



**BLACKBURN
CATHEDRAL**

Service of Choral Evensong
with the Collation and Installation of
The Venerable Jane Atkinson
on the Feast of Christ the King

Sunday, 23 November 2025

at 4pm

Welcome to this evening's service

The service is led by
The Rt Revd Philip North
Bishop of Blackburn

The Preacher is
The Ven. Jane Atkinson
Archdeacon of Blackburn

The Cantor is
Canon Dr Jenny Gaffin
Precentor

The service is sung by
The Cathedral Choir

Directed by
John Robinson
Director of Music

The Organist is
John Hosking
Organist in Residence

The setting is
Howells – St Paul's Service

The responses are by
Smith

Procession

The Cathedral Cross
The Cathedral Choir
The Director of Music

Virger
Diocesan and Visiting Readers
Diocesan and Visiting Clergy
Visiting Bishops

Virger
The Canons Emeriti
The Lay Canons
The Honorary Canons

Virger
The Archdeacon of Lancaster
Assistant Bishops
The Bishops of Lancaster and Burnley

Virger
Lay Members of Chapter

Virger
The Cathedral Wardens
Residentiary Canons
The Interim Dean
The Bishop of Blackburn
The Bishop's Chaplain

The Gathering

Please stand for the hymn, during which the procession enters

Hymn

In Christ Alone



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!

Stuart Townend (born 1963) and Keith Getty (born 1974)

The Responses

The cantor and choir sing the responses

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 be:
world without end. Amen.
Praise ye the Lord.
The Lord's name be praised.

Welcome

All remain standing as the Bishop of Blackburn greets the people

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with you all.
And also with you.

All sit. The Archdeacon of Blackburn designate comes and stands before the Bishop.
The Area Deans of the Archdeaconry of Blackburn come and stand with the
Archdeacon Designate. The Archdeacon of Lancaster presents the Archdeacon
designate to the Bishop.

Reverend Father in God, I present the Venerable Jane Atkinson to be
collated as Archdeacon of Blackburn.

The Collation

The Bishop says

The Archdeacon of Blackburn is to assist the Bishop in the pastoral care of Blackburn archdeaconry, to work especially with the Bishop of Blackburn, her fellow Archdeacon, and other senior colleagues and particularly the Area Deans, to support clergy and churchwardens in the exercise of their office and ministry and to encourage the whole Church so that, in the power of the Spirit we may proclaim the kingdom of God, and make disciples for Jesus Christ through worship, service and witness to the glory of God the Father.

Jane, will you carry out this ministry to the best of your ability, seeking in all you do to make the good news of Christ known to all.

The Archdeacon designate responds

With the help of God, I will.

The Bishop continues

Brothers and sisters in Christ, before I Collate Jane Atkinson as Archdeacon of Blackburn, she must make the Declaration of Assent and take the Oaths of Allegiance and Canonical Obedience.

The Church of England is part of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church worshipping the one true God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It professes the faith uniquely revealed in the Holy Scriptures and set forth in the catholic creeds, which faith the Church is called upon to proclaim afresh in each generation. Led by the Holy Spirit, it has borne witness to Christian truth in its historic formularies, the Thirty-Nine Articles of Religion, the Book of Common Prayer and the Ordering of Bishops, Priests and Deacons.

In the declaration you are about to make, will you affirm your loyalty to this inheritance of faith as your inspiration and guidance under God in bringing the grace and truth of Christ to this generation?

Standing before the Bishop, the Archdeacon designate says

The Declaration of Assent

I, Jane Atkinson, do so affirm, and accordingly declare my belief in the faith which is revealed in the Holy Scriptures and set forth in the catholic creeds and to which the historic formularies of the Church of England bear witness; and in public prayer and administration of the sacraments I will use only the forms of service which are authorised or allowed by canon.

The Oath of Allegiance

I, Jane Atkinson, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to His Majesty King Charles the Third, his heirs and successors, according to law: so help me God.

