



GUILDFORD  
CATHEDRAL

# A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

Sunday 22 December 2024, 6.00pm  
Christmas Day 2024, 4.00pm



# THE SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

The Service of Lessons and Carols for Christmas is known world-wide through the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols which takes place annually in the chapel of King's College, Cambridge. Our service this evening, though having seven rather than nine lessons, is based on that traditional format.

Most of our lessons this year, however, are from the Gospel of Luke, as this is the Gospel on which we focus this liturgical year in the three-year cycle of readings for Festivals and Sundays. Luke's account of the first Christmas begins with the announcement of the birth of Jesus' relative, John. John the Baptist, of course, turns out to be the great forerunner of the Messiah, Jesus the Christ, and it is only from Luke that we hear more about his life before he takes up his extraordinary ministry as an adult. We also hear of Mary's visit to Elizabeth, whilst each was expecting their child; Elizabeth's baby leapt in her womb for joy when Elizabeth heard that Mary, the mother of her Lord, had arrived.

Listen out for the angels, too – for they feature significantly in Luke, visiting: Mary, the mother of Jesus and, later, the shepherds in their fields – at first just one angel and then a great multitude of heavenly host, praising God in the midst of the shining glory of the Lord.

It has often been observed that Luke shows an astute understanding of women in the way that he paints his narrative. Not only do we follow the pregnancies of Elizabeth and Mary, as their own stories are woven one into the other; but we are given insights into their own thoughts and ponderings, as they prepare to give birth and nurture to their respective sons, John (the Baptist) and Jesus, whose birth and lives – also intertwined - usher in the new era of God's saving plan.

Our lessons conclude with the great prelude to John's Gospel, and his profound interpretation of the events which are described by Luke.

**May the Light which John proclaims shine in our lives and our world  
this Christmastide.**

# COLLECTION AND DONATIONS

There will be a collection during the final carol, to support the ongoing work of the cathedral. Please use the Gift Aid envelopes if you are a UK tax-payer.

You are also able to make a donation using the contactless plates and boxes at the back of the cathedral, or by using the QR code here.



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.

Your support makes a real difference to the ministry and mission of Guildford Cathedral. Thanks to your gifts of time and money we're proud to open our doors for free, 365 days a year, meeting the needs of both pilgrim and visitor.

From 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.

# MUSICIANS

The service is sung by the Cathedral Choir, directed by the Organist and Master of the Choristers, Katherine Dienes-Williams. The organ is played during the service by Asher Oliver, Sub Organist, and before the service by George Baldwin, Organ Scholar.

# MUSIC BEFORE THE SERVICE

Chorale Prelude on 'Gelobet seist du, Jesu Christ' (BWV 604)  
*Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)*

The Holy Boy  
*John Ireland (1879-1962)*

Noel IV  
*Louis-Claude Daquin (1694-1772)*

Prelude on 'The holly and the ivy'  
*Herbert Sumsion (1899-1995)*

Three Versets on 'Away in a manger'  
*Mark Blatchly (b.1960)*

# PARTICIPATION IN THE SERVICE

Although posture is suggested, please do whatever is most comfortable for you.

Photography and audio or video recording of this service are not permitted.

## WELCOME

*The Interim Dean of Guildford, the Venerable Stuart Beake, welcomes the congregation.*

## CAROL

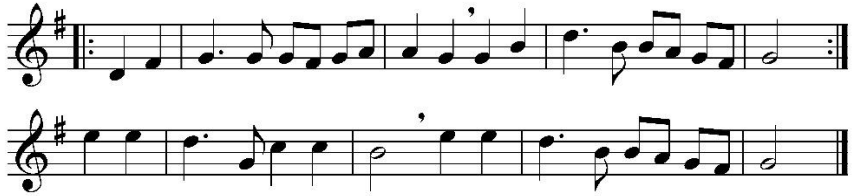
*Please remain seated as the opening carol begins.*



Solo 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.

Choir 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.

**Stand** *The carol continues as the procession moves to the Crossing.*



**All** And through all his wondrous childhood  
he would honour and obey,  
love and watch the lowly maiden,  
in whose gentle arms he lay:  
Christian children, all must be  
mild, obedient, good as he.

