



## **FESTAL EVENSONG**

**WITH CAROLS**

**Thursday 24 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

*sung by the choir alone.*

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.

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.

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.

*Words* C F Alexander (1818–85)

*Tune* IRBY, H J Gauntlett (1805–76) 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 85

Lord, thou art become gracious unto thy land ♦ thou hast turned away the  
captivity of Jacob.

Thou hast forgiven the offence of thy people ♦ and covered all their sins.

Thou hast taken away all thy displeasure ♦ and turned thyself from thy wrathful  
indignation.

Turn us then, O God our Saviour ♦ and let thine anger cease from us.

Wilt thou be displeased at us for ever ♦ and wilt thou stretch out thy wrath from  
one generation to another?

Wilt thou not turn again, and quicken us ♦ that thy people may rejoice in thee?

Shew us thy mercy, O Lord ♦ and grant us thy salvation.

I will hearken what the Lord God will say concerning me ♦ for he shall speak  
peace unto his people, and to his saints, that they turn not again.

For his salvation is nigh them that fear him ♦ that glory may dwell in our land.

Mercy and truth are met together ♦ righteousness and peace have kissed each  
other.

Truth shall flourish out of the earth ♦ and righteousness hath looked down from  
heaven.

Yea, the Lord shall shew loving-kindness ♦ and our land shall give her increase.

Righteousness shall go before him ♦ and he shall direct his going in the way.

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.

## First Lesson

*Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.*

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.  
You have multiplied the nation,  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.  
For the yoke of their burden,  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.  
For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.  
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.

Here ends the first lesson.

ISAIAH 9.2b-7

## 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* COLLEGIUM REGALE, Herbert Howells (1892–1983)

## Second Lesson

*St Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus.*

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.’ All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

‘Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel’,  
which means, ‘God is with us.’

Here ends the second lesson.

MATTHEW I. 18–23

## 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* COLLEGIUM REGALE, Herbert Howells

## 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

Almighty God, who makest us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of thy only Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as we joyfully receive him as our redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him when he shall come to be our judge: 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* Bernard Rose

## Carol

What sweeter music can we bring  
than a carol, for to sing  
the birth of this our heav'nly King?  
Awake the voice! Awake the string!

Dark and dull night, fly hence away,  
and give the honour to this day  
that sees December turn'd to May.

Why does the chilling winter's morn  
smile, like a field beset with corn?  
Or smell like a meadow newly shorn  
thus on the sudden? Come and see  
the cause, why things thus fragrant be:  
'Tis he is born, whose quickening birth  
gives life and lustre, public mirth,  
to heaven and the under earth.

We see him come, and know him ours,  
who, with his sunshine and his show'rs,  
turns all the patient ground to flowers.

The darling of the world is come,  
and fit it is, we find a room  
To welcome him. The nobler part  
of all the house here, is the heart,  
which we will give him; and bequeath  
this holly, and this ivy wreath,  
to do him honour, who's our King,  
and Lord of all this revelling.

What sweeter music can we bring  
than a carol, for to sing  
the birth of this our heavenly King?

*Words* Robert Herrick (1591–1674) ♦ *Music* John Rutter (b. 1945)

## Prayers

### Carol

*In dulci jubilo*  
let us our homage shew;  
our heart's joy reclineth  
*in præsepio*,  
and like a bright star shineth,  
*matris in gremio*.  
*Alpha es et O*.

*O Jesu parvule!*  
I yearn for thee alway!  
Hear me, I beseech thee,  
*O Puer optime!*  
My prayer let it reach thee,  
*O princeps gloriæ!*  
*Trabe me post te!*

*With sweet joy*  
let us our homage shew;  
our heart's joy reclineth  
*in the manger*,  
and like a bright star shineth,  
*in your mother's lap*  
*You are Alpha and Omega*.

*O infant Jesus!*  
I yearn for thee alway!  
Hear me, I beseech thee,  
*O best of boys!*  
My prayer let it reach thee,  
*O prince of glory!*  
*Draw me after you to heaven!*

*O Patris caritas,  
O Nati lenitas!*  
Deeply were we stained  
*per nostra crimina;*  
but thou hast for us gained  
*caelorum gaudia.*  
O that we were there!

*Ubi sunt gaudia,*  
where, if that they be not there?  
There are angels singing  
*nova cantica,*  
in heaven the bells are ringing  
*in regis curia.*  
O that we were there!

*Words* traditional edited R L Pearsall  
*Music* Old German tune arr. R L Pearsall (1795–1856)

*O love of the Father,  
O mercy of the Son!*  
Deeply were we stained  
*through our sins*  
but thou hast for us gained  
*the joys of Heaven*  
O that we were there!

*Where are joys,*  
where, if that they be not there?  
There are angels singing  
*new songs,*  
in heaven the bells are ringing  
*in the court of the King.*  
O that we were there!

## The Blessing

The Archbishop of York

## Voluntary

In dulci jubilo, BWV 729

Johann Sebastian Bach