The Oath of Canonical Obedience

I, Jane Atkinson, do swear by Almighty God that I will pay true and canonical obedience to the Lord Bishop of Blackburn and his successors, in all things lawful and honest: so help me God.

The Archdeacon designate kneels before the Bishop. The Bishop invites the people to pray in silence for a short period, after which he says:

Almighty God who has given you the will to undertake all these things, give you also the strength to perform them, that he may complete that work which he has begun in you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Bishop sits and reads the Deed of Collation, the Archdeacon designate kneeling before him and holding the Deed with both hands. The Bishop presents the Deed to the Archdeacon, still kneeling, with these words

Receive this cure, your care and ours. Be diligent in taking your part with your brothers and sisters of the College of Canons in the Government of this holy place that here the word of God may be faithfully preached and the sacraments duly administered; and in all things so uphold the honour and dignity of our Cathedral Church.

The Area Deans pray for the Archdeacon of Blackburn, saying together

Heavenly Father, bless Jane as she takes up her new ministry.
Keep her thankful that together with your people she may discern
Christ in the work she undertakes, proclaim him in word and deed,
and remain faithful to him; for the sake of those whom he seeks to
serve, and to the glory of your name. **Amen.**

The Bishop takes his staff and blesses the Archdeacon of Blackburn, saying

God the Father strengthen you and increase your faith;
God the Son fill you with love and a spirit of service;
God the Holy Spirit guide you into all truth;
And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
rest upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The Archdeacon of Blackburn stands and the Bishop hands her the Mandate, saying

Receive this Mandate, which you must hand to the Interim Dean in
order that you may be installed.

*The Archdeacon of Lancaster and the Area Deans return to their places. The
Residentiary Canons lead the Archdeacon of Blackburn to the Interim Dean.*

The Installation

The Archdeacon of Blackburn says

Mr Interim Dean, I present to you this Mandate and I pray that you will
install and induct me into the Stall of the Archdeacon of Blackburn in
this Cathedral Church of Saint Mary the Virgin in Blackburn.

The Interim Dean says

We accept these letters, but first you must make, in the face of this
Chapter and of this congregation, the appointed declaration of
obedience to the Constitution and Statutes of this Cathedral Church.

The Archdeacon of Blackburn says

I, Jane Atkinson, do declare that I will be faithful and loyal to this Cathedral Church of Blackburn and the Dean.

With the help of God and to the best of my power

I will sustain my part in its life and work,

recognising that the Cathedral is the seat of the Bishop and a centre of worship and mission.

I will encourage all members of the Cathedral Foundation in their work and duties.

I accept the Constitution and Statutes of this Cathedral and will duly observe them, so help me God.

The Interim Dean, attended by the Residentiary Canons, leads the Archdeacon of Blackburn to her seat in the Sanctuary. She is vested in her cope.

The Interim Dean says

We, the Interim Dean and Chapter of this Cathedral Church, receive you, Jane Atkinson, as an Archidiaconal Canon of this Cathedral Church.

The Interim Dean causes the Archdeacon of Blackburn to sit

and do hereby install and induct you as Archdeacon of Blackburn in this Cathedral Church, with all the rights and dignities thereof, in the name of God. **Amen.**

The Interim Dean says

God keep you in his care;

Christ win you and save you;

The Holy Spirit guide you in the paths of truth and love always. **Amen.**

The Archdeacon of Blackburn remains seated as the choir, Members of Chapter, the College of Canons and the Cathedral Foundation stand.

The Interim Dean addresses members of the Foundation, saying

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

let us greet our new colleague and welcome him

to the College of Canons of this Cathedral Church.

The choir, College of Canons and members of Chapter reply

In the name of the Lord, we welcome you.

The Bishop of Burnley, Bishop of Lancaster and the Archdeacon of Lancaster greet the Archdeacon of Blackburn. All applaud. The Interim Dean and the Residentiary Canons return to their stalls.

