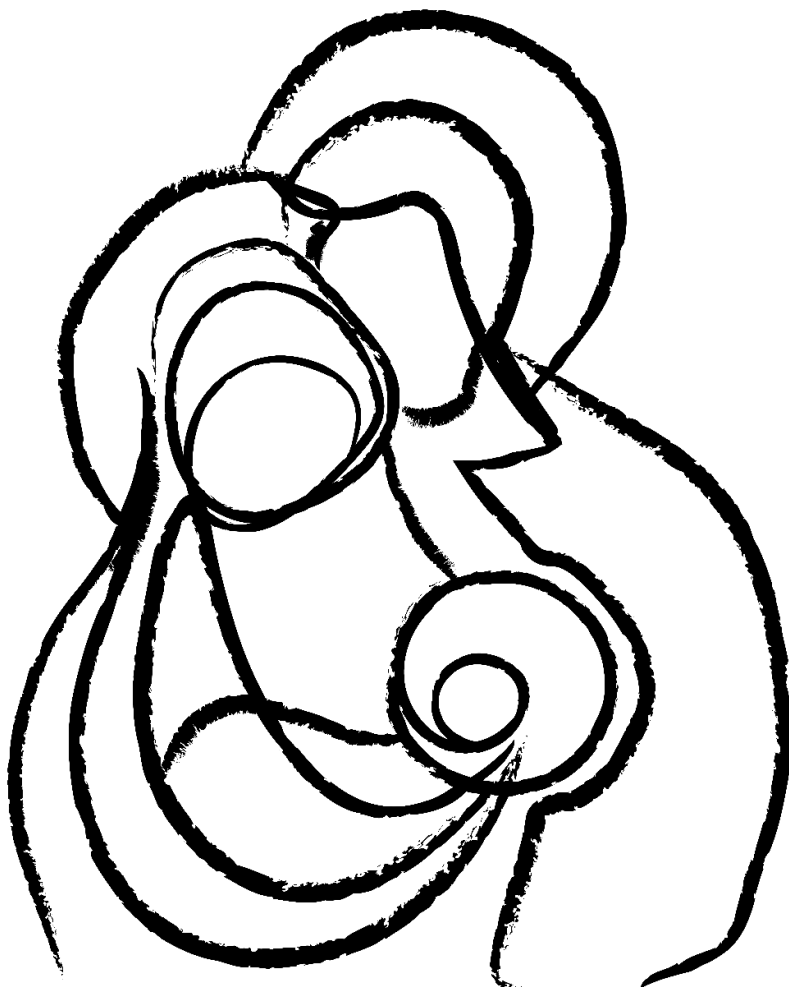


SOUTHWARK
◆ CATHEDRAL ◆



◆ CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE ◆

SUNDAY 21 DECEMBER 2025
MONDAY 22 DECEMBER 2025
6.00PM

LIVESTREAMING

Please note that the Sunday carol service is livestreamed.

If you do not wish to appear on the livestream, please sit in the
Transepts.

CRÈCHE in THE CHAPTER ROOM

The Chapter Room is set aside for those with young children
and for nursing. The stewards can direct you there.

WELCOME TO SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL

A MEMBER OF THE



ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Please ensure that all electronic devices are switched to silent.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography and video recording of the Choir is not permitted.

You are welcome to take photographs of the Cathedral but please do not take any photographs or videos during the service.

HEARING LOOP

Please switch your device to 'T'.

POSTURE

The instructions in this booklet are not prescriptive. Please sit if that is more appropriate for you.

DONATIONS



There are several donation points in the Cathedral where you can make your donation, or you can simply scan or tap the QR code, or text SOUTHWARK (Amount) to 70085 (one standard rate message is also charged).

Thank you very much for your generous support of the Cathedral.

You can also support the Cathedral by buying your books from the ethical online bookseller bookshop.org and designating Southwark Cathedral shop for the 30% of purchase price donation they offer us.

