

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL

THE CATHEDRAL CAROL SERVICE 2025

THURSDAY 18TH DECEMBER AT 6.00PM
FRIDAY 19TH DECEMBER AT 6.00PM
SATURDAY 20TH DECEMBER AT 3.00PM
SUNDAY 21ST DECEMBER AT 3.00PM

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 service on Sunday 21st December 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

THE CAROL SERVICE

Welcome to this year's Cathedral Carol Service which seeks, through music, Scripture, and poetry, to proclaim afresh the mystery of Christmas: that Jesus, born of Mary, is God-with-us. In the moment of his birth, all creation – from the oxen to the angelic host – rejoices as God dwells in his fullness in the arms of Mary.

Our readings suggest to us that this child will be the one, foretold by the prophet Isaiah in the eighth century BC, who will 'not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth' (*Isaiah 11: 3-4*). In his life, death and resurrection, Christians discern not just a life well lived but the bearer of ultimate healing to our fragmented world and selves, in whose presence the 'wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid and the calf and the lion and the fatling together' (*Isaiah 11: 6*).

The hope of the Christ-child is the invitation for each one of us to step into the mystery of this life and to discover, for ourselves and for our world, the healing that comes from learning what it might mean to forgive and be forgiven.

May you discover afresh this night the joy of God's forgiveness and love, step decisively out of the shadow of death and into the radiance of Christ's welcome.

*Up, heavy hearts, with joy your joy embrace.
From death, from dark, from deafness, from despairs,
This life, this light, this Word, this joy repairs.
Gift better than himself God doth not know;
Gift better than his God no man can see.*

Robert Southwell, SJ, 1561-95

BEFORE THE SERVICE

ORGAN MUSIC BEFORE THE SERVICE

Played by Benedict Tanner, Organ Scholar:

PRELUDE ON *THE HOLLY AND THE IVY*

Herbert Sumsion (1899-1995)

WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET DER MORGENSTERN, *BuxWV 224*

Dieterich Buxtehude (c.1637-1707)

FANFARE ON *ANTIOCH*

Gerre Hancock (1934-2012)

IN DULCI JUBILO *BWV 729*

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Played by Timothy Ravalde, Assistant Organist:

TRIO ON *HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING*

Timothy Ravalde (b. 1988)

PRAELUDIUM IN G MAJOR

Nicolaus Bruhns (1665-1697)

FRIDAY 19TH DECEMBER

Five minutes before the service, the following are escorted to their seats:

THE CHAIRMAN OF EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL
Cllr Roy Galley, and Mrs Helen Galley

THE CHAIRMAN OF WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL
Cllr Pieter Montyn

THE CHAIRMAN OF CHICHESTER DISTRICT COUNCIL
Cllr Clare Apel, and Mr Ralph Apel

THE MAYOR AND MAYORESS OF CHICHESTER
Cllr Sean McHale, and Mrs Michaela McHale

Three minutes before the service, the following are escorted to their seats:

THE HIGH SHERIFF OF EAST SUSSEX
Mrs Annie Brown, and Mr Richard Brown

THE HIGH SHERIFF OF WEST SUSSEX
Dr Timothy Fooks, and Mrs Sarah Fooks

*Immediately before the service, **please stand** as the Dean escorts to their seats:*

HM LORD-LIEUTENANT OF EAST SUSSEX
Mr Andrew Blackman, and Mr Richard Smith

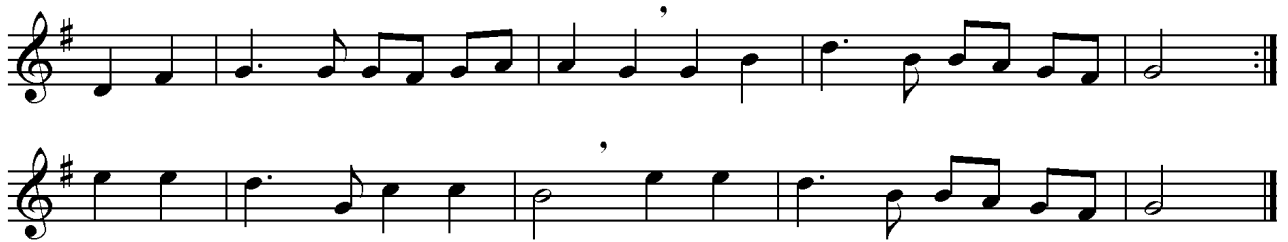
HM LORD-LIEUTENANT OF WEST SUSSEX
Lady Emma Barnard, and Mr James Barnard

Please then sit for the Welcome.

