

# CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL

**SUNDAY 14 DECEMBER**  
**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

*This sheet contains the hymns, readings and prayers of the day for this service; you can follow all other parts of the service in the purple 'Sung Eucharist in Advent' booklet.*

## **11.00am Sung Eucharist**

**Celebrant:** The Dean, The Very Revd Dr Edward Dowler

**Preacher:** The Revd Canon Vanessa Baron, Treasurer

## **ENTRANCE HYMN**

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.

He 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.

He 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.

Kings shall fall 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.

O'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;  
that name to us is Love.

Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854)  
based on Psalm 72

Music: CRÜGER, adapted by W. H. Monk (1823-1889)  
from a chorale by J. Crüger (1598-1662)

## **COLLECT**

O Lord Jesus Christ,  
who at your first coming sent your messenger  
to prepare your way before you:  
grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries  
may likewise so prepare and make ready your way  
by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of  
the just,  
that at your second coming to judge the world  
we may be found an acceptable people in your sight;  
for you are alive and reign with the Father  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## **FIRST READING** Isaiah 35: 1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

## **PSALM** 146: 4-10

Blessed is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help : and whose hope is in the Lord his God;  
Who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that therein is : who keepeth his promise for ever;

Who helpeth them to right that suffer wrong : who  
feedeth the hungry.  
The Lord looseth men out of prison : the Lord giveth sight  
to the blind.  
The Lord helpeth them that are fallen : the Lord careth for  
the righteous.  
The Lord careth for the strangers, he defendeth the  
fatherless and widow : as for the way of the ungodly, he  
turneth it upside down.  
The Lord thy God, O Sion, shall be King for evermore :  
and throughout all generations.

**SECOND READING** James 5: 7-10

Be patient, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The  
farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being  
patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains.  
You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the  
coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble  
against one another, so that you may not be judged. See,  
the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of  
suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who  
spoke in the name of the Lord.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has anointed  
me to bring good news to the poor.

**GOSPEL READING** Matthew 11: 2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing,  
he sent word by his disciples and said to Jesus, 'Are you  
the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?'  
Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and  
see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers  
are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the  
poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is  
anyone who takes no offence at me.'  
As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds  
about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to  
look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you  
go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look,  
those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then  
did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and  
more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is  
written,  
"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you."  
Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has  
arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the  
kingdom of heaven is greater than he.'

**OFFERTORY HYMN**

When the King shall come again  
all his power revealing,  
splendour shall announce his reign,  
life and joy and healing:  
earth no longer in decay,  
hope no more frustrated;  
this is God's redemption-day  
longingly awaited.

In the desert trees take root  
fresh from his creation;  
plants and flowers and sweetest fruit  
join the celebration:  
rivers spring up from the earth,  
barren lands adorning;  
valleys, this is your new birth,  
mountains, greet the morning!

Strengthen feeble hands and knees,  
fainting hearts, be cheerful!  
God who comes for such as these  
seeks and saves the fearful:  
deaf ears hear the silent tongues  
sing away their weeping;  
blind eyes see the lifeless ones  
walking, running, leaping.

There God's highway shall be seen  
where no roaring lion,  
nothing evil or unclean  
walks the road to Zion:  
ransomed people homeward bound,  
all your praises voicing,  
see your Lord with glory crowned,  
share in his rejoicing!

Words: *Christopher Idle (b. 1938)*, based on *Isaiah 5*

Music: ST JOHN DAMASCENE,

*Arthur Henry Brown (1830-1926)*

**COMMUNION HYMN**—*please remain seated*

The advent of our God  
with eager prayers we greet,  
and singing haste upon the road  
his glorious gift to meet.

The everlasting Son  
scorns not the virgin's womb;  
that we from bondage may be won  
he bears a bondsman's doom.

Daughter of Sion, rise  
to meet thy lowly King;  
let not thy stubborn heart despise  
the peace he comes to bring.

