



THE CATHEDRAL AND METROPOLITICAL CHURCH OF CHRIST, CANTERBURY

Sung Eucharist



The Second Sunday of Christmas

4th January 2026

11.00am

Quire

Welcome to Canterbury Cathedral for this Eucharist

We are very grateful to the RSCM America National Choir for singing our services today.

The Choral Setting is
Sarah Simko (b.1993), Hildegard Mass

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 Compass Rose

The Compass Rose is a symbol of the worldwide Anglican Communion. The Compass Rose is set in the nave of the Cathedral and Metropolitical Church of Christ in Canterbury. The Greek text reads "The truth shall set you free" (John 8.32).

Health and Safety

Much of the present Cathedral was built hundreds of years ago. Whilst most of the parts of this ancient cathedral that are normally open to the public are easily accessible for all, the historic stone floor may be unpredictably uneven in places, entry to some parts is via stone steps or access ramps of varying gradients, and lighting levels may vary.

Please exercise due care and attention before, during and after the service and move around with regard for your safety. The Cathedral is unable to accept liability for any personal injury or damage to property unless this is due to our own negligence.



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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 Gathering

A welcome is offered

Stand to sing



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.

²Joy 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.

³He 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

The President 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.

**Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of
our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may
perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through
Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Deacon introduces

Prayers of Penitence

Hear the words of the angel to Joseph:

'You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.'
Therefore let us seek the forgiveness of God
through Jesus the Saviour of the world.

Remain standing to say

God be gracious to us and bless us, and make your face shine upon us:
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

May your ways be known on the earth, your saving power among the nations:

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

You, Lord, have made known your salvation,
and reveal your justice in the sight of the nations:
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

The President 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

Glory be to God on high, and in earth peace, good will towards men. We praise
thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks to thee
for thy great glory, O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesu Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of
the Father, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. that
takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the
right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.

For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord; thou only, O Christ, with the
Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect

Let us pray.

Silence is kept

Almighty God,
in the birth of your Son
you have poured on us the new light of your incarnate Word,
and shown us the fullness of your love:
help us to walk in his light and dwell in his love
that we may know the fullness of his joy;
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

The First Reading

Ecclesiasticus 24.1-12

Wisdom praises herself,
and tells of her glory in the midst of her people.
In the assembly of the Most High she opens her mouth,
and in the presence of his hosts she tells of her glory:
'I came forth from the mouth of the Most High,
and covered the earth like a mist.
I dwelt in the highest heavens,
and my throne was in a pillar of cloud.
Alone I compassed the vault of heaven
and traversed the depths of the abyss.
Over waves of the sea, over all the earth,
and over every people and nation I have held sway.
Among all these I sought a resting-place;
in whose territory should I abide?

'Then the Creator of all things gave me a command,
and my Creator chose the place for my tent.
He said, "Make your dwelling in Jacob,
and in Israel receive your inheritance."

Before the ages, in the beginning, he created me,
and for all the ages I shall not cease to be.

In the holy tent I ministered before him,
and so I was established in Zion.

Thus in the beloved city he gave me a resting-place,
and in Jerusalem was my domain.

I took root in an honoured people,
in the portion of the Lord, his heritage.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Remain seated as the choir sings Psalm 147.12-20

Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem :
praise thy God, O Sion.

For he hath made fast the bars of thy gates :
and hath blessed thy children within thee.

He maketh peace in thy borders :
and filleth thee with the flour of wheat.

He sendeth forth his commandment upon earth :
and his word runneth very swiftly.

He giveth snow like wool :
and scattereth the hoar-frost like ashes.

He casteth forth his ice like morsels :
who is able to abide his frost?

He sendeth out his word, and melteth them :
he bloweth with his wind, and the waters flow.

He sheweth his word unto Jacob :
his statutes and ordinances unto Israel.

He hath not dealt so with any nation :
neither have the heathen knowledge of his laws.

Stand as the cantor sings the Alleluia and we respond



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

Alleluia.

The Gospel *John 1.10-18*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him

and cried out, 'This was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me."') From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The organist plays a Gospel fanfare

Once the Sermon has been introduced please sit

Sermon The Reverend Brian McHenry, Priest with Permission to Officiate in the Diocese, and Cathedral Chaplain

After the Sermon, a few moments of silence are kept as we reflect on what we have heard and then the choir sings

The Motet

Here is the little door,
Lift up the latch, oh lift!
We need not wander more,
But enter with our gift;
Our gift of finest gold.
Gold that was never bought or sold.
Myrrh to be strewn about his bed,
Incense in clouds about His head;
All for the child that stirs not in
His sleep,
But holy slumber hold with ass
and sheep.

Words: Frances Chesterton (1869-1938)

Bend low about His bed,
For each He has a gift;
See how His eyes awake,
Lift up your hands, O lift!
For gold, He gives a keen-edged sword.
(Defend with it thy little Lord!)
For incense, smoke of battle red.
Myrrh for the honored happy dead.
Gifts for His children, terrible and sweet;
Touched by such tiny hands,
And Oh such tiny feet.

Music: Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

Following the Motet please stand to say

The Affirmation of Faith *from the Athanasian Creed*

We proclaim the Church's faith in Jesus Christ.

**We believe and declare that our Lord Jesus Christ,
the Son of God, is both divine and human.**

God, of the being of the Father,
the only Son from before time began;
human from the being of his mother, born in the world;

**fully God and fully human;
human in both mind and body.**

As God he is equal to the Father,
as human he is less than the Father.

