



CHESTER
CATHEDRAL

Festival Eucharist

Christmas Day

25th December, 2020 at 10.00am

President: The Very Revd Dr Tim Stratford
Preacher: The Rt Revd Mark Tanner

WELCOME

We welcome you to this beautiful church in the heart of the city for this Christmas service. This year is very different and it is good to have people with us in the building and also for many who will be watching us on line at home.

COLLECTION

The Cathedral costs in excess of £5,500 a day to keep open, and we urgently need your support with the loss of our regular income during Covid19.

We are not able to hold a collection in the usual way at the moment, but your donation is more important than ever as we struggle at this difficult time.

We invite you to generously give to ensure our future in 3 ways:

Our suggested way is for you to donate now

via

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/ChesterCathedral>

At the entrance door to the service

By tapping the **contactless** donation boxes on your way in or out of the service; this is set at £5

or

simply placing your collection into the box

On the Screen (for online viewers)

Clicking the **donate now** box on the screen.

We really do need your help to make sure that services like this one can continue and that we can keep the doors open for everyone, so please donate generously.

With blessings and thanks

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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THE GATHERING

HYMN

- 1 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!*
- 2 God of God,
Light of light,
Lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
very God,
begotten, not created:
- 3 Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:
'Glory to God
in the highest:'
- 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given:
word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing:

Latin 18th century, translated by Frederick Oakeley (1802-80)

ADESTE FIDELES
J F Wade (1711-86)

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

For to us a child is born

to 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.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS CANDLE

Lord Jesus, Emmanuel, we celebrate your birthday

and know that you are with us.

Help us to shine as lights in your world. Amen.

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

Hear the words of the angel to Joseph:

‘You shall call his name Jesus,

for he will save his people from their sins.’

Therefore let us seek the forgiveness of God

through Jesus the Saviour of the world.

After a short silence the Deacon says each sentence and the congregation respond

You were born for our salvation:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

You came as Saviour to bring wholeness and peace:

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

You come to bring light into the darkness of our lives:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

ABSOLUTION

The President says

May God who loved the world so much that he sent his Son to be our Saviour
forgive you your sins and make you holy to serve him in the world,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

GLORIA

The choir sings

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 coelestis, Deus pater omnipotens, 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. Quoniam tu solus sanctus, tu solus Dominus, tu solus altissimus, Jesu Christe. Cum sancto spiritu, in Gloria Dei patris. Amen.

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. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy upon us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. 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.

COLLECT

The President says

Let us pray.

Almighty God,
you have given us your only-begotten Son
to take our nature upon him
and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin:
Grant that we, who have been born again
and made your children by adoption and grace,
may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit;
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. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE OLD TESTAMENT

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

52. 7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.' Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN

- 1 The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay:
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
on a cold winter's night that was so deep:

*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.*

- 2 They lookèd up and saw a star,
shining in the east, beyond them far,
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night:

- 3 Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
and with his blood mankind hath bought:

Christmas Carols (Sandys 1833)

THE FIRST NOWELL
Anonymous

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

The Word became flesh and dwelt amongst us, and we have seen his glory!

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

HOLY GOSPEL

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

2. 8-16

Glory to you, O Lord.

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!' When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,
and his name is the Prince of Peace.

cf Isaiah 9.6

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

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.

And now we give you thanks because for love of our fallen race
he most wonderfully and humbly chose to be made man,
and to take our nature as nevermore to lay it by,
so that we might be born again by your Spirit and restored in your image.
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 Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua. Osanna in excelsis.
Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini. 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.*

The President continues

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.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

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, St Joseph 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

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 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 CAROLS

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

God our Father,
whose Word has come among us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:
May the light of faith illumine our hearts and shine in our words and deeds;
through him who is Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

BLESSING

The President says

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.**

The Deacon says

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

HYMN

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord has come!
Let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing.
- 2 Joy to the earth, the Saviour reigns!
Your sweetest songs employ,
while fields and streams and hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy.
- 3 He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
the wonders of his love.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY