



WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL

A Service Commemorating



the 250th Anniversary of
Jane Austen

2pm, Thursday 16th October 2025

WELCOME TO WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL

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Winchester Cathedral

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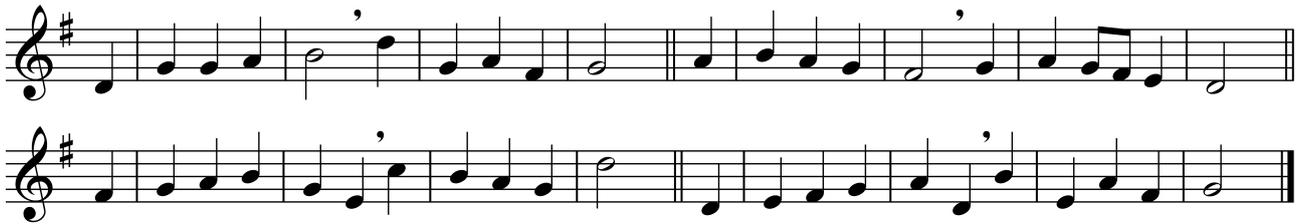
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ORDER OF SERVICE

THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Stand to sing



Lord, open our lips
to show forth your praise,
and grant us the sense
to walk in your ways.
Great Author of stories,
our lives tell your tale,
in love and in heartache
your grace will not fail.

Creation narrates
your glory, O Lord,
while we, with one voice,
your goodness record.
In field, park and garden
your bounty we tend,
and share in its riches
with neighbour and friend.

Yet, erring we stray
and wander from you,
as we leave undone
the things we should do.
With gentle persuasion
come, warm each cold heart;
Lord, lighten our darkness,
bid danger depart.

Where prejudice reigns
and pride would burst forth;
refocus our lives
and be our true north.
From anger draw purpose
to serve day by day,
walk closer with God in
Emmanuel's way.

For glorious tales
that thrill and delight
we thank you, with praise
for talent to write.
And, Lord, may our reading
inspire us again
to be as creative
as your servant Jane.

Rosalind Brown
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Tune HANOVER

THE GATHERING

THE WELCOME

The Reverend Canon Roland Riem, Interim Dean, welcomes the congregation and introduces the service

The Lord has given us eyes to see the world he has made;
a mind to understand its ways,
and a heart to tell its stories.

For the gifts of wit and wisdom,
and the grace found in the common life:
We give thanks, O God, for your servant Jane Austen.

For the lives she created and the lessons she taught:
May we find in our own stories
the way of wisdom and the path of peace.

A READING
Proverbs 4.1-9

Sit. The lesson is read by Louisa Price, on behalf of The Jane Austen House

Listen, children, to a father's instruction,
and be attentive, that you may gain insight;
for I give you good precepts:
do not forsake my teaching.
When I was a son with my father,
tender, and my mother's favourite,
 he taught me, and said to me,
'Let your heart hold fast my words;
keep my commandments, and live.
Get wisdom; get insight: do not forget, nor turn away
from the words of my mouth.
Do not forsake her, and she will keep you;
love her, and she will guard you.
The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom,
and whatever else you get, get insight.
Prize her highly, and she will exalt you;
she will honour you if you embrace her.
She will place on your head a fair garland;
she will bestow on you a beautiful crown.'

AN ANTHEM

Remain seated as the Choir sings

Give us grace, Almighty Father,
so to pray, as to deserve to be heard.
Give us grace to address thee with our hearts, as with our lips.
Thou art everywhere present, from thee no secret can be hid.
Look with mercy on the sins we have this day committed.
Give us a thankful sense of the blessings in which we live.
Give us grace, Almighty Father.

*Words abridged from a prayer
by Jane Austen (1775-1817)*

Music by Charlotte Baskerville (b.1994)

DRAMATIC READING

Three excerpts from Pride and Prejudice, performed by Joanna David, Susannah Harker and Adrian Lukis

AN ANTHEM

The Choir sings

O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands:
serve the Lord with gladness,
and come before his presence with a song.
Be ye sure that the Lord he is God:
it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves:
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving,
and into his courts with praise:
be thankful unto him, and speak good of his name.
For the Lord is gracious,
his mercy is everlasting:
and his truth endureth from generation to generation.
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.

Words: Psalm 100

Music: Benjamin Britten (1913 – 1976)

THE READING

James 3.13-18

Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

AN ANTHEM

The Choir sings

Another day is now gone,
Teach us to consider that we may feel
the importance of every day.
Every hour as it passes,
incline us to think humbly,
teach us to strive.
Give us grace to endeavour,
to seek forbearance to seek patience.
Keep us from evil this night,
Bring us in safety to another day.
Amen.

*Words abridged from a prayer
by Jane Austen (1775-1817)*

Music by Katharine Parton (b.1982)

THE ADDRESS

Professor Michael Wheeler

THE PRAYERS

Kneel or remain seated

O God, who in your wisdom bestows many gifts upon your children, we give you humble and heartfelt thanks for the life and work of your servant, Jane Austen. We thank you for her keen mind and her witty spirit, and for the grace to see with a discerning eye the comedy and complexity of human life. We pray that her writings, which continue to delight and instruct us, may inspire in us a greater love for virtue, integrity, and for the simple kindnesses of daily life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty God, we lift up all who use their hands and minds to create beauty and truth in this world. Bless especially all artists, sculptors, actors, and writers who use their gifts to enrich our lives and to help us to see the world anew. Grant them wisdom and skill, perseverance in their craft, and the courage to create works of lasting beauty and significance. May their labours be blessed, and may the new statue of Jane Austen, being unveiled today, serve as a reminder of the power of art to inspire and connect us all; in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Heavenly Father, just as you gave your servant Jane Austen her unique gifts to share with the world, so too have you given to each of us our own talents and abilities. Help us to recognize the calling you have placed upon our lives, and to use our gifts for your glory and for the good of all people. Free us from fear and doubt, that we may be good stewards of all that you have given us, and serve you with joy and a generous spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught 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.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

THE HYMN

Stand to sing the hymn, during which flowers will be laid at the tomb



Now thank we all our God,
with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things hath done,
in whom his world rejoices;
who from our mother's arms
hath blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us;
and keep us in his grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills
in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given,
the Son, and him who reigns
with them in highest heaven,
the One eternal God,
whom earth and heaven adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore. Amen.

*Words: Martin Rinkart (1586–1649)
tr Catherine Winkworth (1827–78)*

*Tune: Nun danket 413 NEH
Melody in Johann Crüger's
Praxis Pietatis Melica c 1647*

Harmony chiefly from Mendelssohn's Lobgesang 1840

THE BLESSING

*with words adapted from
an evening intercession of Jane Austen*

For all whom we love and value,
for every friend and connection, we equally pray;
however divided and far asunder,
we know that we are alike before thee,
and under thine eye.

May we be equally united in thy faith and fear,
in fervent devotion towards thee,
and in thy gracious and merciful protection;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you
this night and for evermore.

Amen.

THE ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Prelude in C major, BWV 547, i

J S Bach (1685–1750)

All are invited to the statue unveiling in the Inner Close following the service. Please remain seated until directed to move by the sidesman.



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