Sung Eucharist

Christmas Day
Monday 25th December 2023
11.00am
Nave
Welcome to Canterbury Cathedral for this Service

The Choral Setting is
Josef Rheinberger (1839-1901), Mass in E flat major

Please ask the priest if you require a gluten-free communion wafer

Livestreaming

This service will be livestreamed and you may be seen on camera, although we will not deliberately take any close-ups of the congregation. By attending you agree to be seen in this way.

If you have any concerns please speak to a member of the clergy.

Cover Image: The Nativity (Christopher Whall)
South West Transept, Canterbury Cathedral

Incense is used at this service as a symbol of the offering of prayer to God.

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.

Large print orders of service are available from the stewards and virgers. Please ask.

The Collection from this Service, including any tax recovered through Gift Aid, will be split between the Cathedral and Porchlight.

THE COLLECTION is an opportunity to give generously to in response to God’s generosity, and there are many ways to give regularly.

Parish Giving Scheme – Scan the QR code to make a one-off or regular donation to the Cathedral by joining the parish giving scheme.
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www.canterbury-cathedral.org
Statement on the Celebration of Advent and Christmas in the Midst of the War

November 10, 2023

Each year during the sacred seasons of Advent and Christmastide, our Christian communities throughout the Holy Land take great delight in their preparations for the commemoration of the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In addition to attendance in religious services, these celebrations have normally involved participation in numerous public festivities and the large-scale display of brightly lit and expensive decorations as a means of expressing our joy at the approach and arrival of the Feast of the Nativity.

But these are not normal times. Since the start of the War, there has been an atmosphere of sadness and pain. Thousands of innocent civilians, including women and children, have died or suffered serious injuries. Many more grieve over the loss of their homes, their loved ones, or the uncertain fate of those dear to them. Throughout the region, even more have lost their work and are suffering from serious economic challenges. Yet despite our repeated calls for a humanitarian ceasefire and a de-escalation of violence, the war continues.

Therefore, We, the Patriarchs and Heads of the Churches in Jerusalem, call upon our congregations to stand strong with those facing such afflictions by this year foregoing any unnecessarily festive activities. We likewise encourage our priests and the faithful to focus more on the spiritual meaning of Christmas in their pastoral activities and liturgical celebrations during this period, with all the focus directed at holding in our thoughts our brothers and sisters affected by this war and its consequences, and with fervent prayers for a just and lasting peace for our beloved Holy Land.

Moreover, during this season of giving, we also invite the faithful to advocate, pray, and contribute generously as they are able for the relief of the victims of this war and for those in dire need, as well as to encourage others to join them in this mission of mercy.

In these ways, we believe, we will be standing in support of those continuing to suffer—just as Christ did with us in his Incarnation, in order that all of God’s children might receive the hope of a New Jerusalem in the presence of the Almighty, where “death shall be no more, neither mourning, nor crying, nor pain, for the former things have passed away” (Revelation 21:4).

—The Patriarchs and Heads of the Churches in Jerusalem
At 10.50am the Vice Lord Lieutenant, the Lord Mayor of Canterbury, and other civic guests are received at the West Doors and conducted to their places. Please stand while they take their places and then sit.

At 10.55am the members of the Foundation move to the West Doors to greet the Archbishop.

The Gathering

All stand and sing

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:

Refrain:
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

2God of God,
Light of Light,
Lo! he abhors
   not the Virgin’s womb;
Very God,
Begotten, not created:

3Child, for us sinners
   Poor and in the manger,
Fain we embrace thee,
   with awe and love;
Who would not love thee,
   Loving us so dearly?

4Sing, choirs of angels,
   Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens
   of heaven above;
Glory to God
   In the Highest:

5Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
   Born this happy morning,
Jesu, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
   Now in flesh appearing:

Words: Latin 18th century
Tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-80) and others
Tune: ADESTE FIDELES  AM 78
The Dean says

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

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you
and also with you.

The Dean and members of the Sunday Club light the last candle on the Advent Wreath

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, King of peace:
to you be praise and glory for ever.
The new light of your incarnate Word gives gladness in our sorrow,
and a presence in our isolation.
Fill our lives with your light, until they overflow with gladness and praise.
Blessed be God for ever.

