

THE CATHEDRAL AND METROPOLITICAL CHURCH OF CHRIST, CANTERBURY

Sung Eucharist



Christmas Day Wednesday 25th December 2024 11.00am

Nave

Welcome to Canterbury Cathedral for this Service

The Choral Setting is Josef Rheinberger (1839-1901), Mass in E flat major

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 Nativity (Christopher Whall, 1849-1925) South West Transept, Canterbury Cathedral

Incense is used at this service as a symbol of the offering of prayer to God.

The Collection from this Service, including any tax recovered through Gift Aid, will - after deduction of costs - be shared equally between the Cathedral and this year's chosen partner charity, **The Social Justice Network (**<u>www.thesocialjusticenetwork.org</u>**)**

If you are a UK taxpayer we would encourage you to use the Cathedral's Gift Aid envelope for your donation. Please ensure that you complete all sections of the envelope including the box confirming that you are a UK taxpayer. The Cathedral will reclaim an extra 25p for every £1 placed in the envelope which will be passed on to the charities. Gift Aid envelopes can be obtained from the stewards. Cheques should be made payable to **Canterbury**

You can also use the QR Code below

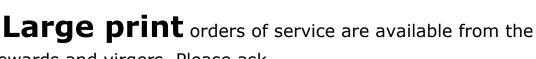
giftaid it





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.



stewards and virgers. Please ask

A Message from the Dean

Firstly, I recently visited Calais with our Diocesan Social Justice Network to witness the support given to exiled displaced people; to glimpse their hopes and despair. The majority of those who make it over remain as genuine refugees. As they wait in Calais in the freezing cold, their shelters are repeatedly bulldozed by authorities funded by the UK. Many then do not make it or repeatedly get abused by the traffickers. My head and heart were broken to see what is going on.

Secondly, at the same time this December, we rightly cry out for the church and other institutions to sort ourselves out to protect children, young and vulnerable people. We desire cultures of safe communities where abuse and harm is managed out by creating a culture of respect and care.

Why does the second approach to safeguarding gain unanimous support whilst the first approach to safeguarding remains disputed even by so called 'good Christian people'?

I believe that respect is a universal virtue and not something which is to be turned on and off. The Holy Family faced the vagaries of social norms and competing political situations from both the invading Romans and the volatile local leadership of Herod. Safety was created in the animal shelter and then in exile in Egypt. The baby Jesus was safeguarded. He would grow to live and die showing that love ultimately is to be our saving safeguard.

From banter to abuse, from harassment to harm, from prejudice to conspiracies of silence, we still mistreat one another in the church and in the wider world. God's invitation is to accept that in Jesus a new way is born. Safeguarding is about being human. Perhaps we'll hear the angels singing again when we get more with this way. With God in Jesus the matter is settled.

So a very happy Christmas and a Happy New Year from all of us at Canterbury Cathedral. May it be a time of growing respect for everyone.

The Very Reverend David Monteith, Dean of Canterbury

At 10.50am the Vice Lord Lieutenant, the Lord Mayor of Canterbury, and other civic guests are received at the West Doors and conducted to their places. Please stand while they take their places and then sit.

At 10.55am the members of the Foundation move to the West Doors to greet the Bishop of Dover.

The Gathering



O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem; Come and behold him Born the King of Angels: ³Child, for us sinners Poor and in the manger, Fain we embrace thee, with awe and love; Who would not love thee, Loving us so dearly?

Refrain: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

²God of God,
Light of Light,
Lo! he abhors
not the Virgin's womb;
Very God,
Begotten, not created:

⁴Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation, Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above; Glory to God In the Highest:

⁵Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this happy morning, Jesu, to thee be glory given; Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing:

Words: Latin 18th century Tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-80) and others *Tune:* ADESTE FIDELES

AM 78

The Bishop 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 Bishop and children light the last candle on the Advent Wreath

God our Father, today the Saviour is born and those who live in darkness are seeing a great light. Help us, who greet the birth of Christ with joy, to live in the light of your Son and to share the good news of your love. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the light who has come into the world. **Amen.**

Lord Jesus, Light of light, you have come among us. Help us who live by your light to shine as lights in your world. Glory to God in the highest. Amen.

Prayers of Penitence

As we kneel with the shepherds before the newborn Christ-child, we open our hearts in penitence and faith.

Remain standing to say

Lord of grace and truth, we confess our unworthiness to stand in your presence as your children. We have sinned:

forgive and heal us.

The Virgin Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus. Forgive our disobedience to your will. We have sinned:

forgive and heal us.

Your Son our Saviour was born in poverty in a manger. Forgive our greed and rejection of your ways. We have sinned: forgive and heal us.

The shepherds left their flocks to go to Bethlehem. Forgive our self-interest and lack of vision. We have sinned: forgive and heal us.

The wise men followed the star to find Jesus the King. Forgive our reluctance to seek you. We have sinned: forgive and heal us.

The Bishop says

May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw you to himself and cleanse you from all your sins, that you may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

The Bishop says

Let us pray.

Silence is kept

Almighty God, you have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin: grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; 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

First Reading Titus 4.4-7

When the goodness and loving-kindness of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

All stand and sing



Jesus Christ the Lord is born all the bells are ringing! Angels greet the holy One and shepherds hear them singing, and shepherds hear them singing.

²'Go to Bethlehem today, find your king and saviour: glory be to God on high, to earth his peace and favour, to earth his peace and favour!' ³Held within a cattle stall, loved by love maternal, see the master of us all, our Lord of lords eternal, our Lord of lords eternal!

