



**CHORAL EVENSONG
ON CHRISTMAS DAY**

**Saturday 25 December 2021
at 4.00 pm**

A bell is rung, and prayers are sung in the South Quire Aisle.

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 16th 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

The First Lesson is from the Book of 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.

Please stand as the choir sings the Magnificat.

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 EVENING SERVICE IN C, Charles Stanford (1852–1924)

Please sit.

Second Lesson

The Second Lesson is 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.

PHILIPPIANS 2. 5–11

Please stand as the choir sings the Nunc Dimittis.

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 EVENING SERVICE IN C, Charles Stanford

Please remain standing and turn east.

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 or kneel.

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 sit.

Anthem ♦ 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)

Please kneel or remain seated.

Prayers

Please stand.

Hymn

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 tonight.

2. 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.

Words Phillips Brooks (1835–93)

Tune FOREST GREEN, R Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)

Please remain standing.

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

4. 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.

The Blessing

The Dean says:

Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one
things earthly and heavenly,
fill you with peace and goodwill
and make you partakers of the divine nature;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Please stand as the choir and ministers leave.

Prayers are sung in the South Quire Aisle.

Organ Voluntary

Toccata-Prelude on *Vom Himmel hoch*

Garth Edmundson (1892–1971)

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