

SOUTHWARK

◆ CATHEDRAL ◆

BEYOND THE STABLE

AN EPIPHANY CAROL SERVICE

SUNDAY 18 JANUARY 2026
6.00PM



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.

COVER IMAGE

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CHOIR & MUSICIANS

The Cathedral Choir & The Merbecke Choir
directed by Helen Smee & Emily Elias
accompanied by Simon Hogan & James Gough

MUSIC BEFORE THE SERVICE

Phantasie für Orgel über den Choral
“Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern”, Op. 25
Heinrich Reimann (1850-1906)

Christum wir sollen loben schon, BWV 611
J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

INTRODUCTION

In the Western churches, the Epiphany ('manifestation') became an occasion to celebrate one element in the story of Christ's birth – the visit of the far-travelled magi – understood as the manifestation of Christ to all nations. Matthew's account speaks simply of 'wise men from the east' and says nothing about the rigours of their journey. Their voyage was made more vivid by T. S. Eliot in his poem "The Journey of the Magi", itself inspired by a Christmas sermon preached by Lancelot Andrewes at the Court of James I in 1622:

'We consider the time of their coming, the season of the year. It was no summer progress. A cold coming they had of it at this time of the year, just the worst time of the year to take a journey, and specially a long journey. The ways deep, the weather sharp, the days short, the sun farthest off, in "the very dead of winter." And these difficulties they overcame, of a wearisome, dangerous, unseasonable journey; and for all this they came. It was with them; "they saw," and "they came;" no sooner saw, but they set out presently.'

In their journey to worship, they forged a way that we are all invited to follow, and throughout this season the light of their star still beckons us onward. We too may stand on the banks of the Jordan, as God confirms that Jesus is 'my beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased'. We can mingle with the wedding guests at Cana of Galilee and marvel as he makes the ordinary precious, turning water to wine. Like Simeon and Anna, we will recognise that Christ's coming into the world is not without cost – 'a sword shall pierce your own soul too'.

The season of Epiphany sharpens our focus on the ways in which Christ's light continues to shine "Beyond the Stable" and leads us into a new year in a pilgrimage of hope.

Canon Kathryn Fleming, Precentor

BEYOND THE STABLE

AN EPIPHANY CAROL SERVICE

Please remain seated as the Choir sings:

THE CHOIR CAROL

Tribus miraculis • Luca Marenzio (1553-1599)

Tribus miraculis ornatum,
diem sanctum colimus:
Hodie stella Magos duxit
ad praesepium:
Hodie vinum ex aqua
factum est ad nuptias:
Hodie in iordan a iohanne
Christus baptizari voluit,
ut salvaret nos.
Alleluia.

We observe this holy day,
ornamented with three miracles:
Today a star led the Magi
to the manger;
Today wine was made from water
at the wedding;
Today in the Jordan Christ desired to
be baptised by John,
so that He might save us.
Alleluia.

Please stand for:

THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN

NEH 47



As with gladness men of old
Did the guiding star behold,
As with joy they hailed its light,
Leading onward, beaming bright,
So, most gracious God, may we
Evermore be led to thee.

As with joyful steps they sped,
To that lowly manger-bed,
There to bend the knee before
Him whom heaven and earth adore,
So may we with willing feet
Ever seek thy mercy-seat.

As they offered gifts most rare
At that manger rude and bare,
 So may we with holy joy,
 Pure, and free from sin's alloy,
 All our costliest treasures bring,
 Christ, to thee our heavenly King.

Holy Jesu, every day
 Keep us in the narrow way;
And, when earthly things are past,
 Bring our ransomed souls at last
 Where they need no star to guide,
 Where no clouds thy glory hide.

In the heavenly country bright
 Need they no created light;
Thou its Light, its Joy, its Crown,
 Thou its Sun which goes not down:
 There for ever may we sing
 Alleluyas to our King.

TUNE: DIX

From a chorale by C. Kocher (1786-1872)

Abridged by W. H. Monk (1823-1889)

TEXT:

W. Chatterton Dix (1837-1898)

THE BIDDING & THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

Three wonders mark this holy season:
At this time, a star leads the wise men to the manger.

All Alleluia!

At this time, water is made wine at the wedding feast.

All Alleluia!