For he is our childhood's pattern,  
day by day like us he grew,  
he was little, weak, and helpless,  
tears and smiles like us he knew:  
and he feeleth for our sadness,  
and he shareth in our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see him,  
through his own redeeming love,  
for that Child so dear and gentle  
is our Lord in heaven above;  
and he leads his children on  
to the place where he is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable,  
with the oxen standing by,  
we shall see him, but in heaven,  
set at God's right hand on high,  
where like stars his children crowned  
all in white shall wait around.

*Text: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895)*  
*Music: CFC 2, Irby, Henry John Gauntlett (1805-1876),*  
*harmonised by Arthur Henry Mann (1850-1929)*  
*Descant: David Willcocks (1919-2015)*

## THE BIDDING

Sunday: The Reverend Canon Chris Hollingshurst  
Christmas Day: The Interim Dean

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

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

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

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

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

We commend all whom we love, or who have asked for our prayers, to the unfailing mercy of our heavenly Father, and say together, as Christ himself taught us:

**All Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.**





**FIRST LESSON** Isaiah 9.2, 6, 7

Sunday: read by Andrew Pianca, member of the Cathedral Chapter

Christmas Day: read by Claerwen Patterson, member of the congregation

*The prophecy of the Messiah's birth.*

The people who walked in darkness  
    have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness –  
    on them light has shined.  
For a child has been born for us,  
    a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
    and he is named  
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,  
    Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
His authority shall grow continually,  
    and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
    He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
    from this time onwards and for evermore.  
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.  
Thanks be to God.

## Stand CAROL



Long ago, prophets knew  
Christ would come, born a Jew,  
come to make all things new,  
bear his people's burden,  
Freely love and pardon.

*Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!  
sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!  
when he comes,  
when he comes,  
who will make him welcome?*

God in time, God in man,  
This is God's timeless plan:  
He will come, as a man,  
born himself of woman,  
God divinely human.

*Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring...*

Mary, hail! Though afraid,  
she believed, she obeyed.  
In her womb God is laid;  
till the time expected,  
nurtured and protected:

*Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring...*

Journey ends! Where afar  
Beth'lem shines, like a star,  
stable door stands ajar.  
Unborn Son of Mary,  
Saviour, do not tarry!

*Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!*  
*sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!*  
*Jesus comes!*  
*Jesus comes!*  
*We will make him welcome!*

*Words: Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000)*

*Music: CFC 2 'Personent hodie', melody traditional German,  
arranged by Gustav Holst (1874-1934)*

**Sit**      **SECOND LESSON**    Luke 1.26-38

Sunday and Christmas Day: read by Katherine Dienes-Williams,  
Organist & Master of the Choristers

*The Annunciation to Mary.*

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative

Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.’ Then Mary said, ‘Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.’ Then the angel departed from her.

Thanks be to God.

### **CHOIR CAROL** Gabriel’s Message

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;  
‘All hail,’ said he, ‘thou lowly maiden Mary,  
Most highly favoured lady.’ *Gloria!*

‘For known a blessed mother thou shalt be,  
all generations laud and honour thee,  
thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold;  
most highly favoured lady.’ *Gloria!*

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,  
‘To me be as it pleaseth God,’ she said,  
‘My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name’:  
most highly favoured lady. *Gloria!*

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born  
in Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn,  
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say  
‘Most highly favoured lady.’ *Gloria!*

*Words: Basque Carol, paraphrased by Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924)*

*Music: Gabriel’s Message, Basque traditional carol, arranged by John Rutter (b.1945)*

## THIRD LESSON

Luke 1.39-49

Sunday: read by Ian Bowler, Cathedral Server

Christmas Day: read by Carl McGray, Cathedral Steward

*The visit of Mary to Elizabeth.*

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

And Mary said,

'My soul magnifies the Lord,

and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,  
for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.

Thanks be to God.

## CHOIR CAROL

There is no rose of such virtue

As is the rose that bare Jesu:

*Alleluya*

For in this rose contained was

Heaven and earth in little space:

*Res miranda*

(Marvellous thing)

By that rose we may well see  
That he is God in persons three:

*Pari forma*

(Of equal form)

The angels sungen the shepherds to:

"Gloria in excelsis Deo",

*Gaudeamus*

(Let us rejoice)

There is no rose of such virtue

As is the rose that bare Jesu:

*Alleluya*

*Text: Anonymous 15<sup>th</sup> century*

*Music: Elizabeth Maconchy (1907-1994)*

## Stand CAROL

Glo - ri - a, Ho - san - na in ex - cel - sis.

