



GUILDFORD
CATHEDRAL

11pm
24 December 2024

THE FIRST EUCHARIST OF CHRISTMAS



WELCOME

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

The season of Christmas begins at Evening Prayer on Christmas Eve, and is often celebrated for twelve days, ending with the Epiphany on 6 January.

Contemporary use has sought to express an alternative tradition, in which Christmas lasts for a full forty days, ending with the Feast of the Presentation on 2 February. We wish you all a very peaceful Christmas.

COLLECTION

There will be a collection during the service. Your support makes a real difference to the ministry and mission of Guildford Cathedral. One-off donations can be made using the Gift Aid envelopes or a contactless donation by using the contactless box (by the West Doors of the Cathedral), or our QR code. If you would like to support this work on a regular basis it's very simple to set up a direct debit via the Parish Giving Scheme. The phone number is 0333 002 1271, and the Cathedral reference code is 170617001. On behalf of all at Guildford Cathedral, thank you.



THANK YOU

We are very grateful to the Friends of Guildford Cathedral for providing the funds to allow us to hire screens for use at our main Christmas services.

PARTICIPATION IN THE SERVICE

We sing the hymns and say together the words in **bold** type. Although posture is suggested please do whatever is most comfortable for you.

MASS SETTING *Missa Sancti Nicolai Josef Haydn (1732-1809)*

PRESIDENT AND PREACHER

The president this evening is the Venerable Stuart Beake, Interim Dean of Guildford and the preacher is the Bishop of Guildford, The Right Reverend Andrew Watson.

THE GATHERING

HYMN



Of the Father's heart begotten,
ere the world from chaos rose,
he is Alpha: from that Fountain
all that is and hath been flows;
he is Omega, of all things
yet to come the mystic Close,
evermore and evermore.

By his word was all created;
he commanded and 'twas done;
Earth and sky and boundless ocean,
universe of three in one,
all that sees the moon's soft radiance,
all that breathes beneath the sun,
evermore and evermore.

He assumed this mortal body,
frail and feeble, doomed to die,
that the race from dust created
might not perish utterly,
which the dreadful Law had sentenced
in the depths of hell to lie,
evermore and evermore.



O how blest that wondrous birthday,
when the Maid the curse retrieved,
brought to birth mankind's salvation,
by the Holy Ghost conceived;
and the Babe, the world's Redeemer,
in her loving arms received,
evermore and evermore.

This is he, whom seer and sybil
sang in ages long gone by;
this is he of old revealed
in the page of prophecy;
Lo! he comes, the promised Saviour;
let the world his praises cry!
Evermore and evermore.

Sing, ye heights of heav'n, his praises;
angels and archangels, sing!
Wheresoe'er ye be, ye faithful,
let your joyous anthems ring,
ev'ry tongue his name confessing,
countless voices answering,
evermore and evermore.

Words: Prudentius (348-c.413), tr. Robert Furley David (1866-1937)
Music: Divinum mysterium, Melody from Piæ Cantiones (1582),
arranged by David Willcocks (1919-2015)

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

THE GREETING

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS CANDLE

The four red candles of our Advent wreath remind us of different aspects of Advent as we prepared to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Today the Christmas candle is lit as we celebrate the incarnation of the Christ, the Word of God, in Jesus of Nazareth.

As the candle is lit the choir sings a Prayer for the Blessing of Light.

Choir Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, King of peace:
to you be praise and glory for ever.
The new light of your incarnate Word
gives gladness in our sorrow,
and a presence in our isolation.
Fill our lives with your light,
until they overflow with gladness and praise.
Jesus our Saviour and King of the ages.

All



PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

Christ the light of the world has come
to dispel the darkness of our hearts.
In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

God our Father,
you sent your Son full of grace and truth:
forgive our failure to receive him.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Jesus, our Saviour,
you were born in poverty and laid in a manger:
forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Spirit of love,
your servant Mary responded joyfully to your call:
forgive the hardness of our hearts.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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 coelestis.
Deus Pater omnipotens.
Domine Fili unigenite, Jesu
Christe. Domine Deus, Agnus
Dei, Filius Patris: qui tollis
peccata mundi, miserere
nobis; qui tollis peccata
mundi, suscipe deprecationem
nostrum; 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 to people
of good will.
We praise you, we bless you,
we worship you, we glorify you.
We give thanks to you for your
great glory.
Lord God, heavenly King.
God the Father almighty.
Only Son of the Father, Jesus
Christ. Lord God, Lamb of God,
Son of the Father: who takes
away the sin of the world, have
mercy upon us; who takes away
the sin of the world, receive our
prayer; who sits at
the right hand of the Father:
have mercy upon 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 OF CHRISTMAS

The president introduces a moment of silent prayer, saying

Let us pray in the peace of this Christmas celebration
that our joy in the birth of Christ will last for ever.

