



The Cathedral & Metropolitan Church of St Peter in York

CHORAL EVENSONG

ON THE

SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

Sunday 4th January 2026
at 4.00pm

Welcome

A warm welcome to York Minster and to this service of Choral Evensong. Welcome if you are a regular worshipper and know the Minster well, and welcome if you are experiencing this building and this form of worship for the first time today.

Today's service will be live-streamed from the Minster. In this service we are immersed in the words of scripture, spoken and sung, and we are given time and space to lose ourselves in prayer and come closer to God.

We are grateful to the Chapel Choir of Pembroke College, Cambridge for singing our services this weekend while the Choir of York Minster is on holiday.



Information about this Service

- ◆ This service is being live-streamed, but care is taken to focus on the clergy and choir and not the congregation. For licensing and safeguarding reasons, please do not record this service on your own devices.
- ◆ Please follow the directions of the stewards. Where “Sit” or “Stand” are indicated, these are given simply as a guide. Throughout the service please feel free to adopt the posture that is most comfortable for you.
- ◆ Please join in saying together the words printed in **bold** type and in singing the hymn.
- ◆ We are grateful for all who give to support the mission and ministry of York Minster. You can offer a gift, or set up regular giving, by using the following QR code. 10% of all giving offered during this service will be given to three charities York Minster supports, HOPE Africa, a charity which was initiated by our companion link dioceses in SA; Mustard Seed, a York Diocese based organisation which works in the most deprived areas of our diocese; and a variety of Refugee charities based in the City of York. Thank you for all you are able to give.
- ◆ Donations can be made via the following QR code:



Order of Service

Prayers are said and a bell is rung.

Stand when the choir enters the Quire.

Preces

Cantor O Lord, open thou our lips;

Choir And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

Cantor O God, make speed to save us;

Choir O Lord, make haste to help us.

Cantor Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;

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

Cantor Praise ye the Lord.

Choir The Lord's name be praised.

Music Cecilia McDowall (b 1951)

Sit for the singing of the psalm but stand for the Gloria.

Psalmody

O Praise the Lord, laud ye the Name of the Lord ♦
praise it, O ye servants of the Lord;

Ye that stand in the house of the Lord ♦
in the courts of the house of our God.

O praise the Lord, for the Lord is gracious ♦
O sing praises unto his Name, for it is lovely.

For why? the Lord hath chosen Jacob unto himself ♦
and Israel for his own possession.

For I know that the Lord is great ♦
and that our Lord is above all gods.

Whatsoever the Lord pleased, that did he in heaven and in earth ♦
and in the sea, and in all deep places.

He bringeth forth the clouds from the ends of the world ♦ and sendeth forth
lightnings with the rain, bringing the winds out of his treasures.

He smote the first-born of Egypt ♦
 both of man and beast.
 He hath sent tokens and wonders into the midst of thee, O thou land of
 Egypt ♦ upon Pharaoh, and all his servants.
 He smote divers nations ♦
 and slew mighty kings;
 Sehon king of the Amorites, and Og the king of Basan ♦
 and all the kingdoms of Canaan;
 And gave their land to be an heritage ♦
 even an heritage unto Israel his people.
 Thy Name, O Lord, endureth for ever ♦
 so doth thy memorial, O Lord, from one generation to another.
 For the Lord will avenge his people ♦
 and be gracious unto his servants.
Stand.
 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.

PSALM 135.1-14

Sit.

First Lesson

The First Lesson is taken from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

Set forth your case, says the Lord;
 bring your proofs, says the King of Jacob.
 Let them bring them, and tell us
 what is to happen.
 Tell us the former things, what they are,
 so that we may consider them,
 and that we may know their outcome;
 or declare to us the things to come.
 Tell us what is to come hereafter,
 that we may know that you are gods;
 do good, or do harm,
 that we may be afraid and terrified.

You, indeed, are nothing
and your work is nothing at all;
whoever chooses you is an abomination.

I stirred up one from the north, and he has come,
from the rising of the sun he was summoned by name.
He shall trample on rulers as on mortar,
as the potter treads clay.

Who declared it from the beginning, so that we might know,
and beforehand, so that we might say, 'He is right'?
There was no one who declared it, none who proclaimed,
none who heard your words.

