Sung Eucharist

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

24th December 2023
11.00am
Quire
Welcome to Canterbury Cathedral for this Service

The Choral Setting is
William Byrd (c. 1540-1623), Mass for five voices

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

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: Advent Candles on the steps leading to the Trinity Chapel

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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.
Patriarchs and Heads of the Churches in Jerusalem

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
The Gathering

A welcome is offered

Stand to sing

Long ago, prophets knew Christ would come, born a Jew, come to make all things new; bear his people's burden, freely love and pardon.

Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring! sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
When he comes, when he comes, who will make him welcome?

2 God in time, God in man, this is God's timeless plan: he will come, as a man, born himself of woman, God divinely human.

3 Mary, hail! Though afraid, she believed, she obeyed. In her womb God is laid; till the time expected nurtured and protected.

4 Journey ends! Where afar Bethlem shines, like a star, stable door stands ajar. Unborn Son of Mary, Saviour, do not tarry!

Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring! sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing! Jesus comes! Jesus comes! We will make him welcome!

Words: F. Pratt Green, (1903-2000) Tune: PERSONENT HODIE AM 75

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 President introduces

Prayers of Penitence

When the Lord comes, he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness, and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

Remain standing to say

Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be; that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.

Remain standing as the choir sings

Kyrie Eleison

Kyrie eleison Lord, have mercy.
Christe eleison Christ, have mercy.
Kyrie eleison 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.

The Collect

Let us pray.

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; 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

Old Testament Reading 2 Samuel 7.1-11, 16

Now when David the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, ‘See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.’ Nathan said to the king, ‘Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you.’

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, ‘Why have you not built me a house of cedar?’ Now therefore you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you, David, that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The Epistle Romans 16.25-27

To God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith – to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen.

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Remain seated as the choir sings Psalm 89.1-8

My song shall be alway of the loving kindness of the Lord: with my mouth will I ever be shewing thy truth from one generation to another.

For I have said, Mercy shall be set up for ever: thy truth shalt thou stablish in the heavens.
I have made a covenant with my chosen:
I have sworn unto David my servant;
Thy seed will I establish for ever:
and set up thy throne from one generation to another.

O Lord, the very heavens shall praise thy wondrous works:
and thy truth in the congregation of the saints.

For who is he among the clouds:
that shall be compared unto the Lord?

And what is he among the gods:
that shall be like unto the Lord?

God is very greatly to be feared in the council of the saints:
and to be had in reverence of all them that are round about him.

Stand as the cantor sings the Alleluia and we respond

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia.


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 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.
The organist plays a Gospel fanfare

Once the Sermon has been introduced please sit

Sermon  The Reverend Dr Jonathan Arnold, Executive Director of the Social Justice Network, Diocese of Canterbury

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.

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 choir sings

The Motet

There is no rose of such virtue
As is the rose that bare Jesu;
Alleluia.

By that rose we may well see
There be one God in persons three,
Pares forma.

For in this rose contained was
Heaven and earth in little space;
Res miranda.

Now leave we all this worldly mirth
And follow we this joyful birth;
Transeamus.

Words: Mediæval Carol  
Music: John Joubert (1927-2019)

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

Stand

The President says

May the God of peace make you completely holy, ready for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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.

Remain standing to sing

The Offertory Hymn during which the table is prepared and the gifts of the people are gathered and presented.
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.

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.

Words: Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608) Tune: WACHET AUF
Tr Francis Crawford Burdett (1864-1935)
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.

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise, almighty God and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son. He is the one foretold by all the prophets, whom the Virgin Mother bore with love beyond all telling. John the Baptist was his herald and made him known when at last he came. In his love Christ fills us with joy as we prepare to celebrate his birth, so that when he comes again he may find us watching in prayer, our hearts filled with wonder and praise. And so, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your glory, and join in their unending hymn of praise:

The Choir sings
Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus,   Holy, holy, holy Lord,
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.       God of power and might.
Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua.   Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in excelsis.        Hosanna in the highest.

Benedictus qui venit
In nomine Domini.
Hosanna in excelsis.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine. Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
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.
So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross. Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

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

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us with all the saints to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving 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, 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*

**Notre Père...**  
**Vater Unser...**  
**Onze Vader...**  
**Padre Nuestro...**  
**Ojcze Nasz...**  
**Baba Yetu...**  
**E to matou Matua...**  
**Ein Tad...**
Breaking of the Bread

The President 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.

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 President 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.

_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_

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._
After the Agnus Dei, the congregation is invited to join the choir in singing, remaining seated

Word of justice, alleluia, come to dwell here. Maranatha!

Word of mercy, alleluia, live among us. Maranatha!

Word of power, alleluia, live within us. Maranatha!

Word of freedom, alleluia, save your people. Maranatha!

Word of healing, alleluia, heal our sorrow. Maranatha!

Word of comfort, alleluia, bring us hope now. Maranatha!

Word of gladness, alleluia, fill our hearts now. Maranatha!

Word of wisdom, alleluia, come renew us. Maranatha!

Word we long for, alleluia, Word we thirst for. Maranatha!

Key of David, alleluia, Son of Mary. Maranatha!

Cry of prophets, alleluia, hope of ages, Maranatha!

Light of nations, alleluia, light in darkness. Maranatha!

Words: Bernadette Farrell (b. 1957) Tune: LITANY OF THE WORD AM 56

Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept

Stand as the President moves to the Advent Wreath with members of the Sunday Club, and the fourth candle is lit.

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, merciful and gentle: to you be praise and glory for ever.
Your light has shone in our darkened world through the child-bearing of blessed Mary; grant that we who have seen your glory may daily be renewed in your image and prepared like her for the coming of your Son, who is the Lord and Saviour of all.

Blessed be God for ever.

Lord Jesus, Light of the world, blessed is Gabriel who brought good news; blessed is Mary your mother and ours. Bless your Church preparing for Christmas; and bless us your children, who long for your coming. Amen.
The Dismissal

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.

2Every eye shall now behold him
robbed 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.

3Those 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!

4Yea, 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

The President says

Christ the Son 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.

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

Organ Voluntary

All remain standing as the choir and clergy depart
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