



CHESTER  
CATHEDRAL

**Cathedral Eucharist**

The Second Sunday of Christmas  
3rd January, 2021 at 10am

President: Canon Sarah Fenby  
Preacher: Canon Jeremy Dussek  
Deacon: Canon Jeremy Dussek

# WELCOME

We welcome you to this beautiful church in the heart of the city for a celebration of the Holy Eucharist. This cathedral is the seat of the Bishop of Chester and the core of a Christian community that has worshipped here and worked together for over 1100 years. It is a place where the mission of the church is central to proclaim God's love, and your welcome presence here for worship helps to strengthen this vital act of witness.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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# THE GATHERING

## HYMN

1 See, amid the winter's snow,  
born for us on earth below;  
see, the tender Lamb appears,  
promised from eternal years.

*Hail, O ever-blessèd morn!  
hail, redemption's happy dawn!  
Sing through all Jerusalem:  
'Christ is born in Bethlehem!'*

2 Low within a manger lies  
he who built the starry skies;  
he who, throned in height sublime,  
reigns above the cherubim.

3 Sacred infant, king most dear,  
what a tender love was here,  
thus to come from highest bliss  
down to such a world as this!

*Edward Caswall (1814-78)*

HUMILITY  
*John Goss (1800-80)*

## GREETING

*The President says*

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you  
**and also with you.**

## OPENING SENTENCES

For unto us a child is born  
**unto us a Son is given.**  
His name will be called  
Wonderful counsellor, mighty God,  
**the everlasting Father,**  
**the Prince of Peace.**  
Glory to God in the highest  
**and peace to his people on earth.**

## PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

*The Deacon introduces the Confession*

The sun of righteousness has dawned with healing in his wings.  
Let us come to the light of Christ,  
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

*cf Malachi (4.2)*

*After a short silence all say*

**Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,**  
**we confess that we have sinned**  
**in thought, word and deed.**  
**We have not loved you with our whole heart.**  
**We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.**  
**In your mercy forgive what we have been,**  
**help us to amend what we are,**  
**and direct what we shall be;**  
**that we may do justly, love mercy,**  
**and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

## 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. **Amen.**

## GLORIA

Glory be to God on high,  
and in earth peace, good will towards men.  
We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee,  
we glorify thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great glory,  
O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.  
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesu Christ;  
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.  
Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer.  
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father,  
have mercy upon us.  
For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord;  
thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,  
art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

## COLLECT

*The President says*

Let us pray.

Almighty God,  
in the birth of your Son  
you have poured on us the new light of your incarnate Word,  
and shown us the fullness of your love:  
help us to walk in his light and dwell in his love  
that we may know the fullness of his joy;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

# THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

## THE NEW TESTAMENT

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

1. 3-14

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance towards redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GRADUAL HYMN

- 1 **Christ is made the sure foundation,  
Christ the head and corner-stone,  
chosen of the Lord, and precious,  
binding all the church in one,  
Holy Zion's help for ever,  
and her confidence alone.**
- 2 **To this temple, where we call thee,  
come, O Lord of Hosts, today;  
with thy wonted loving-kindness  
hear thy servants as they pray;  
and thy fullest benediction  
shed within its walls always.**

**3      Laud and honour to the Father,  
         laud and honour to the Son,  
         laud and honour to the Spirit,  
         ever Three, and ever One,  
         consubstantial, co-eternal,  
         while unending ages run.**

*Anonymous Latin translated by John M Neale (1818-1866)*

## **HOLY GOSPEL**

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**I. 1-18**

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. (John testified to him and cried out, 'This was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me."') From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

*After the sermon, a short silence is observed*

## NICENE CREED

**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

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ,  
let us pray to the Father.

*After each petition the following response may be used*

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

*At the end*

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

## **THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT**

### **PEACE**

*The President says*

In the tender mercy of our God  
the dayspring from on high has broken upon us,  
to give light to those who dwell in darkness  
and in the shadow of death  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

*cf Luke 1. 78,79*

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

### **PREPARATION OF THE ALTAR**

Word made flesh, life of the world, in your incarnation you embraced our  
poverty: by your spirit may we share in your riches. **Amen.**

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

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

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

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,  
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*

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of hosts,  
heaven and earth are full of thy glory.  
Glory be to thee, O Lord most High.  
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

*The President continues*

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,  
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
and as we follow his example and obey his command,  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit  
these gifts of bread and wine may be to us his body and his blood;  
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.

Therefore, heavenly Father,  
we remember his offering of himself  
made once for all upon the cross;  
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;  
we look for the coming of your kingdom,  
and with this bread and this cup  
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Accept through him, our great high priest,  
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,  
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts  
in the presence of your divine majesty,  
renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love  
and unite us in the body of your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,  
we worship you, Father almighty,  
in songs of everlasting praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power  
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,  
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.**

## BREAKING OF BREAD

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

## GIVING OF COMMUNION

We break the bread of life,  
and that life is the light of the world.  
**God here among us, light in the midst of us,  
bring us to light and life.**

*The choir sings*

○ Lamb of God that takest away the sins of the world;  
have mercy on us.  
○ Lamb of God that takest away the sins of the world;  
have mercy on us.  
○ Lamb of God that takest away the sins of the world;  
grant us thy peace.

## COMMUNION MOTET

A great and mighty wonder

Michael Praetorius

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

*The President says*

Let us pray.

All praise to you, almighty God and heavenly king,  
who sent your Son into the world  
to take our nature upon him  
and to be born of a pure virgin:  
grant that, as we are born again in him,  
so he may continually dwell in us  
and reign on earth as he reigns in heaven,  
now and for ever. **Amen.**

## THE DISMISSAL

### 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 among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

## HYMN

- 1 **Who would think that what was needed  
to transform and save the earth  
might not be a plan or army,  
proud in purpose proved in worth?  
Who would think despite derision,  
that a child might lead the way?  
God surprises earth with heaven,  
coming here on Christmas Day.**
  
- 2 **Shepherds watch and wise men wonder,  
monarchs scorn and angels sing;  
such a place as none would reckon  
hosts a holy, helpless thing;  
stable beasts and by-passed strangers  
watch a baby laid in hay:  
God surprises earth with heaven,  
coming here on Christmas Day.**
  
- 3 **Centuries of skill and science  
span the past from which we move,  
yet experience questions whether,  
with such progress we improve.  
While the human lot we ponder,  
lest our hopes and humour fray,  
God surprises earth with heaven,  
coming here on Christmas Day.**

*John L Bell (born 1949) and Graham Maule (1958-2020)*

ABBOTS LEIGH  
*Cyril V Taylor (1907-91)*

## ORGAN VOLUNTARY



