



FESTAL EVENSONG

WITH CAROLS

**Wednesday 23 December 2020
at 4.00pm**

Welcome

Welcome to York Minster and to this service of Choral Evensong with Carols for Christmas.

We gather together at this time to celebrate the birth of Christ our Saviour. Despite the changes and challenges we have had to endure in this past year due to the pandemic, the central message of Christmas remains the same. God is with us in the form of a vulnerable infant bringing light and hope to the world.

In this service, through scripture and song we are taken back, once again, to the manger in Bethlehem to witness the birth of Christ: God's Word leaps down from the heavens and is made flesh for our salvation. May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary and the peace of the Christ-child, be yours this Christmas.

We have put in various measures to keep our worship safe in the light of the Covid-19 pandemic.

- ◆ We ask that people wear masks at all times if they are able, and of course we respect those who are exempt.
- ◆ If you would like to support the work of York Minster in these difficult times there are contactless donation points as you leave.
- ◆ There are hand sanitizers around the Minster for your use as you enter and leave the building, and we ask that everyone maintains physical distancing at all times, and refrains from gathering or socialising with one another within the Minster.
- ◆ To help with this, at the end of this service our stewards will invite you, row by row, to exit the Minster. If you wish to remain to listen to the organ voluntary please do so, but then leave the Minster as directed, as efficiently and as quickly as possible through the door where you came in.
- ◆ Our service today is being live-streamed so that those who are unable to physically be here today can still participate. For licensing and safeguarding reasons, we ask that you do not record this service on your own personal devices.

Despite all these changes to the way we worship, we come here primarily to worship Almighty God, the Word made flesh, in this most holy season of Christmas. We keep a few moments of quietness and stillness and prepare our hearts for prayer and praise.

Order of Service

A bell is rung and prayers are sung.

Introit

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

Words Anonymous

Music W J Kirkpatrick (1838–1921) arr. David Willcocks (1919–2015)

Bidding Prayer

Beloved in Christ, be it this Christmas time our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the Angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the babe lying in a manger.

Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious redemption brought us by this Holy Child; and let us make this Cathedral Church glad with our carols of praise.

But first let us pray for the needs of his whole world; for peace and goodwill over all the earth; for unity within the Church he came to build, within the dominions of Our Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth, and within this City and Diocese of York.

And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us at this time remember in his name the poor and the helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick and them that mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no man can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself 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.**

May the almighty God bless us with his grace;
Christ give us the joys of everlasting life;
and unto the fellowship of the citizens above
may the King of Angels bring us all.
Amen.

Preces

O Lord, open thou our lips;
And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

O God, make speed to save us;
O Lord, make haste to help us.

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.

Praise ye the Lord.
The Lord's name be praised.

Music Bernard Rose (1916–96)

Psalm

O sing unto the Lord a new song ♦ for he hath done marvellous things.
With his own right hand, and with his holy arm ♦ hath he gotten himself the
victory.
The Lord declared his salvation ♦ his righteousness hath he openly shewed in the
sight of the heathen.
He hath remembered his mercy and truth toward the house of Israel ♦ and all
the ends of the world have seen the salvation of our God.
Shew yourselves joyful unto the Lord, all ye lands ♦ sing, rejoice, and give thanks.
Praise the Lord upon the harp ♦ sing to the harp with a psalm of thanksgiving.
With trumpets also and shawms ♦ O shew yourselves joyful before the Lord the
King.
Let the sea make a noise, and all that therein is ♦ the round world, and they that
dwell therein.
Let the floods clap their hands, and let the hills be joyful together before the
Lord ♦ for he is come to judge the earth.
With righteousness shall he judge the world ♦ and the people with equity.
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 98

First Lesson

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

Here ends the first lesson.

ISAIAH 11.1-9

Magnificat

The antiphon O VIRGO VIRGINUM frames the singing of the MAGNIFICAT.

O Virgin of virgins, how shall this be?
For neither before thee was any like thee, nor shall there be after.
Daughters of Jerusalem, why marvel ye at me?
The thing which ye behold is a divine mystery.

Magnificat anima mea Dominum: et exultavit
spiritus meus in Deo salutari meo.

Quia respexit humilitatem ancillæ suæ:

ecce enim ex hoc beatam me dicent omnes
generationes.

Quia fecit mihi magna qui potens est,
et sanctum nomen eius.

Et misericordia eius a progenie in progenies
timentibus eum.

Fecit potentiam in brachio suo,
dispersit superbos mente cordis sui.

Deposuit potentes de sede
et exaltavit humiles.

Esurientes implevit bonis et divites dimisit
inanes.

Suscepit Israel puerum suum recordatus
misericordiæ suæ,

Sicut locutus est ad patres nostros,
Abraham et semini eius in sæcula.

Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto:

Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper,
et in sæcula sæculorum. Amen.

*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 MERTON COLLEGE SERVICE, Ēriks Ešenvalds (b. 1977)

Second Lesson

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin 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.

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.'

Here ends the second lesson.

LUKE I. 26-45

Nunc Dimittis

Nunc dimittis servum tuum, Domine, secundum *Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in*
verbum tuum in pace: *peace: according to thy word,*

Quia viderunt oculi mei salutare tuum *For mine eyes have seen thy salvation: which*
quod parasti ante faciem omnium *thou hast prepared before the face of all*
populorum: *people,*

Lumen ad revelationem gentium, *To be a light to lighten the Gentiles:*
et gloriam plebis tuae Israel. *and to be the glory of thy people Israel.*

Gloria Patri, et Filio, *Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:*
et Spiritui Sancto. *and to the Holy Ghost;*

Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, *As it was in the beginning, is now and ever*
et in saecula saeculorum. Amen. *shall be: world without end. Amen.*

Words LUKE 2.29–32 ♦ *Music* MERTON COLLEGE SERVICE, Ēriks Ešēnvalds

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

The Lord be with you;
and with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

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.**

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us;
And grant us thy salvation.

O Lord, save the Queen;
And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Endue thy ministers with righteousness;
And make thy chosen people joyful.

O Lord, save thy people;
And bless thine inheritance.

Give peace in our time, O Lord;
Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.

O God, make clean our hearts within us;
And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

The Collects

O God our redeemer, who didst prepare the Blessed Virgin Mary to be mother of thy Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he shall come again to be our judge; who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. Amen.

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious Majesty, to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, now and 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 Bernard Rose

The Sussex Carol

On Christmas night all Christians sing, to hear the news the angels bring:
news of great joy, news of great mirth, news of our merciful King's birth.

Then why should men on earth be so sad, since our Redeemer made us glad,
when from our sin he set us free, all for to gain our liberty?

When sin departs before his grace, then life and health come in its place;
angels and men with joy may sing, all for to see the new-born King.

All out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night:
Glory to God and peace to men, Now and for evermore. Amen.

Words English traditional carol ♦ *Music* Traditional arr. David Willcocks (1919–2015)

Prayers

The Shepherd's Carol

We stood on the hills, Lady, our day's work done,
watching the frosted meadows that winter had won.

The evening was calm, Lady, the air so calm,
silence more lovely than music folded the hill.

There was a star, Lady, shone in the night,
larger than Venus it was and bright, so bright.

Oh, a voice from the sky, Lady, it seemed to us then
telling of God being born in the world of men.

And so we have come, Lady, our day's work done,
our love, our hopes, ourselves we give to your son.

Words Clive Sansom (1910–81) ♦ *Music* Bob Chilcott (b. 1956)

The Blessing

Voluntary

Rhapsodie sur des Noëls

Eugène Gigout