



CHESTER  
CATHEDRAL

# **Service of Nine Lessons and Carols**

**22<sup>nd</sup> December 2024  
6.00pm**

**24<sup>th</sup> December 2024  
6.00pm**

**with Chester Cathedral Choir  
directed by Philip Rushforth,  
Organist and Master of the Choristers**

# 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](#). Carols, readings and responses will be presented on the screens.

Throughout the service, please stand (if you are able to do so) for the congregational carols and sit for the choir carols, readings, poems and prayers.

# COLLECTION

The Cathedral costs around £6,000 a day to keep open. We invite you to give generously to ensure our future.

A retiring collection will be taken after 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](http://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

*Alexander Lanigan-Palotai, Sub-Organist. And  
Daniel Mathieson, Head of Music Outreach  
and Assistant Organist, play*

Pastorella BWV 590 *J S Bach 1685-1750*

Christmas Cradle Song

*Alfred Hollins 1865-1942*

The Holy Boy

*John Ireland 1879-1962*

La Nativité

*Jean Langlais 1907-91*

# Congregational Carol

*The service will begin when the Choir and Clergy enter the Quire. When you hear a bell sound, please stand in silence for the beginning of our first carol.*

## *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.

## *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 we 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.

*C.F. Alexander 1818-95*

*IRBY*

*H.J. Gauntlett 1805-76*

## **Welcome and bidding prayer**

*Please be seated. The Very Revd Dr Tim  
Stratford, Dean of Chester, says*

I welcome you, on behalf of all of us here  
at Chester Cathedral.

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 special 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:

**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.**

## **Choir Carol**

Ding dong, merrily on high  
in heav'n the bells are ringing.  
Ding dong, verily the sky  
is riv'n with angels 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!*

G.R. Woodward 1848-1934

arr. John Bawden

## First Lesson

*On 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec, read by Grace Crook, Head Chorister*

*On 24<sup>th</sup> Dec, read by Ben Sharp, Head Chorister*

They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, 'Where are you?' He said, 'I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.' He said, 'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?' The man said, 'The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.' Then the Lord God said to the woman, 'What is

this that you have done?" The woman said,  
'The serpent tricked me, and I  
ate.' The Lord God said to the serpent,  
'Because you have done this,  
    cursed are you among all animals  
    and among all wild creatures;  
upon your belly you shall go,  
    and dust you shall eat  
    all the days of your life.

*Genesis 3: 8-14*

Thanks be to God.

*Please remain seated.*

## **Choir Carol**

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. 15<sup>th</sup> cent.*

*Philip Ledger 1937-2012*

## Second Lesson

*On 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec read by Sam Dixon MBE, MP for  
Chester North and Neston*

*On 24<sup>th</sup> Dec read by Canon Dr Fran Hulbert,  
Chair of Fabric Advisory Committee, Chester  
Cathedral*

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.

*Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7*

Thanks be to God.

# Choir Carol

Ring the bells for Christmas,  
for Christmas is near.

Hear the bells for Yuletide,  
for Yuletide is near.

In Bethlehem is born a child,  
brightly shining star.

His name shall be Emmanuel,  
the Son of God on earth.

Let angels praise him evermore, alleluia.

Ring the bells for Christmas, for high days  
and holy days, for holly and the ivy days.

Ding! Dong! Ring the bells for Christmas,  
for Christmas is here.

*Paul Fincham b. 1959*

*Paul Fincham*

## Third Lesson

*On 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec, read by The Revd Canon Dr  
Anthony Lees-Smith, Canon Missioner*

*On 24<sup>th</sup> Dec, read by HHJ Steven Everett,  
Honorary Recorder of Chester*

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.

*Isaiah 11: 1-9*

Thanks be to God.

## **Choir Carol**

*A Rose e'er blooming, a lovely Rose.*

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming,  
from tender root hath sprung!  
Of Jesse's lineage coming  
as men of old have sung.  
Brought forth a flower bright,  
amid the cold of winter,  
and in the dark midnight.

*A Rose e'er blooming, a lovely Rose.*

The Rose, which I am singing,  
whereof Isaiah told,  
is Mary, purest maiden,  
who bears the holy child.  
At God's eternal will,  
she bore to us a Saviour,  
yet stays a virgin still.

O flower, whose fragrance tender  
with sweetness fills the air,  
dispel in glorious splendour  
the darkness everywhere.  
True man, yet very God,  
from sin and death now save us,  
and share our ev'ry load.

