CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL

MIDNIGHT MASS

CHRISTMAS EVE 2025 11.00PM 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.

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 Sancti Joannis de Deo ("Little Organ Mass")* by Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809).

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:

IN DULCI JUBILO Johann Michael Bach (1648-1694)

PUER NATUS IN BETHLEHEM Dieterich Buxtehude (c. 1637-1707)

NOËL SUISSE Louis-Claude Daquin (1694-1772)

FANFARE ON ANTIOCH Gerre Hancock (1934-2012)

Prelude on The Holly and the Ivy

Herbert Sumsion (1899-1995)

PRELUDE ON IN DULCI JUBILO Percy Buck (1871-1947)

Please maintain a prayerful silence in preparation for the service.

ORDER OF SERVICE

THE GATHERING

Please stand when invited. From the West Doors, the choir begins

THE PROCESSIONAL CAROL during which the Dean carries the figure of the Christ-Child to the High Altar

Choir Of the Father's heart begotten, ere the world from chaos rose, he is Alpha: from that Fountain all that is and hath been flows; he is Omega, of all things yet to come the mystic Close, evermore and evermore.

By his word was all created;
he commanded and 'twas done;
earth and sky and boundless ocean,
universe of three in one,
all that sees the moon's soft radiance,
all that breathes beneath the sun,
evermore and evermore.

continued overleaf...



O how blest that wondrous birthday, when the Maid the curse retrieved, brought to birth mankind's salvation, by the Holy Ghost conceived; and the Babe, the world's Redeemer in her loving arms received, evermore and evermore.

This is he, whom seer and sibyl sang in ages long gone by; this is he of old revealed in the page of prophecy; lo! he comes, the promised Saviour; let the world his praises cry evermore and evermore!

Let the storm and summer sunshine, gliding stream and sounding shore, sea and forest, frost and zephyr, day and night their Lord adore; let creation join to laud thee through the ages evermore, evermore and evermore!

THE BLESSING OF THE CRIB

The Bishop blesses the Crib, saying:

In the faith of Christ, and in your name, O God most holy, we hallow this crib of Christmas, to set before the eyes of your children the great love and humility of Jesus Christ your only Son; who for us, and for our salvation, came down as at this time from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary his mother, and was made man; to whom with you and the same Spirit be all honour, majesty, glory and worship, now and to the ages of ages.

All Amen.

All sing the final verse of the carol:

Sing, ye heights of heaven, his praises!
Angels and Archangels, sing!
Wheresoe'er ye be, ye faithful,
let your joyous anthems ring,
every tongue his name confessing,
countless voices answering,
evermore and evermore.

NEH 33 Prudentius (348-413) tr. R. F. Davis (1866-1937) Divinum Mysterium Melody from Piae Cantiones Theoderici Petri Nylandensis (1582)

THE GREETING

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

All **Amen.**

Peace be with you

A/I 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.

Lord Jesus, you are mighty God and prince of peace: Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are son of God and son of Mary: Christ, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are word made flesh and splendour of the Father: 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.

 $A \parallel A$ **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.

Eternal God, who made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of your one true light: bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth, to see the radiance of your heavenly glory; 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.

 $A \parallel A$ **Amen.**

Please sit.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE FIRST READING

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Isaiah 9: 2-7

The choir sings

THE PSALM

- O sing unto the Lord a new song: sing unto the Lord, all the whole earth.
- Sing unto the Lord, and praise his Name: be telling of his salvation from day to day.
- Declare his honour unto the heathen: and his wonders unto all people.
- Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad: let the sea make a noise, and all that therein is.
- Let the field be joyful, and all that is in it: then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice before the Lord.
- For he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth: and with righteousness to judge the world, and the people with his truth.

Psalm 96: 1-3, 11-13

THE SECOND READING

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Titus 2: 11-14

CONGREGATIONAL 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.'

THE GOSPEL READING

The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

All 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!'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Luke 2: 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.

This holy night the angels sang, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to all in whom he delights.'

The peace of the Lord be always with you 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.



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 the earth, goodwill to men,
from heaven's all-gracious King!'
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.

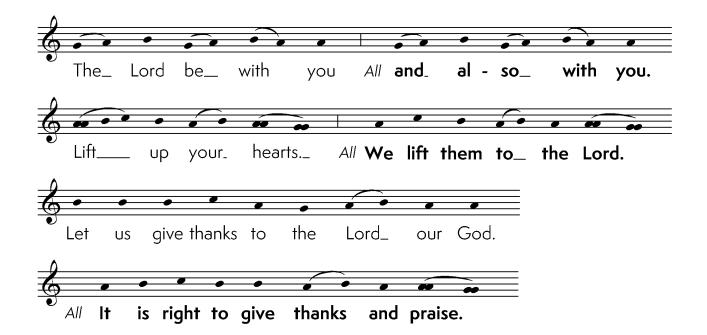
Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled; and still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world; above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing; and ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessèd angels sing.

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, ye men of strife,
and hear the angels sing!

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 the whole world give back the song
which now the angels sing.

NEH 29 Edmund Sears (1810-1876) Noel Traditional English melody Adapted by Arthur Sullivan (1842-1900)

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 on this night 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:

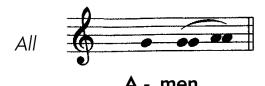
All Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life: Lord Jesus, come in glory.

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.



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:

Αll 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

What sweeter music can we bring than a carol, for to sing the birth of this our heavenly King? Awake the voice! awake the string!

Dark and dull night, fly hence away! and give the honour to this day that sees December turned to May.

Why does the chilling winter's morn smile, like a field beset with corn? or smell like a meadow newly shorn thus on the sudden? Come and see the cause, why things thus fragrant be:

Tis he is born, whose quickening birth gives life and lustre, public mirth, to heaven and the under-earth.

We see him come, and know him ours, who, with his sunshine and his showers, turns all the patient ground to flowers.

The darling of the world is come, and fit it is we find a room to welcome him. The nobler part of all the house here is the heart, which we will give him; and bequeath this holly, and this ivy wreath, to do him honour, who's our King, and Lord of all this revelling.

CHOIR CAROL

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 side until 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.

Anonymous words

Melody by W. J. Kirkpatrick (1838-1921) arr. David Willcocks (1919-2015)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Please stand.

God our Father, in this night you have made known to us again the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him until the day dawns and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts.

All To him be glory both now and for ever.

Amen.

THE SENDING OUT

THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

The Lord be with you

A/I 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.

$A \parallel A$ **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.

$A \parallel A$ Amen.

Go in the peace of Christ.

All Thanks be to God.

CONGREGATIONAL 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...

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...

At this point, the Bishop places the figure of the Christ-Child into the Crib:

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)

CLOSING MUSIC

TOCCATA from SYMPHONY NO. 5

Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937)

Please remain standing as the procession departs.

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.

Please leave this booklet in the Cathedral for use at future services.

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SERVICES FOR CHRISTMAS AT CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL

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
- o Christmas Day Choral Mattins, 10.00am
- Christmas Day Eucharist, 11.00am (<u>also livestreamed</u>)
 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

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

No advance booking is required for our Christmas services.