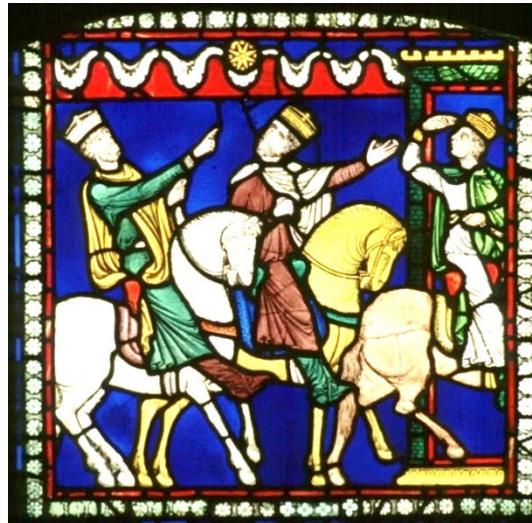




THE CATHEDRAL AND METROPOLITICAL CHURCH OF CHRIST, CANTERBURY

Epiphany Carol Service



Sunday 11th January 2026

5.30pm

Quire

Welcome to Canterbury Cathedral for this Service

Cover Images:

The Magi and the Star, North Quire Aisle

The Wedding at Cana, North Quire Aisle

The Baptism of Christ, Trinity Chapel

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.

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

Please stand as the choir enters

The choir sings

Tribus miraculis

Tribus miraculis ornatum, diem sanctum colimus:

Hodie stella Magos duxit ad praesepium:
Hodie vinum ex aqua factum est ad nuptias:
Hodie in Jordane a Joanne Christus baptizari voluit,
ut salvaret nos, alleluia.

We solemnly observe this holy day, ornamented with three miracles:

*today the star led the Magi to the manger;
today water was changed to wine at the wedding;
today Christ desired to be baptised by John in the river Jordan,
so that He might save us, alleluia.*

Words: Antiphon for the Feast of the Epiphany

Music: Luca Marenzio (1553/4-1599)

Remain standing

Welcome & Bidding Prayer

The Dean

Beloved in Christ, as we gather in wonder and awe
at the manifestation of our Lord's coming among us:
let us hear in Holy Scripture of revelation through sign and miracle,
let us join our voices with the worship of the choirs of angels,
let us dedicate our lives once again to the service of Christ,
and let us bring to him also the needs of the world he came to save.

We pray for those who, like the Magi, travel in strange lands,
for refugees and all who are forced from their homes
by the inhumanity of greed, oppression and war.

We pray for those who, like the crowds at the Jordan,
seek after understanding and faith,
and for our own pilgrimage through this earthly realm,
that we may come at the last into the inheritance of the saints
who show us the way to everlasting life, light and glory.

We pray for those who, like the guests at Cana,
celebrate the joy of human love,
but we remember also those who suffer loneliness, grief or pain.

These prayers we offer in the words
which the Light of the World himself has 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.**

May Christ who sends us to the nations,
give us the power of his Spirit.

Amen.



Songs of thankfulness and praise,
Jesu, Lord, to thee we raise,
manifested by the star
to the sages from afar;
branch of royal David's stem,
in thy birth at Bethlehem:
anthems be to thee addrest,
God in man made manifest.

²Manifest at Jordan's stream,
Prophet, Priest, and King supreme;
and at Cana wedding-guest,
in thy Godhead manifest;
manifest in power divine,
changing water into wine:
anthems be to thee addrest,
God in man made manifest.

³Sun and moon shall darkened be,
stars shall fall, the heavens shall flee;
Christ will then like lightning shine,
all will see his glorious sign;
all will then the trumpet hear,
all will see the Judge appear:
thou by all wilt be confest,
God in man made manifest.

⁴Grant us grace to see thee, Lord,
mirrored in thy holy word;
may we imitate thee now,
and be pure as pure art thou;
that we like to thee may be
at thy great Epiphany:
and may praise thee, ever blest,
God in man made manifest.

Sit as the choir sings

Psalm 72.1-15

Give the King thy judgements, O God :
and thy righteousness unto the King's son.

Then shall he judge thy people according unto right :
and defend the poor.

The mountains also shall bring peace :
and the little hills righteousness unto the people.

He shall keep the simple folk by their right :
defend the children of the poor, and punish the wrong-doer.

They shall fear thee, as long as the sun and moon endureth :
from one generation to another.

He shall come down like the rain into a fleece of wool :
even as the drops that water the earth.

In his time shall the righteous flourish :
yea, and abundance of peace, so long as the moon endureth.

His dominion shall be also from the one sea to the other :
and from the flood unto the world's end.

They that dwell in the wilderness shall kneel before him :
his enemies shall lick the dust.

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

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

First Reading

Matthew 2.1-12

The Visit of the Magi

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.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem Three kings from Persian lands afar

Three kings from Persian lands afar
To Jordan follow the pointing star:
And this the quest of the travellers three,
Where the new-born King of the Jews
may be.

Full royal gifts they bear for the King:
Gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.

The star shines out with a steadfast ray;
The kings to Bethlehem make their way,
And there in worship they bend the knee,
As Mary's child in her lap they see;
Their royal gifts they show to the King;
Gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.