*A Rose e'er blooming.*

*Isa. 11:1, Isa. 35:1-2, Luke 1-2                      ES IST EIN ROS*  
*Matt 2, John 1    arr. David Blackwell b.1961*

## **Choir Carol**

I wonder as I wander,  
out under the sky,  
how Jesus the Saviour  
did come for to die  
for poor on'ry people  
like you and like I.  
I wonder as I wander,  
out under the sky.

When Mary birthed Jesus,  
'twas in a cow's stall,  
with wise men and farmers  
and shepherds and all.  
But high from the heavens  
a star's light did fall,  
and promise of ages  
it then did recall.

If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,  
a star in the sky or a bird on the wing,  
or all of God's angels in heaven for to sing,  
he surely could have it,  
‘cause he was the King.

*Trad. Appalachian*

*Carl Rutti b. 1949*

## Congregational Carol

*Please stand to sing.*

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 to-night.

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.



How silently, how silently,  
the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of his heav'n.  
No ear may hear his coming;  
but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still  
the dear Christ enters in.

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.

*Phillips Brooks 1835-93*

*FOREST GREEN*

*Ralph Vaughan Williams 1872-1958*

*Please be seated.*

## Fourth Lesson

*On 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec, read by The Revd Canon Richard Walker, Canon Diocesan*

*On 24<sup>th</sup> Dec, read by Sophie Faulkner, Lord Lieutenant's Cadet*

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the  
time when she who is in labour has  
brought forth; then the rest of his kindred  
shall return to the people of Israel. And he  
shall stand and feed his flock in the  
strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the  
name of the Lord his God. And they shall  
live secure, for now he shall be great to  
the ends of the earth; and he shall be the  
one of peace.

*Micah 5: 2-5a*

Thanks be to God.

*Please remain seated.*

# Choir Carol

The first good joy that Mary had,  
it was the joy of one;  
to see the blessed Jesus Christ  
when he was first her son:  
*when he was first her son, good man:  
and blessed may he be,  
both Father, Son and Holy Ghost,  
to all eternity.*

The next good joy that Mary had,  
it was the joy of two;  
to see her own son, Jesus Christ,  
to make the lame to go:  
*to make the lame to go, good man:  
and blessed may he be...*

The next good joy that Mary had,  
it was the joy of three;  
to see her own son Jesus Christ,  
to make the blind to see:  
*to make the blind to see, good man:  
and blessed may he be...*

The next good joy that Mary had,  
it was the joy of four;  
to see her own son, Jesus Christ,  
to read the Bible o'er;  
*to read the Bible o'er, good man:  
and blessed may he be...*

The next good joy that Mary had,  
it was the joy of five;  
to see her own son, Jesus Christ,  
to bring the dead alive:  
*to bring the dead alive, good man:  
and blessed may he be,  
both Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
to all eternity.*

The next good joy that Mary had,  
it was the joy of six;  
to see her own son, Jesus Christ,  
upon the crucifix:  
*upon the crucifix, good man:  
and blessed may he be,  
both Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
to all eternity.*

The next good joy that Mary had,  
it was the joy of sev'n,  
to see her own Son, Jesus Christ,  
to wear the crown of heav'n:  
*to wear the crown of heav'n, good man:  
and blessed may he be,  
both Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
to all eternity.*

English trad.                      arr. Stephen Cleobury 1948-2019

*Please remain seated.*

## Fifth Lesson

*On 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec, read by Julia McGuinness,  
Reader and Poet in Residence Emeritus,  
Chester Cathedral*

*On 24<sup>th</sup> Dec, read by Lady Redmond MBE,  
Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire*

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.

*Luke 1: 26-38*

Thanks be to God.

## **Choir Carol**

Ave regina coelorum.  
Ave Domina Angelorum.  
Salve radix, salve porta  
ex qua mundo lux est orta:  
Gaude Virgo gloriosa,  
super omnes speciosa.  
Vale, O valde decora,  
et pro nobis Christum exora.

*Hail, O Queen of heaven. Hail, O Lady of angels.  
Hail thou root, hail thou gate from whom unto the  
world a light has arisen. Rejoice, O glorious Virgin,  
lovely beyond all others. Farewell, most beautiful  
maiden, and pray for us to Christ.*

*Marian antiphon*

*Philip Stopford b. 1977*

# Sixth Lesson

*On 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec, read by Canon Stephen Broadbent*

*On 24<sup>th</sup> Dec, read by Canon Andy Glover, Minister, Hoole Baptist Church*

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 Joseph and Mary 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.

*Luke 2:1-7*

Thanks be to God.

*Please remain seated.*

# Choir Carol

The Virgin Mary bore a son:  
it was God's plan  
to bring to us the holy one,  
the Saviour, God in man.  
A holy boy by a virgin birth,  
he lives on Earth:  
a saving grace for one and all,  
a baby in an ox's stall.

