



CHESTER
CATHEDRAL

Advent Procession

1st December 2024
6.00pm

WELCOME

We welcome you to Chester Cathedral! It is a place where the mission of the church to proclaim God's love is central, and your welcome presence here for worship helps to strengthen this vital act of witness.

We're a paperless Cathedral and are working environmentally to save paper. The service can be downloaded to your device using the QR code at the back of the nave, or by visiting [Services - Chester Cathedral](#). Hymns, readings and responses will be presented on the screens.

Throughout the service, where indicated, please only stand if you feel able to do so.

COLLECTION

The Cathedral costs around £6000 a day to keep open, and we need your support.

We invite you to generously give to ensure our future:

A collection will be taken during the service; donations can otherwise be left with cash or using the

Contactless Donation Plates.

A sidesperson can help you with this.

Via the Cathedral Website

www.chestercathedral.com/donate

We need your help to make sure that services like this one can continue and that we can keep the doors open for everyone. Thank you for your generous contributions.

BEFORE THE SERVICE

*Daniel Mathieson, Head of Music Outreach
and Assistant Organist, plays*

Fantasia and Fugue in G minor BWV 542

J S Bach 1685-1750

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland BWV 599

J S Bach

Lob sei dem allmächtigen Gott BWV 602

J S Bach

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland BWV 659

J S Bach

When the lights are dimmed, please keep a few minutes silence and then remain seated as the Choir sings the introit from the Baptistry.

Introit

Adam lay ybounden, bounden in a bond;
four thousand winter thought he not too long.
Deo gracias.

And all was for an apple,
an apple that he took.

As clerkes finden written in their book.
Deo gracias.

Ne had the apple taken been,
the apple taken been,
ne had never our Lady a-been heavene queen.
Blessed be the time that apple taken was!
Therefore we moun singen
Deo gracias!

Anon. 15th cent.

Philip Ledger 1937-2012

Introduction

The Dean says

In the name of God, who has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and made a place for us in the kingdom of his beloved Son, we welcome you: grace to you and peace.

As we meet to celebrate anew the coming of God's kingdom, we hear revealed the

mystery of God's loving purpose for us – how that when we were far off, he met us in his Son and brought us home; how he humbled himself to take our human nature, that we might share his divine glory.

Let us then so celebrate this coming with our carols and hymns of praise, that our lives may be charged with his life; that we may bear witness to his glory and so bring light to those who sit in darkness. So first we pray for those among whom the Christ was born: the poor and helpless, the aged and young children; the cold, the hungry and the homeless; the victims of poverty, injustice and oppression, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and the unloved; those in despair or in the shadow of death.

Then, as we hear again the message of peace on earth and goodwill among all his people, we pray for the leaders of the nations, that all may be inspired to work together for the establishment of justice, freedom and peace the world over.

And that we may bear true witness to this hope in a divided world, we pray for the peace and unity of Christ's Body, the Church universal, that the whole earth may live to praise his name.

Finally, as we rejoice with the saints in heaven and on earth, we remember all who have gone before us with the sign of faith, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we offer up our prayers for the coming of his kingdom, in the words he himself has taught us, saying:

**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.**

And may the Lord when he comes find us watching and waiting, now and at all times.
Amen.

Please stand to sing the hymn during which the Choir moves to the West Steps.

Hymn

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice, rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou rod of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save,
and give them vic'try o'er the grave.

O come, thou dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.

O come, thou key of David, come
and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.

O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times didst give the Law,
in cloud and majesty and awe.

from the 'Great O Antiphons' VENI EMMANUEL
trans. John Mason Neale 1818-1866 French Missal

Anthem

Please be seated. The Choir sings

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

There is no rose of such virtue
as is the rose that bare Jesu.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

For in that rose contained was
heaven and earth in little space.

Res miranda.

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

Pari forma.

Alleluia, alleluia.

The angels sungen the shepherds to
Gloria in excelsis deo.

Gaudeamus.

There is no rose of such virtue
as is the rose that bare Jesu.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Anon 15th century Elizabeth Maconchy 1907-1994

Antiphons

O Sapientia:

O Wisdom, which camest out of the
mouth of the most High, and reaches from
one end to another, mightily, and sweetly
ordering all things: come and teach us the
way of prudence.