CHOIR

The Cathedral Choir

directed by

Helen Smee, Director of Music

ORGANISTS

Simon Hogan, Cathedral Organist

James Gough, Assistant Organist

MUSIC BEFORE THE SERVICE

Nun komm, der heiden Heiland, BWV 659-661 ♦

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Es ist ein 'Ros entsprungen ♦

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, BWV 645 ♦

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Rhapsodie sur deux noëls *from* Folkloric Suite, Op. 77 ♦

Jean Langlais (1907-1991)

The Holy Boy ♦ John Ireland (1879-1962)

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

The world is a fragile and precarious place at the moment. Many are living through the traumas of warfare, starvation, bereavement, and displacement. Others are finding the speed of change in society, as well as its inequalities, an unwelcome challenge to their identity and sense of belonging. At such times the temptation is to listen to those who offer simplistic solutions and scapegoat blame onto various vulnerable groups.

What does Christmas have to offer such a time of anxiety, frustration, and menace?

Christians believe that in the Christmas story - in the carols, readings and prayers - we are offered a different lens through which to look at the world. We encounter necessary truths for the human heart - caught up in a story of a couple seeking refuge, a new life coming into being, and people from different backgrounds drawn together by joy and kindness. The simplicity of the story, its belief that the earth is made for peace and friendship, not competition and hate, feels like a homecoming and a better compass from which we might navigate life. It is like a star in a dark night that wants to take us on a journey.

Wherever you are in life, whatever your beliefs, politics, heritage, and whoever you love in your life, you are welcome to Southwark Cathedral to hear this story afresh. You are amongst friends here and we hope you will feel at home.

I pray that this Christmas will contain peace for you and those you love. I hope you will have time to attend to the things that matter most. I also wish you every possible happiness in the coming year. Please come and see us again soon.

Mark Oakley
Dean

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

Please remain seated for:

THE WELCOME

The Very Rev'd Dr Mark Oakley, Dean of Southwark

THE CHOIR CAROL

Benedicamus Domino ♦ Peter Warlock (1894-1930)

Procedenti puero, Eya, nobis annus est!

Virginis ex utero: Gloria! Laudes!

Deus homo factus est et immortalis.

Sine viri semine, Eya, nobis annus est!

natus est de virgine: Gloria! Laudes!

Deus homo factus est et immortalis.

Sine viri copia, Eya, nobis annus est!

natus est ex Maria: Gloria! Laudes!

Deus homo factus est et immortalis.

In hoc festo determino, Eya, nobis annus est!

benedicamus Domino! Gloria! Laudes!

Deus homo factus est et immortalis.

A boy comes forth, Eya, our time is come!

from the Virgin's womb: Glory! Praise!

God is become man and yet immortal.

Without a man's seed, Eya, our time is come!

he is born of a virgin: Glory! Praise!

God is become man and yet immortal.

Without the means of man, Eya, our time is come!

he is born of Mary: Glory! Praise!

God is become man and yet immortal.

*On this appointed Feast, Eya, our time is come!
let us bless the Lord. Glory! Praise!
God is become man and yet immortal.*

From Sloane MS. 2593, time of Henry VI

Please stand for:

THE 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:
'Glory to God, on earth be peace,
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 blessed 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 we, at bitter war, hear not
The love-song which they bring:
O hush the noise and end the strife
To hear the angels sing.

For lo! the days are hastening on,
By prophet seen of old,
When with the ever-circling years
Shall come the time foretold
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendours fling,
And the whole world send back the song
Which now the angels sing.

TUNE: NOEL

Traditional English
arr. Arthur Sullivan (1842-1900)

TEXT:

E. H. Sears (1810-1876)

Please remain standing.

THE BIDDING

21ST Canon Michael Rawson, Sub Dean & Pastor

22ND Canon Jeremy Clark-King, Treasurer

We have come together as the family of God, in our Father's presence, to celebrate the great festival of Christmas. In this service we hear and receive the good news of the birth of Christ and we offer to God our thanksgiving in the joyful singing of carols.

As we gather together in the name of Christ, we pray for the world he came to save:

for the Church, that it may be enabled in our generation to surrender anew to God's holy Wisdom, and bear the good news of God's love to a needy world;

for the world, which is already Christ's, that all its peoples may recognise their responsibility for its future, and may be inspired by the message of Christmas to work together for the establishment of justice, freedom and peace everywhere;

for all in special need, the sick, the anxious, the lonely, the fearful and the bereaved, that the peace and light of the Christ-child may bring hope and healing to all who sit in darkness.

We commend all whom we love, or who have asked for our prayers, to the unfailing mercy of our heavenly Father, and say together, as 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.**

Please be seated as the Choir sings:

THE CHOIR CAROL

Sir Christèmas ♦ William Mathias (1934-1992)

Nowell, nowell!

