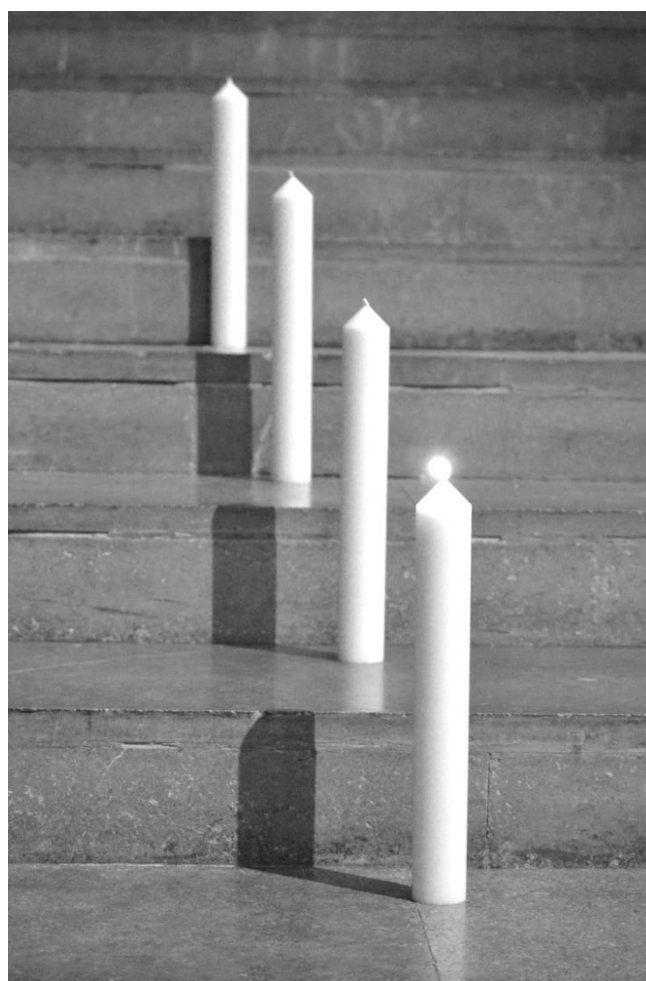




THE CATHEDRAL AND METROPOLITICAL CHURCH OF CHRIST, CANTERBURY

# Advent Carol Service



The First Sunday of Advent

3<sup>rd</sup> December 2023

5.30pm

# Welcome to Canterbury Cathedral for this Service

The season of Advent is a time of watchful expectation of Christ's coming (*adventus*, in Latin, means 'coming'). We prepare to celebrate the incarnation, when Christ was born of the Virgin in humility, but we also expect the Second Coming, when Christ will come in triumph to judge the world.

Each section of our service begins with one of the ancient 'O Antiphons', which are traditionally sung on the days leading up to Christmas. Each Antiphon addresses Christ with a title taken from Scripture and leads us to reflect on a particular aspect of his nature.

## 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 the Precentor.

### *Voluntaries before the service*

Philip Moore (b. 1943), Five Sketches on Helmsley  
Max Reger (1873-1916), Fantasie über den Choral Wachet Auf, ruft uns die Stimme  
*played by William Campbell, Organ Scholar*

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750), Prelude I & III Nun Komm, Der Heiden Heiland, BWV 659  
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750), Duetto in G major BWV 804 and F major, BWV 803  
Dietrich Buxtehude, (1637-1707), Nun Komm, Der Heiden Heiland, BuxWV 211  
Jeanne Demessieux (1921-68), Rorate Caeli  
Johannes Brahms (1883-97), Es ist ein ros entsprungen  
Pietro Alessandro Yon (1886-1943), Prelude on Rorate Coeli and Veni Emmanuel  
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750), Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, BWV 645

*played by Jamie Rogers, Assistant Director of Music*



As part of our commitment to the care of the environment in our world, this Order of Service is printed on unbleached 100% recycled paper



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.

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## **PATRIARCHS AND HEADS OF THE CHURCHES IN JERUSALEM**

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### **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

# ORDER OF SERVICE

*The first candle on the Advent Wreath is lit by a member of Sunday Club*

*Remain seated as the choir sings*

## **The Advent Responsory**

I look from afar:  
and lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth.

Go ye out to meet him and say:  
'Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?'

High and low, rich and poor, one with another,  
Go ye out to meet him and say:

Hear, O thou Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep.  
Tell us, art thou he that should come?

Stir up thy strength, O Lord, and come  
to reign over thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

I look from afar:  
and lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth.

Go ye out to meet him and say:  
'Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?'

*Music: Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525-94)*

*As the clergy procession moves from the West end of the Nave, stand to sing*

## Hymn



Come, thou Redeemer of the earth,  
And manifest thy virgin-birth:  
Let every age adoring fall.  
Such birth befits the God of all.

<sup>2</sup>Begotten of no human will,  
But of the Spirit, thou art still  
The Word of God, in flesh arrayed,  
The Saviour, now to us displayed.

<sup>3</sup>Forth from a virgin goeth he,  
That royal home of purity,  
A giant in twofold substance one,  
Rejoicing now his course to run.

<sup>4</sup>From God the Father he proceeds,  
To God the Father back he speeds,  
Runs out his course to death and hell,  
Returns on God's high throne to dwell.

<sup>5</sup>O equal to thy Father, thou!  
Gird on thy fleshly mantle now,  
The weakness of our mortal state  
With deathless might invigorate.

<sup>6</sup>Thy cradle here shall glitter bright,  
And darkness glow with new-born light,  
No more shall night extinguish day,  
Where love's bright beams their power display.

<sup>7</sup>O Jesu, Virgin-born, to thee  
Eternal praise and glory be,  
Whom with the Father we adore  
And Holy Spirit, evermore.

*Remain standing*

## **Bidding Prayer**

The Dean

In the name of God, who has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and made a place for us in the kingdom of his beloved Son, we welcome you: grace to you and peace.

As we meet to celebrate anew the coming of God's kingdom, we hear revealed the mystery of God's loving purpose for us – how that when we were far off, he met us in his Son and brought us home; how he humbled himself to take our human nature, that we might share his divine glory.

This year we mark His coming with a scorched and flooded earth, with a battered and broken humanity, with violence and aggression in plain sight, with hunger and need hidden behind homes and cardboard shelters, with individuals, communities, organisations and institutions uncertain how to respond and to know what is wise or what is best.

That year, that time the Holy Land also knew all these things yet in your great love you came through the announcement of prophets, through the faithful response and witness of all your friends down through the ages and finally through 'yes' of Mary and Joseph of Nazareth.

Come to us afresh with good news.

Come to us afresh with the promise of justice.

Come to us afresh with the ways to peace.

Come to us afresh with forgiveness and mercy.

Come Lord Jesus, come.

So as Christ taught us, we pray each in our own language, the prayer of God's coming Kingdom:

**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.**

*Sit*

## **Antiphon**

*O Sapientia*

O Wisdom, which camest out of the mouth of the Most High,  
and reachest from one end to another,  
mightily, and sweetly ordering all things:  
Come and teach us the way of prudence.

## First Reading

*Ecclesiasticus 24.1-9*

*God's wisdom seeks to dwell with humankind*

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.'

Thanks be to God.

## Anthem

The Truth Sent from Above

This is the truth sent from above,  
The truth of God, the God of love;  
Therefore don't turn me from your door,  
But hearken all, both rich and poor.

The first thing, which I do relate,  
That God at first did man create  
The next thing, which to you I tell,  
Woman was made with him to dwell.

Then after this, 'twas God's own choice  
To place them both in Paradise,  
There to remain from evil free  
Except they ate of such a tree.

And they did eat, which was a sin,  
And thus their ruin did begin;  
Ruined themselves, both you and me,  
And all of their posterity.

Thus we were heirs to endless woes,  
Till God the Lord did interpose  
For so a promise soon did run  
That He'd redeem us with a Son.

