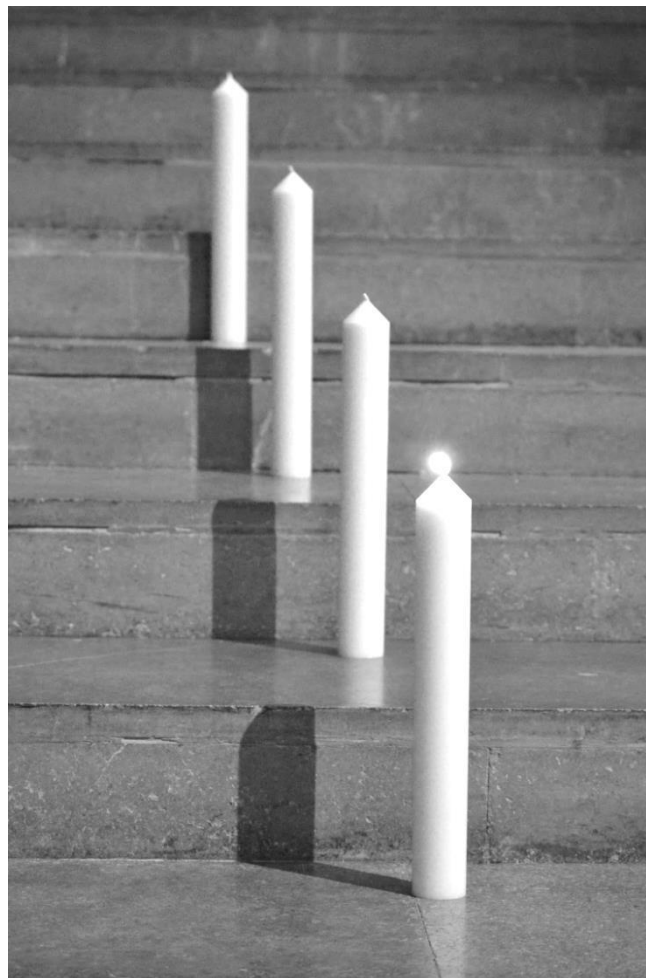




THE CATHEDRAL AND METROPOLITICAL CHURCH OF CHRIST, CANTERBURY

Advent Carol Service



The First Sunday of Advent

1st December 2024

5.30pm

Welcome to Canterbury Cathedral for this Service

The season of Advent is a time of watchful expectation of Christ's coming (*adventus*, in Latin, means 'coming'). We prepare to celebrate the incarnation, when Christ was born of the Virgin in humility, but we also expect the Second Coming, when Christ will come in triumph to judge the world.

Each section of our service begins with one of the ancient 'O Antiphons', which are traditionally sung on the days leading up to Christmas. Each Antiphon addresses Christ with a title taken from Scripture and leads us to reflect on a particular aspect of his nature.

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 the a member of the clergy.

Voluntaries before the service

J.S. Bach, Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, BWV 645
J.S. Bach, Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 659
J.S. Bach, Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 661
Demessieux, Rorate Caeli, op. 12, no. 1
Reger, Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, op. 67, no. 29
played by Ivan Leung, Organ Scholar

Karg-Elberg, Chorale-Improvisation 'Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme', op. 78, no. 18
Brahms, Es ist ein ros entsprungen, op. 122, no. 8
played by Jamie Rogers, Assistant Director of Music



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An induction loop system for the hard of hearing is installed in the Cathedral. Hearing aid users should adjust their aid to T.



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We somewhat mislead people by suggesting that the season of Advent prepares us for the birth of Jesus at Christmas. It is truer to say that the season prepares us for the second coming of Christ. The scriptures speak of Christ's return to complete the work he has begun and that is to be 'very soon' because the new life of the Kingdom has already been inaugurated. The creed and other texts relate his second coming to his merciful but comprehensive judgement of the world – 'he will come again to judge the living and the dead'. So the major theme to Advent is judgement.

Judgement has become pejorative for many. We confuse Jesus saying not to be judgemental with our deep need for judgement. This is about an honest reckoning about the ways we both manage to live lovingly and gratefully and the ways we have failed. For some personalities or for some with certain kinds of mental illness, this can lead to an obsessiveness with failure and sin. However, there is also a proper, healthy accountability needed by which we can grow and learn and turn in a different direction. This is repentance.

I could begin to list how that Godly judgement impacts how we see others, especially the little, the least and the lost. However, this Advent in the church we are very aware of the judgement which sits facing us with respect to our failures in safeguarding and repeated patterns of abuse. This abuse is physical, sexual, emotional, spiritual and incidences of cruel deprivation or harshness leading to long term trauma. The Makin review of the activity of John Smyth makes sickening reading and has led to Archbishop Justin resigning.

Our practices and processes are much improved but they all rely on human consistency and diligence. This cathedral has cases of historic abuse which are horrifying. Alarmingly, I still encounter people who can't see the point of safeguarding or don't see it has anything to do with them. Whilst some of us carry particular responsibility, the responsibility and hence the judgement falls on us all. If anyone ever has any concern email safeguarding@canterbury-cathedral.org or speak to one of us.

This Advent I invite us to welcome the judgement of God and to welcome the judgement of those who have been hurt or harmed by our church. Such judgement is a gift if and when it helps us learn and find the ways that lead to healing and life in all its fullness. As the Transport for London motto now says 'see it, say it, sort it'.

Dean David

ORDER OF SERVICE

All lights are put out as the Choir and Clergy move into the Quire.

When all are in place, the following poem is read and then the first candle on the Advent Wreath is lit.

Advent Poem by John Bell (b. 1949)

Light looked down and saw the darkness.
"I will go there" said light.
Peace looked down and saw war.
"I will go there" said peace.
Love looked down and saw hatred.
"I will go there" said love.
So He, the Lord of Light,
The Prince of Peace, the King of Love,
came down and crept in beside us.

Remain seated as the choir sings

The Advent Responsory

I look from afar:
and lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth.

Go ye out to meet him and say:
'Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?'

High and low, rich and poor, one with another,
Go ye out to meet him and say:

Hear, O thou Shepherd of Israel, thou that ledest Joseph like a sheep.
Tell us, art thou he that should come?

Stir up thy strength, O Lord, and come
to reign over thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

I look from afar:
and lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth.

Go ye out to meet him and say:
'Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?'

Music: Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525-94)

As the procession moves from the Quire to the Nave, stand to sing



Come, thou Redeemer of the earth,
And manifest thy virgin-birth:
Let every age adoring fall.
Such birth befits the God of all.

²Begotten of no human will,
But of the Spirit, thou art still
The Word of God, in flesh arrayed,
The Saviour, now to us displayed.

³Forth from a virgin goeth he,
That royal home of purity,
A giant in twofold substance one,
Rejoicing now his course to run.

⁴From God the Father he proceeds,
To God the Father back he speeds,
Runs out his course to death and hell,
Returns on God's high throne to dwell.

⁵O equal to thy Father, thou!
Gird on thy fleshly mantle now,
The weakness of our mortal state
With deathless might invigorate.

⁶Thy cradle here shall glitter bright,
And darkness glow with new-born light,
No more shall night extinguish day,
Where love's bright beams their power display.

⁷O Jesu, Virgin-born, to thee
Eternal praise and glory be,
Whom with the Father we adore
And Holy Spirit, evermore.

Words: St Ambrose (c340-397) *Tune:* PUER NOBIS NASCITUR
tr John Mason Neale (1818-66) and others

AM 32

Remain standing

Bidding Prayer

The Dean

In the name of God, who has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and made a place for us in the kingdom of his beloved Son, we welcome you: grace to you and peace.

As we meet to celebrate anew the coming of God's kingdom, we hear revealed the mystery of God's loving purpose for us – how that when we were far off, he met us in his Son and brought us home; how he humbled himself to take our human nature, that we might share his divine glory.

