



# Christmas Carol Service



Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> December 2023

7.00pm

The Nave

Canterbury Cathedral

**Welcome to Canterbury Cathedral**  
**for *The Friends of Canterbury Cathedral* Christmas Carol Service.**

**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: Snowy Cathedral, by Stephen Brown*



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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Typeset and printed by the Music & Liturgy Department  
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*Please remain seated as the Choir enters*

## **Introit**

*People look east*

People look east  
The time is near  
Of the crowning of the year  
Make your house fair as you are able  
Trim the hearth and set the table  
People look east and sing today  
Love, the guest is on the way

Furrows be glad  
Though earth is bare  
One more seed is planted there  
Gird up your strength the seed to nourish  
That in course the flower may flourish  
People look east and sing today  
Love, the rose, is on the way

Stars keep the watch  
When night is dim  
One more light the bowl shall brim  
Shining beyond the frosty weather  
Bright as sun and moon together  
People look east  
And sing today, love the star  
Is on the way

Angels announce to man and beast  
Him, who cometh from the east  
Set every peak and valley humming  
With the word the Lord is coming  
People look east  
And sing today  
Love, the Lord, is on the way

*Words:* Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965) *Music:* trad Besançon, arr. Barry Rose (b 1934)

*Please stand to sing*

Once in royal David's city  
Stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her baby  
In a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little Child.

<sup>2</sup>He came down to earth from heaven  
Who is God and Lord of all,  
And his shelter was a stable,  
And his cradle was a stall;  
With the poor and mean and lowly  
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

<sup>3</sup>And our eyes at last shall see him,  
Through his own redeeming love,  
For that Child so dear and gentle  
Is our Lord in heaven above;  
And he leads his children on  
To the place where he is gone.

<sup>4</sup>Not in that poor lowly stable,  
With the oxen standing by,  
We shall see him; but in heaven,  
Set at God's right hand on high;  
When like stars his children crowned  
All in white shall wait around.

*Words:* C. F. Alexander (1818-95)

*Tune:* IRBY

*Remain standing*

*The Dean gives the Welcome*

*The Bidding Prayer which concludes with 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.**

*Sit*

## **First Reading**      Isaiah 40.1-5

*read by Irene Nierzwicka, Trustee, The Friends' Council*

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God.  
Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished,  
that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the Lord's hand double for all her  
sins. The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.  
Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the  
crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain:  
And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the  
mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

Thanks be to God.

*All stand to sing*

It came upon the midnight clear,  
That glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth  
To touch their harps of gold:  
'Peace on earth, good will to men,  
From heaven's all gracious King!'  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
To hear the angels sing.

<sup>2</sup>Still through the cloven skies they come,  
With peaceful wings unfurled,  
And still their heavenly music floats  
O'er all the weary world;  
Above its sad and lowly plains  
They bend on hovering wing;  
And ever o'er its Babel sounds  
The blessèd angels sing.

<sup>3</sup>Yet with the woes of sin and strife  
The world has suffered long;  
Beneath the angel-strain have rolled  
Two thousand years of wrong;  
And man at war with man hears not  
The love-song which they bring;  
O hush the noise and cease your strife  
And hear the angels sing!

<sup>4</sup>For lo! the days are hastening on,  
By prophet bards foretold,  
When, with the ever-circling years,  
Comes round the age of gold;  
When peace shall over all the earth  
Its ancient splendours fling,  
And all the world give back the song  
Which now the angels sing.

*Sit*

## **Second Reading**      Isaiah 11.1-9

*read by Thomas Goodall, Head Gardener*

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.

## **Choristers**      *Away in a Manger*

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.  
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,  
And stay by my bedside till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay  
Close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
And fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

*Words: Anon*

*Music: Traditional, arr. Reginald Jacques (1894-1969)*

## Third Reading

Luke 1.26-38

*read by Councillor Jean Butcher, The Right Worshipful The Lord Mayor of Canterbury*

And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be.

And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: and he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?

And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. For with God nothing shall be impossible.

And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

Thanks be to God.

*All stand to sing*

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.