⁴Soon shall come the wise men three, rousing Herod's anger; mothers' hearts shall broken be and Mary's son in danger, and Mary's son in danger.

⁵Death from life and life from death our salvation's story: let all living things give breath to Christmas songs of glory, to Christmas songs of glory!

Words: Michael Perry (1942-96)	Tune: PUER NOBIS NASCITUR	AM 71
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Remain standing as the cantor sings the Alleluia and we respond



and we have seen his glory.

Alleluia.

The GospelLuke 2.1-20

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and 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 heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The organ plays a fanfare Once the Sermon has been introduced please sit

Sermon The Bishop of Dover

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

The Motet

Hodie Christus natus est: Hodie Salvator apparuit: Hodie in terra canunt Angeli, laetantur Archangeli Hodie exsultant justi, dicentes: Gloria in excelsis Deo. Alleluia.

Today Christ is born: Today the Saviour appeared: Today on earth the Angels sing, Archangels rejoice: Today the righteous rejoice, saying: Glory to God in the highest. Alleluia.

Words: Antiphon for the Magnificat on Christmas Day *Music:* Jan Sweelinck (1562-1621)

Stand to say

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

Kneel or sit for

Prayers of Intercession

The reply to the petitions is

Holy God hear our prayer.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

Stand

The Bishop says

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace. The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Members of the congregation greet one another.

Remain standing to sing

The Offertory Hymn *during which the table is prepared and the collection taken*

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Cathedral.

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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.

²O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth, And praises sing to God the King, And peace to all the earth; For Christ is born of Mary; And, gathered all above, While mortals sleep, the angels keep Their watch of wond'ring love. ³How silently, how silently, The wondrous gift is giv'n! So God imparts to human hearts The blessings of his heav'n. No ear may hear his coming; But in this world of sin, Where meek souls will receive him, still The dear Christ enters in.

⁴Where children pure and happy Pray to the blessèd Child, Where misery cries out to thee, Son of the mother mild; Where charity stands watching And faith holds wide the door, The dark night wakes, the glory breaks, And Christmas comes once more.

⁵O 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	NEH 32

Remain standing

The Bishop takes the bread and wine and praises God for his gifts

Word made flesh, life of the world, in your incarnation you embraced our poverty: by your Spirit may we share in your riches. **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 glory and honour be yours always and everywhere, mighty creator, ever-living God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, who for love of our fallen race humbled himself, and was born of the Virgin Mary by the power of your Spirit, and lived as one of us.

In this mystery of the Word made flesh you have caused his light to shine in our hearts, to give knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In him we see our God made visible and so are caught up in the love of the God we cannot see.

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. Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. 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.

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 Bishop 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,	Notre Père
your kingdom come,	Vater Unser
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.	Onze Vader
Give us today our daily bread.	
Forgive us our sins	Padre Nuestro
as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation	Ojcze Nasz
but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power,	Baba Yetu
and the glory are yours now and for ever.	E to matou Matua
Amen.	Ein Tad

Remain standing for

Breaking of the Bread

The Bishop 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.

Christ is the true bread which has come down from heaven. Lord, give us this bread always.

Sit as the Bishop and other ministers begin

The Distribution of Communion

Please come up for Communion as directed by the stewards. All who are regular communicants in their own tradition are welcome to receive the sacrament. 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.

We keep a **prayerful silence** during Communion to allow others to prepare to receive the sacrament or pray afterwards.

Please let a steward know if you wish to receive Communion in your place.

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 Bishop says

Let us pray.

Silence is kept

God our Father, whose Word has come among us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem: may the light of faith illumine our hearts and shine in our words and deeds; through him who is Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

All then say

Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

The Dismissal



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.

²Christ, 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.

³Hail, 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 (1707-88) and others

Tune: MENDELSSOHN

AM 66

Remain standing

The Bishop says

May the Father, who has loved the eternal Son from before the foundation of the world, shed that love upon you, his children. **Amen.**

May Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with joy and peace. **Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit, by whose overshadowing Mary became the God-bearer, give you grace to carry the good news of Christ. Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in the peace of Christ. Thanks be to God.

After the blessing, the choir and clergy move through the Quire to St Andrew's Chapel.

Please remain in your places until the civic party has left the Nave.



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THE SOCIAL JUSTICE NETWORK DIOCESE OF CANTERBURY

The Social Justice Network works in and with communities to alleviate issues of poverty, marginalisation, and vulnerability, especially the homeless, refugees and asylum seekers, and those leaving prison into homelessness. Our projects range from local, to national and international. We deliver our work through innovative partnerships creating a framework for others to respond to the changing social challenges of our time.

We engage with many partners, including charities, voluntary organisations, and local authorities to encourage a shared approach to responding to poverty and marginalisation. We offer practical advice and guidance to individuals, communities, and parishes, who are considering how they can better serve the socially and financially deprived.

Our network expresses our faith in God, seeking to show the love of God in practical action for those most in need, responding to God's call to love one another, and to act justly, love mercy, walk humbly and show compassion to all.

'The team has a range of expertise, as well as being linked into a wider network of diverse, knowledgeable, and passionate people. We aim to be a resource for deaneries, parishes, and the general community to help them fulfil their mission to work towards a sustainable and flourishing future. To this end we will increasingly shape our work in response to diocesan and Church of England priorities and in partnership with other agencies.'

The Revd Dr Jonathan Arnold, Executive Director of The Social Justice Network.



www.thesocialjusticenetwork.org

Tackling issues of low income, debt, homelessness, poor mental health, exile and isolation through practical action, projects and partnerships.



