



THE CATHEDRAL AND METROPOLITICAL CHURCH OF CHRIST, CANTERBURY

St Nicholas Family Service



10th December 2023

5.30pm

Nave

Welcome to Canterbury Cathedral for this Service

In the fourth century, Nicholas was Bishop of Myra in modern-day Turkey. He was a very kind man and had a reputation for helping the poor and giving secret gifts to people in need.

There are many legends about Nicholas, the most famous one you will hear in this service. Because of his kindness and goodness Nicholas was eventually made a saint.

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.

The music before and after the service is played by
The Training Band of the 1st Whitstable Scout Group

The Childrens' Choir is made up of singers from the following schools:

Wickhambreaux Church of England Primary School

St Nicholas Church of England Primary Academy, New Romney

St Nicholas-at-Wade Church of England Primary School

Kent College

Chilham, St Mary's Church of England Primary School

Herne Church of England Junior School

Ashford St Mary's Church of England Primary School

Pilgrims Way Primary School

St Eanswythe's Church of England Primary School, Folkestone

Bridge and Patricxbourne Church of England Primary School

St Thomas's Catholic Primary School, Canterbury

Barham Church of England Primary School

St Peter's Methodist School

We are enormously grateful to all the school staff who have worked hard to prepare the children and who have come today to our 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.

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ORDER OF SERVICE

The Wickhambreaux Brass Ensemble greets the procession with a fanfare, please stand

Welcome The Dean

Almighty Father, who chose your servant Nicholas to be a bishop in the Church, that he might give freely out of the treasures of your grace: make us mindful of the needs of others and, as we have received, so teach us also to give; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Please sit while the Children's Choir sings

Song An Advent Carol

All the earth is waiting for the birth of God's Son.
Soon the celebrating will bring honour to the Holy One.
Sing with joy your carols here,
Soon the Christ Child will appear!

How do we wait?
How do we get ready for the coming of God's Son?
How do we wait?
How do we get ready for the birth of the Holy One?

All the earth is waiting for the birth of God's Son.
Soon the celebrating will bring honour to the Holy One.
Sing with joy your carols here,
Soon the Christ Child will appear!

Be ready, be strong.
Keep awake, it won't be long!
Be patient, always pray.
Do what is good, prepare the way!

All the earth is waiting for the birth of God's Son.
Soon the celebrating will bring honour to the Holy One.
Sing with joy your carols here,
Soon the Christ Child will.... a.... ppear.....!

Music: Jody W Lindh

Please remain seated

Reading

Deuteronomy 15.7-11

If there is among you anyone in need, a member of your community in any of your towns within the land that the Lord your God is giving you, do not be hard-hearted or tight-fisted towards your needy neighbour. You should rather be kind, willingly giving enough to meet the need, whatever it may be.

Do not have a mean thought and give nothing. Give generously and be ungrudging when you do so, so the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in all that you do. Since there will never stop being some people in need on the earth, I therefore command you, 'Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbour in your land.'

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

We stand to sing

Carol

Peace Perfect Peace

During this Carol the Dean moves to the Great West Door to welcome St Nicholas, please turn West to face the Vice Dean as he passes.

Peace, perfect peace is the gift of Christ our Lord.
Peace, perfect peace is the gift of Christ our Lord.
Thus, says the Lord, will the world know my friends.
Peace, perfect peace, is the gift of Christ our Lord.

²Love, perfect love, is the gift of Christ our Lord.
Love, perfect love, is the gift of Christ our Lord.
Thus, says the Lord, will the world know my friends.
Love, perfect love, is the gift of Christ our Lord.

³Hope, perfect hope, is the gift of Christ our Lord.
Hope, perfect hope, is the gift of Christ our Lord.
Thus, says the Lord, will the world know my friends.
Hope, perfect hope, is the gift of Christ our Lord.

⁴Joy, perfect joy, is the gift of Christ our Lord.
Joy, perfect joy, is the gift of Christ our Lord.
Thus, says the Lord, will the world know my friends.
Joy, perfect joy, is the gift of Christ our Lord.

Words and Music: Kevin Mayhew (1943-2022)

When St Nicholas enters, Wickhambreaux Brass greets him with a fanfare

A Song for St Nicholas

During this song St Nicholas is led up to the altar, greeting people as he passes

*Sung by the Children's
Choir only*

*Let us sing the song of Nicholas,
The saint we celebrate;
We are happy to remember him,
His legends they are great;
He delivers joy and happiness
To girls and boys who wait:
St Nicholas we cheer!
Glory, glory, hallelujah (repeat x3)
St Nicholas we cheer!*

All join in!

²As he saved the girls from poverty,
The sailors sailed free;
And the soldiers all were innocent –
His miracles we see;
Those three bags of gold he carries
Show his generosity:
St Nicholas we cheer! (Chorus)

³Let us follow his example
As for Christmas we prepare;
Soon in Bethlehem we'll see the baby
In his Mother's care;
Soon the greatest gift of all will come
To children everywhere:
St Nicholas we cheer! (Chorus)

Words: Jim Rosenthal and others

Please be seated

The Story of St Nicholas

Canon Andrew Dodd

Carol

Welcome, St Nicholas!

Jolly old St Nicholas, lean your ear this way!
Don't you tell a single soul what I'm going to say.
Christmas Eve is coming soon; Now you dear old man,
Whisper what you'll bring to me, Tell me if you can.

Christmas time is coming soon; Raise your voice in a joyful tune.
There will be gifts a-scattered on the floor.
Welcome St Nicholas! What have you in store?

When the clock is striking twelve, when I'm fast asleep,
Down the chimney broad and black with your pack you'll creep.
All the stockings you will find hanging in a row;
Mine will be the shortest one, you'll be sure to know.

Welcome, dear Saint Nicholas, now join our Christmas cheer
JOLLY OLD ST. NICK!

Trad, arr David Eddleman

Prayers

Led by children from the Cathedral's Sunday Club, using this response

Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

The prayers end with all saying

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Please remain seated as the Children's Choir sings

Song

The First Nowell

The first Nowell the angels did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.

²And by the light of that same star,
Three wise men came from country far;
To seek for a king was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went.
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.

³Then entered in those wisemen three,
Full rev'rently upon their knee,
And offer'd there in his presence,
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense:
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.

⁴Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heav'nly Lord,
That hath made heav'n and earth of nought,
And with his blood humankind has bought:
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.

Words: Traditional

Music: Bob Chilcott

Please stand to sing

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.

²O 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 (1835-93)

³How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming;
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still
The dear Christ enters in.

⁴O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray:
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel.

Tune: FOREST GREEN

Blessing

*There is a retiring collection for **The Children's Society**, a national charity which works to support the country's most vulnerable children and young people. Please give generously.*

The Wickhambreaux Brass Ensemble plays as the procession leaves.

Children at Canterbury Cathedral

Family Crib Service

*A short service for children and all the family telling the Christmas story
with carols and a journey to the Christmas Crib*

Saturday 23rd December 10.00am

Sunday Club

Meets in the Cathedral every Sunday in term time as part of the 11.00am
Eucharist, for children from birth to 12 years.

Join our Cathedral Choir

If you know a child who enjoys singing, please email

music@canterbury-cathedral.org

to learn more about becoming a chorister here. Enquiries are warmly welcomed
at any time, and it is possible to meet children and their parents for a
conversation, and for informal pre-auditions. More information about the

Cathedral's musicians can be found at

<https://www.canterbury-cathedral.org/worship/music/>

David Newsholme
Director of Music