Silence is kept.

Eternal God,
who made this most holy night
to shine with the brightness of your one true light:
bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth,
to see the radiance of 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.

Amen.

Sit

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Isaiah 52.7-10 read by Joy Allen

How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.'
Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see
the return of the Lord to Zion.
Break forth together into singing,
you ruins of Jerusalem;

for the Lord has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.
The Lord has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

For the word of the Lord,
thanks be to God.

Stand **HYMN**



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 men on earth.
For Christ is born of Mary;
and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.

How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given!
so God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven.
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!

Words: Bishop Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)

Music: CFC | English traditional melody

arranged by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958), descant by Thomas Armstrong (1898-1994)

SECOND READING Hebrews 1.1-12 read by Shirley-Margaret Lloyd

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say,
'You are my Son;
today I have begotten you'?

Or again,
 'I will be his Father,
 and he will be my Son?'

And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,
 'Let all God's angels worship him.'

Of the angels he says,
 'He makes his angels winds,
 and his servants flames of fire.'

But of the Son he says,
 'Your throne, O God, is for ever and ever,
 and the righteous sceptre is the sceptre of your kingdom.
 You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;
 therefore God, your God, has anointed you
 with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.'

And,
 'In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth,
 and the heavens are the work of your hands;
 they will perish, but you remain;
 they will all wear out like clothing;
 like a cloak you will roll them up,
 and like clothing they will be changed.
 But you are the same,
 and your years will never end.'

For the word of the Lord,
thanks be to God.

Stand **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

The Gospel Acclamation is played by the organist, sung by the choir and then sung by everybody. As the procession passes, please turn to face the proclamation of the Gospel.



Today Christ is born, alleluia!
Today the Saviour has come, alleluia!
Today the angels sing on earth, alleluia!
Glory to God in the highest!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.



GOSPEL READING John 1.1-14

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



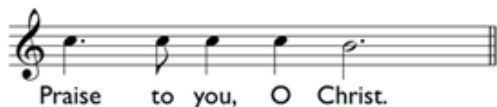
In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines 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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Sit **SERMON**

The Bishop of Guildford, The Right Reverend Andrew Watson

Stand **THE CREED**

**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.**

*Sit or
kneel* **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**
The prayers are led by Claerwen Patterson

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Father, in this holy night your Son our Saviour
was born in human flesh.
Renew your Church as the Body of Christ.
Holy God,
hear our prayer.

In this holy night there was no room for your Son in the inn.
Protect with your love those who have no home
and all who live in poverty.
Holy God,
hear our prayer.

In this holy night Mary, in the pain of labour,
brought your Son to birth.
Hold in your hand all who are in pain or distress.
Holy God,
hear our prayer.

In this holy night your Christ came as a light shining in the darkness.
Bring comfort to all who suffer in the sadness of our world.

Holy God,

hear our prayer.

In this holy night the angels sang, 'Peace to God's people on earth.'
Strengthen those who work for peace and justice.

Holy God,

hear our prayer.

In this holy night shepherds in the field heard good tidings of joy.
Give us grace to preach the gospel of Christ's redemption.

Holy God,

hear our prayer.

In this holy night strangers found the Holy Family,
and saw the baby lying in the manger.

Bless our homes and all whom we love.

Holy God,

hear our prayer.

In this holy night heaven is come down to earth,
and earth is raised to heaven.

Hold in your hand all those who have passed through death
in the hope of your coming kingdom.

Holy God,

hear our prayer.

In this holy night Christians the world over celebrate Christ's birth.
Open our hearts that he may be born in us today.

Holy God,

hear our prayer.

Father, in this holy night angels and shepherds
worshipped at the manger throne.
Receive the worship we offer in fellowship
with Mary, Joseph and the saints
through him who is your Word made flesh,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

Stand **THE PEACE**

This holy night the angels sang,
'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to all in whom he delights.'

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

Sit **PREPARATION OF THE TABLE**

CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION

*During the Preparation of the Table and Christmas Proclamation, a collection
will be taken.*

God is with us.
Hear ye people,
Even to the uttermost end of the earth.

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light.
 The people that dwell in the shadow of death,
 upon them the light has shined.
 For unto us a child is born!
 For unto us a son is given!
 And the government shall be upon his shoulder;
 And his name shall be called Wonderful! Counsellor!
 The mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

Hear ye people,
 Even to the uttermost end of the earth.
 God is with us.
 Christ is born!