Who is there that singeth so?

I am here, Sir Christèmas.

Welcome, my lord Sir Christèmas!

Welcome to all, both more and less!

Come near, come near, come near,

Nowell, nowell.

Dieu vous garde, beaux sieurs,

God keep you, good sirs,

Tidings I you bring:

A maid hath borne a child full young,

Which causeth you to sing:

Nowell, nowell!

Christ is now born of a pure maid,

Born of a pure maid;

In an ox-stall he is laid,

Wherefore sing we at a brayde:

Nowell, nowell!

Buvez bien, buvez bien

Par toute la compagnie!

Drink up everyone!

Make good cheer and be right merry,

And sing with us now joyfully!

Nowell, nowell!

Please be seated for:

THE FIRST READING

Genesis 3.8-15

21ST Linda Hutchinson, Cathedral Warden

22ND Jackie Pontin, Assistant Diocesan Secretary

The Fall

Adam and Eve heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, 'Where are you?' He said, 'I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.' He said, 'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?' The man said, 'The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.' Then the LORD God said to the woman, 'What is this that you have done?' The woman said, 'The serpent tricked me, and I ate.' The LORD God said to the serpent,

'Because you have done this,
cursed are you among all animals
and among all wild creatures;
upon your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.

I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers;
he will strike your head,
and you will strike his heel.'

Thanks be to God.

THE CHOIR CAROL

The Lord at first did Adam make ♦
Traditional, arr. Philip Moore (b.1943)

The Lord at first did Adam make
Out of the dust and clay,
And in his nostrils breathèd life,
E'en as the Scriptures say.
And then in Eden's Paradise
He placèd him to dwell,
That he within it should remain
To dress and keep it well.

*Now let good Christians all begin
An holy life to live,
And to rejoice and merry be,
For this is Christmas Eve.*

And thus within the garden he
was set, therein to stay,
And in commandment unto him
These words the Lord did say:
“The fruit which in the garden grows
To thee shall be for meat,
Except the tree in the midst thereof,
Of which thou shalt not eat.”

“For in the day thou shalt it touch
Or dost to it come nigh,
If so thou do but eat thereof,
Then thou shalt surely die.”
But Adam he did take no heed
Unto that only thing,
But didst transgress God's holy Law,
And so was wrapt in sin.

Now mark the goodness of the Lord,
Which He for mankind bore;
His mercy soon He did extend,
Lost man for to restore;
And therefore to redeem our souls
From death and hellish thrall,
He said His own dear Son should be
The Saviour of us all.

THE SECOND READING

Isaiah 9.2, 6-7

21ST Malcolm Baines, Cathedral Congregation

22ND The Ven Jonathan Sedgwick, Archdeacon of Southwark

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold

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.

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.

Thanks be to God.

THE CHOIR CAROL

A tender shoot ♦ Otto Goldschmidt (1829-1907)

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.

THE 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 folk on earth
For Christ is born of Mary;
And, gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wond'ring love.

How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still,
The dear Christ enters in.

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!

TUNE: FOREST GREEN

Traditional English melody

Harmony by R. Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

TEXT:

Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)

THE THIRD READING

Isaiah 11.1-9

21ST Carolyn Lindsey, Junior Xpress Leader

22ND Rosie Ward, PA to the Dean of Southwark

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's
den.

They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand for:

THE CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

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.

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.

And through all his wondrous childhood
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.

TUNE: IRBY

H. J. Gauntlett
(1805-1876)

TEXT:

C. F. Alexander
(1818-1895)

Please be seated for:

THE FOURTH READING

Luke 1.26-38

21ST Paddy Gormley, Cathedral Steward

**22ND Shaun Burns, Primary Faith Advisor,
Southwark Diocesan Board of Education**

The angel Gabriel visits the Virgin Mary

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.

Thanks be to God.

THE CHOIR CAROL

Joys Seven ♦ arr. Stephen Cleobury (1948-2019)

The first good joy that Mary had it was the joy of one,
To see the blessed Jesus Christ, when he was first her son
When he was first her son, good man,
and blessed may he be,
Both Father, Son and Holy Ghost, through all eternity.

