

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL

MIDNIGHT MASS

CHRISTMAS EVE 2024
11.00PM

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.

The celebrant at this service is The Lord Bishop of Chichester, The Right Reverend Dr Martin Warner, and the sung Mass Setting is the *Missa Sancti Johannes* by Brian Chapple (b. 1945).

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.

A cash collection will be taken during the hymn which follows The Peace. If you are a UK taxpayer, it would help enormously if you would place your donation in a Gift Aid envelope (available from the Stewards) before putting it in the collection, which will enable us to reclaim an additional 25% of your donation from HMRC.

To make a cashless donation, you can:

- scan this QR code
- visit **chichestercathedral.org.uk/donate**
- tap your card against the card reader brought round by the Stewards to make a fixed £10 donation*
- donate other amounts by card at one of the donation points located at the exit*



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

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

www.chichestercathedral.org.uk

BEFORE THE SERVICE

ORGAN MUSIC BEFORE THE SERVICE

Played by Stephanie Gaunt, Organ Scholar:

NUN SINGET UND SEID FROH *Anonymous*
attrib. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

AVE MARIS STELLA II *Op. 18, No. 7* *Marcel Dupré (1886-1971)*

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL *Op. 100*
Flor Peeters (1903-1986)

PRELUDE ON "O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM"
Gordon Phillips (1908-1991)

INTERLUDE ON THE COVENTRY CAROL
William Lloyd Webber (1914-1982)

ORDER OF SERVICE

THE GATHERING

Please stand as the procession enters. From the West Doors, the choir begins

THE PROCESSIONAL CAROL

During this carol, the Bishop carries the figure of the Christ-Child to the High Altar.

Choir Of the Father's heart begotten,
ere the world from chaos rose,
he is Alpha: from that Fountain
all that is and hath been flows;
he is Omega, of all things
yet to come the mystic Close,
evermore and evermore.

By his word was all created;
he commanded and 'twas done;
earth and sky and boundless ocean,
universe of three in one,
all that sees the moon's soft radiance,
all that breathes beneath the sun,
evermore and evermore.



All O how blest that wondrous birthday,
when the Maid the curse retrieved,
brought to birth mankind's salvation,
by the Holy Ghost conceived;
and the Babe, the world's Redeemer
in her loving arms received,
evermore and evermore.

This is he, whom seer and sibyl
sang in ages long gone by;
this is he of old revealèd
in the page of prophecy;
lo! he comes, the promised Saviour;
let the world his praises cry
evermore and evermore!

Let the storm and summer sunshine,
gliding stream and sounding shore,
sea and forest, frost and zephyr,
day and night their Lord adore;
let creation join to laud thee
through the ages evermore,
evermore and evermore!

THE BLESSING OF THE CRIB

The Bishop blesses the Crib, saying:

In the faith of Christ,
and in your name, O God most holy,
we hallow this crib of Christmas,
to set before the eyes of your children
the great love and humility
of Jesus Christ your only Son;
who for us, and for our salvation,
came down as at this time from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit
of the Virgin Mary his mother,
and was made man;
to whom with you and the same Spirit
be all honour, majesty, glory and worship,
now and to the ages of ages.

All **Amen.**

All sing the final verse of the carol:

Sing, ye heights of heaven, his praises!
Angels and Archangels, sing!
Wheresoe'er ye be, ye faithful,
let your joyous anthems ring,
every tongue his name confessing,
countless voices answering,
evermore and evermore.

NEH 33
Prudentius (348-413)
tr. R. F. Davis (1866-1937)

Divinum Mysterium
Melody from Piae Cantiones
Theoderici Petri Nylandensis (1582)

THE GREETING

The Bishop says

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

Peace be with you

All **and also with you.**

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

Christ the light of the world has come
to dispel the darkness of our hearts.
In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

You were born for our salvation:
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

You came as Saviour to bring wholeness and peace:
Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

You come to bring light into the darkness of our lives:
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

The Bishop pronounces the Absolution:

May the God of all healing and forgiveness
draw you to himself,
that you may behold the glory of his Son,
the Word made flesh,
and be cleansed from all your sins,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The choir sings

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

THE COLLECT

Let us pray.

Eternal God,
who made this most holy night
to shine with the brightness of your one true light:
bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth,
to see the radiance of your heavenly glory;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

Please sit.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE FIRST READING

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Isaiah 9: 2-7

Please stand.

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL



**Silent night, holy night.
All is calm, all is bright,
round yon virgin mother and child;
holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night.
Shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing alleluia:
Christ the Saviour is born.**

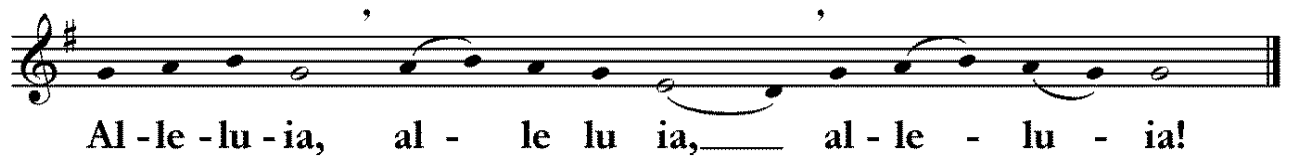
**Silent night, holy night.
Son of God, love's pure light,
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.**

Common Praise 69
Joseph Mohr (1792-1848)
tr. J. F. Young (1820-1885)

Stille Nacht
Franz Gruber (1787-1863)

THE GOSPEL READING

Remain standing. The choir leads the Gospel Acclamation:



Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

All **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
and we have seen his glory.

