



THE CATHEDRAL AND METROPOLITICAL CHURCH OF CHRIST, CANTERBURY

Sung Eucharist



The Fourth Sunday of Advent

21st December 2025

11.00am

Quire

Welcome to Canterbury Cathedral for this Service

The Choral Setting is
Philippe de Monte (1521-1603), Missa 'Ad te levavi oculos meos'

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

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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By cash or cheques payable to 'Canterbury Cathedral' in Gift Aid envelopes - UK taxpayers please fill in the details on the envelope. Or you can give a one-off donation at one of our **contactless donation points** in the South Transept after the service.



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



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?*

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

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

⁴Journey 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 Deacon introduces

Prayers of Penitence

A voice cries out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord.'
So let us listen, and turn to the Lord in penitence and faith.

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	<i>Lord, have mercy.</i>
Christe eleison	<i>Christ, have mercy.</i>
Kyrie eleison	<i>Lord, have mercy.</i>

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.

Silence is kept

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

The Epistle

Romans 1.1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord. Through Christ we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Remain seated as the choir sings Psalm 80.1-8

Hear, O thou Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep :
shew thyself also, thou that sittest upon the cherubims.

Before Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasses :
stir up thy strength, and come, and help us.

Turn us again, O God :
shew the light of thy countenance, and we shall be whole.

O Lord God of hosts :
how long wilt thou be angry with thy people that prayeth?

Thou feedest them with the bread of tears :
and givest them plenteousness of tears to drink.

Thou hast made us a very strife unto our neighbours :
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

Turn us again, thou God of hosts :
shew the light of thy countenance, and we shall be whole.

Thou hast brought a vine out of Egypt :
thou hast cast out the heathen, and planted it.

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.

Remain standing

The Gospel *Matthew 1.18-25*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

The birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel',

which means, 'God is with us.' When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

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 Dr Renie Chow Choy,
Lecturer in Church History, Westcott House, Cambridge;
Public Historian, Westminster Abbey; Visiting Research
Fellow, University of Chester; Research Associate, Centre for
the Study of Christianity and Culture, University of York

*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

Angelus Domini nuntiavit Mariae
et concepit de Spiritu Sancto.

Ave Maria, gratia plena,
Dominus tecum, benedicta tu in
mulieribus, et benedictus fructus
ventris tui, Jesus.

Maria dixit:
Ecce ancilla Domini fiat mihi
secundum verbum tuum.

*The Angel of the Lord announced to
Mary and she conceived by the Holy
Spirit.*

*Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with
thee: blessed art thou amongst
women, and blessed is the Fruit of thy
womb, Jesus.*

*Mary said:
Behold the handmaiden of the Lord.
Do to me according to your word.*

Ave Maria ...

Hail Mary ...

Et verbum caro factum est
Et habitavit in nobis.

*And the Word was made flesh
And dwelt among us.*

Ave Maria ...

Hail Mary ...

Sancta Maria, mater Dei,
ora pro nobis peccatoribus.
Sancta Maria, ora pro nobis
nunc et in hora mortis nostrae.
Amen.

*Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us now and at the hour of our
death. Amen.*

Words: Latin Angelus Prayer

Music: Franz Biebl (1906-2001)

Stand to say

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 Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

Stand

The President says

God will speak peace to his people,
to those who turn to him in their hearts.

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



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.

²Zion 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.

³Every 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

AM 54

Tr Francis Crawford Burkitt (1864-1935)

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

Look upon us in mercy not in judgement; draw us from hatred to love;
make the frailty of our praise a dwelling place for your glory. **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.

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise, almighty God and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son.

For when he humbled himself to come among us in human flesh, he fulfilled the plan you formed before the foundation of the world to open for us the way of salvation.

Confident that your promise will be fulfilled, we now watch for the day when Christ our Lord will come again in glory.

And so we join our voices with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven to proclaim your glory, for ever praising you and singing:

The Choir sings

Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus, Dominus Deus Sabaoth. Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua. Hosanna in excelsis.	<i>Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.</i>
Benedictus qui venit In nomine Domini. Hosanna in excelsis.	<i>Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.</i>

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.

The Deacon says

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 in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

Notre Père...

Vater Unser...

Onze Vader...

Padre Nuestro...

Ojcze Nasz...

Baba Yetu...

E to matou Matua...

Ein Tad...

Remain standing for

Breaking of the Bread

The President breaks the consecrated bread, saying

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.
**Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

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.*

Prayer after Communion

Stand as the President moves to the Advent Wreath, to be joined by any children who would like to come up. The fourth candle is lit.

God our Father,
the angel Gabriel told the Virgin Mary
that she was to be the mother of your Son.
Though Mary was afraid,
she responded to your call with joy.
Help us, whom you call to serve you,
to share like her in your great work
of bringing to our world your love and healing.
We ask this through Jesus Christ,
the light who is coming into the world.
Amen.

**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



Ye servants of the Lord,
each in his office wait,
observant of his heavenly word,
and watchful at his gate.

³Watch! 'tis your Lord's command,
and while we speak, he's near;
mark the first signal of his hand,
and ready all appear.

²Let all your lamps be bright,
and trim the golden flame;
gird up your loins as in his sight,
for awful is his name.

⁴O happy servant he
in such a posture found!
he shall his Lord with rapture see,
and be with honour crowned.

⁵Christ shall the banquet spread
with his own royal hand,
and raise that faithful servant's head
amid the angelic band.

Words: Philip Doddridge (1702-1751)

Tune: NARENZA

AM 57

The President says

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.

The Deacon says

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

Organ Voluntary

All remain standing as the choir and clergy depart

Candlelit Reflection with Organ Meditation

Join us this evening in the Quire at 5.30pm for a candlelit reflection woven round *La Nativité du Seigneur* by Olivier Messiaen. This is a very simple but moving way to move into the last few days before Christmas.

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

Kindly supported by the Friends of Canterbury Cathedral.

**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

TO REPORT AN EMERGENCY SAFEGUARDING CONCERN PLEASE

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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