We see the impact of changing weather. Extreme politics and unsettled divided societies emerge north, south, east and west. War, terrorism and violence besets us. There is no peace. People movements go on and on. The vulnerable are exploited and the traffickers benefit. Food banks face increased demands. Inflation and stagnant economics shape many aspects of our lives with too many now homeless, hungry and poor. Our church and many other organisations and institutions have proved wanting as places of safety, wellbeing, care and justice.

As we welcome Christ and look for his coming again as Lord: we plead for mercy in God's righteous judgement, we plead for forgiveness with all our failings, we plead for healing in our shared experience of brokenness and division.

Come to us afresh with good news.
Come to us afresh with the promise of justice.
Come to us afresh with the ways to peace.
Come to us afresh with forgiveness and mercy.
Come Lord Jesus, come.

So as Christ taught us, we pray each in our own language, the prayer of God's coming Kingdom:

**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.**

Notre Père...

Vater Unser...

Onze Vader...

Padre Nuestro...

Ojcze Nasz...

Baba Yetu...

E to matou Matua...

Ein Tad...

Sit

Antiphon

O Sapientia

O Wisdom, which camest out of the mouth of the Most High,
and reachest from one end to another,
mightily, and sweetly ordering all things:
Come and teach us the way of prudence.

First Reading

Ecclesiasticus 24.1-9

God's wisdom seeks to dwell with humankind

Wisdom praises herself, and tells of her glory in the midst of her people. In the assembly of the Most High she opens her mouth, and in the presence of his hosts she tells of her glory:

'I came forth from the mouth of the Most High, and covered the earth like a mist. I dwelt in the highest heavens, and my throne was in a pillar of cloud. Alone I compassed the vault of heaven and traversed the depths of the abyss. Over waves of the sea, over all the earth, and over every people and nation I have held sway. Among all these I sought a resting-place; in whose territory should I abide?

'Then the Creator of all things gave me a command, and my Creator chose the place for my tent. He said, "Make your dwelling in Jacob, and in Israel receive your inheritance." Before the ages, in the beginning, he created me, and for all the ages I shall not cease to be.'

Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Drop down ye heavens

Drop down ye heavens from above,
And let the skies pour down righteousness.
Comfort ye, comfort ye, my people;
My salvation shall not tarry.
I have blotted out as a thick cloud thy transgressions.
Fear not, for I will save thee;
For I am the Lord thy God,
The holy one of Israel, thy redeemer.
Drop down ye heavens from above,
And let the skies pour down righteousness.

Words: Before 11th Century, *Tranlated:* M J Blacker (1822-88) *Music:* Judith Weir (b. 1954)

Antiphon

O Adonai

O Adonai and Leader of the House of Israel,
who appearedst in the bush to Moses in a flame of fire,
and gavest him the law in Sinai:
Come and deliver us with an outstretched arm.

Second Reading

Exodus 3.1-6, 13-15

God is revealed in the burning bush

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, 'I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up.' When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, 'Moses, Moses!' And he said, 'Here I am.' Then he said, 'Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.' He said further, 'I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

But Moses said to God, 'If I come to the Israelites and say to them, "The God of your ancestors has sent me to you," and they ask me, "What is his name?" what shall I say to them?' God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM.' He said further, 'Thus you shall say to the Israelites, "I AM has sent me to you."' God also said to Moses, 'Thus you shall say to the Israelites, "The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you": This is my name for ever, and this my title for all generations.'

Thanks be to God.

Stand to sing



Wake, O wake! With tidings thrilling
The watchmen all the air are filling,
Arise, Jerusalem, arise!
Midnight strikes! No more delaying,
'The hour has come!' we hear them saying,
'Where are ye all, ye virgins wise?
The Bridegroom comes in sight,
Raise high your torches bright!'
Alleluia!
The wedding song swells loud and strong:
Go forth and join the festal throng.