All **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

When the Gospel is announced, the reader says

The Lord be with you

All **and also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were

there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Luke 2: 1-14

Please remain standing until the Sermon has been introduced.

SERMON

The Lord Bishop of Chichester

The Right Reverend Dr Martin Warner

THE NICENE CREED

Please stand.

All **We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Please sit or stand. The following response is used:

Lord, in your mercy,
All **hear our prayer.**

And at the end:

Merciful Father,
All **accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

THE PEACE

Please stand.

This holy night the angels sang,
‘Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to all in whom he delights.’

The peace of the Lord be always with you
All **and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

When exchanging the Peace, please be mindful and respectful of others’ personal boundaries.

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

As we sing, the bread and wine are brought to the altar, and a collection is taken.

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**It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
‘Peace on the earth, goodwill to men,
from heaven’s all-gracious King!’
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.**

Still through the cloven skies they come,
with peaceful wings unfurled;
and still their heavenly music floats
o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains
they bend on hovering wing;
and ever o'er its Babel sounds
the blessèd angels sing.

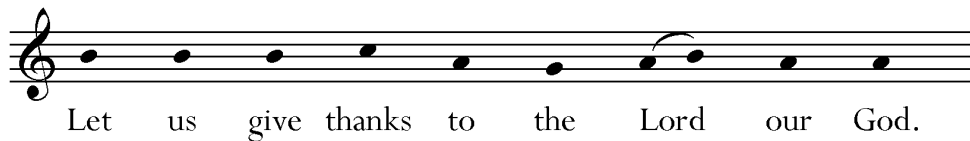
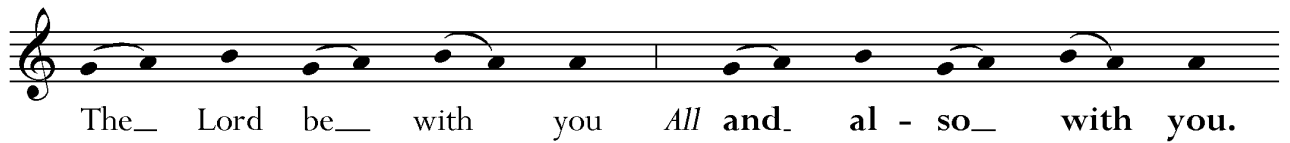
Yet with the woes of sin and strife
the world has suffered long;
beneath the angel-strain have rolled
two thousand years of wrong;
and man, at war with man, hears not
the love-song which they bring:
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,
and hear the angels sing!

For lo! the days are hastening on,
by prophet bards foretold,
when, with the ever-circling years,
comes round the age of gold;
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendours fling,
and the whole world give back the song
which now the angels sing.

NEH 29
Edmund Sears (1810-1876)

Noel
Traditional English melody
Adapted by Arthur Sullivan (1842-1900)

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER



All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,
mighty creator, ever-living God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who for love of our fallen race humbled himself,
and on this night was born of the Virgin Mary
by the power of your Spirit,
and lived as one of us.

In this mystery of the Word made flesh
you have caused his light to shine in our hearts,
to give knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.
In him we see our God made visible
and so are caught up in the love of the God we cannot see.
Therefore with all the angels of heaven
we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name
and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

The choir sings

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

The Eucharistic Prayer continues:

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

All **Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life:
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
St Richard, St Wilfrid and all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever.

All



A - men.

Please remain standing.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

All **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.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Bishop breaks the consecrated bread.

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

All **Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

GIVING OF COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

All **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

The Bishop and people receive communion. Please follow the direction of the Stewards.

Members of all Christian churches are welcome to receive communion if they wish. Please indicate if you wish to receive a gluten-free wafer. If you would prefer to receive a blessing, please come to the communion station and bow your head.

After you have received communion, please try to maintain a prayerful silence.

During communion, the choir sings

AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
grant us peace.

CAROL

Softly a light is stealing,
sweetly a maiden sings,
ever wakeful, ever wistful,
watching faithfully, thankfully,
tenderly her King of kings.

‘My soul doth magnify the Lord:
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.’

Mary her song to Jesus
softly, serenely sings:
‘I will love you, I will serve you,
may my lullaby glorify,
magnify my King of kings.’

Lullaby, lullaby, lullaby.

CAROL

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)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Please stand.

God our Father,
in this night you have made known to us again
the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:
confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him
until the day dawns
and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts.

All **To him be glory both now and for ever.
Amen.**

THE SENDING OUT

THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

The Bishop says

The Lord be with you
All **and also with you.**

Our help is in the name of the Lord
All **who has made heaven and earth.**

Blessed be the name of the Lord
All **now and for ever. Amen.**

May the Father,
who has loved the eternal Son
from before the foundation of the world,
shed that love upon you his children.

All **Amen.**

May Christ,
who by his incarnation gathered into one
things earthly and heavenly,
fill you with joy and peace.

All **Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit,
by whose overshadowing Mary became the God-bearer,
give you grace to carry the good news of Christ.

All **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

Go in the peace of Christ.

All **Thanks be to God.**

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL



O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him
born the King of Angels:
*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!*

God of God,
Light of Light,
lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
very God,
begotten, not created:
O come, let us adore him...

Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God
in the highest:
O come, let us adore him...

At this point, the Bishop places the figure of the Christ-Child into the Crib:

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning,
Jesu, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing:**

*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!*

*18th-century Latin
tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880)*

*Adeste Fideles
18th-century English carol
arr. David Willcocks (1919-2015)*

CLOSING MUSIC

PAEAN

Kenneth Leighton (1929-1988)

Please remain standing as the procession departs.

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SERVICES FOR CHRISTMAS AT CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL

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.