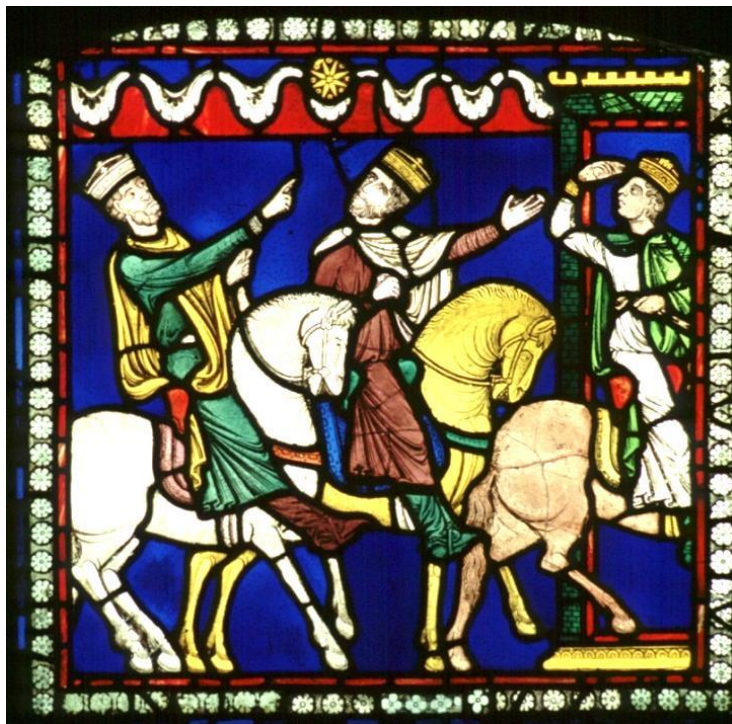




THE CATHEDRAL AND METROPOLITICAL CHURCH OF CHRIST, CANTERBURY

# Sung Eucharist



## The Epiphany

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026

5.30pm

Quire

# Welcome to Canterbury Cathedral for this Eucharist

The Choral Setting is  
William Byrd (c.1540-1623), Mass for three 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: The Magi, North Quire Aisle

## 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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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

*Stand to sing*



Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,  
dawn on our darkness, and lend us thine aid;  
star of the east, the horizon adorning,  
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

<sup>2</sup>Cold on his cradle the dew-drops are shining;  
low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;  
angels adore him in slumber reclining,  
Maker and Monarch and Saviour of all.

<sup>3</sup>Say, shall we yield him, in costly devotion,  
odours of Edom, and offerings divine,  
gems of the mountain, and pearls of the ocean,  
myrrh from the forest, or gold from the mine?

<sup>4</sup>Vainly we offer each ample oblation,  
vainly with gifts would his favour secure:  
richer by far is the heart's adoration,  
dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

<sup>5</sup>Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,  
dawn on our darkness, and lend us thine aid;  
star of the east, the horizon adorning,  
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Words: Reginald Heber (1783-1826)

Tune: EPIPHANY

AM 96

*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.**

*The Deacon introduces the service*

## **Prayers of Penitence**

The grace of God has dawned upon the world  
through our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who sacrificed himself for us to purify a people as his own.

Let us confess our sins.

*We remain standing*

Lord Jesus, illuminate the darkness in our hearts:  
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, open our eyes to your saving love:  
Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, unstop our ears to hear your living word:  
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

*The President says*

May God who loved the world so much  
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour  
forgive you your sins and make you holy to serve him in the world,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*Remain standing as the choir sings*

## **Gloria in Excelsis**

Gloria in excelsis Deo, et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis. Laudamus te, benedicimus te, adoramus te, glorificamus te, gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam. Domine Deus, Rex coelestis, Deus pater omnipotens. Domine Fili unigenite, Jesu Christe; Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis; qui tollis peccata mundi, suscipe deprecationem nostram; qui sedes ad dexteram Patris, miserere nobis. Quoniam tu solus Sanctus, tu solus Dominus, tu solus Altissimus, Jesu Christe, cum Sancto Spiritu: in gloria Dei Patris. Amen.

*Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.*

## The Collect

Let us pray.

*Silence is kept*

O God,  
who by the leading of a star  
manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth:  
mercifully grant that we,  
who know you now by faith,  
may at last behold your glory face to face;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
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      *Ephesians 3.1-12*

I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—for surely you have already heard of the commission of God’s grace that was given to me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God’s grace that was given to me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Remain seated as the choir sings Psalm 72.10-15*

The kings of Tharsis and of the isles shall give presents :  
the kings of Arabia and Saba shall bring gifts.

All kings shall fall down before him :  
all nations shall do him service.

For he shall deliver the poor when he crieth :  
the needy also, and him that hath no helper.

He shall be favourable to the simple and needy :  
and shall preserve the souls of the poor.

He shall deliver their souls from falsehood and wrong :  
and dear shall their blood be in his sight.

He shall live, and unto him shall be given of the gold of Arabia :  
prayer shall be made ever unto him, and daily shall he be praised.

*Stand as the cantor sings the Alleluia and we respond*



Christ was revealed in flesh, proclaimed among the nations  
and believed in throughout the world.

**Alleluia.**

**The Gospel**

*Matthew 2.1-12*

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.**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen

at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Once the Homily has been introduced please sit*

## **Homily**

*After the Homily, a few moments of silence are kept as we reflect on what we have heard and then the choir sings*

## **The Motet**

Vidimus stellam ejus in Oriente, et  
venimus cum muneribus adorare  
Dominum.

*We have seen his star in the East and  
are come with gifts to adore the Lord.*

*Words: Matthew 2.2, Communion motet for the Epiphany    Music: William Byrd (c.1540-1623)*

*Stand to say*

## **The Affirmation of Faith**      *from the Athanasian Creed*

We proclaim the Church's faith in Jesus Christ.

**We believe and declare that our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Son of God, is both divine and human.**

God, of the being of the Father,  
the only Son from before time began;  
human from the being of his mother, born in the world;

**fully God and fully human;  
human in both mind and body.**

As God he is equal to the Father,  
as human he is less than the Father.

**Although he is both divine and human  
he is not two beings but one Christ.**

One, not by turning God into flesh,  
but by taking humanity into God;

**truly one, not by mixing humanity with Godhead,  
but by being one person.**

For as mind and body form one human being  
so the one Christ is both divine and human.

**The Word became flesh and lived among us;  
we have seen his glory,  
the glory of the only Son from the Father,  
full of grace and truth.**

# The Liturgy of the Sacrament

## The Peace

*Remain standing*

*The President says*

Our Saviour Christ is the Prince of Peace.

Of the increase of his government and of peace there shall be no end.

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 may greet one another with a sign of peace*

*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*



Hail to the Lord's Anointed,  
great David's greater Son!  
Hail, in the time appointed,  
his reign on earth begun!  
He comes to break oppression,  
to set the captive free,  
to take away transgression,  
and rule in equity.

<sup>2</sup>He comes with succour speedy  
to those who suffer wrong;  
to help the poor and needy,  
and bid the weak be strong;  
to give them songs for sighing,  
their darkness turn to light,  
whose souls, condemned and dying,  
were precious in his sight.

<sup>3</sup>He shall come down like showers  
upon the fruitful earth,  
and love, joy, hope, like flowers,  
spring in his path to birth:  
before him on the mountains,  
shall peace, the herald, go;  
and righteousness in fountains  
from hill to valley flow.

<sup>4</sup>Kings shall bow down before him,  
and gold and incense bring;  
all nations shall adore him,  
his praise all people sing:  
to him shall prayer unceasing  
and daily vows ascend;  
his kingdom still increasing,  
a kingdom without end.

<sup>5</sup>O'er every foe victorious,  
he on his throne shall rest;  
from age to age more glorious,  
all-blessing and all-blest:  
the tide of time shall never  
his covenant remove;  
his name shall stand for ever;  
his changeless name of love.

Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854)  
based on Psalm 72

Tune: CRÜGER

AM 99

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

Gracious God, accept the offering of your Church,  
the hearts of your people joined in praise and thanksgiving,  
in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **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.**

All honour and praise be yours always and everywhere,  
mighty creator, ever-living God,  
through Jesus Christ your only Son our Lord:  
for at this time we celebrate your glory made present in our midst.

In the coming of the magi  
the King of all the world was revealed to the nations.  
In the waters of baptism Jesus was revealed as the Christ,  
the Saviour sent to redeem us.  
In the water made wine  
the new creation was revealed at the wedding feast.  
Poverty was turned to riches, sorrow into joy.

Therefore with all the angels of heaven  
we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name  
and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

*The choir sings*

Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus,  
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.  
Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua.  
Hosanna in excelsis.

Benedictus qui venit  
In nomine Domini.  
Hosanna in excelsis.

*Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might.  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.*

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

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,  
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
and as we follow his example and obey his command,  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit  
these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us his body and his blood;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,  
took bread and gave you thanks;  
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper  
he took the cup and gave you thanks;  
he gave it to them, saying:  
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.

Therefore, heavenly Father,  
we remember his offering of himself  
made once for all upon the cross;  
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;  
we look for the coming of your kingdom,  
and with this bread and this cup  
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

*The Deacon says*

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died:**

**Christ is risen:**

**Christ will come again.**

Accept through him, our great high priest,  
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,  
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts  
in the presence of your divine majesty,  
renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love  
and unite us in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,  
we worship you, Father almighty,  
in songs of everlasting praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power  
be yours 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...*

*Ojcie Nasz...*

*Baba Yetu...*

*E to matou Matua...*

*Ein Tad...*

*Πάτερ ἡμῶν*

*Remain standing for*

## Breaking of the Bread

*The President breaks the consecrated bread, saying*

We break the bread of life,  
and that life is the light of the world.

**God here among us,  
light in the midst of us,  
bring us to light and life.**

*The President says*

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 baptised Christians who receive communion in their own church are encouraged to receive today. If you are accompanied by children who do not yet receive, please bring them with you to receive a blessing. They should not be left on their own.*

*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 in your seat, please inform a steward.*

*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 says*

Let us pray.

*Silence is kept*

Lord God,  
the bright splendour whom the nations seek:  
may we who with the wise men  
have been drawn by your light  
discern the glory of your presence in your Son,  
the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*All then say*

**Father of all,  
we give you thanks and praise,  
that when we were still far off  
you met us in your Son and brought us home.  
Dying and living, he declared your love,  
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.  
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;  
we who drink his cup bring life to others;  
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.  
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,  
so we and all your children shall be free,  
and the whole earth live to praise your name;  
through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

# The Dismissal



We three kings of Orient are,  
bearing gifts we traverse afar  
field and fountain,  
moor and mountain,  
following yonder star:

*O star of wonder, star of night,  
Star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect light.*

<sup>2</sup>Born a king on Bethlehem plain,  
gold I bring to crown him again,  
king for ever, ceasing never  
over us all to reign:

<sup>3</sup>Frankincense to offer have I,  
incense owns a deity nigh;  
prayer and praising, all men raising,  
worship him, God most high:

<sup>4</sup>Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume  
breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
sealed in the stone-cold tomb:

<sup>5</sup>Glorious now behold him arise,  
king and God and sacrifice.  
Heaven sings: 'Alleluia';  
'Alleluia,' the earth replies:

Words: E J Hopkins (1818-1901)

Tune: THREE KINGS OF ORIENT

AM 105

*The President says*

Christ our Lord,  
to whom kings bowed down in worship and offered gifts,  
reveal to you his glory  
and pour upon you the riches of his grace;  
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*

We have seen his glory,  
the glory revealed to all the nations.  
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

*All remain standing as the choir and clergy depart*

## Organ Voluntary



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