*Words:* Traditional

*Music:* arranged Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

## **Antiphon**

*O Adonai*

O Adonai and Leader of the House of Israel,  
who appearedst in the bush to Moses in a flame of fire,  
and gavest him the law in Sinai:  
Come and deliver us with an outstretched arm.

## **Second Reading**

*Exodus 3.1-6, 13-15*

*God is revealed in the burning bush*

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, 'I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up.' When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, 'Moses, Moses!' And he said, 'Here I am.' Then he said, 'Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.' He said further, 'I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

But Moses said to God, 'If I come to the Israelites and say to them, "The God of your ancestors has sent me to you," and they ask me, "What is his name?" what shall I say to them?' God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM.' He said further, 'Thus you shall say to the Israelites, "I AM has sent me to you."' God also said to Moses, 'Thus you shall say to the Israelites, "The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you": This is my name for ever, and this my title for all generations.'

Thanks be to God.



*Stand to sing*

## Hymn



Wake, O wake! With tidings thrilling  
The watchmen all the air are filling,  
Arise, Jerusalem, arise!  
Midnight strikes! No more delaying,  
'The hour has come!' we hear them saying,  
'Where are ye all, ye virgins wise?  
The Bridegroom comes in sight,  
Raise high your torches bright!'  
Alleluia!  
The wedding song swells loud and strong:  
Go forth and join the festal throng.

<sup>2</sup>Zion hears the watchmen shouting,  
Her heart leaps up with joy undoubting,  
She stands and waits with eager eyes;  
See her Friend from heaven descending,  
Adorned with truth and grace unending!  
Her light burns clear, her star doth rise.  
Now come, thou precious Crown,  
Lord Jesus, God's own Son!  
Alleluia!  
Let us prepare to follow there,  
Where in thy supper we may share.

<sup>3</sup>Every soul in thee rejoices;  
From earth and from angelic voices  
Be glory given to thee alone!  
Now the gates of pearl receive us,  
Thy presence never more shall leave us,  
We stand with angels round thy throne.  
Earth cannot give below  
The bliss thou dost bestow.  
Alleluia!  
Grant us to raise, to length of days,  
The triumph-chorus of thy praise.

*Sit*

## **Antiphon**

*O Radix Jesse*

O Root of Jesse,  
which standest for an ensign of the people,  
at whom kings shall shut their mouths,  
to whom the Gentiles shall seek:  
Come and deliver us, and tarry not.

## **Third Reading**

*Isaiah 11.1-9*

*God's peaceful kingdom*

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.

Thanks be to God.

## **Anthem**

*A Tender Shoot*

A tender shoot has started up from a root of grace,  
As ancient seers imparted, from Jesse's holy race,  
It blooms without a blight,  
Blooms in the cold bleak winter turning our darkness into light.

This shoot Isaiah taught us from Jesse's root should spring;  
The Virgin Mary brought us the branch of which we sing;  
Our God of endless might,  
Gave her this child to save us, thus turning darkness into light.

*Words:* German 15<sup>th</sup> Century

Versified: Otto Goldschmidt (1829-1907)

Translated: William Bartholomew (1793-1867)

*Music:* Kerensa Briggs (b. 1991)

## **Antiphon**

*O Clavis David*

O Key of David; and Sceptre of the house of Israel;  
that openest and no man shutteth; and shuttest and no man openeth:  
Come, and bring the prisoner out of the prisonhouse,  
and him that sitteth in darkness, and the shadow of death.

## **Fourth Reading**

*Isaiah 42.1-7*

*God's servant, a light to the nations*

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.

Thanks be to God.

## **Anthem**

*O Radiant Dawn*

O Radiant Dawn, Splendour of eternal Light, Sun of Justice;  
come shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.  
Isaiah had prophesied, 'The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; Upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone.'

*Words:* Antiphon for 21<sup>st</sup> December

*Music:* James MacMillan (b. 1959)

## **The God We Hardly Knew** by Óscar Romero

No one can celebrate  
a genuine Christmas  
without being truly poor.  
The self-sufficient, the proud,  
those who, because they have  
everything, look down on others,  
those who have no need  
even of God- for them there  
will be no Christmas.  
Only the poor, the hungry,  
those who need someone  
to come on their behalf,  
will have that someone.