The next good Joy that Mary had it was the joy of two,
To see her own son, Jesus Christ, to make the lame to go,
To make the lame to go, good man,
and blessed may he be,
Both Father, Son and Holy Ghost, through all eternity.

The next good joy that Mary had it was the joy of three,
To see her own son Jesus Christ to make the blind to see.
To make the blind to see, good man,
and blessed may he be,
Both Father, Son and Holy Ghost, through all eternity.

The next good joy that Mary had it was the joy of four,
To see her own son Jesus Christ to read the Bible o'er.
To read the Bible o'er, good man,
and blessed may he be,
Both Father, Son and Holy Ghost, through all eternity.

The next good joy that Mary had it was the joy of five,
To see her own son Jesus Christ to bring the dead alive.
To bring the dead alive, good man,
and blessèd may he be,
Both Father, Son and Holy Ghost, through all eternity.

The next good joy that Mary had it was the joy of six,
To see her own son Jesus Christ upon the crucifix,
Upon the crucifix, good man,
and blessèd may he be,
Both Father, Son and Holy Ghost, through all eternity.

The next good joy that Mary had it was the joy of seven,
To see her own son Jesus Christ to wear the Crown of
Heaven.
To wear the Crown of Heaven, good man,
and blessèd may he be,
Both Father, Son and Holy Ghost, through all eternity.

Please stand for:

THE CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

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 pow'r
When we were gone astray.

Refrain

*O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy;
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

From God our heav'nly 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.

Refrain

The shepherds at those tidings
Rejoiced much in mind,
And left their flocks a-feeding,
In tempest, storm and wind,
And went to Bethlehem straightway,
This blessèd Babe to find.

Refrain

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:

Refrain

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 other doth deface.

Refrain

TUNE: GOD REST YOU MERRY

TEXT: Traditional English

Traditional English arr. David Willcocks (1919-2015)

Please be seated for:

THE FIFTH READING

Matthew 1.18-23

21ST Gilbert Alexander, Chorister

**22ND Maria Beattie,
Choir Parent & Member of the Diocesan Property Team**

St Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel',

which means, 'God is with us.'

Thanks be to God.

THE CHOIR CAROL

What sweeter music ♦ John Rutter (b. 1945)

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 to a mead new-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.

Robert Herrick (1591-1674)

Please stand for:

THE CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

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.

Refrain

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

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.

Refrain

And by the light of that same star
Three wise men came from country far;
To seek for a king was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went.

Refrain

This star drew nigh to the northwest;
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
And there it did both stop and stay,
Right over the place where Jesus lay.

Refrain

Then entered in those wise men three,
Full rev'rently upon their knee,
And offered there in his presence
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense.

Refrain

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.

Refrain

TUNE: THE FIRST NOWELL

Traditional English
arr. David Willcocks

TEXT:

Traditional

THE SIXTH READING

Matthew 2.1-11

21ST Gill Reynolds, Senior Non-Executive Member of Chapter

22ND The Rev'd Delorine Green, Interim Minister, St Hugh's

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Thanks be to God.

THE CHOIR CAROL

Sussex Carol ♦ Traditional, arr. Bob Chilcott (b. 1955)

On Christmas night all Christians sing
to hear the news the angels bring;
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?
Then why should men on earth be si 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;
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 newborn King.

All out of darkness we have light,
which made the angels sing this night;
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.”

Please stand for:

THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL

John 1.1-14

21ST The Very Rev'd Dr Mark Oakley, Dean of Southwark

22ND Canon Wendy Robins, Chancellor

St John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation

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.

Thanks be to God.

Please remain standing to sing the Hymn, during which a collection will be taken.

THE 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:

Refrain

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:

Refrain

*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:

Refrain

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?

Refrain

Sing, choirs of Angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God
In the Highest:

Refrain

TUNE: ADESTE FIDELES

Plainchant, arr. J. F. Wade
(1711-1786) & David Willcocks (1919-2015)

TEXT:

Latin

tr. Frederick Oakley (1802-1880)

Please be seated after the prayer for:

A THOUGHT FOR CHRISTMAS

The Very Rev'd Dr Mark Oakley, Dean of Southwark

Please stand.