At this time, Jesus is revealed as the Christ in the waters of baptism.

All Alleluia!

Grace and peace to you in the name of Christ
who called us out of darkness into his own marvellous light.
As we rejoice in the Word made flesh,
who comes among us to reveal God's glory,
so we pray that his kingly reign
may be acknowledged throughout the world.

We pray for those who, like the wise men, travel in strange lands,
for refugees and all who are forced from their homes
by the inhumanity of greed, oppression and war.

We pray for those who, like the crowds at the Jordan,
seek after understanding and faith,
and for our own pilgrimage through this earthly realm,
that we may come at the last
into the inheritance of the saints in glory.

We pray for those who, like the guests at Cana,
celebrate the joy of human love,
but we remember also those who suffer loneliness, grief or pain.

These prayers we offer in the words
which the Light of the World himself has 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.**

May Christ who sends us to the nations,
give us the power of his Spirit.

All **Amen.**

Please be seated.

THE EPIPHANY

The Choir sings:

THE CAROL

Videntes stellam • Francis Poulenc (1899-1963)

Videntes stellam
Magi gavisi sunt gaudio magno:
et intrantes domum obtulerunt
Domino aurum thus et myrrham.

When they saw the star,
the wise men were filled with great joy:
and going into the house they offered
to the Lord gold, frankincense and myrrh.

THE FIRST READING

Excerpt from The Holy Nativity • Henry Vaughan (1621-1695)

Read by Canon Kathryn Fleming, Precentor

Look up, sweet Babe, look up and see!
For love of thee,
Thus far from home
The East is come
To seek herself in thy sweet eyes.
We who strangely went astray,
Lost in a bright
Meridian night;
A darkness made of too much day;
Beckoned from far
By thy fair star,
Lo, at last have found our way.
To thee, thou Day of Night! thou East of West!
Lo, we at last have found the way
To thee, the world's great universal East,
The general and indifferent day.
All-circling point! all-centring sphere!
The world's one round eternal year ...

PRAYER

Lord God,
the bright splendour whom the nations seek,
may we who, with the wise men, have been drawn by your light,
discern the glory of your presence in your Son,
the Word made flesh,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

THE CAROL

The Three Kings • Jonathan Dove (b. 1959)

The first king was very young
O balow, balow la lay
With doleful ballads on his tongue
O balow, balow la lay
He came bearing a branch of myrrh
Than which no gall is bitterer
O balow, balow la lay
Gifts for a baby King, O

The second king was a man in prime
O balow, balow la lay
The solemn priest of a solemn time
O balow, balow la lay
With eyes downcast and rev'rent feet
He brought his incense sad and sweet
O balow, balow la lay
Gifts for a baby King, O

The third king was very old
O balow, balow la lay
Both his hands were full of gold
O balow, balow la lay
Many a gaud and a glittering toy
Baubles brave for a baby boy
O balow, balow la lay
Gifts for a baby King, O

Dorothy L. Sayers (1893-1957)

THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST

THE SECOND READING

Mark 1.4-11

Read by The Rev'd Shannon Preston, Succentor

John the baptiser appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptised by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptised you with water; but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptised by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

PRAYER

Lord of all time and eternity,
you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father
in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son:
by the power of your Spirit
complete the heavenly work of our rebirth
through the waters of the new creation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All

Amen.

Please stand.

THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

Led by Canon Michael Rawson, Sub Dean & Pastor

Those who are baptised are called to worship and serve God.

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
in the breaking of bread, and in prayer?

All With the help of God, I will.

Will you proclaim by word and example
the good news of God in Christ?

All With the help of God, I will.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all people,
loving your neighbour as yourself?

All With the help of God, I will.

Will you acknowledge Christ's authority over human society
by prayer for the world and its leaders,
by defending the weak,
and by seeking peace and justice?

All With the help of God, I will.

May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith,
that you may be rooted and grounded in love
and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit.

All Amen.

Please remain standing. During the Hymn, the congregation are sprinkled with water in remembrance of their baptism.

THE HYMN



When Jesus came to Jordan
To be baptised by John,
He did not come for pardon
But as his Father's Son.
He came to share repentance
With all who mourn their sins,
To speak the vital sentence
With which good news begins.