That someone is God.  
Emmanuel. God-with-us.  
Without poverty of spirit  
there can be no abundance of God.

*Stand to sing*

## Hymn



Come, thou long-expected Jesus,  
Born to set thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release  
us,  
Let us find our rest in thee.

<sup>2</sup>Israel's strength and consolation,  
Hope of all the earth thou art:  
Dear desire of every nation,  
Joy of every longing heart.

<sup>3</sup>Born thy people to deliver;  
Born a child and yet a king;  
Born to reign in us for ever;  
Now thy gracious kingdom bring.

<sup>4</sup>By thy own eternal Spirit,  
Rule in all our hearts alone:  
By thy all-sufficient merit,  
Raise us to thy glorious throne.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-88)

Tune: CROSS OF JESUS

AM 30

*Sit*

## Antiphon

*O Oriens*

O Dayspring, Brightness of Light everlasting,  
and Sun of righteousness:  
Come, and enlighten him that sitteth in darkness,  
and the shadow of death.

## Fifth Reading

*Malachi 4.1-3*

*God brings judgement and righteousness*

See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the Lord of Hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the Lord of Hosts.

Thanks be to God.

## **Anthem**

Vigilate

*The candles on the Nave Altar are lit during this anthem*

Vigilate, nescitis enim quando Dominus domus veniat,  
sero, an media nocte, an gallicantu, an mane.  
Vigilate ergo, ne cum venerit repente, inveniat vos dormientes.  
Quod autem dico vobis, omnibus dico, vigilate.

*Watch ye therefore, for you know not when the Lord of the house cometh,  
at evening, or at midnight, or at the cock crowing, or in the morning.  
Watch therefore, lest coming in all of a sudden, he find you sleeping.  
And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch.*

*Words: from Mark 13*

*Music: William Byrd (1543-1623)*

## **Antiphon**

*O Rex gentium*

O King of the nations, and their Desire;  
the Cornerstone, who makest both one:  
Come, and save mankind, whom thou formedst of clay.

## **Sixth Reading**

*Ephesians 2.13-22*

*God reconciles us in Christ*

Now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling-place for God.

Thanks be to God.

## **Anthem**

Jesus Christ the apple tree

The tree of life my soul hath seen,  
Laden with fruit and always green;  
The trees of nature fruitless be,  
Compared with Christ the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel,  
By faith I know but ne'er can tell  
The glory which I now can see,  
In Jesus Christ the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought,  
And pleasure dearly I have bought;  
I missed of all but now I see  
'Tis found in Christ the apple tree.

I'm weary with my former toil -  
Here I will sit and rest awhile,  
Under the shadow I will be,  
Of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,  
It keeps my dying faith alive;  
Which makes my soul in haste to be  
With Jesus Christ the apple tree.

*Words:* Anonymous 18<sup>th</sup> Century

*Music:* Elizabeth Poston (1905-87)

## **An Advent Poem** by Mary Oliver

Dear Lord, I have swept and I have washed but  
still nothing is as shining as it should be  
for you. Under the sink, for example, is an  
uproar of mice – it is the season of their  
many children. What shall I do? And under the eaves  
and through the walls the squirrels  
have gnawed their ragged entrances – but it the season  
when they need shelter, so what shall I do? And  
the raccoon limps into the kitchen and opens the cupboard  
while the dog snores, the cat holds the pillow;  
what shall I do? Beautiful is the new snow falling  
in the yard and the fox who is staring boldly  
up the path, to the door. And I still believe you will  
come, Lord; you will, when I speak to the fox,  
the sparrow, the lost dog, the shivering sea-goose, know  
that I am really speaking to you whenever I say,  
as I do all morning and afternoon: Come in, Come in.

*Stand to sing*

**Hymn** *during which a collection to enable the work of this holy place to continue is 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.



Hills of the North, rejoice,  
River and mountain-spring,  
Hark to the advent voice;  
Valley and lowland, sing;  
Christ comes in righteousness and love,  
He brings salvation from above.