²Zion hears the watchmen shouting,
Her heart leaps up with joy undoubting,
She stands and waits with eager eyes;
See her Friend from heaven descending,
Adorned with truth and grace unending!
Her light burns clear, her star doth rise.
Now come, thou precious Crown,
Lord Jesus, God's own Son!
Alleluia!
Let us prepare to follow there,
Where in thy supper we may share.

³Every soul in thee rejoices;
From earth and from angelic voices
Be glory given to thee alone!
Now the gates of pearl receive us,
Thy presence never more shall leave us,
We stand with angels round thy throne.
Earth cannot give below
The bliss thou dost bestow.
Alleluia!
Grant us to raise, to length of days,
The triumph-chorus of thy praise.

Words: Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608)
Tr Francis Crawford Burkitt (1864-1935)

Tune: WACHET AUF

AM 54

Sit

Antiphon

O Radix Jesse

O Root of Jesse,
which standest for an ensign of the people,
at whom kings shall shut their mouths,
to whom the Gentiles shall seek:
Come and deliver us, and tarry not.

Third Reading

Isaiah 11.1-9

God's peaceful kingdom

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live

with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem

A Tender Shoot

A tender shoot has started up from a root of grace,
As ancient seers imparted, from Jesse's holy race,
It blooms without a blight,
Blooms in the cold bleak winter turning our darkness into light.

This shoot Isaiah taught us from Jesse's root should spring;
The Virgin Mary brought us the branch of which we sing;
Our God of endless might,
Gave her this child to save us, thus turning darkness into light.

Words: German 15th Century

Music: Kerensa Briggs (b. 1991)

Versified: Otto Goldschmidt (1829-1907)

Translated: William Bartholomew (1793-1867)

Antiphon

O Clavis David

O Key of David; and Sceptre of the house of Israel;
that openest and no man shutteth; and shuttest and no man openeth:
Come, and bring the prisoner out of the prisonhouse,
and him that sitteth in darkness, and the shadow of death.

Fourth Reading

Isaiah 42.1-7

God's servant, a light to the nations

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem

O Radiant Dawn

O Radiant Dawn, Splendour of eternal Light, Sun of Justice;
come shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.
Isaiah had prophesied, 'The people who walked in darkness have seen a great
light; Upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone.'

Words: Antiphon for 21st December

Music: James MacMillan (b. 1959)

Answer the Knock by Cameron Bellm (b. 1982)

What kind of inns do we have to offer this year,
Our doorways draped with grief,
Our holiday feasts spiced with fear and uncertainty?
Plagues have come in ages before ours—
Wars, crises, violence, and loss—
And they will follow after us, too.
Still, year after year, on the coldest, darkest night,
The Light of all the World seeks shelter.
Will we open our doors?
To answer the knock is to give hope a foothold,
To look despair straight in the eyes and say,
"Emmanuel. God is with us."
Christ comes not to erase our pain
But to dwell in it with us,
Cradling it in his holy hands,
Illuminating it with his brilliant compassion,
Transfiguring it into something that sings:
A meeting place for the human and the divine.

Stand to sing



Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in thee.

³Born thy people to deliver;
Born a child and yet a king;
Born to reign in us for ever;
Now thy gracious kingdom bring.

²Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth thou art:
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

⁴By thy own eternal Spirit,
Rule in all our hearts alone:
By thy all-sufficient merit,
Raise us to thy glorious throne.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-88)

Tune: CROSS OF JESUS

AM 30

Sit

Antiphon

O Oriens

O Dayspring, Brightness of Light everlasting,
and Sun of righteousness:
Come, and enlighten him that sitteth in darkness,
and the shadow of death.

Fifth Reading

Malachi 4.1-3

God brings judgement and righteousness

See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the Lord of Hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the Lord of Hosts.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Advent Calendar

He will come like last leaf's fall.
One night when the November wind
has flayed the trees to the bone, and earth
wakes choking on the mould,
the soft shroud's folding.