He came to share temptation,
Our utmost woe and loss,
For us and our salvation
To die upon the cross.
So when the Dove descended
On him, the Son of Man,
The hidden years had ended,
The age of grace began.

Come, Holy Spirit, aid us
To keep the vows we make,
This very day invade us
And every bondage break.
Come, give our lives direction,
The gift we covet most:
To share the resurrection
That leads to Pentecost.

TUNE: OFFERTORIUM

Melody adapted from Michael Haydn
(1737-1806)

TEXT:
Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000)

THE WEDDING AT CANA

Please be seated. The Choir sings:

THE CAROL

Cana's Guest • Richard Allain (b. 1965)

As Cana's quiet, wondrous guest
Drew richest wine from water blessed
Through trembling vow and thankful song
May glory shine, as hearts respond
To Heaven's theme
With love,
Earth's antiphon.

Thomas Allain (b. 1969)

THE THIRD READING

John 2.1-11

Read by Canon Roxanne Eversley, Librarian

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it.

When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

PRAYER

Almighty God,
in Christ you make all things new:
transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace,
and in the renewal of our lives
make known your heavenly glory;
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.**

Please stand to sing:

THE HYMN



Love spoke the word and by that word
 Pure water turned to wine,
 Creating at the wedding feast
 Love's first redemptive sign.
For by that sign of water changed
 Humanity was blessed,
 Able to share the self-same love
 Through Love the wedding guest.

Love saw the need when wine ran dry
 The wine cup to refill,
 Met human need with his own life
 And meets that longing still.
 For as at Cana on that day
 Two human lives were blessed
 So richest blessings we receive
 From Love the wedding guest.

Love joins the feast to celebrate
 Where love is freely given,
 Creating from our human love
 The quality of heaven.
So shall our life and love mature
 Like wine pronounced the best,
 Transformed to that which is divine
 By Love the wedding guest.

TUNE: COE FEN

Ken Naylor (1931-1991)

TEXT:

Robert Willis (1947-2024)

Please be seated.

THE REFLECTION

The Dean of Southwark

THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE

Please stand.

During the Carol, the candles are lit and the clergy process to the High Altar.

THE CAROL

When to the temple Mary went • Johannes Eccard (1553-1611)

When to the temple Mary went,
And brought the Holy Child,
Him did the aged Simeon see,
As it had been revealed.
He took up Jesus in his arms and blessing God he said:
In peace I now depart, my Saviour having seen,
The Hope of Israel, the Light of men.

Help now thy servants, gracious Lord,
That we may ever be
As once the faithful Simeon was,
Rejoicing but in Thee;
And when we must from earth departure take,
May gently fall asleep and with Thee wake.

Please remain standing.

THE CANDLEMAS GOSPEL

Luke 2.22-40

Read by **Canon Wendy Robins, Chancellor**

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;
for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.'

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

PRAYER

Sub Dean	Like Simeon, may we grow old in hope and wonder.
Succentor	Like Anna, may we be in love with you all our days.
Librarian	May we be open to truth; open to surprises.
Chancellor	May we let your justice change our behaviour. May we let your Spirit into our lives; May we live in the brightness of your joy.
Precentor	Starmaker God, lightener of the world, bless us and warm us into light and loving. Bring us to the light of Jesus all the length and breadth of our nights and days.

THE NUNC DIMITTIS

from St Paul's Service • Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace :
according to thy word.

For mine eyes have seen :
thy salvation;
Which thou hast prepared :
before the face of all people;
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles :
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son :
and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be :
world without end.

Amen.

Please turn to face the clergy as they process to the West End, where the Good Friday cross has been placed in front of the Font. The lights at the High Altar are extinguished.

THE DISMISSAL RESPONSES

The Dean of Southwark

Father, we have sung your praises with shepherds and angels;
May Christ be born in our hearts today.

All Praise to Christ our light.

We have travelled with the wise ones, drawn by a star,
to meet you in vulnerable humility.

All Praise to Christ our light.

We have greeted Jesus, the light of the world;
may we be filled with the light of your love.

All Praise to Christ our light.

As we turn from crib to cross,
All let us shine with the light of your love.

We go to carry his light.

All Let us shine with the light of your love.
Thanks be to God.

THE VOLUNTARY

Fête • Jean Langlais (1907-1991)

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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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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