<sup>2</sup>Isles of the Southern seas,  
Sing to the listening earth,  
Carry on every breeze,  
Hope of a world's new birth:  
In Christ shall all be made anew,  
His word is sure, his promise true.

<sup>3</sup>Lands of the East, arise,  
He is your brightest morn,  
Greet him with joyous eyes,  
Praise shall his path adorn:  
Your seers have longed to know their Lord;  
To you he comes, the final word.

<sup>4</sup>Shores of the utmost West,  
Lands of the setting sun,  
Welcome the heavenly guest  
In whom the dawn has come:  
He brings a never-ending light  
Who triumphed o'er our darkest light.

<sup>5</sup>Shout, as you journey home;  
Songs be in every mouth,  
Lo, from the North they come,  
From East and West and South:  
In Jesus all shall have their rest,  
In him the universe be blest.

*Remain standing*

## **Antiphon**

*O Emmanuel*

O Emmanuel, our King and Lawgiver,  
the Desire of all nations  
and their Salvation:  
Come and save us O Lord, our God.

## **The Gospel**

*Luke 1.26-38 (The Annunciation)*

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Antiphon**

*O Virgo virginum*

O Virgin of virgins, how shall this be?  
For neither before thee was any like thee, nor shall there be after.  
Daughters of Jerusalem, why marvel ye at me?  
That which ye behold is a divine mystery.

*Sit*



## **Advent Credo** by Daniel Berrigan

It is not true that creation and the human family are doomed to destruction and loss—

This is true: For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life;

It is not true that we must accept inhumanity and discrimination, hunger and poverty, death and destruction—

This is true: I have come that they may have life, and that abundantly.

It is not true that violence and hatred should have the last word, and that war and destruction rule forever—

This is true: Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder, his name shall be called wonderful counsellor, mighty God, the Everlasting, the Prince of peace.

It is not true that we are simply victims of the powers of evil who seek to rule the world—

This is true: To me is given authority in heaven and on earth, and lo I am with you, even until the end of the world.

It is not true that we have to wait for those who are specially gifted, who are the prophets of the Church before we can be peacemakers—

This is true: I will pour out my spirit on all flesh and your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions and your old men shall have dreams.

It is not true that our hopes for liberation of humankind, of justice, of human dignity of peace are not meant for this earth and for this history—

This is true: The hour comes, and it is now, that the true worshipers shall worship God in spirit and in truth.

So let us enter Advent in hope, even hope against hope. Let us see visions of love and peace and justice. Let us affirm with humility, with joy, with faith, with courage: Jesus Christ—the life of the world.

## Anthem

## Angelus ad Virginem

Angelus ad Virginem  
Subintrans in conclave,  
Virginis formidinem  
Demulcens, inquit: Ave!  
Ave regina virginum;  
Caeli terraeque Dominum  
Concipies  
Et paries intacta  
Salutem hominum;  
Tu porta caeli facta,  
Medela criminum.

Quomodo conciperem  
Quae virum non cognovi?  
Qualiter infringerem  
Quod firma mente vovi?  
Spiritus Sancti gratia  
Perficiet haec omnia;  
Ne timeas,  
Sed gaudeas, secura  
Quod castimonia  
Manebit in te pura  
Dei potentia.

Ad haec virgo nobilis  
Respondens inquit ei:  
Ancilla sum humilis  
Omnipotentis Dei.  
Tibi caelesti nuntio,  
Tanti secreti conscio,  
Consentiens,  
Et cupiens videre  
Factum quod audio;  
Parata sum parere,  
Dei consilio.

Eia mater Domini,  
Quae pacem reddidisti  
Angelis et homini,  
Cum Christum genuisti:  
Tuum exora filium  
Ut se nobis propitium  
Exhibeat, Et deleat peccata:  
Praestans auxilium  
Vita frui beata Post hoc exsilium.  
Deo Gratias.