Ding dong! merrily on high  
in heav'n the bells are ringing.

Ding, dong! verily the sky  
is riv'n with angel singing:

*Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis.*

E'en so here below, below  
let steeple bells be swungen;  
and *i-o, i-o, i-o*  
by priest and people sungen:  
*Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis.*

Pray you dutifully prime  
your matin chime, ye ringers;  
may you beautifully rime  
your evetime song, ye singers:  
*Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis.*

*Words: George Ratcliffe Woodward (1848-1934)*

*Music: CFC | Melody 16<sup>th</sup> century French, harmonised by Charles Wood (1866-1926)*

**Sit**    **FOURTH LESSON**    Luke 2.1-7

Sunday: read by Paul Williamson, Dean's Virger

Christmas Day: read by Nicola Goff, Virger

*The birth of Jesus.*

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Thanks be to God.

## CHOIR CAROL

Seinte Mari moder milde,  
*mater salutaris*;  
feirest flour of eni felde  
*vere nuncuparis*.  
Thorou ihesu crist thou were  
wid childe;  
thou bring me of  
my thouhtes wilde  
*potente*,  
that maket me to dethe tee  
*repente*.

Mi thounc is wide as is the ro  
*luto gratulante*.  
Ho werchest me ful muchel wo  
*illaque favente*.  
Bote yef he wole wende me fro,  
ic wene myn herte breket a two  
*fervore*.  
ic am ifaiht bo day ant naiht  
*dolore*.

Suete levedi, flour of alle,  
*vere consolatrix*,  
thou be myn help that I ne fall,  
*cunctis reparatrix*!  
Mildest quene ant best icorn,  
niht ant day thou be me for  
*precantis*!  
Yef me grace to see thi face  
*infantis*!

*Holy Mary, mother mild,*  
saving mother;  
*fairest flower of any field*  
so truly called.  
*Jesus Christ was*  
*born of you;*  
*you lift me from*  
*the wild ways*  
with strength,  
*and help me to go to death*  
with ease.

*My thoughts leap as the deer*  
the earth rejoices.  
*Who hears me in my weeping,*  
she is favoured.  
*But if he would from me go,*  
*my heart would break in two*  
with fervour.  
*I am filled both day and night*  
with sadness.

*Sweetest lady, flower of all,*  
truly consoling,  
*be my help that I not fall,*  
restorer of all!  
*Mildest queen and fairest lady,*  
*night and day for me you*  
pray!  
*Give me grace to see*  
the babe!

*Text: Anonymous, 13<sup>th</sup> century*  
*Music: James Macmillan (b.1959)*



## Stand CAROL



O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie!  
above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by:  
yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the everlasting Light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.

O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King,  
and peace to men on earth.  
For Christ is born of Mary;  
and, gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wondering love.

### *Choir only*

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.

All    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 1 English traditional melody harmonised by Ralph Vaughan Williams  
(1872-1958) descant verse 4 Thomas Armstrong (1898-1994)*

**Sit      FIFTH LESSON**

Luke 2. 8-15

Sunday: read by Arash Mansoori, member of the congregation

Christmas Day: read by Fraser Ellson, Lay Clerk

*Angels appear to shepherds.*

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.'

Thanks be to God.

## CHOIR CAROL

Les anges dans nos campagnes  
ont entonné l'hymne des cieux,  
et l'écho de nos montagnes  
redit ce chant mélodieux:  
*Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*Angels in the fields  
sang heaven's hymn  
and the mountains re-echoed  
their joyful song:  
Glory to God in the highest!*

Bergers, pour qui cette fête?  
Quel est l'objet de tout ces chants?  
Quel vainqueur, quelle conquête  
mérite ces cris triomphants?  
*Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*Shepherds, what are you  
celebrating? Why such songs?  
What victor, what conqueror  
is worthy of your triumphant songs?  
Glory to God in the highest!*

Ils annoncent la naissance  
du Libérateur d'Israël;  
et plein de reconnaissance  
chantent en ce jour solennel;  
*Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*Angels proclaim the birth  
of the redeemer of Israel;  
and with such great knowledge  
cry out on that great day,  
Glory to God in the highest!*