On clouds of dazzling light,  
as judge he comes again,  
his scattered people to unite,  
with him in heaven to reign.

Let evil flee away,  
ere that great hour shall dawn,  
let this old Adam day by day  
the new Man all put on.

Praise to the incarnate Son,  
who comes to set us free,  
with Father and with Spirit One,  
to all eternity. Amen.

Words: Charles Coffin (1676-1749),  
tr. H. Putnam (1861-1935)

Music: ST THOMAS,  
from A. Williams's New Universal Psalmist (1770)

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts;  
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit  
that when your Christ comes again  
we may shine as lights before his face;  
who is alive and reigns now and for ever. **Amen.**

### FINAL HYMN

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.

Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art,  
dear desire of every nation,  
joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,  
born a child and yet a king,  
born to reign in us for ever,  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit,  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all-sufficient merit  
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)  
Music: CROSS OF JESUS, John Stainer (1840-1901)



### TODAY'S MUSIC

**Mass setting:** Mass for Five Voices  
William Byrd (1540-1623)  
**Motet:** O sacrum convivium  
Thomas Tallis (1505-1585)  
**Closing Music:** Prelude in B minor, BWV 544i  
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

### SERVICES THIS WEEK AT THE CATHEDRAL

#### Monday-Saturday

7.30am **Quiet prayer** (St Clement Chapel)  
7.45am **Morning Prayer** (St Clement Chapel)  
8.00am **Holy Communion** (Lady Chapel)  
See note **Said Evening Prayer** (Monday—Wednesday  
at 5.30pm)  
**Carol Service** (Thursday & Friday at 6.00pm,  
Saturday at 3.00pm)

#### Sunday 21 December

8.00am **Holy Communion** (BCP)  
9.00am **Eucharist** for children, families and  
caregivers  
10.00am **Mattins** said, with congregational music  
11.00am **Choral Eucharist** (also livestreamed)  
3.00pm **Carol Service** (also livestreamed)

Thursdays at 10.30am **Holy Communion** according to  
the Book of Common Prayer.

### Advent and Christmas Services 2025

All are welcome—booking is not required for any service.  
Seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis.  
Underlined services will also be livestreamed on the Ca-  
thedral website, Facebook and YouTube.

#### Thursday 18—Sunday 21 December Carol Services

Thursday and Friday at 6.00pm  
Saturday and Sunday at 3.00pm

**Wednesday 24 December** Christmas Eve  
7.45am: Morning Prayer (quiet prayer from 7.30am)  
8.00am: Holy Communion  
11.00am and 2.00pm: Children's Crib Services  
6.00pm: Christmas Eve Choral Evensong  
11.00pm: Midnight Mass

**Thursday 25 December** Christmas Day  
8.00am: Holy Communion  
9.00am: Eucharist for Children, Families & Caregivers  
10.00am: Choral Mattins  
11.00am: Choral Eucharist

**Sunday 4 January 2026, 6.00pm** Epiphany Procession

### Message from the Dean: Christmas Services

The Christmas services provide a wonderful opportunity  
to **invite friends and family members of all ages to the  
Cathedral** to experience the wonderful music and litur-  
gies of this season and to celebrate the birth of Jesus  
Christ our Lord and saviour.  
Please may I ask all members of our congregation to do  
this if at all possible, and to share the blessings that we  
will all receive in this season.

## NOTICES

### Advent Course: Yearning for the Light

Our Advent course explores the rich themes of yearning for joy and light. Each session, led by Cathedral clergy, offers thoughtful reflection and teaching, followed by open discussion. Wednesday 17 December—*Light in the Darkness*; George Bell House, arrive by 2.15pm for a 2.30pm start. There is no charge but booking is essential, via the website or 0333 666 3366.