*Gabriel, from heaven's king  
Sent to the maiden sweet,  
Brought to her blissful tiding  
And fair 'gan her to greet.  
'Hail be thou, full of grace aright!  
For so God's Son, the heaven's light,  
Loves man, that He  
a man will be and take  
Flesh of thee, maiden bright,  
Mankind free for to make  
Of sin and devil's might.'*

*Gently to him gave answer  
The gentle maiden then:  
'And in what wise should I bear  
Child, that know not man?'  
The angel said: 'O dread thee nought.  
'Tis through the Holy Ghost that wrought  
Shall be this thing  
whereof tidings I bring:  
Lost mankind shall be bought  
By thy sweet childbearing,  
And back from sorrow brought.*

*When the maiden understood  
And the angel's words had heard,  
Mildly, of her own mild mood,  
The angel she answered:  
'Our Lord His handmaiden, I wis,  
I am, that here above us is:  
And touching me  
fulfilled be thy saw;  
That I, since His will is,  
Be, out of nature's law  
A maid with mother's bliss.'*

*Filled full of charity,  
Thou matchless maiden-mother,  
Pray for us to him that He  
For thy love above other,  
Away our sin and guilt should take,  
And clean of every stain us make  
And heaven's bliss, when our time is to die,  
Would give us for thy sake;  
With grace to serve him by  
Till He to us him take.*

*Words:* Anonymous 13<sup>th</sup> century,  
tr Gerard Manley Hopkins (1844-89)

*Music:* 13<sup>th</sup> century  
Arr. Carter & Rutter

*All stand as the Bishop of Dover says*

## **The Collect**

Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness  
and to put on the armour of light,  
now in the time of this mortal life,  
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;  
that on the last day,  
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty  
to judge the living and the dead,  
we may rise to the life immortal;  
through him who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

## **The Blessing**

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,  
scatter the darkness from before your path,  
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;  
and the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

*Remain standing to sing*

**Hymn** *(during which the choir and clergy process to the West Door)*



Lo, he comes, with clouds descending,  
Once for favoured sinners slain;  
Thousand thousand saints attending  
Swell the triumph of his train:  
Alleluia!  
God appears on earth to reign.

<sup>2</sup>Every eye shall now behold him  
Robed in dreadful majesty;  
Those who set at nought and sold him,  
Pierced and nailed him to the Tree,  
Deeply wailing,  
Shall the true Messiah see.

<sup>3</sup>Those dear tokens of his passion  
Still his dazzling body bears,  
Cause of endless exultation  
To his ransomed worshippers:  
With what rapture  
Gaze we on those glorious scars!

<sup>4</sup>Yea, Amen, let all adore thee,  
High on thine eternal throne;  
Saviour, take the power and glory,  
Claim the kingdom for thine own:  
Alleluia!  
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone.

*Words:* Charles Wesley (1707-88)  
and John Cennick (1718-55)

*Tune:* HELMSLEY

AM 41

**Organ Voluntary** Andrew Carter (b 1939), Toccata on Veni  
Emmanuel



# **Christmas Services at the Cathedral**

## **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December**

5.30pm St Nicholas Family Service – Nave  
*Music from children from local schools joining the girls of the Cathedral Choir*

## **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December**

5.30pm Festival of Carols  
*Family-friendly service featuring well known carols and a Nativity Tableau*

## **Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December**

10.00am Family Crib Service – Nave

*(last admission for visitors 2.30pm)*

5.30pm Cathedral Carol Service – *doors open 4.30pm*

## **Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Eve**

*(Cathedral open for services only)*

5.30pm Cathedral Carol Service – *doors open 4.30pm*

## **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December – CHRISTMAS DAY**

*(Cathedral open for services only)*

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – High Altar

9.15am Matins – Quire

11.00am Sung Eucharist – Nave  
*President and Preacher: The Archbishop*

3.00pm Evening Prayer and Carols – Quire

## **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> December – Stephen, First Martyr**

5.30pm Choral Evensong - Quire

## **Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> December – The Martyrdom of Thomas of Canterbury**

5.30pm Memorial Service for St Thomas of Canterbury  
*Sung by the Lay Clerks of the Cathedral Choir*  
*Preacher: The Bishop of Chelmsford*