

SOUTHWARK

◆ CATHEDRAL ◆

CHORAL EUCHARIST

THE HOLY INNOCENTS

SUNDAY 28 DECEMBER 2025

9.00AM

SOU

THW

ARK

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 the Inland Revenue.

Contactless donations can be made by tapping the terminal provided by the stewards. This is set at £10 but the stewards would be happy to alter this amount for you.



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 bookshop.org and designating Southwark Cathedral shop for the 30% of purchase price donation they offer us.

Please stand as the President, Canon Roxanne Eversley, Librarian, enters.

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 PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

On this day when we recall the murder of innocent lives,
let us stand before our just and holy God,
and remembering the violence and injustice of our world,
confess our sins in penitence and faith.

Silence is kept.

You are the God of the weak and the vulnerable.
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

You judge the tyrant and the cruel.
Christ, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy.

You wipe away the tears of the broken-hearted.
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 us our sins
And make us holy to serve him in the world
Through Jesus Christ our Lord
Amen
Amen.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

All **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 on 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.**

THE COLLECT

Please stand.

Let us pray.

Silence is kept.

Heavenly Father,
whose children suffered at the hands of Herod,
though they had done no wrong:
by the suffering of your Son
and by the innocence of our lives
frustrate all evil designs
and establish your reign of justice and peace;
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

Jeremiah 31.15-17

Read by the Duty Verger

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah

Thus says the Lord:

A voice is heard in Ramah,
lamentation and bitter weeping.

Rachel is weeping for her children;
she refuses to be comforted for her children,
because they are no more.

Thus says the Lord:

Keep your voice from weeping,
and your eyes from tears;
for there is a reward for your work,

says the Lord:

they shall come back from the land of the enemy;
there is hope for your future,

says the Lord:

your children shall come back to their own country.

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

THE RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 124

The response is: Praise the name of the Lord; for his name along is exalted.

Praise the Lord from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps;
Fire and hail, snow and mist,
tempestuous wind, fulfilling his word; **R**

Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars;
Wild beasts and all cattle,
creeping things and birds on the wing; **R**

Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the world;
Young men and women,
old and young together;
let them praise the name of the Lord. **R**

For his name only is exalted,
his splendour above earth and heaven.
He has raised up the horn of his people
and praise for all his faithful servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are near him.
Alleluia. **R**

THE SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1.26-29

Read by **Sue Reardon Smith**

A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God.

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL

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

Matthew 2.13-18

Alleluia, Alleluia, the Word became flesh and lived among us
and we have seen his glory.

All Alleluia.

The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.'

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

'A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

THE SERMON

Canon Roxanne Eversley, Librarian

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 **Jacqueline Gray, Ordinand***

These responses may be used:

Lord, in your mercy,
All hear our prayer.

(or)

Lord, hear us.
All Lord, graciously hear us.

And at the end:

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

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

Please stand.

THE PEACE

'I will comfort you,' says the Lord, 'as a mother comforts her child, and you shall be comforted.'

Isaiah 66.13

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

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>



THE PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Pour upon the poverty of our love,
and the weakness of our praise,
the transforming fire of your presence.

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.

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,
mighty creator, ever-living God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
In love for our fallen human race,
you sent your Son into the world to lighten our darkness.
In his life he rejoiced in the innocence and beauty of children;
in his death he carried in his body the violence and cruelty of our world;
in his resurrection he brought life and salvation to his people
and began the new creation.

As our ascended and merciful high priest,
he hears our cries and knows our grief;
and will come as universal Lord to whom all must give account.
Therefore with all the angels of heaven
we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name
and join the joyful hymn of praise:
Holy, holy, holy, Lord
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessèd is he that cometh 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:

All

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 Blessèd 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.

All **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... Πάτερ ἡμῶν... اے ہمارے باپ
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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. Receiving Communion in one kind is still receiving Communion in full. 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 come forward for a blessing.

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Please stand.

Let us pray.

Silence is kept.

Lord Jesus Christ,
in your humility you have stooped to share our human life
with the most defenceless of your children:
may we who have received these gifts of your passion
rejoice in celebrating the witness of the Holy Innocents
to the purity of your sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross;
for you are alive and reign, now and for ever.

All Amen.

**All Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory,
Amen.**

THE NOTICES

Please be seated.

THE BLESSING & DISMISSAL

Please stand.

All The Lord be with you
 and also with you.