O Adonai:

O Adonai, and Leader of the house of Israel, who appearedst in the Bush to Moses in a flame of fire, and gavest him the law in Sinai: come and deliver us with an out-stretched arm.

Bible reading

Read by The Revd Jonathon Green, Dean's Vicar

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Genesis 1:1-5

Anthem

The Choir sings

Wake, O wake! with tidings thrilling
the watchmen all the air are filling,
arise, Jerusalem, arise!
Midnight strikes! no more delaying,
'The hour has come!' we hear them saying.
Where are ye all, ye virgins wise?
The Bridegroom comes in sight,
raise high your torches bright!
Alleluya!
The wedding song
swells loud and strong:
go forth and join the festal throng.

Sion hears the watchmen shouting,
her heart leaps up with joy undoubting,
she stands and waits with eager eyes;
see her Friend from heaven descending,
adorned with truth and grace unending!
Her light burns clear, her star doth rise.
Now come, thou precious Crown,
Lord Jesu, God's own Son!
Hosanna!
Let us prepare
to follow there,
where in thy supper we may share.

Philipp Nicolai 1556-1608

*Philipp Nicolai
arr. J S Bach 1685-1750*

Antiphons

During which the Choir moves to the centre of the Nave.

O Radix Jesse:

O Root of Jesse, which standest for an ensign of the people, at whom kings shall shut their mouths, to whom the Gentiles shall seek: come and deliver us, and tarry not.

O Clavis David:

O Key of David, and sceptre of the house of Israel: that openest, and no man shutteth; and shuttest and no man openeth: come, and bring the prisoner out of the prison-house, and him that sitteth in darkness, and the shadow of death.

Bible reading

Read by Jennifer Jackson

Look towards the east, O Jerusalem,
and see the joy that is coming to you
from God.

Look, your children are coming,
whom you sent away; they are coming,
gathered from east and west,
at the word of the Holy One,
rejoicing in the glory of God.

Take off the garment of your sorrow and
affliction, O Jerusalem,
and put on for ever the beauty of the
glory from God.

Put on the robe of the righteousness that
comes from God;
put on your head the diadem of the glory
of the Everlasting;
for God will show your splendour
everywhere under heaven.
For God will give you evermore the name,
'Righteous Peace, Godly Glory'.

Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height;
look towards the east,
and see your children gathered from west
and east at the word of the Holy One,
rejoicing that God has remembered them.
For they went out from you on foot,
led away by their enemies;

but God will bring them back to you,
carried in glory, as on a royal throne.
For God has ordered that every high
mountain and the everlasting hills be made
low and the valleys filled up, to make level
ground,
so that Israel may walk safely in the glory
of God.
The woods and every fragrant tree
have shaded Israel at God's command.
For God will lead Israel with joy,
in the light of his glory,
with the mercy and righteousness that
come from him.

Baruch 4:36-5:9

Anthem

The Choir sings

Laetentur coeli et exsultet terra. Jubilate
montes laudem quia Dominus noster
veniet, et pauperum suorum miserebitur.

*Let the heavens be glad and let the earth
rejoice. Let the mountains be joyful with praise,
because our Lord will come, and will show
mercy to the poor.*

Isaiah 49:13

William Byrd 1539-1623

Please stand to sing the hymn, during which the Choir moves to the Nave choir stalls.

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.

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

Sing, ye heights of heaven, his praises;
angels and Archangels, sing!
wheresoe'er ye be, ye faithful,
let your joyous anthems ring,
every tongue his name confessing,
countless voices answering,
evermore and evermore.

Prudentius 348-413

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

Trans. R.F. Davis 1866-1937

Piae Cantiones

Theoderici Petri Nylandensis 1582

Please be seated. The Choir sings

Antiphon

O oriens:

O Dayspring, Brightness of Light
everlasting, and Sun of righteousness:
come, and enlighten him that sitteth in
darkness, and the shadow of death.

Some of the Cathedral lights are illuminated.

Bible reading

*Read by The Revd Canon Richard Walker,
Canon Diocesan*

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and
the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on
their nurses' arms.
Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice.