### Residential retreat: summer 2026

Canon Earl would like to give a residential retreat for the cathedral congregation in 2026. Douai Abbey cannot accommodate us so he proposes holding it at Penhurst Retreat Centre on these dates: 9-12 July 2026. Please let him know as quickly as possible if you are interested, at: earl.collins@chichestercathedral.org.uk

### The Great Christmas Hunt with Wilfrid the Seal

It's Wilfrid's very first Christmas at the Cathedral—and he's full of excitement! Join Wilfrid as he encounters familiar characters from the Nativity story, explores the Cathedral's colourful artworks, and enjoys moments of festive wonder. Free printed trail handouts are now available at the Cathedral entrance—no booking required, but donations very much welcome. Ideal for all the family, with a focus on children below the age of 12, but open to all who are young at heart!

### Why Legacies Matter: New Year, Lasting Impact

Vicars' Hall, Thursday 15 January 2026, 2.00–3.30pm. Legacies play an essential role in the life of Chichester Cathedral. They help care for its music, heritage and the life of faith it nurtures, ensuring it can continue to inspire and serve future generations. Join us for an informal afternoon, hosted by Alison George, Director of Fundraising, reflecting on the impact of gifts in wills. The event will include updates from the Dean, the premiere of a new music video from the Cathedral Choir, and guidance on legacy planning from experts at Irwin Mitchell Solicitors and will conclude with tea, cake and conversation. Tickets are free and can be booked through the website or from the Trust on 01243 812991.

### If you are able to make a donation to the Cathedral...

The Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) is a secure and simple way of giving to the Cathedral by Direct Debit on a regular monthly, quarterly or annual basis. If eligible, you can opt to add Gift Aid and PGS claims this on our behalf, passing it directly back to the Cathedral.

- **Online** Visit [www.parishgiving.org.uk](http://www.parishgiving.org.uk) and search for 'Chichester Cathedral'; **By phone** 0333 002 1271, Monday to Friday, 9.00 to 5.00; **By post** Using the PGS application form. A copy is available to collect from the Visitors' Desk or the Vergers' Office.

## Bishop Martin writes:

### Knowing that we are loved:

A new generation attending Chichester Cathedral have shifted the atmosphere. Buggies now take their place alongside the Zimmer frames, to the delight of everyone.

We are being reminded what it's like to be a baby. The needs are basic: warmth and security, food, sleep, and clean clothes.

In early childhood we need people to notice us, and we need one or two people who always do this. That's how we know that we are loved. We need things to play with, capturing our imagination and teaching us communication and how to work with what we see.

We never really grow out our earliest needs which guarantee our human dignity. I was reminded of this at the joyful celebrations of baptism and confirmation just before Christmas. Candidates spoke of their need of being loved, feeling safe, finding kindness and knowing that you can be forgiven.

Some of the most moving testimonies came from our asylum seeker and refugee brothers and sisters. They spoke of how the local church has shown them the kindness of God our loving Father, which we see in the face of his Son, Jesus Christ.

This kindness has done much to restore their sense of dignity as the children of God. And because words can sometimes be a barrier, the symbolic gestures of worship become more important as a form of communication.

The washing with water in baptism, like the laying-on of hands and anointing in confirmation speaks powerfully. It says that the love of God is as tender and reassuring as the gentle touch of a parent is to a new-born child.

So, with Christians young and old we rejoice this Christmas that what God the Father sees and loves in the new-born Christ, he sees and loves in you and me.

The Virgin Mother looks on with love. Joseph is a friend and guardian. Angels enchant us with music promising peace on earth. And all for your sake.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have a **notice relevant to the ministry and mission of the Cathedral** that you would like to submit for this notice sheet, please contact: [chris.george@chichestercathedral.org.uk](mailto:chris.george@chichestercathedral.org.uk) by 5pm on Tuesday.

If you have any **safeguarding concerns** in relation to the Cathedral, please contact [safeguarding@chichestercathedral.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@chichestercathedral.org.uk) or speak to a member of our Safeguarding team [please see the website or our Safeguarding posters for more details].