God, who gives life to the dead and comfort to the desolate,
sustain you, keep you and console you,
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

Go in the peace of Christ.

All **Thanks be to God.**

*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.*

◆ NOTICES ◆

ARE YOU NEW TO THE CATHEDRAL?

We would love to get to know you, so please complete a Newcomer form, available from the stewards or contact the Sub Dean michael.rawson@southwark.anglican.org

A SAFE CHURCH

Canon Kathryn Fleming, Precentor, is Chapter Lead for Safeguarding. Any issues relating to the safeguarding of children or vulnerable adults should be directed to the Cathedral Safeguarding Officer (CSO) or Representatives (CSRs) in the first instance:

CSO **Neil Morter** neil.morter@southwark.anglican.org

CSRs **Cherry James** cherry.james@southwark.anglican.org

Jill Tilley jill.tilley@southwark.anglican.org

Russell Silverwood

Concerns can be brought to any member of the clergy.

WORSHIP

Services marked with an * are livestreamed on the Cathedral's YouTube page:
<https://www.youtube.com/@southwarkcathedral2224/streams>

Services marked with a † are only available online.

Preachers are indicated in italics.

SUNDAY 28 DECEMBER • HOLY INNOCENTS

8.30am	Morning Prayer*
9.00am	Eucharist <i>Canon Roxanne Eversley, Librarian</i>
9.30am	Eucharist at St Hugh's <i>The Rev'd Delorine Green</i>
11.00am	Choral Eucharist* <i>Canon Roxanne Eversley, Librarian</i>
3.00pm	Choral Evensong <i>Canon Jeremy Clark-King, Treasurer</i>
6.00pm	Compline†

MONDAY 29 DECEMBER — SATURDAY 3 JANUARY

9.00am	Morning Prayer*
9.30am	Eucharist
4.00pm	Evening Prayer or Choral Evensong (Saturday only)

On New Year's Eve only (Wednesday 31 December):

10.00pm	Watchnight Gathering at St Hugh's
10.30pm	Watchnight Service at St Hugh's

SUNDAY 4 JANUARY • THE EPIPHANY

8.30am	Morning Prayer*
9.00am	Eucharist <i>Canon Kathryn Fleming, Precentor</i>
9.30am	Eucharist at St Hugh's <i>The Rev'd Delorine Green</i>
11.00am	Choral Eucharist* <i>Canon Kathryn Fleming, Precentor</i>
3.00pm	Choral Evensong <i>Canon Wendy Robins, Chancellor</i>
6.00pm	Compline†

YOUNG ADULTS CONNECTED GROUP

The next Southwark Young Adult group will meet on 5 January from 6.20-8.00pm. We will be led in a conversation about angels. This group will then meet on the first Monday of each month from 6.30-8.00pm. If you have any questions please contact Shannon.Preston@southwark.anglican.org

ROBES WINTER NIGHT SHELTER

JANUARY 2026

The Cathedral Robes team will be hosting 20 guests on Friday nights / Saturday mornings from 23 January until 27 March. As part of our hospitality we offer toiletries (spray deodorants, toothbrushes and toothpaste, razors, shampoo and shower gel) and also new socks and underwear, hats, gloves, scarves and tracksuit bottoms for our guests. The majority of our guests are men.

We rely on your generous donations each year and if you are thinking of buying a gift for someone you love for Christmas and are able to buy an extra set for our guests it will make a huge difference. Please leave any gifts with the Vergers.

If you would like to join the team and fancy cooking, welcoming guests and sorting hospitality then please contact one of the team leaders on nptryner@gmail.com.

◆ PRAYER LIST ◆

THE SICK

Christopher KD, Dee Dee HS, Tom, Sr Sue CSF, Ida D, Caroline C, Jeremy B, Sam J, Hugo S, Marie L, Julie R, Phyllida P, Santou BC, Glenn M, Justine M, Leo T, Pauline S, Francis, Larisa O, John L, Henrietta E, Vicky H, Jeremy J, Helen S, Dinah K, Pam M, Jean P, Sally P, Sarah R, John G, Roxanne W, Elizabeth H, Shireen

THE DEPARTED

Herewood Davies, Colin Andrews, Don Grozier, Julia Tum, Phui Ying Tan, James Gerrard, Catherine Spalton

YEAR'S MIND

Jill Harrison, Ruth Grater, Martin Roebuck, Alec Briers, Benjamin Modu, Kevan Tryner, Bill Rathbone, Hilda Aarons, June Brewer

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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