



**A SERVICE OF  
NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS**

**Wednesday 22 December 2021  
at 5.30 pm**

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**Friday 24 December 2021  
at 4.00 pm  
(livestreamed)**

York Minster offers this service of Lessons and Carols to the City and the County.

The traditional service of Nine Lessons and Carols originated at Truro Cathedral in the early twentieth century and was later adapted by Eric Milner-White (later Dean of York) whilst Dean of King's College, Cambridge, in 1918.

The nine readings from the Bible alternate with carols (sung by the choir) and congregational hymns to provide a series of reflections on the birth of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. The readings take us on a journey through time and unfold the story of God's promise to save his people. They begin with the story of the fall of humanity, as told in the book Genesis. There then follow passages from the Old Testament Prophets which look forward to the coming of God's Messiah or 'chosen one'. The final five lessons are from the New Testament and tell the story of the birth of Jesus, the Son of God.

The service is sung by the Choir of York Minster, directed by Robert Sharpe, Director of Music. The organ is played by Ben Morris, Assistant Director of Music, and Asher Oliver, Assistant Organist.

At the end of the service a collection will be taken to support the mission and ministry of York Minster. UK taxpayers are encouraged to use the Gift Aid envelopes provided.

Please do not use sound or video recorders or cameras, and please ensure that mobile telephones are switched off.

## Organ music before the service

Toccata in F (BuxWV 156)

Dietrich Buxtehude

Les Bergers ♦ Desseins eternels

Olivier Messiaen

Es ist ein' Ros' entsprungen

Johannes Brahms

*Before the service begins, the Choir and Clergy processions move from the South Quire Aisle to the West End of the Minster.*

*Please stand.*

## Hymn

*The Choir sings the first two verses; please join in at the third verse.*

*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 only*

2. 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*

3. 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.

5. 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.

4. 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.

6. 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)

*Please remain standing.*

## The Bidding

*The Dean says:*

**B**ELOVED 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 and brotherhood 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:

**O**UR 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.**

**M**AY 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.**

*Please sit.*

## **Carol**

**O**N Christmas night all Christians sing,  
to hear the news the angels bring,  
news of great joy, news of great mirth,  
news of our merciful King's birth.

Then why should men on earth be so sad,  
since our Redeemer made us glad?  
When from our sin he set us free,  
all for to gain our liberty.

When sin departs before his grace,  
then life and health come in its place;  
angels and men with joy may sing,  
all for to see the new-born King.

All out of darkness we have light,  
which made the angels sing this night:  
'Glory to God and peace to men,  
now and evermore. Amen.'

*Words* Traditional

*Music* Traditional Sussex melody arr. David Willcocks (1919–2015)

# The First Lesson

*God declares the consequences of human sin.*

And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden.

And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldst not eat? And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.

And the Lord God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.

And the Lord God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

GENESIS 3.8-15

Thanks be to God.

## Carol

<p><b>T</b>HE tree of life my soul hath seen, laden with fruit and always green: the trees of nature fruitless be compared with Christ the apple tree.</p>	<p>For happiness I long have sought, and pleasure dearly I have bought: I missed of all; but now I see 'tis found in Christ the apple tree.</p>
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<p>His beauty doth all things excel: by faith I know, but ne'er can tell the glory which I now can see in Jesus Christ the apple tree.</p>	<p>I'm weary with my former toil, here I will sit and rest awhile: under the shadow I will be, of Jesus Christ the apple tree.</p>
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This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,  
it keeps my dying faith alive;  
which makes my soul in haste to be  
with Jesus Christ the apple tree.

*Words From Divine Hymns or Spiritual Songs, New Hampshire (1784)  
Music Elizabeth Poston (1905-87)*

## The Second Lesson

*God promises to faithful Abraham  
that in his descendants the nations of the world will be blessed.*

And the angel of the Lord called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time, and said, By myself have I sworn, saith the Lord, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.

GENESIS 22.15–18 a

Thanks be to God.

## Carol

Now the holly bears a berry as white as the milk,  
and Mary bore Jesus, all wrapped up in silk,  
and Mary bore Jesus Christ our Saviour for to be,  
and the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly, holly, holly!  
And the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly!

Now the holly bears a berry as green as the grass,  
and Mary bore Jesus, who died on the cross,  
and Mary bore Jesus Christ our Saviour for to be,  
and the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly, holly, holly!  
And the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly!

Now the holly bears a berry as black as the coal,  
and Mary bore Jesus, who died for us all,  
and Mary bore Jesus Christ our Saviour for to be,  
and the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly, holly, holly!  
And the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly!

Now the holly bears a berry as blood is it red,  
and Mary bore Jesus who rose from the dead,  
and Mary bore Jesus Christ our Saviour for to be,  
and the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly, holly, holly!  
And the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly!