ORDER OF SERVICE

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

THE PROCESSIONAL CAROL



Choir Once in royal David's city
 stood a lowly cattle shed,
 where a mother laid her baby
 in a manger for his bed:
 Mary was that mother mild,
 Jesus Christ her little child.

Choir He came down to earth from heaven
 who is God and Lord of all,
 and his shelter was a stable,
 and his cradle was a stall;
 with the poor and mean and lowly
 lived on earth our Saviour holy.

All **And through all his wondrous childhood**
 he would honour and obey,
 love and watch the lowly maiden,
 in whose gentle arms he lay:
 Christian children all must be
 mild, obedient, good as he.

For he is our childhood's pattern,
day by day like us he grew,
he was little, weak, and helpless,
tears and smiles like us he knew:
and he feeleth for our sadness,
and he shareth in our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love,
for that child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him; but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high;
where like stars his children crowned
all in white shall wait around.

Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895)

Irby

Melody by H. J. Gauntlett (1805-1876)

Harmonised by A. H. Mann (1850-1929)

Descant: Timothy Ravalde (b. 1988)

BIDDING

All remain standing.

Beloved in Christ, be it this Christmastide our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels; in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger.

Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by this Holy Child; and let us make this Cathedral Church glad with our carols of praise:

But first let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace and goodwill in Europe, the Holy Land and over all the earth; for our stewardship of creation for future generations; for unity and fellowship within the Church he came to build, and especially in the kingdoms of our sovereign King Charles and within this City and Diocese of Chichester:

And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us at this time remember in his name the poor and the helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick in body and in mind and those that mourn; the lonely and the unloved; all who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no man can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one. These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself 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.**

The Almighty God bless us with his grace:
Christ give us the joys of everlasting life:
and unto the fellowship of the citizens above
may the King of Angels bring us all.

All **Amen.**

Please sit.

CHOIR

On Christmas night all Christians sing
to hear the news the angels bring:
news of great joy, news of great mirth,
news of our merciful King's birth.

Then why should men on earth be so sad,
since our Redeemer made us glad,
when from our sin he set us free,
all for to gain our liberty?

When sin departs before his grace,
then life and health come in its place.
Angels and men with joy may sing
all for to see the new-born King.

All out of darkness we have light,
which made the angels sing this night:
'Glory to God and peace to men,
now and for evermore, Amen!'

Traditional carol, arr. Philip Ledger (1937-2012)

THE FIRST READING

Read by a Cathedral Chorister

God tells Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise and that his seed will bruise the serpent's head.

Adam and Eve heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden. And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. And the Lord God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat. And the Lord God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: and I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

Thanks be to God.

Genesis 3: 8-15

CHOIR

Adam lay ybounden,
 bounden in a bond;
four thousand winter
 thought he not too long.

And all was for an apple,
 an apple that he took,
as clerkes finden
 written in their book.

Ne had the apple taken been,
 the apple taken been,
ne had never Our Lady
 a-been heavené Queen.

Blessed be the time
 that apple taken was,
therefore we moun singen:
 Deo gracias!

15th-century words

Boris Ord (1897-1961)

THE SECOND READING

Read by

Caroline Daines, Cathedral Festival of Flowers 2026 Designer (Thursday)

Sarah Songhurst, Pallant House Gallery (Friday)

Jenny Jackson, Stonepillow (Saturday)

Brenda Gay, Cathedral congregation (Sunday)

He will come like last leaf's fall.
One night when the November wind
has flayed the trees to the bone, and earth
wakes choking on the mould,
the soft shroud's folding.

He will come like frost.
One morning when the shrinking earth
opens on mist, to find itself
arrested in the net
of alien, sword-set beauty.

He will come like dark.
One evening when the bursting red
December sun draws up the sheet
and penny-masks its eye to yield
the star-snowed fields of sky.

