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Service at Cathedral

Fords and Throng Attend Dedication

By William Willoughby

Washington Star Staff Writer

President and Mrs. Ford and their son Jack worshipped at Washington Cathedral yesterday with about 2,200 other persons as the Archbishop of Canterbury performed the final dedicatory service for the nave of the world's sixth largest cathedral.

Archbishop Donald Coggan, primate of the 67-million-member Anglican Communion, of which the Episcopal Church is a part, said that in Great Britain and the United States there is a marked revival of interest in cathedrals after a period of time when many persons were beginning to view them as obsolete.

Coggan said that even though a cathedral is an expression of "the best that is humanly possible in worship . . . a standard of excellence," Christians must put the ministries of cathedrals in proper context — ministering to a world with real needs.

IT IS NECESSARY for the Cathedral to have a message that is "worldly" oriented because those who follow Christ must consider the kind of man He was and the kind of world He came to minister to — "even to the point of execution."

"Christians can't abdicate from their responsibilities — they are part of the world for which He died," the 101st Archbishop of Canterbury said.

He said that "the social Gospel is not the Gospel of the New Testament, but it is an essential part of it."

The archbishop said also that the message of Christianity is "otherworldly" as well, giving hope to the individual beyond death. He said the Gospel can cause a Christian to "look death square in the eye and say 'Oh death where is thy victory . . .'"

In the only allusion to the president being in the congregation, Coggan said the Gospel also copes with loneliness such as "an executive who must make the final decision" must face. He said a cathedral should be "a training ground for crusaders" to reach the various kinds of lonely people in the world.

THE FIRST family received communion from Dean Francis Sayre Jr. of the cathedral. A crowd of about 500 outside the church cheered as the First Family and the archbishop left the cathedral.

Coggan dedicated the nave to the spirit of ecumenism. The cathedral is the principal church of the Anglican Communion for nearly 5 million Anglicans in North America. The church was viewed by Coggan as playing a vital role in bridging the differences between Anglican, Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox believers — all part of the Catholic expression of Christianity.



—Washington Star Photographer Harry Goodman

President and Mrs. Ford greet the Archbishop of Canterbury

*John Cramer is on vacation
His column resumes when he returns*





Post 9/13/76 C-4

Cathedral Nave Dedication Completed

By Lawrence Feinberg
Washington Post Staff Writer

With ancient pageantry and modern prayers, the archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Rev. Frederick D. Coggan, yesterday took part in ceremonies completing the dedication of the completed nave of the Washington Cathedral.

It was the last of five dedications of the 243-foot long central area of the Gothic-style Episcopal church, which has taken 60 years to plan and build and five months and five ceremonies to fully dedicate.

President Ford, looking somber in a black vested suit and red tie, sat in the front row throughout the 90-minute ceremony.

In July, during the week after the Bicentennial celebrations, Mr. Ford sat next to Britain's Queen Elizabeth II for another dedication ceremony at the cathedral, which stressed the reconciliation of all people of the world,

particularly the Americans and the British who fought bitterly 200 years ago.

Yesterday's ceremony stressed the continuing close ties between the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States and the Anglican Church in England, whose spiritual head is the archbishop of Canterbury.

In his sermon, Archbishop Coggan, who wore an elaborate gold and red robe, emphasized the similarities between the cathedral here and those in Britain, which he referred to as "the old country."

Dean Francis B. Sayre, the chief pastor of the cathedral, declared, "Our heritage is rooted in England. We are part of the Anglican communion."

About 2,100 people attended the service, which included a procession led by Archbishop Coggan to the newly completed west end of the cathedral, where he recited a special prayer.

A woman deacon, the Rev. Elizabeth Wiesner, played an important role in the service, taking part in the procession and reading a text from the Bible.

Mrs. Wiesner, who was ordained as a deacon in 1973, became the first woman deacon on the Washington Cathedral staff last week. She has said she wishes to become a priest, but is waiting for a regular, church-approved ordination.

The issue of women priests, which has caused bitter controversy within the Episcopal Church, is expected to be a major topic at the church's triennial convention, which began yesterday in Minneapolis.

Dr. Coggan has said there is no sound theological argument against the ordination of women, but John Miles, his press secretary, said yesterday that no women priests have been ordained yet in Britain because of "fear that it would set things back" in efforts to forge a reconciliation between the Anglican and Roman Catho-

lic churches, which split in the 16th century.

Yesterday's cathedral service also was marked by the use of modernized versions of several prayers. For example, the Lord's Prayer included the passage:

Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
As we forgive those who sin against us.
Do not bring us to the time of trial
But deliver us from evil.

A proposal to make substantial changes in the church's historic Book of Common Prayer is another major issue at the Minneapolis convention.

President Ford, who has been an active Episcopalian layman, sang most of the hymns yesterday, and was among the first group of worshipers to step forward for communion. He was accompanied by his wife Betty, his son Jack, and a cordon of Secret Service agents.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON CATHEDRAL SERVICE
PERFORMED BY THE
ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY

The Washington Cathedral
Sunday - September 12, 1976

Departure: 10:45 A.M.

From: Terry O'Donnell ^{TOJ}

BACKGROUND

You and Mrs. Ford will depart the South Grounds at 10:45 a.m. by motorcade for the Washington Cathedral at which Dr. Frederick Donald Coggan, the Archbishop of Canterbury, will preside at the Service.

The Archbishop of Canterbury is the Head of the Church of England (Episcopal Church). He was invited to Washington by Dean Francis Sayre of the National Cathedral with whom he will be staying during his visit. The Archbishop will be in Washington September 11 and 12; he will depart this afternoon for Pennsylvania, Long Island, Minnesota, and New York City. He will leave the United States on September 21.

Following the Service, the British Ambassador will host a luncheon in honor of Dr. Coggan at the Embassy; however, you and Mrs. Ford will not attend.

SEQUENCE

10:45 a.m.

You and Mrs. Ford board motorcade on South Grounds and depart en route the Washington Cathedral, Wisconsin Avenue and Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.

2.

10:55 a.m.

Motorcade arrives Washington Cathedral,
North Transept entrance.

PRESS POOL COVERAGE
CLOSED ARRIVAL

You and Mrs. Ford will be met by:
Very Reverend Francis B. Sayre, Jr.,
Washington Cathedral Dean
Reverend Jeffrey P. Cave, Washington
Cathedral Canon
Mr. Dick Feller, Washington Cathedral
Administrator and Clerk of the Works
Mr. John Kraus, Washington Cathedral
Verger

You and Mrs. Ford, escorted by
greeters, proceed inside Cathedral.

11:59 a.m.

You and Mrs. Ford are seated.

OFFICIAL PHOTO COVERAGE
ATTENDANCE: 1500

11:00 a.m.

The service for the dedication of
the Nave for the Anglican Com-
munion and Holy Eucharist begins.

NOTE: A printed program will be
available so that the President and
Mrs. Ford can follow the order of
service.

11:26 a.m.

Sermon by His Grace, the Arch-
bishop of Canterbury The Most
Reverend and Right Honorable
Frederick Donald Coggan, begins.

3.

- 11:49 a. m. Sermon concludes. The service resumes.
- 11:55 a. m. The Offertory.
- 12:10 p. m. Communion begins.
- NOTE: You and Mrs. Ford will be escorted by Mr. Bruce Bryan, Chief Usher, to the High Altar to receive Communion, after which you will be escorted back to your seats.
- 12:30 p. m. Communion concludes.
- 12:35 p. m. Service concludes.
- 12:35 p. m. You and Mrs. Ford, escorted by Mr. Bryan, proceed out the Cathedral through the South Transept entrance en route South entrance steps.
- 12:36 p. m. You and Mrs. Ford arrive South Transept steps.

OPEN PRESS COVERAGE

You and Mrs. Ford will be met by:
His Grace, The Archbishop of Canterbury
The Most Reverend and Right Honorable
Frederick Donald Coggan
Very Reverend Francis B. Sayre, Jr.,
Washington Cathedral Dean

- 12:38 p. m. You and Mrs. Ford bid farewell to the Archbishop of Canterbury and escorted by Dean Sayre, proceed en route motorcade for boarding.
- Motorcade departs Washington Cathedral en route South Grounds.
- 12:50 p. m. Arrive South Grounds.

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