

CHICHESTER
CATHEDRAL

CHORAL EVENSONG

**CHRISTMAS EVE 2025
6.00PM**

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.

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

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

BEFORE THE SERVICE

ORGAN MUSIC BEFORE THE SERVICE

Played by Benedict Tanner, Organ Scholar:

NOËL SUISSE	<i>Louis-Claude Daquin (1694-1772)</i>
PUER NATUS IN BETHLEHEM	<i>Dieterich Buxtehude (c. 1637-1707)</i>
THE HOLY BOY	<i>John Ireland (1879-1962)</i>
CRADLE SONG	<i>Henry Ley (1887-1962)</i>
DER TAG, DER IST SO FREUDENREICH BWV 605	<i>Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)</i>
DIE HIRTEN AN DER KRIPPE	<i>Franz Liszt (1811-1886)</i>
IN DULCI JUBILO	<i>Johann Michael Bach (1648-1694)</i>

ORDER OF SERVICE

Please remain seated as from the West Doors the choir sings

THE INTROIT

*Ding-dong, ding, ding-a-dong-a-ding,
ding-dong, ding-dong, ding-a-dong-ding.*

Up! good Christen folk, and listen
how the merry church bells ring,
and from steeple bid good people
come adore the new-born King:

Tell the story how from glory
God came down at Christmastide,
bringing gladness, chasing sadness,
show'ring blessings far and wide.

Born of mother, blest o'er other,
ex *Maria Virgine*,
in a stable ('tis no fable),
Christus natus hodie.

of the Virgin Mary

Christ is born today

*Ding-dong, ding, ding-a-dong-a-ding,
ding-dong, ding-dong, ding-a-dong-ding.*

*Words and music: G. R. Woodward (1848-1934)
from a tune in Piaae Cantiones (1582)*

Please stand.

PROCESSIONAL CAROL

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 the earth be peace;
good-will henceforth from heaven to men
begin and never cease.'

WELCOME

The Dean of Chichester, The Very Reverend Dr Edward Dowler, says

Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people. For unto you is born in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2: 10, 11

The Dean welcomes the congregation.

Remain standing as the cantor and choir sing

THE PRECES AND RESPONSES

○ Lord, open thou our lips.
And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

○ God, make speed to save us.
○ Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

Praise ye the Lord.
The Lord's Name be praised.

The Book of Common Prayer

Bernard Rose (1916-1996)

Please sit. The choir sings

PSALM 85

Lord, thou art become gracious unto thy land: thou hast turned away
the captivity of Jacob.

Thou hast forgiven the offence of thy people: and covered all their
sins.

Thou hast taken away all thy displeasure: and turned thyself from thy
wrathful indignation.

Turn us then, O God our Saviour: and let thine anger cease from us.
Wilt thou be displeased at us for ever: and wilt thou stretch out thy
wrath from one generation to another?

Wilt thou not turn again, and quicken us: that thy people may rejoice
in thee?

Shew us thy mercy, O Lord: and grant us thy salvation.

I will hearken what the Lord God will say concerning me: for he shall
speak peace unto his people, and to his saints, that they turn not
again.

For his salvation is nigh them that fear him: that glory may dwell in
our land.

Mercy and truth are met together: righteousness and peace have
kissed each other.

Truth shall flourish out of the earth: and righteousness hath looked
down from heaven.

Yea, the Lord shall shew loving-kindness: and our land shall give her
increase.

Righteousness shall go before him: and he shall direct his going in
the way.

Please stand as the choir sings the Gloria:

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

Please sit.

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

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.

Isaiah 11: 1-9

Please stand.

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

**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.**

**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.**

Choir 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.

All **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.**

Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)

Forest Green

*Traditional English melody harmonised
by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)
Verse 3 arr. Philip Ledger (1937-2012)
Descant: Thomas Armstrong (1898-1994)*

Remain standing.

The choir sings the canticle

MAGNIFICAT

My soul doth magnify the Lord,
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me,
and holy is his Name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him,
throughout all generations.
He hath shewed strength with his arm;
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat,
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel,
as he promised to our forefathers,
Abraham and his seed for ever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

Luke 1: 46-55

George Dyson (1883-1964) in D

Please sit.

THE NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

The birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.'

