



CHESTER CATHEDRAL

Cathedral Eucharist

4th Sunday of Advent
20th December, 2020 at 10.00am

President: Canon Jane Brooke
Preacher: Canon Sarah Fenby
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 to proclaim God's love is central, and your welcome presence here for worship helps to strengthen this vital act of witness.

SEASON OF ADVENT

The word Advent comes from the Latin *adventus*, which means coming, and for centuries Christians have used these weeks before Christmas to prepare themselves for the great feast of our Lord's Holy Nativity, when God emptied himself and became a human being in Jesus of Nazareth.

In the twenty-first century we cannot prepare literally for the birth of Christ, which took place over two thousand years ago; but we can prepare our hearts and minds so that he may be born in us on Christmas Day. This is important because, like the Blessed Virgin Mary, we are called to be God-bearers to our own generation: and we do this by proclaiming Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour to those among whom we live and work. The first coming of Christ brought a new Light to the world that has never been extinguished. The Patriarchs and Prophets of the Old Testament were the heralds of this new dawn.

Through these weeks leading up to Christmas, as we read of their hope and expectation of a Messiah, we light an additional candle on our Advent Wreath each Sunday at the Cathedral Eucharist, to symbolise the retreat of darkness as the first rays of sunlight advance towards the break of day. Our wreath has five candles: four around its circumference, which are gradually lit through Advent; and a white one at its centre, which is lit on Christmas Day. The four coloured candles have traditionally represented the Patriarchs, the Prophets, Saint John the Baptist, and the Blessed Virgin Mary – those faithful believers who prepared the way for the Advent of Christ – and they remind us of our calling to reveal the presence of Christ in the world today.

Making our pilgrimage through Advent we are taken on a spiritual journey from darkness to light as we realise the full implications of our acceptance of Christ and of our walking with him in daily life. We also begin to look forward to Christ's second coming at the end of time, when the kingdom of God will finally be established.

THE GATHERING

HYMN

- 1** People, look East. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able;
trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look East and sing today:
Love the Guest, is on the way.
- 2** Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
one more seed is planted there:
give up your strength the seed to nourish
that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look East and sing today:
Love the Rose, is on the way.
- 3** Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim,
one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather
bright as sun and moon together.
People, look East and sing today:
Love the Star, is on the way.
- 4** Angels, announce to man and beast
him who cometh from the East.
Set every peak and valley humming
with the word "The Lord is coming!"
People, look East and sing today:
Love the Lord, is on the way.

Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965)

BESAŃON CAROL
Anonymous BesaŃon tune

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 RESPONSES

We wait for your loving kindness, O Lord;
in our world today.

Your glory shall be revealed
and we shall celebrate it!

Show us your grace and mercy
as we acknowledge our faults and seek forgiveness.

Lord Jesus come with light
and guide our feet into the way of peace.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Heavenly Father, thank you for the Virgin Mary, mother of Jesus.
Help us to respond to your call willingly and with joy. Amen.

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

The Deacon introduces the Confession

When the Lord comes, he will bring to light the things now hidden in
darkness, and will disclose the purposes of the heart.
Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

The Virgin Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus.
Forgive our disobedience to your will.
Lord have mercy.

The beloved disciple comforted Mary
at the foot of the Cross and took her into his home.
Forgive us when we have deserted you
and failed to share the pain of your suffering.
Christ have mercy.

Mary embraced the Risen Lord with joy and love.
Forgive us when we have failed to recognise you
and accept you in others.
Lord have mercy.

KYRIE

The choir sings

Kyrie eleison.

Christe eleison.

Kyrie eleison.

Lord have mercy on us.

Christ have mercy on us.

Lord have mercy on us.

ABSOLUTION

The President says

May the Father of all mercies cleanse you from your sins,
and restore you in his image to the praise and glory of his name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

COLLECT

Let us pray.

God our redeemer,
who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son:
grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour,
so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge;
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 OLD TESTAMENT

A reading from the Second book of Samuel.

7. 1-11,16

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you.' But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?' Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN

- 1 **The Angel Gabriel from heaven came,
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
'All hail', said he, 'thou lowly maiden Mary,
most highly favoured lady.'
Gloria!**
- 2 **'For know, a blessed mother thou shalt be,
all generations laud and honour thee,
thy son shall be Immanuel, by seers foretold;
most highly favoured lady.'
Gloria!**

- 3 Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
'To me be as it pleaseth God', she said,
'My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name':
most highly favoured lady.
Gloria!
- 4 Of her, Immanuel, the Christ was born
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say,
'Most highly favoured lady.'
Gloria!

Basque Carol
Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924)

HOLY GOSPEL

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke. I. 26-38
Glory to you, O Lord.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

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

SERMON

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

God will speak peace to his people,
to those who turn to him in their hearts.

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

The President says

Hasten, Lord, the day when people will come from east and west,
from north and south, and sit at table in your kingdom
and we shall see your Son in his glory.

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.

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,
almighty God and everlasting Father,
through Jesus Christ your Son.

He is the one foretold by all the prophets,
whom the Virgin Mother bore with love beyond all telling.

John the Baptist was his herald

and made him known when at last he came.

In his love Christ fills us with joy

as we prepare to celebrate his birth,

so that when he comes again he may find us watching in prayer,
our hearts filled with wonder and praise.

And so, with angels and archangels,

and with all the company of heaven,

we proclaim your glory, and join in their unending hymn of praise:

The choir sings

Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus Dominus Deus Sabaoth.

Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua. Osanna in excelsis.

Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domine. Osanna in excelsis.

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross.
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

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

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours,
O loving Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Awaiting his coming in glory, 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

The President says

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.**

GIVING OF COMMUNION

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.
**Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

AGNUS DEI

The choir sings

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem.

*Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.*

COMMUNION MOTET

Ave Maria

Marcel Dupré

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

The President says

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of the promised saviour:
fill us your servants with your grace,
that in all things we may embrace your holy will
and with her rejoice in your salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

BLESSING

The President says

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,
scatter the darkness from before your path,
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The Deacon says

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

HYMN

- 1 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of his word;
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.**
- 2 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his Name!
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;
his holy Name, the Lord, the Mighty One.**
- 3 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.**
- 4 Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and for evermore!**

*Timothy Dudley Smith (born 1926)
Luke 1. 46-55*

WOODLANDS
Walter Greaterox (1877-1949)

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

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