Isaiah 60:1-5a

Anthem

The Choir sings

I look from afar, and behold,
I see the power of God coming,
and a cloud covering the whole earth.
Go ye out to meet him, and say:
Tell us, if thou art he,

who shall reign over the people of Israel.
All ye inhabitants of the earth,
and ye children of men,
rich and poor, one with another,
go ye out to meet him and say:
Hear, O thou shepherd of Israel:
thou that leadest Joseph like a flock:
Tell, if thou art he.
Lift up your heads, O ye gates,
and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors:
and the King of glory shall come in
who shall reign over the people of Israel.
I look from afar, and behold,
I see the power of God coming,
and a cloud covering the whole earth.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Ghost.
Go ye out to meet him.

Advent Matins Responsory *Anthony Piccolo b. 1953*

Antiphon

O Rex Gentium:

O King of the nations, and their Desire;
the Cornerstone, who makest both one:
come, and save mankind, whom thou
formedst of clay.

Bible reading

*Read by The Revd Canon Dr Anthony
Lees-Smith, Canon Missioner*

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, 'There is peace and security', then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage

one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11, 23-24

Please stand, if able, to sing the hymn, during which the Choir moves to the Quire stalls.

Hymn

Hark! A herald voice is calling:
'Christ is nigh,' it seems to say;
'cast away the dreams of darkness,
O ye children of the day!'

Startled at the solemn warning,
let the earth-bound soul arise;
Christ, her Sun, all sloth dispelling,
shines upon the morning skies.

Lo! the Lamb, so long expected,
comes with pardon down from heaven;
let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
one and all to be forgiven;

So when next he comes in glory,
and earth's final hour draws near,
may he then as our defender
on the clouds of heaven appear.

Honour, glory, virtue, merit,
to the Father and the Son,
with the co-eternal Spirit,
while unending ages run. Amen.

Latin original text

MERTON

trans. E. Caswall 1814-78 (alt.) W.H. Monk 1823-89

Please be seated. The Choir sings

Antiphon

O Emmanuel:

O Emmanuel, our King and Lawgiver, the
Desire of all nations, and their Salvation:
come and save us O Lord, our God.

Bible reading

Read by Val Connolly

Jesus said 'Be dressed for action and have
your lamps lit; be like those who are
waiting for their master to return from the
wedding banquet, so that they may open
the door for him as soon as he comes and

knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

‘But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.’

Luke 12:35-40

Anthem

The Choir sings

O Radiant Dawn,
splendour of eternal Light, Sun of Justice:
come, shine on those who dwell in
darkness and the shadow of death.

Isaiah had prophesied, ‘The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has been shone.’ Amen.

Antiphon for 21 Dec

James MacMillan b.1959

Prayers

Led by The Revd Canon Rosie Woodall, Canon for Worship and Spirituality and Vice Dean. The following response will be used:

Maranatha.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

(Maranatha is an Aramaic phrase thought to mean, "Come, O Lord!"). The prayers conclude with the Collect for Advent.

Almighty God, give us grace
to cast away the works of darkness
and to put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ
came to us in great humility;
that on the last day, when he shall come
again in his glorious majesty
to judge the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and reigns
with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Please stand to sing the hymn, during which the Choir returns to the Nave stalls and a collection is taken.

Hymn

Lo, he comes with clouds descending,
once for mortal sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Christ appears on earth to reign.

Ev'ry eye shall now behold him
robed in dreadful majesty;
we who set at naught and sold him, pierced
and nailed him to the tree,
deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
shall the true Messiah see.

Those dear tokens of his passion
still his dazzling body bears,
cause of endless exultation
to his ransomed worshippers:
with what rapture, with what rapture,
with what rapture
gaze we on those glorious scars!

Yea, amen, let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the pow'r and glory,
claim the kingdom for thine own.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone.

Charles Wesley 1707-88

*HELMSLEY
Thomas Olivers 1725-99*

Blessing

Please remain standing as The Bishop of Stockport gives the blessing.

May God the Father,
who loved the world so much
that he sent his only Son,
give you grace to prepare for life eternal.
Amen.

May God the Son,
who comes to us as redeemer and judge,
reveal to you the path
from darkness to light.
Amen.

May God the Holy Spirit,
by whose working the Virgin Mary
conceived the Christ,
help you bear the fruits of holiness.
Amen.

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

Please remain standing as the Clergy and Choir leave and then sit for the organ voluntary.

Voluntary

Prelude and Fugue in B minor BWV 544

JS Bach 1685-1750

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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