Matthew 1: 18-23

Please stand. The choir sings the canticle

NUNC DIMITTIS

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace,
according to thy word.
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation;
which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;
to be a light to lighten the Gentiles,
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

Luke 2: 29-32

George Dyson (1883-1964) in D

Remain standing to say together

THE APOSTLES' CREED

All **I believe in God the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth:
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.
He descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic Church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

The cantor and choir sing

THE PRECES AND RESPONSES

The Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

Please sit or kneel.

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

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.
Amen.

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.
And grant us thy salvation.

O Lord, save The King.
And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Endue thy ministers with righteousness.
And make thy chosen people joyful.

O Lord, save thy people.
And bless thine inheritance.

Give peace in our time, O Lord.
Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.

O God, make clean our hearts within us.
And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

THE COLLECTS

Almighty God,
who makest us glad with the yearly remembrance
of the birth of thy only Son, Jesus Christ:
grant that, as we joyfully receive him as our redeemer,
so we may with sure confidence behold him,
when he shall come to be our judge;
who liveth and reigneth with thee
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Choir: Amen.

O God, from whom all holy desires,
all good counsels, and all just works do proceed:
give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give;
that both, our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments,
and also that, by thee,
we being defended from the fear of our enemies
may pass our time in rest and quietness;
through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour.
Choir: Amen.

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord;
and by thy great mercy defend us
from all perils and dangers of this night;
for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Choir: Amen.

Please sit. The choir sings

THE ANTHEM

We stood on the hills, Lady,
our day's work done,
watching the frosted meadows
that winter had won.

The evening was calm, Lady,
the air so still,
silence more lovely than music
folded the hill.

There was a star, Lady,
shone in the night,
larger than Venus it was
and bright, so bright.

Oh a voice from the sky, Lady,
it seemed to us then
telling of God being born
in the world of men.

And so we have come, Lady,
our day's work done,
our love, our hopes, ourselves
we give to your son.

Clive Sansom (1910-1981)

Bob Chilcott (b. 1955)

THE PRAYERS

Please sit or kneel. The Prayers conclude with the Grace:

All **The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all evermore.
Amen.**

Please stand.

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

during which 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.

**God rest you merry, gentlemen,
let nothing you dismay,
for Jesus Christ our Saviour
was born on Christmas Day,
to save us all from Satan's power
when we were gone astray:
*O tidings of comfort and joy,
comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.***

From God our heavenly Father
a blessèd angel came,
and unto certain shepherds
brought tidings of the same,
how that in Bethlehem was born
the Son of God by name:
O tidings of comfort and joy...

The shepherds at those tidings
rejoicèd much in mind,
and left their flocks a-feeding,
in tempest, storm and wind,
and went to Bethlehem straightway
this blessèd babe to find:
O tidings of comfort and joy...

But when to Bethlehem they came,
whereat this infant lay,
they found him in a manger,
where oxen feed on hay;
his mother Mary kneeling
unto the Lord did pray:
O tidings of comfort and joy...

Now to the Lord sing praises,
all you within this place,
and with true love and brotherhood
each other now embrace;
this holy tide of Christmas
all others doth deface:
*O tidings of comfort and joy,
comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

THE BLESSING

May the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the perseverance of the wise men,
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,
and the peace of the Christ Child
be yours this Christmas;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

CLOSING MUSIC

Played by Timothy Ravalde, Assistant Organist:

FINAL *from* SYMPHONY NO. 1

Louis Vierne (1870-1937)

Please remain standing as the procession departs.

We hope that you have enjoyed tonight'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.



SERVICES FOR CHRISTMAS AT CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL

Services on Christmas Eve

- Midnight Mass, 11.00pm (also livestreamed)
Celebrant and Preacher: The Lord Bishop of Chichester

Services on Christmas Day

- Said Holy Communion according to the Book of Common Prayer, 8.00am
- Christmas Day Service for Children, Families & Caregivers, 9.00am
- Christmas Day Choral Mattins, 10.00am
- Christmas Day Eucharist, 11.00am (also livestreamed)
Celebrant and Preacher: The Lord Bishop of Chichester
The Cathedral will close to the public for the rest of the day at 12.30pm.

The Epiphany Procession

A service celebrating the arrival of the Magi at Bethlehem

- Sunday 4th January, 6.00pm (also livestreamed)

No advance booking is required for our Christmas services.