Thou child of man, lo, to Bethlehem,
The kings are travelling, travel with them!
The star of mercy, the star of grace,
Shall lead thy heart to its resting-place.
Gold, incense, myrrh thou canst not bring;
Offer thy heart to the infant King.

*How brightly shines the morning star!
With grace and truth from heav'n afar
Our Jesse tree now bloweth.*

*Of Jacob's stem and David's line,
For thee, my Bridegroom, King divine,
My soul with love o'erfloweth.*

*Thy word, Jesu, inly feeds us,
Rightly leads us, life bestowing.
Praise, O praise such love o'erflowing.*

Words and Music: Peter Cornelius (1824-74)
Arranged: Ivor Atkins (1869-1953)

Chorale text: Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608)

Stand to sing



O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.
bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
with gold of obedience, and incense of lowness,
kneel and adore him, the Lord is his name!

²Low at his feet lay thy burden of carefulness,
high on his heart he will bear it for thee,
comfort thy sorrows, and answer thy prayerfulness,
guiding thy steps as may best for thee be.

³Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness
of the poor wealth thou wouldest reckon as thine:
truth in its beauty, and love in its tenderness,
these are the offerings to lay on his shrine.

⁴These, though we bring them in trembling and fearfulness,
he will accept for the name that is dear;
mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness,
trust for our trembling and hope for our fear.

⁵O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.
bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
with gold of obedience, and incense of lowness,
kneel and adore him, the Lord is his name.

Words: J S B Monsell (1811-75)

Tune: WAS LEBET

AM 103

Sit

Second Reading

Mark 1.4, 5, 7-11

The Baptism of Jesus

John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

Thanks be to God.

Anthem Bethlehem Down

"When He is King we will give Him the King's gifts,
Myrrh for its sweetness, and gold for a crown,
Beautiful robes", said the young girl to Joseph
Fair with her first-born on Bethlehem Down.

Bethlehem Down is full of the starlight
Winds for the spices, and stars for the gold,
Mary for sleep, and for lullaby music
Songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem fold.

When He is King they will clothe Him in grave-sheets,
Myrrh for embalming, and wood for a crown,
He that lies now in the white arms of Mary
Sleeping so lightly on Bethlehem Down.

Here He has peace and a short while for dreaming,
Close-huddled oxen to keep Him from cold,
Mary for love, and for lullaby music
Songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem fold.

Words: Bruce Blunt (1899-1957)

Music: Peter Warlock (1894-1930)

Stand to sing



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.

²He 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.

³He 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.

⁴Kings 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.

⁵O'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)

Tune: CRÜGER

AM 99

Third Reading

John 2.1-11

The Wedding at Cana

There was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Magnificat

During which the High Altar is censed

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.

Music: Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924) in C

Remain standing to sing



Arise, shine out, your light has come,
unfolding City of our dreams.
On distant hills a glory gleams:
the new creation has begun.

²Above earth's valleys, thick with night,
high on your walls the dawn appears,
and history shall dry its tears,
as nations stream towards your light.

³From walls surpassing time and space,
unnumbered gates, like open hands,
shall gather gifts from all the lands,
and welcome all the human race.

⁴The sounds of violence shall cease
as dwellings of salvation rise
to sparkle in eternal skies
from avenues of praise and peace.

⁵The dancing air shall glow with light
and sun and moon give up their place
when Love shines out of every face:
our Good, our Glory, our Delight.

Words: Brian Wren (b. 1936)

Tune: CHURCH TRIUMPHANT

AM 93

Sit or kneel

Act of Dedication

The Canon in Residence

In the light of Christ's Epiphany the Heavens are opened by the Father's love; the ordinary things of earth are transformed as a sign of the richness of heaven; and the people of far-off nations are brought together in the unity of the worship of Christ.

So let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, honoured by the gifts of the wise men,
Strengthen us to offer our lives in your service.

Lord Jesus Christ, shown to the world as Son of God at the Jordan,
Strengthen us to preach the Gospel to all the nations.

Lord Jesus Christ, revealed to the disciples by the new wine of Cana,
Strengthen us to believe in your generosity towards us.

There follows a period of silent prayer, after which the choir sings

Anthem

New Year Carol

Here we bring new water from the well so clear,
For to worship God with, this happy New Year.

*Sing levy-dew, sing levy-dew, the water and the wine,
The seven bright gold wires and the bugles that do shine.*

Sing reign of Fair Maid, with gold upon her toe;
Open you the West Door and turn the Old Year go.

Sing reign of Fair Maid, with gold upon her chin;
Open you the East Door and let the New Year in.

Words: Anon

Music: Benjamin Britten (1913-76)

God our Redeemer,
whose Son is revealed to us in this season as Messiah and Lord,
open our eyes to see him at work in our lives,
that we may draw close to you in adoration,
that we may be joyful in our faith,
and that we may bring the truth of the Gospel
to an eager and longing world,
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Collect

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.

*Stand to sing the hymn during which a collection of
money for the work of God in the cathedral will be taken
If you would prefer to give electronically,
please use the QR code*





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.

²Cold 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.

³Say, 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?

⁴Vainly 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.

⁵Brightest 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 96i

The Blessing

Christ the Son of God perfect in you the image of his glory
 and gladden your hearts with the good news of his kingdom;
 and the blessing of God almighty,
 the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
 be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Please remain standing as the choir and clergy depart

Organ Voluntary

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

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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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