The Archdeacon of Blackburn stands and the Bishop, also standing, says

Peace be upon this College of Canons
and upon you who are members of it.

Peace be upon this Cathedral Church
and upon all who love and serve it.
And the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
rest upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The choir sings the psalm. Please remain seated for the psalm and stand for the Gloria

Psalm 40

I waited patiently for the Lord, and he inclined unto me, and heard my calling.
He brought me also out of the horrible pit, out of the mire and clay,
and set my feet upon the rock, and ordered my goings.
And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even a thanksgiving unto our God.
Many shall see it, and fear, and shall put their trust in the Lord.
Blessed is the man that hath set his hope in the Lord,
and turned not unto the proud, and to such as go about with lies.
O Lord my God, great are the wondrous works which thou hast done,
like as be also thy thoughts, which are to usward;
and yet there is no man that ordereth them unto thee.
If I should declare them, and speak of them,
they should be more than I am able to express.
Sacrifice and offering I thou wouldest not, but mine ears hast thou opened.
Burnt-offering and sacrifice for sin hast thou not required: then said I, Lo, I come;
In the volume of the book it is written of me, that I should fulfil thy will,
O my God: I am content to do it; yea, thy law is within my heart.
I have declared thy righteousness in the great congregation:
lo, I will not refrain my lips, O Lord, and that thou knowest.
I have not hid thy righteousness within my heart;
my talk hath been of thy truth, and of thy salvation.
I have not kept back thy loving mercy and truth from the great congregation.
Withdraw not thou thy mercy from me, O Lord;
let thy loving-kindness and thy truth always preserve me.
For innumerable troubles are come about me;
my sins have taken such hold upon me, that I am not able to look up;
yea, they are more in number than the hairs of my head,
and my heart hath failed me.
O Lord, let it be thy pleasure to deliver me; make haste, O Lord, to help me.
Let them be ashamed, and confounded together,
that seek after my soul to destroy it;
let them be driven backward, and put to rebuke, that wish me evil.
Let them be desolate, and rewarded with shame,
that say unto me, Fie upon thee! fie upon thee!
Let all those that seek thee, be joyful and glad in thee;
and let such as love thy salvation, say always, The Lord be praised.
As for me, I am poor and needy; but the Lord careth for me.
Thou art my helper and redeemer; make no long tarrying, O my God.
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 Old Testament Reading

(1 Samuel 8.4-20)

Read by

A reading from the first Book of Samuel

Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah, and said to him, 'You are old and your sons do not follow in your ways; appoint for us, then, a king to govern us, like other nations.' But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, 'Give us a king to govern us.' Samuel prayed to the LORD, and the LORD said to Samuel, 'Listen to the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them. Just as they have done to me, from the day I brought them up out of Egypt to this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so also they are doing to you. Now then, listen to their voice; only—you shall solemnly warn them, and show them the ways of the king who shall reign over them.' So Samuel reported all the words of the LORD to the people who were asking him for a king. He said, 'These will be the ways of the king who will reign over you: he will take your sons and appoint them to his chariots and to be his horsemen, and to run before his chariots; and he will appoint for himself commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and some to plough his ground and to reap his harvest, and to make his implements of war and the equipment of his chariots. He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers. He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive orchards and give them to his courtiers. He will take one-tenth of your grain and of your vineyards and give it to his officers and his courtiers. He will take your male and female slaves, and the best of your cattle and donkeys, and put them to his work. He will take one-tenth of your flocks, and you shall be his slaves. And in that day you will cry out because of your king, whom you have chosen for yourselves; but the LORD will not answer you in that day.' But the people refused to listen to the voice of Samuel; they said, 'No! but we are determined to have a king over us, so that we also may be like other nations, and that our king may govern us and go out before us and fight our battles.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Magnificat

Please stand as the choir sings the 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.