Lord Jesus, Light of light,
you have come among us.
Help us who live by your light
to shine as lights in your world.
Glory to God in the highest.
Amen.

The Dean introduces

Prayers of Penitence

As we kneel with the shepherds before the newborn Christ-child,
we open our hearts in penitence and faith.

 Remain standing to say

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and
against our neighbour in thought and word and deed, through
negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son
Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past and grant
that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name.
Amen.

The Dean says

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all
goodness and keep you in life eternal, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.
Remain standing as the choir sings

**Gloria in Excelsis**

Gloria in excelsis Deo, et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis. Laudamus te, benedicitis te, adoramus te, glorificamus te, gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam. Domine Deus, Rex coelestis, Deus pater omnipotens. Domine Fili unigenite, Jesu Christe; Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis; qui tollis peccata mundi, suscipe deprecationem nostram; qui sedes ad dexteram Patris, miserere nobis. Quoniam tu solus Sanctus, tu solus Dominus, tu solus Altissimus, Jesu Christe, cum Sancto Spiritu: in gloria Dei Patris. Amen.

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**

*The Dean says*

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin: grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; 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.

**Amen.**

*Sit*
The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading  Isaiah 9.2-7

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.

Thanks be to God.

All stand and sing

Jesus Christ the Lord is born all the bells are ringing!
Angels greet the holy One and shepherds hear them singing, and shepherds hear them singing.

2Go to Bethlehem today, find your king and saviour: glory be to God on high, to earth his peace and favour!

3Held within a cattle stall, loved by love maternal, see the master of us all, our Lord of lords eternal, our Lord of lords eternal!

4Soon shall come the wise men three, rousing Herod's anger; mothers' hearts shall broken be and Mary's son in danger, and Mary's son in danger.

5Death from life and life from death our salvation's story: let all living things give breath to Christmas songs of glory, to Christmas songs of glory!

Words: Michael Perry (1942-96)  Tune: Puer Nobis Nascitur AM 71
The Gospel  

Luke 2.1-20

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
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!’

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.’ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

The organ plays a fanfare

Once the Sermon has been introduced please sit

Sermon  
The Archbishop

Following the Sermon please stand
The Nicene Creed

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.

Kneel or sit for

Prayers of Intercession

The reply to the petitions is

Holy God hear our prayer.
The choir sings

**The Motet**

Given not lent,
And not withdrawn once sent,
This Infant of mankind,
this One is still the little welcome Son.
New ev’ry year, new born and newly dear,
He comes with tidings and a song,
The ages long, the ages long.
Ev’n as the cold keen winter grows not old,
As childhood is so fresh, foreseen,
And spring in the familiar green,
Sudden as sweet,
Come the unexpected feet,
All joy is young and new all art,
And He too, whom we have by heart.

*Words:* Alice Meynell (1847-1922)  *Music:* Richard Rodney Bennett (1936-2012)

**The Liturgy of the Sacrament**

**The Peace**

*Stand*

*The Dean says*

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,
and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.
The peace of the Lord be always with you.
**And also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*Members of the congregation greet one another.*
**The Offertory Hymn** during which the table is prepared and the collection taken

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.*

When the thurifer turns to bow to the congregation, all turn to the altar

![Musical notation]

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 wond’ring love.

How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is giv’n!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his heav’n.
No ear may hear his coming;
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still
The dear Christ enters in.

Where children pure and happy
Pray to the blessed Child,
Where misery cries out to thee,
Son of the mother mild;
Where charity stands watching
And faith holds wide the door,
The dark night wakes, the glory breaks,
And Christmas comes once more.

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.

Words: Phillips Brooks (1835-93)  
Tune: FOREST GREEN  
NEH 32
Remain standing

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Dean says

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

The Dean praises God for his mighty acts

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 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, sanctus, sanctus,
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua.
Hosanna in excelsis.

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and as we follow his example and obey his command,
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us his body and his blood;
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.