<sup>2</sup>O 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 wondering love.

<sup>3</sup>How silently, how silently,  
The wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming,  
But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive him,  
Still the dear Christ enters in.

<sup>4</sup>O 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!

Words: Phillips Brooks (1835-93)

Tune: FOREST GREEN

*Sit*

## Fourth Reading

Luke 2.1-7

*read by Patsy Barrett, Trustee, The Friends' Council*

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David.) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

Thanks be to God.

## Choristers *Rocking*

I sing of a maiden that is makeless;  
King of all kings to her son she ches.

He came all so still where his mother was,  
As dew in April that falleth on the grass.

He came all so still to his mother's bower,  
As dew in April that falleth on the flower.

He came all so still where his mother lay,  
As dew in April that falleth on the spray.

Mother and maiden was never none but she;  
Well may such a lady God's mother be.

*Words:* Anon (15<sup>th</sup> Century Middle English)

*Music:* Patrick Hadley (1899-1973)

## Fifth Reading

Luke 2.8-16

*read by David Wilcock, Friends' Office*

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

Thanks be to God.

*All stand to sing*

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,  
All seated on the ground,  
The angel of the Lord came down,  
And glory shone around.

"Fear not," said he (for mighty dread  
Had seized their troubled mind);  
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring  
To you and all mankind.

"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:

The heavenly Babe you there shall find  
To human view displayed,  
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands,  
And in a manger laid."

Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith  
Appeared a shining throng  
Of angels praising God, who thus  
Addressed their joyful song:

"All glory be to God on high,  
And on earth be peace;  
Good-will henceforth from heaven to men  
Begin and never cease."



Sit

## Sixth Reading Matthew 2.1-12

*read by the Dean*

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born.

And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, 'And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.'

Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.

When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

*Thanks be to God.*

*All stand to sing*

See, amid the winter's snow,  
Born for us on earth below,  
See, the Lamb of God appears,  
Promised from eternal years!

*Hail, thou ever-blessèd morn!  
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!  
Sing through all Jerusalem:  
Christ is born in Bethlehem!*

<sup>2</sup>Lo, within a manger lies  
He who built the starry skies,  
He who, throned in height sublime,  
Sits amid the cherubim!

<sup>3</sup>Say, ye holy shepherds, say,  
What your joyful news today;  
Wherefore have ye left your sheep  
On the lonely mountain steep?

<sup>4</sup>"As we watched at dead of night,  
Lo, we saw a wondrous light;  
Angels, singing 'Peace on earth',  
Told us of the Saviour's birth."

<sup>5</sup>Sacred Infant, all divine,  
What a tender love was thine,  
Thus to come from highest bliss  
Down to such a world as this!

*Kneel or sit for the*

**Prayers**      *concluding with*

## **The Friends' Prayer**

**O Lord Jesus Christ,  
in whose name our Cathedral Church is dedicated,  
Grant that its life and worship  
May ever abound to your greater glory;  
And that as Friends we may do our part,  
By prayer and offering,  
To strengthen its witness to all the world;  
Who with the Father and the Holy Spirit  
Live and reign ever One God.  
Amen.**

*All stand to sing (during which a collection for The Friends of Canterbury Cathedral will be taken)*

Hark! the herald angels sing  
Glory to the new-born King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled:  
Joyful all ye nations rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies,  
With the angelic host proclaim,  
Christ is born in Bethlehem:  
*Hark! the herald angels sing  
Glory to the new-born King.*

<sup>2</sup>Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold him come  
Offspring of a Virgin's womb!  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,  
Hail the incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as man with man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel:  
*Hark! the herald angels sing  
Glory to the new-born King.*

<sup>3</sup>Hail the heaven-born Prince of peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
Risen with healing in his wings;  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
Born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth,  
Born to give them second birth:  
*Hark! the herald angels sing  
Glory to the new-born King.*

*Words:* Charles Wesley (1707-1788)  
and others

*Music:* MENDELSSOHN

## **The Blessing**

## **Voluntary**



Thank you for supporting



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