



THE CATHEDRAL AND METROPOLITICAL CHURCH OF CHRIST, CANTERBURY

Evening Prayer with Carols



Stephen, Deacon and First Martyr

Friday 26th December 2025

5.30pm

Quire

Welcome to Canterbury Cathedral on this Feast Day

Livestreaming

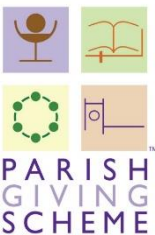
This service will be livestreamed and you may be seen on camera, although we will not deliberately take any close-ups of the congregation. By attending you agree to be seen in this way. If you have any concerns please speak to a member of the clergy.

Cover picture: Depiction of St. Stephen
from The Demidoff Altarpiece by
Carlo Crivelli. The objects around St. Stephen's head and body
are depictions of the rocks, which were used to kill him

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

ORDER OF SERVICE

As the clergy enter, stand to sing



Good King Wenceslas looked out
On the Feast of Stephen,
When the snow lay round about,
Deep and crisp and even.
Brightly shone the moon that night,
Though the frost was cruel,
When a poor man came in sight,
Gathering winter fuel.

²**Men only**

"Hither, page, and stand by me,
If thou know'st it, telling,
Yonder peasant, who is he?
Where and what his dwelling?"

Women only

"Sire, he lives a good league hence,
Underneath the mountain,
Right against the forest fence,
By Saint Agnes' fountain."

³**Men only**

"Bring me flesh and bring me wine,
Bring me pine logs hither,
Thou and I will see him dine,
When we bear them thither."

All

Page and monarch, forth they went,
Forth they went together,
Through the cold wind's wild lament
And the bitter weather.

⁴**Women only**

"Sire, the night is darker now,
And the wind blows stronger,
Fails my heart, I know not how;
I can go no longer."

Men only

"Mark my footsteps, good my page,
Tread thou in them boldly,
Thou shalt find the winter's rage
Freeze thy blood less coldly."

⁵In his master's steps he trod,
Where the snow lay dinted;
Heat was in the very sod
Which the saint had printed.
Therefore, Christian men, be sure,
Wealth or rank possessing,
Ye who now will bless the poor
Shall yourselves find blessing!

Words: John Mason Neale (1818-1866)

Tune: TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM

A welcome is offered

*The minister leading says the words in normal type, and the congregation says the words in **bold type***

The Preces

O Lord, open thou our lips
and our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

O God, make speed to save us.
O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
**as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.**

Praise ye the Lord.
The Lord's name be praised.

Sit

Psalm 86

Bow down thine ear, O Lord, and hear me :
for I am poor, and in misery.

**Preserve thou my soul, for I am holy :
my God, save thy servant that putteth his trust in thee.**

Be merciful unto me, O Lord :
for I will call daily upon thee.

**Comfort the soul of thy servant :
for unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul.**

For thou, Lord, art good and gracious :
and of great mercy unto all them that call upon thee.

**Give ear, Lord, unto my prayer :
and ponder the voice of my humble desires.**

In the time of my trouble I will call upon thee :
for thou hearest me.

**Among the gods there is none like unto thee, O Lord :
there is not one that can do as thou doest.**

All nations whom thou hast made shall come and worship thee, O Lord :
and shall glorify thy Name.

**For thou art great, and doest wondrous things :
thou art God alone.**

Teach me thy way, O Lord, and I will walk in thy truth :
O knit my heart unto thee, that I may fear thy Name.

For great is thy mercy toward me :
and thou hast delivered my soul from the nethermost hell.

But thou, O Lord God, art full of compassion and mercy :
long-suffering, plenteous in goodness and truth.

Shew some token upon me for good,
that they who hate me may see it and be ashamed :
because thou, Lord, hast holpen me and comforted me.

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son : and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

The musical score for 'The Rose Tree' is presented in two systems. The first system contains the first two lines of music, and the second system contains the next two lines. The music is written in a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is primarily composed of quarter and eighth notes, with some rests. The accompaniment consists of a steady bass line of quarter notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

3'To you in David's town this day
is born of David's line
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
and this shall be the sign:

⁴'the heavenly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
and in a manger laid.'

⁵Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song:

⁶'All glory be to God on high,
and to the earth be peace;
good will henceforth from heaven to men
begin and never cease.'

Words: Nahum Tate (1652-1715)

Tune: WINCHESTER OLD

AM 89i

Remain standing to say

Magnificat

My soul doth magnify the Lord :
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

**For he hath regarded :
the lowliness of his handmaiden.**

For behold, from henceforth :
all generations shall call me blessed.

**For he that is mighty hath magnified me :
and holy is his Name.**

And his mercy is on them that fear him :
throughout all generations.

**He hath shewed strength with his arm :
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.**

He hath put down the mighty from their seat :
and hath exalted the humble and meek.

**He hath filled the hungry with good things :
and the rich he hath sent empty away.**

He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel :
as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son : and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be :
world without end. Amen.**

Sit

New Testament Reading

Matthew 23.34-end

Stand to say

Nunc Dimittis

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace :
according to thy word.

**For mine eyes have seen :
thy salvation;**

Which thou hast prepared :
before the face of all people;

**To be a light to lighten the Gentiles :
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son : and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be :
world without end. Amen.**

We face the altar to say together the

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth:
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.
He descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholick Church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Versicles and Responses

The Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

Please kneel or sit

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

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. Amen.

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

And grant us thy salvation.

O Lord, save the King.

And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Endue thy ministers with righteousness.

And make thy chosen people joyful.

O Lord, save thy people.

And bless thine inheritance.

Give peace in our time, O Lord.

**Because there is none other that fighteth for us,
but only thou, O God.**

O God, make clean our hearts within us.

And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

The Collects

Grant, O Lord, that in all our sufferings here upon earth, for the testimony of thy truth, we may stedfastly look up to heaven, and by faith behold the glory that shall be revealed; and, being filled with the Holy Ghost, may learn to love and bless our persecutors by the example of thy first Martyr Saint Stephen, who prayed for his murderers to thee, O blessed Jesus, who standest at the right hand of God to succour all those that suffer for thee, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed; give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that both, our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that, by thee, we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Stand to sing



The Angel Gabriel from heaven came,
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
"All hail," said he to meek and lowly Mary,
"most highly favoured lady." Gloria!

²"For known a blessed Mother thou shalt be:
all generations laud and honour thee.
thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
most highly favoured lady." Gloria!

³Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said.
"My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name."
most highly favoured lady, Gloria!

⁴Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say,
"Most highly favoured maiden." Gloria!

Words: Basque Carol

Tune: GABRIEL'S MESSAGE

AM 85

Paraphrased: Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924)

Sit

The Prayers

which end with

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all evermore.
Amen.**

Stand to sing



Angels from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story
now proclaim Messiah's birth:

*Come and worship
Christ the new-born King,
come and worship,
worship Christ the new-born King.*

²Shepherds in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing;
yonder shines the infant light

³Sages, leave your contemplations
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of Nations;
ye have seen his natal star:

⁴Though an infant now we view him,
he shall fill his Father's throne,
gather all the nations to him;
every knee shall then bow down:

Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854)

Tune: IRIS

AM 59

Dismissal

The Lord be with you. **And with thy spirit.**
Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The clergy depart and the Canon in Residence greets the congregation as they leave.

There is a retiring collection, thank you for your generous support.



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