THE 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 the angelic host proclaim,
Christ is born in Bethlehem:

Refrain

*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 the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as one with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel:

Refrain

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 we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth,
Born to give us second birth:

Refrain

TUNE: MENDELSSOHN

Felix Mendelssohn
(1809-1847)

TEXT:

Charles Wesley
(1707-1788)

Please remain standing for:

THE COLLECT & THE BLESSING

**21ST The Bishop of Southwark,
The Rt Rev'd Christopher Chessun**

**22ND The Bishop of Kingston,
The Rt Rev'd Martin Gainsborough**

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 our Lord.

All Amen.

Christ, who by his incarnation
gathered into one all things earthly and heavenly,
fill you with his joy and peace
and make you partakers in 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.

All Amen.

*The congregation remain in their places until the procession of
Choir and clergy have departed.*

VOLUNTARY

Prelude and Fugue in B major, Op. 7 No. 1 ♦ Marcel Dupré (1886-1971)

*Thank you for joining us. Please leave the Cathedral by the North
West doors and the Millennium Courtyard. Please consider
supporting us by giving using the contactless donation points if
you have not set up a regular payment. We look forward to
welcoming you back.*

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WORSHIP

CHRISTMAS EVE & THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS

WEDNESDAY 24 DECEMBER

Christmas Eve

9.00am

Morning Prayer*

9.30am

Eucharist

12.30pm

Midday Prayer

12.45pm

Eucharist

3.00pm

Crib Service

5.30pm

Evening Prayer

10.00pm

The First Eucharist of Christmas*

THURSDAY 25 DECEMBER

CHRISTMAS DAY

8.30am

Morning Prayer*

9.00am

Eucharist with Carols

9.30am

Quiet Christmas Day Communion
at St Hugh's

11.00am

Choral Eucharist*

1.00pm

Cathedral closes

FRIDAY 26 &

SATURDAY 27 DECEMBER

STEPHEN

JOHN

9.00am

Morning Prayer*

9.30am

Eucharist

4.00pm

Evening Prayer

SUNDAY 28 DECEMBER

THE HOLY INNOCENTS

8.30am

Morning Prayer*

9.00am

Eucharist

9.30am

Eucharist at St Hugh's

11.00am

Choral Eucharist*

3.00pm

Choral Evensong

6.00pm

Compline[†]

MONDAY 29 DECEMBER

& TUESDAY 30 DECEMBER

9.00am

Morning Prayer*

9.30am

Eucharist

4.00pm

Evening Prayer

WEDNESDAY 31 DECEMBER

New Year's Eve

9.00am

Morning Prayer*

9.30am

Eucharist

4.00pm

Evening Prayer

10.30pm

Watchnight Gathering at St Hugh's

11.15pm

Watchnight Service at St Hugh's

THURSDAY 1 JANUARY

THE NAMING AND

CIRCUMCISION OF JESUS

New Year's Day

9.00am

Morning Prayer*

9.30am

Eucharist

4.00pm

Evening Prayer

SOUTHWARK

◆ CATHEDRAL ◆

making space for love
with heart, mind, and soul

It is good to welcome you to Southwark Cathedral. Set on the south bank of the River Thames, in one of the most vibrant and diverse communities in London, this building has been a constant witness in a place of change.

The first church was built on this site around the year 606. First a convent, then a monastery, it became in 1106 the Augustinian Priory of St Mary Overie ('over-the-river'). With Westminster Abbey and St Bartholomew the Great in Smithfield, it is one of the three remaining great monastic churches of London. At the Reformation, the Priory became a parish church, and it remains so for the people of Bankside. In 1905, as south London was rapidly expanding, the church was consecrated as the Cathedral for the new Diocese of Southwark.

The Cathedral has a momentous and significant history and has had links with many famous and influential characters including St Thomas Becket, Geoffrey Chaucer, William Shakespeare and Charles Dickens. It has also been a Cathedral for those who feel on the edges of faith or society, our welcome reaching out to all people in their beautiful God-given diversity.

Here, our Christian faith is captured in our vision to 'make space for love: with heart, mind, and soul'. Faith requires our hearts to stand up for social justice, upholding integrity and kindness, and supporting the vulnerable and oppressed. It challenges our thinking, inviting our minds to be enquiring, honest, and generous. Faith also seeks to deepen our inner lives, with the arts and creativity, by sharing in the life of our community, and by learning the arts of prayer and attention. In Jesus Christ we see the human face of God, and our faith in him is our joy and our life.

We really hope you enjoy being here with us today and that we will see you again very soon.

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