He will come like frost.
One morning when the shrinking earth
opens on mist, to find itself
arrested in the net
of alien, sword-set beauty.

He will come like dark.
One evening when the bursting red
December sun draws up the sheet
and penny-masks its eye to yield
the star-snowed fields of sky.

He will come, will come,
will come like crying in the night,
like blood, like breaking,
as the earth writhes to toss him free.
He will come like child.

Words: Rowan Williams (b. 1950)

Music: Simon Beattie (b. 1975)

Antiphon

O Rex gentium

O King of the nations, and their Desire;
the Cornerstone, who makest both one:
Come, and save mankind, whom thou formedst of clay.

Sixth Reading

Ephesians 2.13-22

God reconciles us in Christ

Now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling-place for God.

Thanks be to God.

Stand to sing



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

³O 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:

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

²O 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:

⁴O 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:

⁵O 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

Remain standing

Antiphon

O Emmanuel

O Emmanuel, our King and Lawgiver,
the Desire of all nations and their Salvation:
Come and save us O Lord, our God.

The Gospel

Luke 1.26-38 (The Annunciation)

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Antiphon

O Virgo virginum

O Virgin of virgins, how shall this be?
For neither before thee was any like thee, nor shall there be after.
Daughters of Jerusalem, why marvel ye at me?
That which ye behold is a divine mystery.

Sit

Blessed Among Women from Noticias Aliadas

Mary the slum-dweller
Mary who longed for the liberation of her people
Mary who sang to God of the poor
Mary homeless in Bethlehem
Mother of the longed-for Saviour
Mary exiled from her native land
Mary pilgrim with her people
Blessed are you among women.

Anthem

Angelus ad Virginem
Subintrans in conclave,
Virginis formidinem
Demulcens, inquit: Ave!
Ave regina virginum;
Caeli terraeque Dominum
Concipies
Et paries intacta
Salutem hominum;
Tu porta caeli facta,
Medela criminum.

Quomodo conciperem
Quae virum non cognovi?
Qualiter infringerem
Quod firma mente vovi?
Spiritus Sancti gratia
Perficiet haec omnia;
Ne timeas,
Sed gaudeas, segura
Quod castimonia
Manebit in te pura
Dei potentia.

Ad haec virgo nobilis
Respondens inquit ei:
Ancilla sum humilis
Omnipotentis Dei.
Tibi caelesti nuntio,
Tanti secreti conscio,
Consentiens,
Et cupiens videre
Factum quod audio;
Parata sum parere,
Dei consilio.

Angelus disparuit
Et statim puellaris
Uterus intumuit
Vi partus salutaris.
Qui, circumdatus utero
Novem mensium numero,
Hinc exiit et iniit conflictum,
Affigens humero
Crucem, qua dedit ictum
Hosti mortifero.

Eia mater Domini,
Quae pacem reddidisti
Angelis et homini,
Cum Christum genuisti:
Tuum exora filium
Ut se nobis propitium
Exhibeat, Et deleat peccata:
Praestans auxilium
Vita frui beata Post hoc exsilium.

Angelus ad Virginem

*Gabriel, from heaven's king
Sent to the maiden sweet,
Brought to her blissful tiding
And fair 'gan her to greet.
'Hail be thou, full of grace aright!
For so God's Son, the heaven's light,
Loves man, that He
a man will be and take
Flesh of thee, maiden bright,
Mankind free for to make
Of sin and devil's might.'*

*Gently to him gave answer
The gentle maiden then:
'And in what wise should I bear
Child, that know not man?'
The angel said: 'O dread thee nought.
'Tis through the Holy Ghost that wrought
Shall be this thing
whereof tidings I bring:
Lost mankind shall be bought
By thy sweet childbearing,
And back from sorrow brought.*

*When the maiden understood
And the angel's words had heard,
Mildly, of her own mild mood,
The angel she answered:
'Our Lord His handmaiden, I wis,
I am, that here above us is:
And touching me
fulfilled be thy saw;
That I, since His will is,
Be, out of nature's law
A maid with mother's bliss.'*

*The angel went away thereon
And parted from her sight
And straightway she conceived a Son
Through the Holy Ghost His might.
In her was Christ contained anon,
True God, true man, in flesh and bone;
Born of her too when time was due;
who then redeemed us for His own,
And bought us out of pain,
And died for us to atone.*

*Filled full of charity,
Thou matchless maiden-mother,
Pray for us to him that he for thy love above
other, away our sin and guilt should take,
And clean of every stain us make
And heaven's bliss, when our time is to die,
Would give us for thy sake;
With grace to serve him by
Till He to us him take.*

Words: Anonymous 13th century
tr Gerard Manley Hopkins (1844-89)

Music: Matthew Martin (b. 1976)

Stand

The Collect

Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness
and to put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;
that on the last day,
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty
to judge the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Blessing

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.

Remain standing to sing as the Procession moves to the Great West Door



Lo, he comes, with clouds descending,
Once for favoured sinners slain;
Thousand thousand saints attending
Swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia!
God appears on earth to reign.

²Every eye shall now behold him
Robed in dreadful majesty;
Those who set at nought and sold him,
Pierced and nailed him to the Tree,
Deeply wailing,
Shall the true Messiah see.

³Those dear tokens of his passion
Still his dazzling body bears,
Cause of endless exultation
To his ransomed worshippers:
With what rapture
Gaze we on those glorious scars!

⁴Yea, Amen, let all adore thee,
High on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory,
Claim the kingdom for thine own:
Alleluia!
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-88)
and John Cennick (1718-55)

Tune: HELMSLEY

AM 41

Organ Voluntary

Andrew Carter (b. 1939), Organ Toccata on Veni Emmanuel

At the end of the service, there will be retiring collection for the work of the Cathedral. Please be generous. If you would prefer to give electronically, please use the QR code.



Christmas Services at the Cathedral

Monday 2nd, 9th, and 16th

12.30pm Taizé Prayer for Advent
Praying through simple chants, scripture and silence.

Tuesday 3rd, 10th, and 17th

4.00pm Tea Time Carols
Storytelling and songs at the Crib, aimed at young children, parents, and carers, but all welcome.

Friday 6th, 13th, and 20th

12.30pm Journeying to Christmas – Reflections
Seasonal reflections from Dean David, including music, poetry, and prayer.

Saturday 7th, 14th, and 21st

12.30pm Shoppers' Carol Service
Well-known carols for all on the Christmas Market event stage.

Sunday 8th December

5.30pm St Nicholas Family Service – Nave
Music from children from local schools joining members of the Cathedral Choir

Sunday 15th December

5.30pm Festival of Carols
Family-friendly service featuring well known carols and a Nativity Tableau

Sunday 22nd December

5.30pm Candlelit Reflection with Organ Meditation
*A reflective service with scripture and poetry, with *La Nativité du Seigneur (The Birth of the Saviour)* by Olivier Messiaen.*

Monday 23rd December

5.30pm Cathedral Carol Service – doors open 4.30pm

Tuesday 24th December – Christmas Eve

(Cathedral closes for visiting at 2.30pm)

10.00am Family Crib Service – Nave

5.30pm Cathedral Carol Service – doors open 4.30pm

11.00pm Midnight Mass - Nave

Wednesday 25th December – CHRISTMAS DAY

(Cathedral open for services only)

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – High Altar

9.15am Matins – Quire

11.00am Sung Eucharist – Nave

3.00pm Evensong and Carols – Quire

Sunday 29th December – The Martyrdom of Thomas of Canterbury

11.00am Sung Eucharist for St Thomas of Canterbury

5.30pm Memorial Service for St Thomas of Canterbury
Sung by the Lay Clerks of the Cathedral Choir