



**CHRISTMAS DAY**

**SOLEMN EVENSONG**

**Friday 25 December 2020  
at 4.00pm**

# Welcome

Welcome to York Minster and to this service of Choral Evensong on Christmas Day.

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

## Introit

*The choir sings:*

*All this time, this song is best: 'Verbum caro factum est.'*

This night there is a Child y-born,  
That sprang out of Jesse's thorn;  
We must sing and say therefor:  
*All this time...*

It fell upon high midnight,  
The starres shone both fair and bright,  
The angels sang with all their might:  
*All this time...*

Jesus is the childes name  
And Mary mild is his dame,  
All our sorrow is turned to game:  
*All this time...*

Now kneel we down on our knee,  
And pray we to the Trinity,  
Our help, our succour for to be.  
*All this time...*

*Words* Sixteenth century ♦ *Music* William Walton (1902–83)

*Please stand as the procession enters the Nave.*

## 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)

*Please sit as the choir sings the psalm.*

## Psalm 8

O Lord our Governor, how excellent is thy Name in all the world ♦ thou that hast set thy glory above the heavens!

Out of the mouth of very babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength, because of thine enemies ♦ that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger.

For I will consider thy heavens, even the works of thy fingers ♦ the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained.

What is man, that thou art mindful of him ♦ and the son of man, that thou visitest him?

Thou madest him lower than the angels ♦ to crown him with glory and worship.

Thou makest him to have dominion of the works of thy hands ♦ and thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet;

All sheep and oxen ♦ yea, and the beasts of the field;

The fowls of the air, and the fishes of the sea ♦ and whatsoever walketh through the paths of the seas.

O Lord our Governor ♦ how excellent is thy Name in all the world!

*Please 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.

*Please sit.*

## First Lesson

*A reading from the prophet Isaiah.*

For I am about to create new heavens  
and a new earth;

the former things shall not be remembered  
or come to mind.

But be glad and rejoice for ever  
in what I am creating;

for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy,  
and its people as a delight.

I will rejoice in Jerusalem,  
and delight in my people;  
no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it,  
or the cry of distress.  
No more shall there be in it  
an infant that lives but a few days,  
or an old person who does not live out a lifetime;  
for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth,  
and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed.  
They shall build houses and inhabit them;  
they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.  
They shall not build and another inhabit;  
they shall not plant and another eat;  
for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be,  
and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.  
They shall not labour in vain,  
or bear children for calamity;  
for they shall be offspring blessed by the Lord—  
and their descendants as well.  
Before they call I will answer,  
while they are yet speaking I will hear.  
The wolf and the lamb shall feed together,  
the lion shall eat straw like the ox;  
but the serpent—its food shall be dust!  
They shall not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain,  
says the Lord.

Here ends the first lesson.

ISAIAH 65.17–25

*Please 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* SERVICE IN D, George Dyson (1883–1964)

*Please sit.*

## Second Lesson

*A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians.*

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,  
who, though he was in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be exploited,  
but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
being born in human likeness.  
And being found in human form,  
he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name  
that is above every name,  
so that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

Here ends the second lesson.

*Please stand.*

PHILIPPIANS 2. 5-11

## 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* SERVICE IN D, George Dyson

*Please remain standing.*

## 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.

*Please sit.*

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 hast given us thy only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and as at this time to be born of a pure Virgin: Grant that we being regenerate, and made thy children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by thy Holy Spirit; through the same our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit, ever one God, world without end. 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

*Please remain seated.*

## Anthem

Hodie Christus natus est:  
hodie Salvator apparuit:  
hodie in terra canunt Angeli,  
laetantur Archangeli  
hodie exsultant justi, dicentes:  
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Alleluia.

*Today Christ is born:  
today the Saviour appeared:  
today on Earth the Angels sing,  
Archangels rejoice:  
today the righteous rejoice, saying:  
Glory to God in the highest. Alleluia.*

*Words* Magnificat Antiphon for Christmas Day ♦ *Music* Francis Poulenc (1899–1963)

## Prayers

## Carol

O little one sweet, O little one mild!  
Thy Father's purpose thou hast fulfilled;  
thou camest from heaven to mortal ken,  
equal to be with us poor men,  
O little one sweet, O little one mild!

O little one sweet, O little one mild!  
with joy thou hast the whole world filled;  
thou camest here from heaven's domain,  
to bring men comfort in their pain,  
O little one sweet, O little one mild!

*Words* G C Schemmeli (1736) ♦ *Music* arr. J S Bach (1685–1750)

## The Blessing

The Dean

## Voluntary

Sinfonia *from* Cantata 29

J S Bach, arr. A Guilmant

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