**he is both divine and human
he is not two beings but one Christ.**

One, not by turning God into flesh,
but by taking humanity into God;

**truly one, not by mixing humanity with Godhead,
but by being one person.**

For as mind and body form one human being
so the one Christ is both divine and human.

**The Word became flesh and lived among us;
we have seen his glory,
the glory of the only Son from the Father,
full of grace and truth.**

Please sit or kneel when the President says 'Let us pray'

Prayers of Intercession

One of these responses is used

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Lord, hear us.
Lord, graciously hear us.

And at the end

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

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

Stand

The President 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.

The Deacon says

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Members of the congregation greet one another. Remain standing to sing

The Offertory Hymn during which the table is prepared and the gifts of the people are gathered and presented. If you would prefer to give electronically, please use the QR code.



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

Good Christians all, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice!
Listen now to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow,
and he is in the manger now!
Christ is born today;
Christ is born today!

²Good Christians all, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice!
Hear the news of endless bliss,
Jesus Christ was born for this:
he has opened heaven's door
and we are blessed for evermore!
Christ was born for this;
Christ was born for this.

³Good Christians all, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice!
Now you need not fear the grave;
Jesus Christ was born to save:
come at his most gracious call
to find salvation, one and all!
Christ was born to save;
Christ was born to save.

Words: Latin and German, 14th century

Adapted: John Mason Neale, (1818-1866)

Tune: IN DULCI JUBILO

AM 65

The President takes the bread and wine and praises God for his gifts

Word made flesh, life of the world, in your incarnation you embraced poverty: by your Spirit may we share in your riches.

Amen

The Eucharistic Prayer

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.

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,
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

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts,
heaven and earth are full of thy glory:
Glory be to thee, O Lord most High.

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord:
Hosanna in the highest.

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.

The Deacon says

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

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 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. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

The President 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 in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.	<i>Notre Père...</i>
Give us today our daily bread.	<i>Vater Unser...</i>
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.	<i>Onze Vader...</i>
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.	<i>Padre Nuestro...</i>
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever.	<i>Ojcze Nasz...</i>
Amen.	<i>Baba Yetu...</i>
	<i>E to matou Matua...</i>
	<i>Ein Tad...</i>
	<i>Πάτερ ἡμῶν</i>

Remain standing for

Breaking of the Bread

The President breaks the consecrated bread, saying

We break the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.

**God here among us,
light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.**

Christ is the true bread which has come down from heaven.
Lord, give us this bread always.

Sit as the President and other ministers begin

The Distribution of Communion

Please come up for Communion as directed by the stewards. All baptised Christians who receive communion in their own church are encouraged to receive today. If you are accompanied by children who do not yet receive, please bring them with you to receive a blessing. They should not be left on their own.

*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 instinct (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.

If you wish to receive communion without climbing the steps to the High Altar, please join the line for the station in the North-East Transept.

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

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

The Blessing of Epiphany Chalk

Stand as the President moves to the Lectern to meet the children and says

Let us pray.

Silence is kept

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

The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in;
from this time forth for evermore.

The chalk is blessed

Blessed are you, Lord our God: in the home of Mary and Joseph you provided a dwelling-place on earth for your eternal Word.

Bless this chalk,
that those who mark their doorways with it
may know your blessing in their home,
and share your love with all who cross its threshold;
we make our prayer through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Dismissal

The President says

Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one
things earthly and heavenly,
fill you with peace and goodwill
and make you partakers of the divine nature;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

During the singing of the hymn, the Altar Party, with the children, will process to the South Door to mark the threshold with chalk



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.

²O 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.

³How 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.

⁴O 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

AM 79

Remain standing as the President, at the South Door, says

Gracious God,
as your people gathered in worship,
may we welcome friend and stranger.
As your people sent out in mission,
may we serve all as sister and brother.
At the threshold of the church,
at the threshold of the year,
bless us in our coming in and our going out,
that the light of Christ's love may be our lode-star,
and walking in its light all the days of our life,
we may find our ourselves at home
in your eternal presence,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God for ever.

We have seen his glory, the glory revealed to all the nations.
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Please wait for the Cross and Lights to return to the Quire to lead the choir out before leaving your seats.

As you leave, you will be able to collect from the stewards a stick of chalk and a sheet with directions and prayers to say when marking your doorways at home.

Organ Voluntary

Tea and coffee will be served in the Clagett Auditorium following this morning's Eucharist. All are very welcome.

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**To find out more about the Friends visit:
www.canterbury-cathedral.org/support-us/friends**

Usual Pattern of Services

7.30am	Morning Prayer	Monday-Friday
8.00am	Holy Communion	Daily
9.15am	Morning Prayer	Saturday & Sunday
11.00am	Sung Eucharist	Sunday
12.30pm	Holy Communion	Wednesday
12.30pm	Taizé Prayer (In Choir Term)	Monday
5.30pm	Choral Evensong	Daily (said with silence Thursdays)

Safeguarding : Do you need to talk?

Are you concerned about the safety of a child, young person or vulnerable adult?

Or is there something that you would like to discuss that affects you?

A safeguarding concern is anything that may impact the safety and wellbeing of a child, young person or vulnerable adult; if they are being neglected, harmed or at risk of being harmed by others or themselves, and are in need of protection. To report a non-emergency safeguarding concern please scan the QR code and complete our online form or email safeguarding@canterbury-cathedral.org

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CONTACT THE CATHEDRAL CONSTABLES OFFICE:



Located by the main entrance to the Precincts, Christ Church Gate.

Alternatively, please call 01227 866237



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