The Angel Gabriel said to Mary  
"Do not be afraid."  
She would surely bear a son,  
a promise that the Lord hath made.  
The chosen seed of Israel's race,  
ransomed from the Fall.  
A saving grace for one and all,  
a baby in an ox's stall.

The star that shone across the night  
to Bethlehem,  
leading onward, beaming bright,  
bring forth the royal diadem.  
As shepherds hurried on their way  
to see the day:  
a saving grace for one and all,  
a baby in an ox's stall.



With all about gathered at the manger,  
the child within  
had brought to us the holy word  
to save us all from sin.  
We join the Saviour's everlasting song:  
a saving grace for one and all,  
a baby in an ox's stall.

*Thomas Hewitt Jones b. 1984      Thomas Hewitt Jones*

## **Congregational Carol**

*Please stand to sing.*

See, amid the winter's snow,  
born for us on earth below,  
see the tender Lamb appears,  
promised from eternal years.

*Hail, thou ever blessed morn!  
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!  
Sing through all Jerusalem,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem."*

Lo, within a manger lies  
He who built the starry skies;  
He who, throned in height sublime,  
sits amid the cherubim!

Say, ye holy shepherds, say,  
what's your joyful news today?  
Wherefore have ye left your sheep  
on the lonely mountain steep?

*Hail, thou ever blessed morn!  
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!  
Sing through all Jerusalem,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem."*

"As we watched at dead of night,  
Lo! we saw a wondrous light;  
angels singing 'Peace on earth'  
told us of the Saviour's birth."

Sacred Infant, all divine,  
what a tender love was Thine,  
thus to come from highest bliss  
down to such a world as this!

Teach, O teach us, Holy Child,  
by Thy face so meek and mild,  
teach us to resemble Thee,  
in Thy sweet humility!

*Edward Caswall 1814-78*

*HUMILITY  
John Goss 1800-80*

*Please be seated.*

# Seventh Lesson

*On 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec, read by Philip Rushforth,  
Organist and Master of the Choristers*

*On 24<sup>th</sup> Dec, read by Professor Maggie  
Jackson, School for the Creative Industries,  
University of Chester*

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.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

*Luke 2: 8-16*

Thanks be to God.

## **Choir Carol**

In the bleak midwinter,  
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 midwinter long ago.

Our God, heav'n cannot hold him,  
nor earth sustain;  
heav'n and earth shall flee away  
when he comes to reign.  
In the bleak midwinter  
a stable place sufficed  
the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Enough for him, whom cherubim  
worship night and day,  
a breastful of milk  
and a manger full of hay;  
enough for him,  
whom angels fall before,  
the ox and ass and camel which adore.

Angels and archangels  
may have gathered there,  
cherubim and seraphim  
thronged the air;  
but his mother only,  
in her maiden bliss,  
worshipped the beloved with a kiss.

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.

*Christina Rossetti 1830-94      Ēriks Ešenvalds b.1977*

## **Eighth Lesson**

*On 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec, read by The Revd Canon Rosie Woodall, Vice Dean and Canon for Worship and Spirituality*

*On 24<sup>th</sup> Dec, read by The Venerable Dr Mike Gilbertson, Archdeacon of Chester*

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the

Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel." '

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him

homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

*Matthew 2: 1-11*

Thanks be to God.

## **Choir Carol**

I saw three ships come sailing in  
*On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day,*  
I saw three ships come sailing in  
*On Christmas Day in the morning.*

And what was in those ships all three?...

Our Saviour Christ and his lady...

Pray, whither sailed those ships all three?...

O, they sailed into Bethlehem...

And all the bells on earth shall ring...

And all the angels in heav'n shall sing...

And all the souls on earth shall sing...

Then let us all rejoice amain!...

*English trad.*

*arr. Stuart Nicholson*

*Please stand, if you are able.*

# Ninth reading

*On 22<sup>nd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> Dec, read by The Dean*

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.

*John 1: 1-14*

Thanks be to God.

*Please remain standing.*

## **Congregational carol**

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,  
“Glory to the new born King!”*

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
risen 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 us second birth.

*Hark! the herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the new born King!”*

*Charles Wesley 1707-88*

*MENDELSSOHN*

*Felix Mendelssohn 1809-47*

*Please remain standing.*

## **Blessing**

*On 22<sup>nd</sup> December, The Bishop of Birkenhead  
says*

*On 24<sup>th</sup> December, The Bishop of Chester says*

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;  
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 while the choir and clergy leave, and then sit for the organ voluntary, played by Alexander Lanigan-Palotai, Sub-Organist.*

## **Voluntary**

Final from Symphonie I

*Louis Vierne 1870-1937*

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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