Please sit

The New Testament Reading

(John 18.33-37)

Read by

A reading from the Gospel according to St John

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' Jesus answered, 'Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?' Pilate replied, 'I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?' Jesus answered, 'My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.' Pilate asked him, 'So you are a king?' Jesus answered, 'You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Nunc Dimittis

Please stand as the choir sings the 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.

Please remain standing for the Creed

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**

Responses

Please remain standing as the cantor and choir sing

The Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.
Let us pray.

Please sit

*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.

Collects

Almighty and everlasting God,
who hast exalted thy beloved Son to be King over all worlds,
and hast willed in him to make all things new:
mercifully grant that the kindreds of the earth
which are wounded and dispersed by sin:
may speedily be knit together under his gracious sovereignty.
Who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, ever one
God, world without end. 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.

We praise thee, O God; we acknowledge thee to be the Lord.
All the earth doth worship thee, the Father everlasting.
To thee all angels cry aloud, the heavens and all the powers therein.
To thee cherubin and seraphin continually do cry,
Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Sabaoth;
Heaven and earth are full of the majesty of thy glory.
The glorious company of the apostles praise thee.
The goodly fellowship of the prophets praise thee.
The noble army of martyrs praise thee.
The holy Church throughout all the world doth acknowledge thee:
the Father of an infinite majesty;
thine honourable, true and only Son;
also the Holy Ghost the Comforter.
Thou art the King of glory, O Christ.
Thou art the everlasting Son of the Father.
When thou tookest upon thee to deliver man,
thou didst not abhor the Virgin's womb.
When thou hadst overcome the sharpness of death,
thou didst open the kingdom of heaven to all believers.
Thou sittest at the right hand of God, in the glory of the Father.
We believe that thou shalt come to be our judge.
We therefore pray thee, help thy servants,
whom thou hast redeemed with thy precious blood.
Make them to be numbered with thy saints in glory everlasting.
O Lord, save thy people and bless thine heritage.
Govern them and lift them up for ever.
Day by day we magnify thee;
and we worship thy name, ever world without end.
Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin.
O Lord, have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us.
O Lord, let thy mercy lighten upon us, as our trust is in thee.
O Lord, in thee have I trusted; let me never be confounded.
(Music – Stanford in B Flat)

The Sermon

The Venerable Jane Atkinson

Please stand to sing the hymn, during which a collection will be taken. Gift Aid envelopes are available for use if you are a UK tax payer.



Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,
 be all else but naught to me, save that thou art;
 be thou my best thought in the day and the night,
 both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,
 be thou ever with me, and I with thee Lord;
 be thou my great Father, thy child let me be,
 be thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.

Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight;
 be thou my whole armour, be thou my true might;
 be thou my soul's shelter, be thou my strong tower:
 O raise thou me heavenward, great Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor earth's empty praise:
 be thou mine inheritance now and always;
 be thou and thou only the first in my heart;
 O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, thou heaven's bright sun,
 O grant me its joys after vict'ry is won;
 Great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
 still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

Irish, c 8th century tr Mary Byrne (1880-1931) versified, Eleanor Hull (1860-1935)

Please sit

The Prayers

Led by

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.**

Please stand for the hymn

Hymn

CAMBERWELL



At the name of Jesus
every knee shall bow,
every tongue confess him
king of glory now;
'tis the Father's pleasure
we should call him Lord,
who from the beginning
was the mighty word.

Humbled for a season,
to receive a name
from the lips of sinners
unto whom he came,
faithfully he bore it
spotless to the last,
brought it back victorious,
when from death he passed:

Bore it up triumphant
with its human light,
through all ranks of creatures,
to the central height,
to the throne of Godhead,
to the Father's breast;
filled it with the glory
of that perfect rest.

Surely, this Lord Jesus
shall return again,
with his Father's glory,
with his angel train;
for all wreaths of empire
meet upon his brow,
and our hearts confess him
King of Glory now.

Caroline Noel (1817-77)

The Blessing

The Bishop prays the blessing

The Organ Voluntary

Please remain standing as the procession leaves

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