Family Crib Service

Saturday 23rd December 2023
10.00am
Nave
Welcome to the Cathedral for this Service in which we will bless the Crib and sing carols as we prepare to welcome the Lord Jesus on Christmas Day.

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 picture: A Crib Scene, Canterbury Cathedral

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.

Some material included in this Service is copyright:
© 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ, USA
Some material included in this Service is copyright: © The Archbishops' Council 2000
Hymns and songs reproduced under CCLI number: 1031280

Produced by the Music & Liturgy Department:
precentor@canterbury-cathedral.org
01227 762862
www.canterbury-cathedral.org
ORDER OF SERVICE

All stand as the clergy enter

Carol

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.

Words: Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)  Tune: FOREST GREEN

Welcome  Canon Andrew

All sing

Carol

It was on a starry night
When the hills were bright
Earth lay sleeping, sleeping calm and still
Then in a cattle shed
In a manger bed
A boy was born, King of all the world

Chorus

And all the angels sang for Him
The bells of heaven rang for Him
For a boy was born, King of all the world

And all the angels sang for Him
The bells of heaven rang for Him
For a boy was born, King of all the world
Soon the shepherds came that way
Where the baby lay
And were kneeling, kneeling by His side
And their hearts believed again
For the peace of men
For a boy was born, King of all the world

Chorus

And all the angels sang for Him
The bells of heaven rang for Him
For a boy was born, King of all the world
And all the angels sang for Him
The bells of heaven rang for Him
For a boy was born, King of all the world

Words: Joy Webb
Tune: IT WAS ON A STARRY NIGHT

The Prayers

We have come together to celebrate the good news of the birth of Jesus.
As we hear again the story of Mary and Joseph, the angels and the shepherds, let us in heart and mind go with them to Bethlehem, that we too may worship the Christ child.
We carry with us all those who need his love and care; and so we pray:

Holy Jesus,
by being born as one of us,
and lying humbly in a manger,
you show us how much God loves the world.
Be close to all who are in need;
those who are lonely or afraid,
those who are sad or in pain,
those who have no-one to care for them.
Let the light of your love shine brightly in their hearts
and help us all to see something
of your never-ending glory.
Amen.
Rejoicing in the presence of God among us, as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

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

The Reading Luke 2.1, 3-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. 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.

Thanks be to God.
Stand to sing

Carol

Once in royal David’s city
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby
In a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little Child.

2He came down to earth from heaven
Who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable,
And his cradle was a stall;
With the poor and mean and lowly
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

3And our eyes at last shall see him,
Through his own redeeming love,
For that child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in heaven above;
And he leads his children on
To the place where he is gone.

Words: C. F. Alexander (1818-95) 
Tune: IRBY

The Address

Canon Andrew

Sit

Stand to sing

Carol

during which the clergy will move to the crib. Please turn to face the back of the Nave

Carol

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my bedside till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
Close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

Words: Anon. 
Tune: CRADLE SONG
The Blessing of the Crib

Let us pray that God our Father will bless this crib, and that all who worship his Son, born of the Virgin Mary, may come to share his life in glory.

God our Father, at this time your Son Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary for us and our salvation. Bless this crib, which we have prepared to celebrate his holy birth; may all who see it be strengthened in faith and receive the fullness of life he came to bring, who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

All say together

Lord Jesus, we thank you for coming to live among us. May your love always shine in our hearts, and bring us the joy of eternal life now and for ever. Amen.

Carol

See him lying on a bed of straw
Draughty stable with an open door
Mary cradling the babe she bore
The prince of glory is his name.

Refrain:
Oh, now carry me to Bethlehem
To see the Lord appear to men
Just as poor as was the stable then
The prince of glory when he came.

Star of silver sweeps across the skies
Show where Jesus in the manger lies
Shepherds swiftly from your stupor rise
To see the Saviour of the world.

Angels, sing again the song you sang
Bring God's glory to the heart of man
Sing, "Bethlehem's little baby can
Be salvation to the soul."

Mine are riches from thy poverty
From thine innocence, eternity
Mine, forgiveness by thy death for me
Child of sorrow, for my joy.

Words: Michael Perry (1942-1996). Tune: CALYPSO CAROL (Michael Perry)
The Blessing

May the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the perseverance of the wise men,
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,
and the peace of the Christ child
be yours this Christmas;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Organ Voluntary