Therefore, heavenly Father,
we remember his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross;
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;
we look for the coming of your kingdom,
and with this bread and this cup
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Great is the mystery of faith:
Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.

Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts
in the presence of your divine majesty,
renew us by your Spirit,
inspire us with your love
and unite us in the body of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty,
in songs of everlasting praise:

Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.
The Lord’s Prayer

The Dean says

As we join our prayers with the Church Universal, so we say, each in our own language, the prayer that Jesus 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.

Remain standing for

Breaking of the Bread

The Dean breaks the consecrated bread, saying

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ. Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.

The Dean says

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his supper. Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.

Sit as the Dean and other ministers begin

The Distribution of Communion

Please come up for Communion as directed by the stewards. All who are regular communicants in their own tradition are welcome to receive the sacrament. If you are not a communicant, you are welcome to come...
forward at this point in the service to receive a blessing, keeping your hands to your sides. Please ask the priest if you need a gluten-free host.

We request that you do not intinct (dip) your host in the wine but either take a sip from the cup or remain with your head bowed. This is for the reasons of good hygiene.

We keep a prayerful silence during Communion to allow others to prepare to receive the sacrament or pray afterwards.

During Communion, the choir sings the Agnus Dei

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem.

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.

Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept

Stand as the Dean says

Let us pray.

God our Father,
whose Word has come among us
in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:
may the light of faith illumine our hearts
and shine in our words and deeds;
through him who is Christ the Lord.
Amen.

All then say

Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out
in the power of your Spirit
to live and work
to your praise and glory.
Amen.
The Dismissal

Remain standing to sing

Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful, all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim,
‘Christ is born in Bethlehem’.

Hark! the herald-angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.

2 Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come,
Offspring of a Virgin’s womb! 
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see:
Hail, the incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel:

Hark! the herald-angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.

3 Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth:

Hark! the herald-angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-88) and others  Tune: MENDELSSOHN  AM 66
Remain standing

The Archbishop says

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

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

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

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

Go in the peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

After the blessing, the choir and clergy move through the Quire
to St Andrew’s Chapel.

Please remain in your places until the civic party has left the Nave.
## Services for the coming week

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Service</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday 26th</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>8.00am</td>
<td>Holy Communion</td>
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<tr>
<td>St Stephen, The</td>
<td>9.15am</td>
<td>Matins</td>
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<tr>
<td>First Martyr</td>
<td>12.30pm</td>
<td>Holy Communion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5.30pm</td>
<td>Evensong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday 27th</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>8.00am</td>
<td>Holy Communion</td>
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<tr>
<td>St John the</td>
<td>9.15am</td>
<td>Matins</td>
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<td>Evangelist</td>
<td>12.30pm</td>
<td>Holy Communion</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5.30pm</td>
<td>Evensong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday 28th</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>8.00am</td>
<td>Holy Communion</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Holy Innocents</td>
<td>9.15am</td>
<td>Matins</td>
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<td></td>
<td>12.30pm</td>
<td>Holy Communion</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5.30pm</td>
<td>Evensong</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Friday 29th</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>8.00am</td>
<td>Holy Communion</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Martyrdom of</td>
<td>9.15am</td>
<td>Matins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Thomas</td>
<td>12.30pm</td>
<td>Holy Communion</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5.30pm</td>
<td>Memorial Service</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday 30th</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>8.00am</td>
<td>Holy Communion</td>
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<td>9.15am</td>
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<td>Evensong</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday 31st</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>8.00am</td>
<td>Holy Communion</td>
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<td>The First Sunday</td>
<td>9.15am</td>
<td>Matins</td>
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<td>after Christmas</td>
<td>11.00am</td>
<td>Sung Eucharist</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5.30pm</td>
<td>Evensong</td>
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### Live-streamed worship

The starred services above will be livestreamed and available on our website and via YouTube. If you attend these services you may be seen on camera, and by attending these services you give your permission to appear in this way. If you have any queries or concerns about this please contact the Precentor in advance (precentor@canterbury-cathedral.org). To watch these services and our prayers from home online visit [www.canterbury-cathedral.org](http://www.canterbury-cathedral.org)