are made available for up to 48 hours, however this period may be longer for special recordings. For further information, please contact:

info@chichestercathedral.org.uk

Photography, filming and audio recordings are not permitted during this service. Please ensure that mobile telephones are switched off or silenced.

An induction loop is provided for the benefit of hearing aid users. To use this, please switch your hearing aid to 'T'.

At Chichester Cathedral, we want everyone to feel safe and cared for. If you have any concerns about safety or wellbeing, never leave with a worry. A member of the clergy, staff, or our Safeguarding Team will be happy to listen. You can contact our Safeguarding Officer on **07827 275670** or by emailing **safeguarding@chichestercathedral.org.uk**

Parents and caregivers are reminded that children remain in their care throughout this service and must not be left unattended or to wander around the Cathedral by themselves.

Toilets and baby-changing facilities can be accessed from the North Transept of the Cathedral. Children using these facilities must be accompanied by a parent or caregiver.

In the event of an emergency please follow the direction of the Vergers and Stewards.

www.chichestercathedral.org.uk

**Celebrating 150 Years of Mothers' Union:
Join Us, Join In – Lighting the Way for Generations to Come**

2026 marks 150 years since Mothers' Union was founded in the small parish church of Old Alresford, Hampshire, by Mary Sumner – a home-educated young vicar's wife with a powerful vision. She dreamed of women, regardless of class or status, coming together in faith to support one another and strengthen family life within the church.

From that small flame of an idea, a global movement was born. Today, 150 years later, Mothers' Union has grown to around 4 million members in 84 countries, working to improve the lives of individuals, families, and communities around the world. At the heart of all we do is our belief that faith and compassion can transform lives.

*Let your light shine before others,
that they may see your good deeds
and glorify your Father in heaven.*
(Matthew 5:16)

And shine a light is what our members do. Whether someone finds themselves unexpectedly in the hospital, a family is grappling with a parent going to prison, or a baby is born prematurely, Mothers' Union members are there offering care, support, and love without judgment. We speak out against injustice, create safe spaces for conversation, and run parenting support groups – all helping to build stronger, more resilient communities.

All of our work is guided by our three core pillars of transformation:

Ending Violence – promoting peace and safety;
Ending Injustice – advancing gender justice; and
Ending Poverty – fostering self-reliance and resilience.

Our global programmes include literacy and savings groups, parenting and resilience training, and domestic abuse awareness campaigns. These initiatives are rooted in local communities – we listen first, then respond with practical, faith-led action. Every day, globally, our members carry out thousands of quiet acts of service that bring hope and healing.

Mothers' Union today reflects the diversity of the modern world. We are a movement that continues to evolve, welcoming people of all backgrounds and identities. While we are a women-led movement, men are welcome to join! 150 years of courage, care, and community, and we're just getting started – so why not join us?

As we celebrate 150 years of courage, care and community, we're looking to the future. There's a place for you here.

Whether you're passionate about social justice, community outreach, prayer, or simply want to connect with others who care, we invite you to get involved.

To find out more about what's happening near you or how to become a member, visit **www.chichestermu.org** or speak to a local member after the service.

ORDER OF SERVICE

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Please stand as the procession enters.



Love Divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesu, thou art all compassion,
pure unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

**Finish then thy new creation,
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation,
perfectly restored in thee,
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise!**

*NEH 408
Charles Wesley (1707-1788)*

*Blaenwern
William Rowlands (1860-1937)*

WELCOME

*The Dean
The Very Reverend Dr Edward Dowler*

The cantor and choir sing

THE PRECES AND RESPONSES

○ Lord, open thou our lips.
And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

○ God, make speed to save us.
○ 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 Book of Common Prayer

William Smith (1603-1645)

Please sit. The choir sings

THE PSALM

O God, my heart is ready, my heart is ready: I will sing and give praise
with the best member that I have.

Awake, thou lute, and harp: I myself will awake right early.

I will give thanks unto thee, O Lord, among the people: I will sing
praises unto thee among the nations.

For thy mercy is greater than the heavens: and thy truth reacheth
unto the clouds.

Set up thyself, O God, above the heavens: and thy glory above all
the earth.

That thy beloved may be delivered: let thy right hand save them, and
hear thou me.

God hath spoken in his holiness: I will rejoice therefore, and divide
Sichem, and mete out the valley of Succoth.

Gilead is mine, and Manasses is mine: Ephraim also is the strength of
my head.

Judah is my law-giver, Moab is my wash-pot: over Edom will I cast
out my shoe, upon Philistia will I triumph.

Who will lead me into the strong city: and who will bring me into
Edom?

Hast not thou forsaken us, O God: and wilt not thou, O God, go forth
with our hosts?