He will come, will come,
will come like crying in the night,
like blood, like breaking,
as the earth writhes to toss him free.
He will come like child.

Advent Calendar
Archbishop Rowan Williams (b. 1950)
From *Collected Poems* (2021)
Carcenet Press

CHOIR

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)

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)*

Please sit.

THE THIRD READING

Read by

a Lay Vicar of the Cathedral Choir (Thursday, Friday, Saturday)

Benedict Tanner, Cathedral Organ Scholar (Sunday)

The prophet foretells the coming of the Messiah's kingdom of peace.

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

Thanks be to God.

Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7

CHOIR

Now the holly bears a berry as white as the milk,
and Mary bore Jesus, all wrapped up in silk:

*And Mary bore Jesus Christ our Saviour for to be,
and the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly.*

Now the holly bears a berry as green as the grass,
and Mary bore Jesus, who died on the cross:

*And Mary bore Jesus Christ our Saviour for to be,
and the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly.*

Now the holly bears a berry as black as the coal,
and Mary bore Jesus, who died for us all:

*And Mary bore Jesus Christ our Saviour for to be,
and the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly.*

Now the holly bears a berry as blood is it red;
then trust we our Saviour who rose from the dead:

*And Mary bore Jesus Christ our Saviour for to be,
and the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly.*

Traditional carol, arr. John Rutter (b. 1945)

THE FOURTH READING

Read by

Dr Mark Mason, University of Chichester (Thursday)

The Mayor of Chichester, Cllr Sean McHale (Friday)

Sarah Adams, Chichester District Foodbank (Saturday)

Rachel Cattermole, Cathedral Families' Service congregation (Sunday)

The prophet Isaiah describes the rule of the king who is to come.

There shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: and the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord; and shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: but with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth.

Thanks be to God.

Isaiah 11: 1-4a

CHOIR

A tender shoot has started
up from a root of grace,
as ancient seers imparted
from Jesse's holy race:
it blooms without a blight,
blooms in the cold bleak winter,
turning our darkness into light.

This shoot Isaiah taught us
from Jesse's root should spring;
the Virgin Mary brought us
the branch of which we sing;
our God of endless might
gave her this child to save us,
thus turning darkness into light.

tr. William Bartholomew (1793-1867)

Otto Goldschmidt (1829-1907)

Please stand.

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

during which the procession moves into the Quire



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.*

Traditional English carol, arr. David Willcocks (1919-2015)

Please sit.

HOMILY

The Bishop of Horsham (Thursday)

The Bishop of Lewes (Friday)

The Dean of Chichester (Saturday)

The Lord Bishop of Chichester (Sunday)

CHOIR

I wonder as I wander out under the sky
how Jesus the Saviour did come for to die
for poor on'ry people like you and like I.
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.

When Mary birthed Jesus, 'twas in a cow's stall,
with wise men and farmers and shepherds and all.
But high from the heavens a star's light did fall,
and promise of ages it then did recall.

If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,
a star in the sky, or a bird on the wing,
or all of God's angels in heaven for to sing,
he surely could have it, 'cause he was the King.

John Jacob Niles (1892-1980)

Carl Rütli (b. 1949)

THE FIFTH READING

Read by

Wendy Walker, West Sussex County Record Office (Thursday)

Julia Grant, Winter's Moon and Chichester BID (Friday)

William Wallace, UKHarvest (Saturday)

Debbie Mitchelson, Cathedral flower arranger (Sunday)

The angel Gabriel announces to Mary that she is to be bearer of God's Son.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: and he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. For with God nothing shall be impossible. And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

Thanks be to God.

Luke 1: 26-38

CHOIR

Bogoróditse dyévo, raduisya,
blagodatnaya Mariye Gospod s tobuyu;
blagoslovenna ty v zhenakh,
i blagosloven plod chreva tvoyego,
yako Spasa rodila yesi dush nashikh.
*Rejoice, O Virgin Mother of God,
Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee;
blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb,
for thou hast borne the Saviour of our souls.*

Based on Luke 1: 28, 42

Arvo Pärt (b. 1935)

THE SIXTH READING

Ian Buckley, Cathedral Restoration and Development Trust (Thursday)
The High Sheriff of West Sussex, Dr Timothy Fooks (Friday)
Fiona Ellis, Heart Chichester (Saturday)
Jeremy Mudford, Cathedral congregation (Sunday)

St Luke relates the birth of the Messiah.

