

CHICHESTER
CATHEDRAL

CHRISTMAS DAY EUCHARIST

**CHRISTMAS DAY 2025
11.00AM**

For over 950 years, Chichester Cathedral has been
a place of worship, welcome and community.
Now, in 2025, it costs us approximately £7,000 a day
to maintain the Cathedral.

Chichester Cathedral does not receive any regular funding
from government or from central church sources,
and relies heavily on generous donations.

We kindly ask you to make a cash donation
to the collection taken during this service.
Whatever you give, whether large or small,
will help to secure the future of this Cathedral.

If you do not have any cash, please scan the QR code
below to donate online or tap to donate as you exit the
Cathedral – our Stewards will be available to assist you.



Charity Name: Chichester Cathedral
Charity Number: 1205740

WELCOME

We warmly welcome you to this service as we celebrate Our Lord's Nativity.

The mystery of Christmas is that, in Jesus of Nazareth, God has dwelt among us in flesh and thus all humankind has now been granted the possibility of healing and reconciliation with its Creator. As Gregory of Nyssa wrote in the fourth century, "By means of the flesh which we have assumed, and thereby deified, everything kindred and related may be saved along with it" (*Great Catechism*, 25). It is our prayer that you will discern something of God's invitation for you to discover that promise of healing and renewal in your own life this Christmas.

This booklet contains all you will need to follow the service. Please ask a Steward if you would like a large-print copy.

The celebrant at this service is The Lord Bishop of Chichester, The Right Reverend Dr Martin Warner, and the sung Mass Setting is the *Missa Brevis in B-flat K275* by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791).

This service will be live-streamed and broadcast online via the Cathedral's website, YouTube channel and Facebook pages. Typically, services are made available for up to 48 hours, however this period may be longer for special recordings. For further information, please contact:

info@chichestercathedral.org.uk

Photography, filming and audio recordings are not permitted during this service. Please ensure that mobile telephones are switched off or silenced.

An induction loop is provided for the benefit of hearing aid users. To use this, please switch your hearing aid to 'T'.

Parents and caregivers are reminded that children remain in their care throughout this service and must not be left unattended or to wander around the Cathedral by themselves.

Toilets and baby-changing facilities can be accessed from the North Transept of the Cathedral. Children using these facilities must be accompanied by a parent or caregiver.

In the event of an emergency please follow the direction of the Vergers and Stewards.

www.chichestercathedral.org.uk

ORDER OF SERVICE

Please maintain a prayerful silence in preparation for the service.

THE GATHERING

Please stand as the procession enters.

PROCESSIONAL CAROL



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

God of God,
Light of Light,
lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
very God,
begotten, not created:
O come, let us adore him...

Child, 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?
O come, let us adore him...

Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God
in the highest:
O come, let us adore him...

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning,
Jesu, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing:
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

18th-century Latin
tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880)

Adeste Fideles
18th-century English carol
arr. David Willcocks (1919-2015)

THE GREETING

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

Peace be with you

All **and also with you.**

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

Christ the light of the world has come
to dispel the darkness of our hearts.
In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

God our Father,
you sent your Son full of grace and truth:
forgive our failure to receive him.
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Jesus our Saviour,
you were born in poverty and laid in a manger:
forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.
Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

Spirit of love,
your servant Mary responded joyfully to your call,
forgive the hardness of our hearts.
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

The Bishop pronounces the Absolution:

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

All **Amen.**

The choir sings

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO

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 caelestis, Deus Pater omnipotens.
*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.*

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.
*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.*

Quoniam tu solus Sanctus, tu solus Dominus,
tu solus Altissimus, Jesu Christe, cum Sancto Spiritu:
in gloria Dei Patris. Amen.

*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

Let us pray.

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.

All **Amen.**

Please sit.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE FIRST READING

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.' Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Isaiah 52: 7-10

The choir sings

THE PSALM

O sing unto the Lord a new song: for he hath done marvellous things. With his own right hand, and with his holy arm: hath he gotten himself the victory.

The Lord declared his salvation: his righteousness hath he openly shewed in the sight of the heathen.

He hath remembered his mercy and truth toward the house of Israel: and all the ends of the world have seen the salvation of our God. Shew yourselves joyful unto the Lord, all ye lands: sing, rejoice, and give thanks.

Praise the Lord upon the harp: sing to the harp with a psalm of thanksgiving.

Psalms 98: 1-6

THE SECOND READING

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Hebrews 1: 1-4

THE GOSPEL READING

Please stand. The choir leads the Gospel Acclamation:



Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

All **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

A hallowed day has dawned upon us.
Come, you nations, worship the Lord,
for today a great light has shone down upon the earth.