Cherchons tous l'heureux village  
qui l'a vu naître sous ses toits;  
offrons lui le tendre hommage  
et de nos coeurs et de nos voix:  
*Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*We will go and find the blessed  
village where he has been born,  
offer him homage,  
and cry out with hearts and voices:  
Glory to God in the highest!*

Dans l'humilité profonde  
où vous paraissez à nos yeux,  
pour vous louer, Dieu du monde,  
nous redirons ce chant joyeux:  
*Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*In humble surroundings  
where you have appeared before us  
to save mankind, God in our midst,  
we cry out in joyful song,  
Glory to God in the highest!*

*Text: Anonymous, 16th Century  
Music: Bob Chilcott (b.1955)*

## Stand CAROL

*During the carol the choir processes to the Quire.*



It came upon the midnight clear,  
that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth  
to touch their harps of gold:  
'Peace on the earth, good will to men,  
from heav'n's all-gracious King!  
the world in solemn stillness lay  
to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come,  
with peaceful wings unfurled;  
and still their heav'nly music floats  
o'er all the weary world:  
above its sad and lowly plains  
they bend on hov'ring wing;  
and ever o'er its Babel-sounds  
the blessèd angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife  
the world has suffered long;  
beneath the angel strain have rolled  
two thousand years of wrong:  
and man, at war with man, hears not  
the love-song which they bring:  
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,  
and hear the angels sing.

For lo! the days are hastening on,  
by prophet-bards foretold,  
when, with the ever-circling years  
comes round the age of gold;  
when peace shall over all the earth  
its ancient splendours fling,  
and the whole world send back the song  
which now the angels sing.

*Words: Edmund Hamilton Sears (1810-1876)*

*Music: CFC 1, English traditional melody*

*adapted by Arthur Sullivan (1842-1900)*

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

**Sit**      **SIXTH LESSON**      Luke 2.16-20

Sunday: read by Marcus, Joint Head Boy Chorister

Christmas Day: read by Molly, Deputy Head Girl Chorister

*The shepherds go to the manger.*

The shepherds 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.

Thanks be to God.

## **CHOIR CAROL**

Hushed are the pigeons cooing low on dusty rafters of the loft;  
And mild-eyed oxen, breathing soft,  
Sleep on the fragrant hay below.  
(coo)

Dim shadows in the corner hide;  
The glimmering lantern's rays are shed  
One young lamb just lifts his head,  
Then huddles 'gainst his mother's side.

Strange silence tingles in the air;  
Through the half open door a bar of light  
From one low hanging star  
Touches a baby's radiant hair.

No sound the mother, kneeling,  
Lays her cheek against the little face.  
Oh human love! Oh heaven'ly grace!  
'Tis yet in silence that she prays!

Ages of silence end tonight;  
Then to the long expectant earth  
Glad angels come to greet His birth  
In burst of music, love and light!

*Text: Margaret Deland (1857-1945)*

*Music: Ben Ponniah (b.1984)*

*World Première; commissioned by Susan Howland*

## Stand CAROL

*During the carol the choir processes to the Sanctuary.*



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 th'angelic host proclaim,  
Christ is born in Bethlehem!

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

Christ, by highest heav'n adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of a Virgin's womb:  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see:  
Hail, th'incarnate Deity!  
pleased as man with man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.

*Hark, the herald angels sing...*

Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
Ris'n 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: CFC1, No 23, Mendelssohn, Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809-1847)*

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

***All remain standing for the seventh lesson.***

**SEVENTH LESSON** John 1.1-14

Sunday: read by Shirley-Margaret Lloyd, Lay Canon

Christmas Day: read by George Baldwin, Organ Scholar

*The Incarnation of the Word of God*

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

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own



people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Thanks be to God.

**Sit**    **CHOIR CAROL**    Carol of the Bells (Ukrainian Carol)

Hark how the bells,  
sweet silver bells,  
all seem to say,  
throw cares away  
Christmas is here,  
bringing good cheer,  
to young and old,  
meek and the bold.

Ding dong ding dong  
that is their song  
with joyful ring  
all carolling.

One seems to hear  
words of good cheer  
from everywhere  
filling the air.