O help us against the enemy: for vain is the help of man.

Through God we shall do great acts: and it is he that shall tread down
our enemies.

Psalm 108

Please stand as the choir sings the Gloria:

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.

Please sit.

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Now this was the custom in former times in Israel concerning redeeming and exchanging: to confirm a transaction, one party took off a sandal and gave it to the other; this was the manner of attesting in Israel. So when the next-of-kin said to Boaz, 'Acquire it for yourself', he took off his sandal. Then Boaz said to the elders and all the people, 'Today you are witnesses that I have acquired from the hand of Naomi all that belonged to Elimelech and all that belonged to Chilion and Mahlon. I have also acquired Ruth the Moabite, the wife of Mahlon, to be my wife, to maintain the dead man's name on his inheritance, in order that the name of the dead may not be cut off from his kindred and from the gate of his native place; today you are witnesses.' Then all the people who were at the gate, along with the elders, said, 'We are witnesses. May the Lord make the woman who is coming into your house like Rachel and Leah, who together built up the house of Israel. May you produce children in Ephrathah and bestow a name in Bethlehem; and, through the children that the Lord will give you by this young woman, may your house be like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah.'

So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. When they came together, the Lord made her conceive, and she bore a son. Then the women said to Naomi, 'Blessed be the Lord, who has not left you this day without next-of-kin; and may his name be renowned in Israel! He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age; for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has borne him.' Then Naomi took the child and laid him in her bosom, and became his nurse. The women of the neighbourhood gave him a name, saying, 'A son has been born to Naomi.' They named him Obed; he became the father of Jesse, the father of David.

Ruth 4: 7-17

Please stand. The choir sings the canticle

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.

Luke 1: 46-55

Thomas Weelkes (1576-1623), Sixth Service

Please sit.

THE NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

While Jesus was teaching in the temple, he said, 'How can the scribes say that the Messiah is the son of David? David himself, by the Holy Spirit, declared, "The Lord said to my Lord, 'Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet.'" David himself calls him Lord; so how can he be his son?' And the large crowd was listening to him with delight.

As he taught, he said, 'Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the market-places, and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honour at banquets! They devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.'

He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, 'Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.'

Mark 12: 35-end

Please stand. The choir sings the canticle

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.

Luke 2: 29-32

Thomas Weelkes (1576-1623), Sixth Service

Remain standing to say together

THE APOSTLES' CREED

All **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 PRECES AND RESPONSES

The Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

Please sit or kneel.

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.

THE COLLECTS

O Lord, we beseech thee,
let thy continual pity cleanse and defend thy Church;
and, because it cannot continue in safety without thy succour,
preserve it evermore by thy help and goodness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Choir: 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.

Choir: 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.

Choir: Amen.

Please sit. The choir sings

THE ANTHEM

In what torne ship soever I embarke,
that ship shall be my embleme of thy Arke;
what sea soever swallow mee, that flood
shall be to mee an embleme of thy blood;
though thou with clouds of anger do disguise
thy face; yet through that maske I know those eyes,
which, though they turne away sometimes,
they never will despise.

I sacrifice this lland unto thee,
and all whom I lov'd there, and who lov'd mee;
when I have put our seas twixt them and mee,
put thou thy sea betwixt my sinnes and thee.
As the trees sap doth seeke the root below
in winter, in my winter now I goe,
where none but thee, th'Eternall root
of true Love I may know.

John Donne (1572-1631)

Imogen Holst (1907-1984)

THE PRAYERS

Please sit or kneel. The Prayers conclude with the Grace:

All **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.**

Please stand.

HYMN



O Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end;
be thou for ever near me,
my Master and my Friend;
I shall not fear the battle
if thou art by my side,
nor wander from the pathway
if thou wilt be my guide.

O let me hear thee speaking
in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion,
the murmurs of self-will;
O speak to reassure me,
to hasten or control;
O speak, and make me listen,
thou guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, thou hast promised
to all who follow thee,
that where thou art in glory
there shall thy servant be;
and, Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end;
O give me grace to follow,
my Master and my Friend.

O let me see thy footmarks,
and in them plant mine own;
my hope to follow duly
is in thy strength alone;
O guide me, call me, draw me,
uphold me to the end;
and then in heaven receive me,
my Saviour and my Friend.

NEH 420
John Bode (1816-1874)

Wolvercote
William H. Ferguson (1874-1950)

THE BLESSING

The peace of God,
which passes all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds
in the knowledge and love of God,
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

CLOSING MUSIC

FUGUE ON THE MAGNIFICAT BWV 733

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Please remain standing as the procession departs.

A retiring collection will be taken in aid of the work of the Mothers' Union in the Diocese of Chichester. Alternatively, please scan this QR code to donate online.