I first have declared it to Zion,
and I give to Jerusalem a herald of good tidings.

But when I look there is no one;
among these there is no counsellor
who, when I ask, gives an answer.

No, they are all a delusion;
their works are nothing;
their images are empty wind.

Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.

He will not cry or lift up his voice,
or make it heard in the street;
a bruised reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.

He will not grow faint or be crushed
until he has established justice in the earth;
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

Here ends the First Lesson.

ISAIAH 41.21- 42.4

Stand.

Magnificat

My soul doth magnify the Lord:
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
For he hath regarded:
the lowliness of his hand-maiden.
For behold from henceforth:
all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me:
and holy is his name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him:
throughout all generations.
He hath shewed strength with his arm:
he hath scattered the proud, in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat:
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things:
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy:
hath holpen his servant Israel.
As he promised to our forefathers:
Abraham and his seed, for ever.
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.

Words LUKE I. 46–55

Music THE SECOND SERVICE, Kenneth Leighton (1929–1988)

Sit.

Second Lesson

The Second Lesson is taken from the Letter of Paul to the Colossians.

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,
To the saints and faithful brothers and sisters in Christ in Colossae:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. You have heard of this hope before in the word of the truth, the gospel that has come to you. Just as it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world, so it has been bearing fruit among yourselves from the day you heard it and truly comprehended the grace of God. This you learned from Epaphras, our beloved fellow-servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, and he has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Here ends the Second Lesson.

COLOSSIANS 1.1-14

Stand.

Nunc Dimittis

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.

Words LUKE 2. 29–32

Music THE SECOND SERVICE, Kenneth Leighton

Remain standing and turn to face east.

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God
**the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth:
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead,
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**
I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic Church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Lesser Litany and Responses

Cantor The Lord be with you.

Choir And with thy spirit.

Cantor Let us pray.

Kneel or sit.

Choir Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Our Father,
which art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done,
in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
Amen.

Cantor O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

Choir And grant us thy salvation.

Cantor O Lord, save the King.

Choir And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Cantor Endue thy Ministers with righteousness.

Choir And make thy chosen people joyful.

Cantor O Lord, save thy people.

Choir And bless thine inheritance.

Cantor Give peace in our time, O Lord.

Choir Because there is none other that fighteth for us,
but only thou, O God.

Cantor O God, make clean our hearts within us.

Choir And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

The Collects

Almighty God, who in the birth of thy Son hast poured upon us the new light of thine incarnate Word and revealed to us the fullness of thy love: help us so to walk in his light and dwell in his love that we may know the fullness of his joy; who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed: Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that both our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Music Cecilia McDowall

Sit.

Anthem

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!

Christ is born!

Words from Orthodox Great Compline of Christmas after ISAIAH 9.2, 6

Music Sir John Tavener (1944–2013)

Sermon

The Reverend Canon Maggie McLean, Missioner

Stand.

Hymn



1. In the bleak mid-winter
frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron,
water like a stone:
snow had fallen, snow on snow,
snow on snow,
in the bleak mid-winter,
long ago.

2. Our God, heaven cannot hold him
nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away
when he comes to reign:
in the bleak mid-winter
a stable-place sufficed
the Lord God Almighty,
Jesus Christ.

3. Enough for him, whom Cherubim
worship night and day,
a breastful of milk,
and a mangerful of hay:
enough for him, whom angels
fall down before,
the ox and ass and camel
which adore.

4. Angels and Archangels
may have gathered there,
Cherubim and Seraphim
thronged the air
but only his mother
in her maiden bliss
worshipped the Belovèd
with a kiss.

5. What can I give him,
poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man
I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him
give my heart.

Words NEH 28, Christina Rossetti (1830–1894)

Tune CRANHAM, NEH 28, Gustav Holst (1874–1934)

Remain standing.

The Blessing

Voluntary

There will be an opportunity to make a donation to support the music, ministry and mission of York Minster as you leave.

If you worship regularly at York Minster, you are already a member of our community. Please help us know who you are by joining the Community Roll and by subscribing to our weekly notice sheet. Take a look online at yorkminster.org/get-involved/community or ask a steward or a member of the clergy for more information.



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