Oh how they pound,  
raising the sound,  
o'er hill and dale,  
telling their tale.

Gaily they ring  
while people sing  
songs of good cheer,  
Christmas is here.

Merry, Merry, Merry, Merry Christmas,  
Merry, Merry, Merry, Merry Christmas.

On, on they send,  
on without end,  
their joyful tone  
to every home.  
Ding ding... dong!

*Words: Peter Wilhousky (1902-1978)*

*Music: Mykola Leontowych (1877-1921), arranged by John Rutter (b.1945)*

## **Stand CLOSING PRAYER AND BLESSING**

Sunday: The Bishop of Guildford, the Right Reverend Andrew Watson  
Christmas Day: The Interim Dean

Almighty God,  
as we prepare with joy  
to celebrate the gift of the Christ-child,  
embrace the earth with your glory  
and be for us a living hope  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one  
things earthly and heavenly,  
fill you with peace and goodwill  
and make you partakers of the divine nature;  
and the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be upon you and remain with you.

**All Amen.**

## CAROL

*During the carol a collection will be taken.*



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:  
    *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:  
    *O come, let us adore him...*

See how the shepherds,  
summoned to his cradle,  
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;  
we too will thither  
bend our joyful footsteps:  
*O come, let us adore him...*

Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;  
Glory to God  
in the highest:  
*O come, let us adore him,*  
*O come, let us adore him,*  
*O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

On *Christmas Day only*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
born this happy morning,  
Jesu, to thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father,  
now in flesh appearing:  
*O come, let us adore him,*  
*O come, let us adore him,*  
*O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

*Words: Latin, 18<sup>th</sup> century, translated by Frederick Oakeley (1802-1890) and others*  
*Music: CFC 1, Adeste, Fideles, John Francis Wade (1711-1786)*  
*Descant: David Willcocks (1919-2015)*

## **THE WORK OF CHRISTMAS**

Sunday: read by Connor, Chorister Probationer

Christmas Day: read by Olivia, Chorister

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
when the star in the sky is gone,  
when the kings and princes are home,  
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,  
the work of Christmas begins:  
to find the lost,  
to heal the broken,  
to feed the hungry,  
to release the prisoner,  
to rebuild the nations,  
to bring peace among the people,  
to make music in the heart.

*Howard Thurman (1899-1981)*

## **ORGAN VOLUNTARY**

In dulci jubilo (BWV 729)

*Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)*

Final (Symphonie I)

*Louis Vierne (1870-1937)*

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

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*The poem "The Work of Christmas" is from Howard Thurman's*

*The Mood of Christmas and Other Celebrations (1973).*

# SPECIAL SERVICES AT CHRISTMAS AND EPIPHANY

## CHRISTMAS

Tuesday 24 December

### CHRISTMAS EVE

- 4pm      **Journey to Bethlehem**  
*A service for all ages, with the Cathedral Choristers and Stag Hill Phil, exploring the Christmas story and message.*
- 11pm     **First Eucharist of Christmas**  
*Marking the beginning of Christmas, this service includes John Tavener's famous Christmas Proclamation.*

Wednesday 25 December

### CHRISTMAS DAY

- 8am      Holy communion *in the Lady Chapel*
- 10am     **Eucharist of Christmas Day**  
*Please join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Saviour of the world.*
- 4pm      **Service of Lessons and Carols**  
*The second of our traditional carol services. Hear the Christmas story from the very beginning, through readings, carols, messages, and stunning choral music.*

## **EPIPHANY**

Monday 6 January 2024, 7pm

### **EUCCHARIST ON THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY**

*The day on which we celebrate the visit of the far-travelled Magi, following a star, to find the infant Jesus. The service is sung by the Whyte effect.*

Sunday 12 January 2024, 6pm

### **EPIPHANY CAROL SERVICE**

*A processional service which recalls how Jesus was made known to the world by the visit of the wise men, the miracle at a wedding at Cana and in the baptism of Jesus.*

Sunday 2 February 2024, 9.45am

### **EUCCHARIST ON THE FEAST OF CANDLEMAS**

*The Presentation of Christ in the Temple is the conclusion of Epiphanytide.*

There are more services during the seasons of Christmas and Epiphany to which all are welcome. For the full list visit: [www.guildford-cathedral.org](http://www.guildford-cathedral.org)