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, 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, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

Thanks be to God.

Luke 2: 1-20

Please stand.

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL



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)

Please sit.

CHOIR

As I sat on a sunny bank
on Christmas Day in the morning,
I spied three ships come sailing by,
on Christmas Day in the morning.

And who should be with those three ships,
but Joseph and his fair lady!
O he did whistle, and she did sing,
on Christmas Day in the morning.

And all the bells on earth did ring,
on Christmas Day in the morning,
for joy that our Saviour he was born,
on Christmas Day in the morning.

Traditional Carol

Peter Hurford (1930-2019)

THE SEVENTH READING

Read by

Alison Napier, Head of The Prebendal School (Thursday)

Chief Constable Jo Shiner (Friday)

Kathryn Slatter, Chichester Lifecentre (Saturday)

Chris George, Cathedral staff member (Sunday)

Ring out wild bells to the wild sky,
the flying cloud, the frosty light:
the year is dying in the night;
ring out, wild bells, and let him die.

Ring out the old, ring in the new,
ring, happy bells, across the snow:
the year is going, let him go;
ring out the false, ring in the true.

Ring out the grief that saps the mind,
for those that here we see no more;
ring out the feud of rich and poor,
ring in redress to all mankind.

Ring out a slowly dying cause,
and ancient forms of party strife;
ring in the nobler modes of life,
with sweeter manners, purer laws.

Ring out the want, the care, the sin,
the faithless coldness of the times;
ring out, ring out my mournful rhymes,
but ring the fuller minstrel in.

Ring out false pride in place and blood,
the civic slander and the spite;
ring in the love of truth and right,
ring in the common love of good.

Ring out old shapes of foul disease,
ring out the narrowing lust of gold;
ring out the thousand wars of old,
ring in the thousand years of peace.

Ring in the valiant man and free,
the larger heart, the kindlier hand;
ring out the darkness of the land,
ring in the Christ that is to be.

Alfred, Lord Tennyson (1809-1892)

CHOIR

Where is this stupendous stranger?
Prophets, shepherds, kings, advise:
lead me to my Master's manger,
show me where my Saviour lies.

O most mighty, O most holy,
far beyond the seraph's thought!
Art thou then so mean and lowly
as unheeded prophets taught?

O the magnitude of meekness,
worth from worth immortal sprung!
O the strength of infant weakness,
if eternal is so young!

God all-bounteous, all-creative,
whom no ills from good dissuade,
is incarnate – and a native
of the very world he made.

Christopher Smart (1722-1771)

George Haynes (b. 1989)

Please stand.

THE EIGHTH READING

Read by:

A member of the Cathedral Chapter (Thursday and Saturday)

HM Lord-Lieutenant of East Sussex, Andrew Blackman (Friday)

The Dean, The Very Reverend Dr Edward Dowler (Sunday)

St John unfolds the mystery of the Incarnation.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

John 1: 1-14

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.



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

See how the shepherds,
summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
we too will thither
bend our joyful footsteps;
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

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

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,
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 COLLECT

Please remain standing.

The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Let us pray.

O 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 for our redeemer,
so we may with sure confidence behold him,
when he shall come to be our judge;
who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit,
one God, world without end.

All **Amen.**

THE BLESSING

Christ, who by his incarnation
gathered into one things earthly and heavenly,
fill you with peace and goodwill,
and make you partakers of the divine nature;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be amongst you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

CONGREGATIONAL 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
Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809-1847)
Descant: David Willcocks (1919-2015)

CLOSING MUSIC

TOCCATA IN G-FLAT MAJOR

Timothy Ravalde (b. 1988)

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.



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

SERVICES FOR CHRISTMAS AT CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL

Services on Christmas Eve

- Children's Crib Service, at 11.00am and 2.00pm
 - Christmas Eve Evensong, 6.00pm (also livestreamed)
 - 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)

Full details are available on the Cathedral website, or available to collect as a hardcopy brochure in the Cathedral.

No advance booking is required for our Christmas services.