Evening Prayer with Carols

Christmas Day
Monday 25\textsuperscript{th} December 2023
3.00pm
Welcome to Canterbury Cathedral for this Service

Canterbury Cathedral is the seat of the Archbishop of Canterbury, the cathedral church of the Diocese of Canterbury, the mother church of the Anglican Communion, and a place of pilgrimage welcoming visitors from across the world.

For over fourteen hundred years God has been worshipped here. With its roots in the Benedictine tradition, the ongoing daily pattern of morning and evening prayer and Eucharist (or Holy Communion) continues the prayers and praises of countless generations in this Cathedral. We welcome you today to share in this continuing rhythm of worship in this service of Evening Prayer.

Please ensure that mobile phones are switched off. No form of visual or sound recording, or any form of photography, is permitted during Services. Thank you for your co-operation.

An induction loop system for the hard of hearing is installed in the Cathedral. Hearing aid users should adjust their aid to T.

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The Book of Common Prayer (1662)

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All stand to sing as the clergy enter the Quire

God rest you merry, gentlemen,
Let nothing you dismay,
Remember Christ our Saviour
Was born on Christmas Day,
To save us all from Satan’s power
When we were gone astray:

O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy!
O tidings of comfort and joy!

And when they came to Bethlehem
Where our dear Saviour lay,
They found him in a manger,
Where oxen feed on hay;
His mother Mary kneeling down,
Unto the Lord did pray:

Now to the Lord sing praises,
All you within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood
Each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas
All other doth efface:

Words: Traditional
Tune: GOD REST YOU MERRY

Welcome The Dean

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.

Sit
Psalm 8

O Lord our Governor, how excellent is thy Name in all the world: thou that hast set thy glory above the heavens!

Out of the mouth of very babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength, because of thine enemies: that thou mightest still the enemy, and the avenger.

For I will consider thy heavens, even the works of thy fingers: the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained.

What is man, that thou art mindful of him: and the son of man, that thou visitest him?

Thou madest him lower than the angels: to crown him with glory and worship.

Thou makest him to have dominion of the works of thy hands: and thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet;

All sheep and oxen: yea, and the beasts of the field;

The fowls of the air, and the fishes of the sea: and whatsoever walketh through the paths of the seas.

O Lord our Governor: how excellent is thy Name in all the world!

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.

Sit
Old Testament Reading  Isaiah 65.17-25

I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice for ever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight. I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress. No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days, or an old person who does not live out a lifetime; for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth, and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed. They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labour in vain, or bear children for calamity; for they shall be offspring blessed by the Lord—and their descendants as well. Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear. The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox; but the serpent—its food shall be dust! They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the Lord.

Stand to sing
Thou who wast rich beyond all splendour,
all for love's sake becamest poor;
thrones for a manger didst surrender,
sapphire-paved courts for stable floor.
Thou who wast rich beyond all splendour,
all for love's sake becomest poor.

2Thou who art God beyond all praising,
all for love's sake becamest man;
stooping so low, but sinners raising
heavenwards by thine eternal plan.
Thou who art God beyond all praising,
all for love's sake becamest man.

3Thou who art love beyond all telling,
Saviour and King, we worship thee.
Emmanuel, within us dwelling,
make us what thou wouldst have us be.
Thou who art love beyond all telling,
Saviour and King, we worship thee.

Words: Frank Houghton (1894-1972)       Tune: FRAGRANCE       AM 87
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.

Sit

New Testament Reading  Philippians 2.5-11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in
the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be
exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in
human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and
became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above
every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven
and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus
Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
Stand to say

**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.*

Turn to the Altar and say together 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 catholick Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

**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.

Almighty God, who hast 
given us thy only-begotten 
Son to take our nature upon 
him, and as at this time to 
be born of a pure Virgin: 
Grant that we being 
regenerate, and made thy 
children by adoption and 
grace, may daily be renewed 
by thy Holy Spirit; through 
the same our Lord Jesus 
Christ, who liveth and 
reigneth with thee and the 
same Spirit, 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.

Stand to sing
The first Nowell the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields as they lay, keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep:

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.

They lookèd up and saw a star
Shining in the east, beyond them far:
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night:

And by the light of that same star,
Three Wise Men came from country far;
To seek for a king was their intent,
And to follow the star wheresoever it went:

This star drew nigh to the north-west;
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
And there it did both stop and stay
Right over the place where Jesus lay:

Then entered in those Wise Men three,
Full reverently upon their knee,
And offered there in his presènce
Both gold and myrrh and frankincense:

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
That hath made heaven and earth of nought,
And with his blood mankind hath bought:

Words: Traditional
Tune: THE FIRST NOWELL

Prayers

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.
Stand to sing the last carol, during which a collection is received
If you would prefer to give by text-message, or use the QR code
➢ To give £5 – text SERVICE to 70560
➢ To give £10 – text SERVICE to 70580
*In addition to any text donation, you will incur your standard network message charge.

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

2 Joy to the world, the Saviour reigns!
let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

3 He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders, of his love.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748) 
Tune: ANTIOCH AM 72

Remain standing for

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. Amen.

All remain standing as the clergy depart