SOUTHWARK + CATHEDRAL +



CHORAL EUCHARIST

CHRISTMAS DAY

THURSDAY 25 DECEMBER 2025 11.00AM

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.

LIVESTREAMING

Please note that this service is livestreamed. If you would prefer not to appear in the livestream, please sit in the North Transept.

COLLECTIONS & DONATIONS

During the service, a collection will be taken for the maintenance, mission and worship of the Cathedral.

Cash donations may be placed in the baskets brought around by the stewards.

If you are a UK taxpayer we would be grateful if, before the service begins, you would complete the yellow envelope provided, since this enables us to claim a further 25% from HM Revenue & Customs.

Contactless donations can be made by selecting your donation amount and tapping the terminal provided by the stewards.



Alternatively, either before or after the service, there are several donation points in the Cathedral where you can make your donation, or you can simply scan 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 <u>bookshop.org</u> and designating Southwark Cathedral shop for the 30% of purchase price donation they offer us.

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

CHORAL EUCHARIST

PRESIDENT & PREACHER

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

DEACON

Canon Michael Rawson, Sub Dean & Pastor

SUBDEACON

Canon Kathryn Fleming, Precentor

CHOIR & MUSICIANS

The Cathedral Choir Helen Smee, Director of Music Simon Hogan, Cathedral Organist

______ **\ \ -**_____

SETTING

Missa Brevis in C 'Krönungsmesse', KV 317 W.A. Mozart (1756-1791)

MUSIC BEFORE THE SERVICE

Variations sur un Noël angevin from Douze Pièces Gaston Litaize (1909-1991)

Adeste fideles from Twelve Choral Preludes
Jeanne Demessieux (1921-1968)

THE INTROIT

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

THE ENTRANCE HYMN

NEH 34

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 we 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)

THE GATHERING

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

The Lord be with you.

All and also with you.

The President welcomes the congregation and introduces the celebration.

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

The President introduces the lighting of the final candle on our Advent Crown. When the candle is lit, the following prayer is said:

We light this candle for the newborn Christ; reawakening faith and hope; the Word made flesh for all time.

God, as we receive your promise,

All you are light, you are hope.

THE PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

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.

Silence is kept.

You were born for our salvation:

Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

You came as Saviour to bring wholeness and peace:

Christ, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

THE ABSOLUTION

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.

All Amen.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

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 caelestis, 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 on earth peace and goodwill to his people. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give thanks to you, for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son,
Jesus Christ,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
Son of the Father,
who takes away the sin of the
world: have mercy on us;
You who takes away the sin of the
world, receive our prayer.
you who is seated at the right hand
of the Father:
have mercy on us.

For you alone are Holy, 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.

THE COLLECT

Let us pray.

Silence is kept.

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.

All Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please be seated.

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 62.6-end

Read by Linda Hutchinson, Cathedral Warden

A reading from the Book of Isaiah.

for which you have laboured;

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem,
I have posted sentinels;
all day and all night
they shall never be silent.
You who remind the LORD,
take no rest,
and give him no rest
until he establishes Jerusalem
and makes it renowned throughout the earth.
The LORD has sworn by his right hand
and by his mighty arm:
I will not again give your grain
to be food for your enemies,
and foreigners shall not drink the wine

but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the LORD, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts.

Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples. The LORD has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, 'See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.' They shall be called, 'The Holy People, The Redeemed of the LORD'; and you shall be called, 'Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken.'

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Please stand to sing:

THE GRADUAL HYMN

NEH 42

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
All seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around.

'Fear not,' said he (for mighty dread Had seized their troubled mind); 'Glad tidings of great joy I bring To you and all mankind.

'To you in David's town this day Is born of David's line A Saviour, who is Christ the Lord; And this shall be the sign: The heavenly Babe you there shall find To human view displayed, All meanly wrapped in swathing bands, And in a manger laid.'

Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith Appeared a shining throng Of angels praising God, who thus Addressed their joyful song:

'All glory be to God on high, And on the earth be peace; Good-will henceforth from heaven to men Begin and never cease.'

TUNE: WINCHESTER OLD

TEXT:

First published in Thomas Este's *Psalter* 1592

Nahum Tate (1652-1715)

Please sit.

THE SECOND READING

Titus 3.4-7

Read by Kristin Ruby, Cathedral Warden

A reading from the Letter to Titus.

