

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL

CHORAL EVENSONG

FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

CHRISTMAS EVE 2024
6.00PM

WELCOME

Built to the glory of God, the Cathedral is a living church that has been at the centre of life in Chichester for over nine centuries. We warmly welcome you to this service as we celebrate Our Lord's Nativity.

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'.

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

ORDER OF SERVICE

Before the service, Stephanie Gaunt, Organ Scholar, plays:

PASTORALE *from* THE 'CHRISTMAS' CONCERTO

Arcangelo Corelli (1653-1713)

O ORIENS

O EMMANUEL

Cecilia McDowall (b. 1951)

PRIÈRE À NOTRE-DAME

Léon Boëllmann (1862-1897)

OF THE FATHER'S LOVE BEGOTTEN

Flor Peeters (1903-1986)

Please remain seated as the procession enters. From the West Doors the choir sings

THE INTROIT

Quem vidistis pastores dicite:
annuntiate nobis in terris quis apparuit.
Natum vidimus, et choros angelorum
collaudantes Dominum.
Dicite quidnam vidistis,
et annuntiate Christi Nativitatem.

*Tell us, shepherds, whom ye have seen:
declare who has appeared on earth.
We have seen the babe, and choirs of angels
singing high praise to the Lord.
Tell what you have seen,
and declare the birth of Christ.*

Mattins responsories

Francis Poulenc (1899-1963)

Please stand.

PROCESSIONAL CAROL

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.

‘Fear not,’ said he (for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind);
‘glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and all mankind.

‘To you in David’s town this day
is born of David’s line
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
and this shall be the sign:

‘The heavenly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
and in a manger laid.’

Thus spake the Seraph; and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song:

‘All glory be to God on high,
and on the earth be peace;
good-will henceforth from heaven to men
begin and never cease.’

WELCOME

The Dean of Chichester, The Very Reverend Dr Edward Dowler, says

Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people. For unto you is born in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2: 10, 11

The Dean welcomes the congregation.

The cantor and choir sing

THE PRECES AND 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,
world without end. Amen.

Praise ye the Lord.
The Lord's Name be praised.

Philip Moore (b. 1943)

Please sit. The choir sings

PSALM 85

Lord, thou art become gracious unto thy land:
thou hast turned away the captivity of Jacob.

Thou hast forgiven the offence of thy people:
and covered all their sins.

Thou hast taken away all thy displeasure:
and turned thyself from thy wrathful indignation.

Turn us then, O God our Saviour:
and let thine anger cease from us.

Wilt thou be displeased at us for ever:
and wilt thou stretch out thy wrath
from one generation to another?

Wilt thou not turn again, and quicken us:
that thy people may rejoice in thee?

Shew us thy mercy, O Lord:
and grant us thy salvation.

I will hearken what the Lord God will say concerning me:
for he shall speak peace unto his people,
and to his saints, that they turn not again.

For his salvation is nigh them that fear him:
that glory may dwell in our land.

Mercy and truth are met together:
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

Truth shall flourish out of the earth:
and righteousness hath looked down from heaven.

Yea, the Lord shall shew loving-kindness:
and our land shall give her increase.

Righteousness shall go before him:
and he shall direct his going in the way.

Please stand.

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

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

Isaiah 11: 1-9

Please stand.

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

**O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.**

**O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to men on earth;
for Christ is born of Mary;
and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.**

Choir How silently, how silently,
 the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
 the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming;
 but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
 the dear Christ enters in.

All **O holy Child of Bethlehem,
 descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in,
 be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
 the great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us,
 our Lord Emmanuel.**

Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)

Forest Green

*Traditional English melody harmonised
by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)*

Verse 3 arr. Philip Ledger (1937-2012)

Descant: Thomas Armstrong (1898-1994)

Remain standing. 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.

Please sit.

THE NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

The birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.'

Matthew 1: 18-23

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

George Dyson (1883-1964) in D

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

Almighty God,
who makest us glad with the yearly remembrance
of the birth of thy only Son, Jesus Christ:
grant that, as we joyfully receive him as our redeemer,
so we may with sure confidence behold him,
when he shall come to be our judge;
who liveth and reigneth with thee
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
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.

Philip Moore (b. 1943)

Please sit as the choir sings

THE ANTHEM

Nowell, nowell!

Who is there that singeth so,

Nowell, nowell?

I am here, Sir Christèmas.

Welcome, my lord Sir Christèmas!

Welcome to all, both more and less,
come near!

Nowell, nowell!

Dieu vous garde, beaux sieurs¹,

tidings I you bring:

a maid hath borne a child full young,
which causeth you to sing:

Nowell, nowell!

Christ is now born of a pure maid;

in an ox-stall he is laid,

wherefore sing we at a brayde:

Nowell, nowell!

Buvez-bien, par toute la compagnie².

Make good cheer and be right merry,
and sing with us now joyfully:

Nowell, nowell!

Anonymous (c. 15th century)

William Mathias (1934-1992)

¹ *God protect you, fair lords*

² *Drink well, with the whole company*

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.**

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

Please stand.

**Long ago, prophets knew
Christ would come, born a Jew.
Come to make all things new;
bear his People's burden,
freely love and pardon.**
*Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
When he comes, when he comes,
who will make him welcome?*

**God in time, God in man,
this is God's timeless plan:
he will come, as a man,
born himself of woman,
God divinely human.**
Ring, bells, ring...

Mary, hail! Though afraid,
she believed, she obeyed.
In her womb God is laid;
till the time expected
nurtured and protected.

Ring, bells, ring...

Journey ends! Where afar
Bethlem shines, like a star,
stable door stands ajar.
Unborn Son of Mary,
Saviour, do not tarry!

Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
Jesus comes! Jesus comes!
We will make him welcome!

NEH 10

F. Pratt Green (1903-2000)

Personent hodie

Melody from Piaae Cantiones (1582)

THE BLESSING

May the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the perseverance of the wise men,
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,
and the peace of the Christ Child
be yours this Christmas;
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

NOËL NO. 10 *from* LES 12 NOËLS POUR L'ORGUE

Louis-Claude Daquin (1694-1772)

Please remain standing as the procession departs.

DONATIONS

A retiring collection to support the mission and ministry of Chichester Cathedral will be taken as you leave.

To make a cashless donation, you can:

- *scan this QR code*
- *use the card readers offered by the Stewards to make a fixed £10 donation**
- *donate other amounts by card at one of the donation points located at the exit**
- *visit **chichestercathedral.org.uk/donate***



** Please note that Gift Aid cannot be applied to contactless card payments.*

SERVICES FOR CHRISTMAS AT CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL

Services on Christmas Eve

- Midnight Mass, 11.00pm (also livestreamed)
Celebrant and Preacher: The Lord Bishop of Chichester

Services on Christmas Day

- Said Holy Communion according to the Book of Common Prayer, 8.00am
- Christmas Day Service for Children, Families & Caregivers, 9.15am
- Christmas Day Choral Mattins, 10.15am
- Christmas Day Eucharist, 11.15am (also livestreamed)
Celebrant and Preacher: The Lord Bishop of Chichester
The Cathedral will close to the public for the rest of the day at 1.00pm.

The Epiphany Procession

A service celebrating the arrival of the Magi at Bethlehem

- Sunday 5th January, 6.00pm

Full details are available on the Cathedral website, or available to collect as a hardcopy brochure in the Cathedral.

No advance booking is required for our Christmas services.