*Words: adapted from the Orthodox Great Compline for Christmas Eve
 Music: John Tavener (1944-2013)*

Stand **TAKING OF THE BREAD AND WINE**

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

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

<p>President:</p>  <p>The_ Lord_ be with you.</p>	<p>All:</p>  <p>And_ al - so with you.</p>
<p>President:</p>  <p>Lift up your_ hearts._</p>	<p>All:</p>  <p>We lift them to_ the Lord._</p>
<p>President:</p>  <p>Let us give thanks. to_ the Lord_ our God.</p>	
<p>All:</p>  <p>It is right to give thanks and praise._</p>	

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,
mighty creator, ever-living God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who for love of our fallen race humbled himself,
and on this night was born of the Virgin Mary
by the power of your Spirit,
and lived as one of us.

In this mystery of the Word made flesh
you have caused his light to shine in our hearts,
to give knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.
In him we see our God made visible
and so are caught up in the love of the God we cannot see.
Therefore with all the angels of heaven
we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name
and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus,	<i>Holy, holy, holy Lord,</i>
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.	<i>God of power and might.</i>
Pleni sunt caeli	<i>Heaven and earth are</i>
et terra gloria tua.	<i>full of your glory.</i>
Hosanna in excelsis.	<i>Hosanna in the highest.</i>

Benedictus qui venit	<i>Blessed is he who comes</i>
in nomine Domini.	<i>in the name of the Lord.</i>
Hosanna in excelsis.	<i>Hosanna in the highest.</i>

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 mys - te - ry of faith:



Christ has died, Christ is ri - sen, Christ will come_ a - gain.

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:



Sit

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**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.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

We break the bread of life, `and that life is the light of the world.
**God here among us,
light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.**

GIVING OF COMMUNION

Christ is the true bread which has come down from heaven.
Lord, give us this bread always.

All who are communicants are welcome to receive the bread and wine. There is no obligation to drink from the common cup. However, please do not dip your wafer in the wine. If you would prefer to receive a blessing, please keep your hands at your sides. Gluten-free bread is available.

AGNUS DEI

Agnus Dei,
qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.

*Lamb of God,
who takes away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.*

Agnus Dei,
qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.

*Lamb of God,
who takes away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.*

Agnus Dei,
qui tollis peccata mundi,
dona nobis pacem.

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

MOTETS

O my dere heart, young Jesu sweet,
Prepare thy cradle in my spreit,
And I shall rock thee in my heart,
And never more from thee depart.

But I sall praise thee evermore.
With song is sweet unto thy gloir;
The knees of my heart shall I bow
And sing that richt *Balulalow*.

*Text: Based on a text in German; stanzas 13 and 14 - by Martin Luther (1483-1546),
"Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her", translated by the brothers Wedderburn,
flourished 1548
Music: Richard Madden (b.1953)*

The Christ-child lay on Mary's lap,
His hair was like a light.
(O weary, weary were the world,
But here is all aright.)
The Christ-child lay on Mary's breast
His hair was like a star.
(O stern and cunning are the kings,
But here the true hearts are.)
The Christ-child lay on Mary's heart,
His hair was like a fire.
(O weary, weary is the world,
But here the world's desire.)
The Christ-child stood on Mary's knee,
His hair was like a crown,
And all the flowers looked up at Him,
And all the stars looked down.

*Text: Gilbert Keith Chesterton (1874-1936)
Music: John Rutter (b.1945)*

Stand **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

The president introduces a moment of silent prayer, saying

Let us pray

God our Father,
in this night you have made known to us again
the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:
confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him
until the day dawns
and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts.
Amen.

**Father of all,
we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off
you met us in your Son and brought us home.
Dying and living, he declared your love,
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;
we who drink his cup bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

THE SENDING OUT

THE BLESSING

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

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

Amen.

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

Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

HYMN

During the hymn the clergy process to the west end of the Cathedral. As the procession passes you, please turn to face west. This movement signals the turn of our attention to Christ in the world, as the offering of our lives continues there.



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.'

*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 man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.

*Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the new-born King.*

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 man no more may die,
born to raise the sons of earth,
born to give them second birth.

*Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the new-born King.*

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788) and others

*Music: CFC 1 verses 1 and 2 adapted by William Hayman Cummings (1831-1915)
from a chorus by Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809-1847)*

Descant and last verse arrangement: David Willcocks (1919-2015)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.

Glory, thanks, and praise to God.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Dieu parmi nous (La Nativité du Seigneur)

Olivier Messiaen (1908-1992)

**We wish you and all your family and friends
a very holy and happy Christmas.**

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