



THE CATHEDRAL AND METROPOLITICAL CHURCH OF CHRIST, CANTERBURY

# Sung Eucharist



The Third Sunday of Advent

14<sup>th</sup> December 2025

11.00am

Quire

# Welcome to Canterbury Cathedral for this Service

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

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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PARISH  
GIVING  
SCHEME



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*



Hark the glad sound! the Saviour comes,  
the Saviour promised long:  
let every heart prepare a throne,  
and every voice a song.

<sup>2</sup>He comes, the prisoners to release  
in Satan's bondage held;  
the gates of brass before him burst,  
the iron fetters yield.

<sup>3</sup>He comes, the broken heart to bind,  
the bleeding soul to cure,  
and with the treasures of his grace  
to enrich the humble poor.

<sup>4</sup>Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,  
thy welcome shall proclaim;  
and heaven's eternal arches ring  
with thy belovèd name.

*Words:* Philip Doddridge (1702-51)

*Tune:* BRISTOL

AM 36

*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*

O Lord Jesus Christ,  
who at your first coming sent your messenger  
to prepare your way before you:  
grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries  
may likewise so prepare and make ready your way  
by turning the hearts of the disobedient  
to the wisdom of the just,  
that at your second coming to judge the world  
we may be found an acceptable people in your sight;  
for you are alive and reign with the Father  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

# The Liturgy of the Word

## Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 35.1-10*

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.

And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Remain seated as the choir sings Psalm 146.4-10*

Blessed is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help :  
and whose hope is in the Lord his God;

Who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that therein is :  
who keepeth his promise for ever;

Who helpeth them to right that suffer wrong :  
who feedeth the hungry.

The Lord looseth men out of prison :  
the Lord giveth sight to the blind.

The Lord helpeth them that are fallen :  
the Lord careth for the righteous.

The Lord careth for the strangers, he defendeth the fatherless and widow :  
as for the way of the ungodly, he turneth it upside down.

The Lord thy God, O Sion, shall be King for evermore :  
and throughout all generations.

*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 11.2-11*

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.**

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to Jesus, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you."

Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.'

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 Very Reverend Mandy Ford, Dean of Bristol

*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

Ave, verum corpus natum  
de Maria Virgine:  
vere passum, immolatum  
in cruce pro homine:  
cuius latus perforatum  
fluxit sanguine:  
esto nobis praegustatum,  
in mortis examine.  
O dulcis, O pie,  
O Jesu Fili Mariae.  
Miserere mei. Amen.

*Hail the true body, born  
of the Virgin Mary:  
truly suffering, was sacrificed on the  
cross for mankind:  
from whose pierced side  
flowed blood:  
Be for us a foretaste  
in the trial of death.  
O sweet one, O merciful one,  
O Jesus, Son of Mary.  
Have mercy on me. Amen.*

Words: 14<sup>th</sup> Century Eucharistic Hymn

Music: William Byrd (c. 1540-1623)

*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*





O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here,  
until the Son of God appear:

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

<sup>2</sup>O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free  
thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
from depths of hell thy people save,  
and give them victory o'er the grave:

<sup>3</sup>O come, thou Dayspring, come and  
cheer  
our spirits by thine advent here;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadows put to flight:

<sup>4</sup>O come, thou Key of David, come,  
and open wide our heavenly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery:

<sup>5</sup>O come, O come, thou Lord of Might,  
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height,  
in ancient times didst give the law  
in cloud and majesty and awe:

Words: John Mason Neale (1818-66)  
*translated from Latin Advent Antiphons*

Tune: VENI EMMANUEL

AM 45

*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 third candle is lit.*

God our Father,

you gave to Zechariah and Elizabeth in their old age  
a son called John.

He grew up strong in spirit,  
prepared the people for the coming of the Lord,  
and baptized them in the Jordan to wash away their sins.

Help us, who have been baptized into Christ,  
to be ready to welcome him into our hearts,  
and to grow strong in faith by the power of the Spirit.

We ask this through Jesus Christ,  
the light who is coming into the world.

**Amen.**

**Lord Jesus, light of the world,**

**John told the people to prepare,  
for you were very near.**

**As Christmas grows closer day by day,  
help us to be ready to welcome you now.**

**Amen.**

# The Dismissal



The advent of our King  
our prayers must now employ,  
and we must hymns of welcome sing  
In strains of holy joy.

<sup>2</sup>The everlasting Son  
incarnate deigns to be;  
himself a servant's form puts on,  
to set his servants free.

<sup>3</sup>Daughter of Sion, rise  
to meet thy lowly King;  
nor let thy faithless heart despise  
the peace he comes to bring.

<sup>4</sup>As judge, on clouds of light,  
he soon will come again,  
and his true members all unite,  
with him in heaven to reign.

<sup>5</sup>All glory to the Son,  
who comes to set us free,  
with Father, Spirit ever One,  
through all eternity.

Words: Charles Coffin (1676-1749)  
Tr John Chandler (1806-76)

Tune: ST THOMAS

AM 50

*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*

## **Festival of Carols**

Join us this evening in the Nave at 5.30pm for the Festival of Carols with Nativity – readings and familiar carols with the children gathering to make a Nativity Scene round the altar.

**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](http://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](mailto: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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