All **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

When the Gospel is announced, the reader says

The Lord be with you
All **and also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

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

John 1: 1-14

Please remain standing as the Gospel procession returns, until invited to sit.

THE SERMON

*The Lord Bishop of Chichester
The Right Reverend Dr Martin Warner*

THE NICENE CREED

Please stand.

All **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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Please sit or stand. These responses are used:

Lord, in your mercy
All **hear our prayer.**

And at the end:

Merciful Father,
All **accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

THE PEACE

Please stand.

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
All **and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

THE OFFERTORY HYMN

during which bread and wine are brought to the altar, and a cash collection is taken

Chichester Cathedral relies heavily on your generous donations. Whatever you give, whether large or small, helps us to maintain this special place and everything we offer. Other ways to donate are detailed at the front of this booklet.



**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!

**Lo, within a manger lies
he who built the starry skies,
he who, throned in height sublime,
sits amid the cherubim!**

Hail, thou ever-blessèd morn! ...

Say, ye holy shepherds, say,
what your joyful news today;
wherefore have ye left your sheep
on the lonely mountain steep?

Hail, thou ever-blessèd morn! ...

'As we watched at dead of night,
lo, we saw a wondrous light;
angels, singing "Peace on earth",
told us of a Saviour's birth.'

Hail, thou ever-blessèd morn! ...

Sacred Infant, all divine,
what a tender love was thine,
thus to come from highest bliss
down to such a world as this!

Hail, thou ever-blessèd morn!

Hail, redemption's happy dawn!

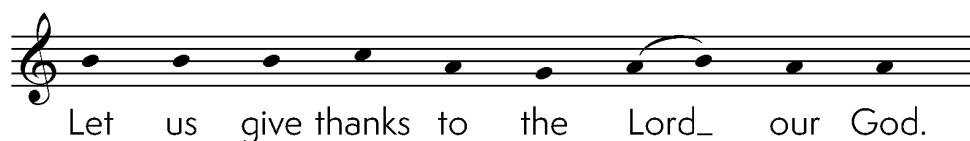
Sing through all Jerusalem:

Christ is born in Bethlehem!

Common Praise 67
Edward Caswall (1814-1878)

Humility (Oxford)
John Goss (1800-1880)

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER



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, Sanctus
Dominus Deus Sabaoth,
pleni sunt caeli 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.*

The Eucharistic Prayer continues:

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

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.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:
All **Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life:
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St Joseph,
St Wilfrid, St Richard of Chichester, and all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever.



A - men.

Please remain standing.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

All **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.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Bishop breaks the consecrated bread.

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
All **Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

GIVING OF COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

All **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

The Bishop and people receive communion. Please sit until directed by the Stewards.

Members of all Christian churches are welcome to receive communion. Please indicate if you wish to receive a gluten-free wafer. If you would prefer to receive a blessing, please come to the communion station and bow your head.

*After you have received communion, **please try to maintain a prayerful silence.***

During communion the choir sings

AGNUS DEI

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi: miserere nobis.
*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.*

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi: miserere nobis.
*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.*

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi: dona nobis pacem.
*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.*

CHOIR CAROL

In the bleak midwinter frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign:
in the bleak midwinter a stable-place sufficed
the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Enough for him, whom cherubim worship night and day,
a breastful of milk and a mangerful of hay;
enough for him, whom angels fall down before,
the ox and ass and camel which adore.

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him, give my heart.

Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

Harold Darke (1888-1976)

CAROL DURING COMMUNION

The following congregational carol may also be sung – **please remain seated.**



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.

NEH 22
Anonymous words

Away in a manger
Melody by W. J. Kirkpatrick (1838-1921)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Please stand.

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.

All **Amen.**

THE SENDING OUT

THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

The Lord be with you
All **and also with you.**

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

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

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

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

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

RECESSIONAL CAROL



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 th' angelic host proclaim,
Christ is born in Bethlehem:

*Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the new-born King.*

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 th' incarnate Deity!
pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel:

*Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the new-born King.*

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.*

NEH 26
Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Mendelssohn
from a chorus by
Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809-1847)
Descant: David Willcocks (1919-2015)

CLOSING MUSIC

FUGUE ON *THE SUSSEX CAROL*

Timothy Ravalde (b. 1988)

We hope that you have enjoyed today's service.
If you have not yet been able to make a donation, there
will be an opportunity to donate either by cash or card
as you leave (our Stewards will be available to assist you),
or you can scan the QR code below to donate online.

We wish you a very happy Christmas.



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