When the goodness and loving-kindness of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Please stand and turn to face the Gospel as the Procession moves into the Nave.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

All Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us and we have seen his glory.

All Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

THE GOSPEL

Luke 2.8-20

The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

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

All 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. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

THE SERMON

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

THE CREED

Please stand.

All 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.

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

Please be seated or kneel.

The prayers are led by Samuel Adelaja

This response is used:

Lord, in your mercy,

All hear our prayer.

And at the end...

as you accomplished your will, in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

Please stand.

THE PEACE

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

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

During the Hymn, bread and wine are presented at the Altar. A collection is taken (cash or contactless as detailed on page 2). Please use this QR code or the link to donate online.

https://bit.ly/3T6o2tL



NEH 36

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 PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

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

All Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy, at all times and in all places to give you thanks and praise, holy Father, heavenly King, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

And now we give you thanks because, in the incarnation of the Word, a new light has dawned upon the world; you have become one with us that we might become one with you in your glorious kingdom.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and singing:

The Choir sings:

Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus Dominus Deus Sabaoth. Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua. Hosanna in excelsis. Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. 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.

Great is the mystery of faith:

All Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

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:

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

Please pray in whichever language you feel most comfortable.

All 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.

Baba wa... Notre Père...

天におられる私たちの父よ...

Nna anyi... Fader vår... Pai nosso...

हे हमारे स्वर्गबासी पिता... Padre nuestro... 我們在天上的父...

Отче наш...

하늘에 계신 우리 아버지...

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

We break the bread of life
And that life is the light of the world.

All God here among us, light in the midst of us, bring us to light and life.

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ is the true bread which has come down from heaven.

All Lord, give us this bread always.

Please be seated. If you wish to receive Holy Communion or a blessing, please follow the directions of the Stewards. If you wish to receive from the chalice, please go to the point of administration after receiving the host. Please do not dip the host into the chalice. If you would like to receive a blessing, please bow your head.

Members of all Christian churches are welcome to receive Communion. Whatever your faith tradition or background, you are most welcome to draw near for a blessing.

During the distribution of Communion, the Choir sings:

AGNUS DEI

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. O Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, grant us thy peace.

Followed by:

THE COMMUNION ANTHEM

I saw three ships • arr. Simon Preston (1938-2022)

I saw three ships come sailing in on Christmas day, on Christmas day; I saw three ships come sailing in on Christmas day in the morning.

And what was in those ships all three, on Christmas day...

Our Saviour Christ and His lady, on Christmas day...

Pray whither sailed those ships all three, on Christmas day...

O they sailed into Bethlehem, on Christmas day...

And all the bells on earth shall ring; on Christmas day...

And all the angels in Heav'n shall sing, on Christmas day...

And all the souls on Earth shall sing, on Christmas day...

Then let us all rejoice amain, on Christmas day... ... on Christmas day in the morning!

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Please stand.

Let us pray.

Silence is kept.

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.

All Amen.

THE BLESSING

The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

May the Father, who has loved the eternal Son from the foundation of the world, shed that love upon you, his children.

All Amen.

May Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with joy and peace.

All Amen.

May the Holy Spirit, by whose overshadowing Mary became the God-bearer, give you grace to carry to the good news of Christ.

All Amen.

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 FINAL HYMN

NEH 30

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

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

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this happy morning, Jesu, to thee be glory given; Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:

Refrain

TUNE: ADESTE FIDELES

TEXT:

Melody probably by J. F. Wade (1711-1786)

Latin, 18th century tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880)

02 1000,

et al.

THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.

All Glory, thanks and praise to God.

VOLUNTARY

Final from Symphony No. 1 ♦ Louis Vierne (1870-1937)

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The Cathedral closes at 1.00pm today. 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. Thank you for joining us. We look forward to welcoming you back.

Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England, material from which is included in this service, is copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2000. All words covered by the Christian Copyright Licensing have been reproduced under CCL licence no. 223439 and livestreaming licence 145859. The Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches in the USA: Scripture quotations from The New Revised Standard Version of the Bible © 1989 The Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches in the USA. Used by permission. All rights reserved.



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.

Southwark Cathedral London Bridge London SE1 9DA

+44 (0)20 7367 6700 southwarkcathedral.org.uk

subscribe to our weekly newsletter on our website