*Words* English traditional ♦ *Music* John Rutter (*b.* 1945)

*Please stand.*

## Hymn

**G**OD rest you merry, gentlemen,  
let nothing you dismay,  
for Jesus Christ our Saviour  
was born upon this day,  
to save us all from Satan's power  
when we were gone astray:  
*O tidings of comfort and joy,  
comfort and joy!  
O tidings of comfort and joy!*

2. From God our heav'nly Father  
a blessèd angel came,  
and unto certain shepherds  
brought tidings of the same,  
how that in Bethlehem was born  
the Son of God by name:  
*O tidings . . .*

3. The shepherds at these tidings  
rejoicèd much in mind,  
and left their flocks a-feeding  
in tempest, storm and wind,  
and went to Bethlehem straightway  
this blessèd Babe to find.  
*O tidings . . .*

4. But when to Bethlehem they came,  
whereat this infant lay,  
they found him in a manger,  
where oxen feed on hay;  
his mother Mary kneeling,  
unto the Lord did pray:  
*O tidings . . .*

5. Now to the Lord sing praises,  
all you within this place,  
and with true love and brotherhood  
each other now embrace;  
this holy tide of Christmas  
all other doth efface:  
*O tidings . . .*

*Words* Traditional

*Tune* GOD REST YOU MERRY, traditional English

*Please sit.*

## The Third Lesson

*Isaiab proclaims the lasting rule of a king from the line of David.*

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

ISAIAH 9.2, 6–7a

Thanks be to God.

## Carol

WHEN Christ was born of Mary free  
in Bethlehem that fair city,  
angels did sing with mirth and glee,  
'In excelsis Gloria!'

Herdsmen beheld these angels bright,  
To them appeared with great light,  
And said, 'God's son is born this night,  
In excelsis Gloria!'

This King is come to save all kind,  
Even in scripture as we find,  
Therefore this song we have in mind,  
'In excelsis Gloria!'

Then, dear Lord, for thy great grace,  
Grant us in bliss to see thy face,  
Where we may sing to thee solace.  
'In excelsis Gloria!'

*Words* 15th century, anonymous  
*Music* Christopher Gower

*This piece, commissioned by the Chapter of York for this service, receives its first performances at these services.*

## The Fourth Lesson

*The prophet declares that Christ's rule will bring peace.*

AND there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots: And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord; And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth: with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.

The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den.

They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

ISAIAH 11.1-9a

Thanks be to God.

## Carol

A BRANCH of strength and counsel  
from David's line shall grow;  
to bring to earth God's wisdom;  
from whom his peace will flow.  
*The earth shall be full of peace  
as the waters cover the sea.*

2. Great David's heir shall govern  
with knowledge, counsel, might;  
God's Spirit shall his spirit be;  
God's justice his delight.  
*The earth shall be full of peace  
as the waters cover the sea.*

3. The lamb and wolf and ox and bear—  
together they shall be  
in peace and grace and plenty,  
from fear and need set free.  
*The earth shall be full of peace  
as the waters cover the sea.*

4. With innocence of childhood  
the world will be remade;  
no terror, hurt or danger,  
no cause to be afraid.  
*The earth shall be full of peace  
as the waters cover the sea.*

5. The prophet seeks salvation,  
A time of truth and right;  
When God shall be our all in all,  
God's Spirit be our light  
*The earth shall be full of peace  
as the waters cover the sea.*

*Words* Jonathan Draper (b. 1952), based on Isaiah 11. 1–11

*Music* Richard Shephard (1949–2021), commissioned by the Chapter of York in 2008

*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 sit.*

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 Fifth Lesson

### *The Angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.*

And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be.

And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word.

And the angel departed from her.

LUKE 1.26-38a

Thanks be to God.

## Carol

**T**HE Angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;  
'All hail,' said he, 'thou lowly maiden Mary,  
most highly favoured lady.' Gloria!

'For known a blessed mother thou shalt be,  
all generations laud and honour thee;  
thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,  
most highly favoured lady.' Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,  
'to me be as it pleaseth God,' she said.  
'my soul shall laud and magnify his holy name.'  
Most highly favoured lady. Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born  
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,  
and Christian folk through-out the world will ever say:  
'Most highly favoured lady.' Gloria!

*Words* Basque carol, para. Sabine Baring-Gould (1834–1924)  
*Music* Basque traditional carol arr Edgar Pettman (1865–1943)

## The Sixth Lesson

*St Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.*

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

LUKE 2.1–7a

Thanks be to God.

## Carol

**I**SING of a maiden that is makeles,  
King of all kinges to her son she ches.

He came also stille ther his moder was  
as dew in Aprylle, that fallyth on the gras.

He came also stille to his moders bower  
as dew in Aprylle that falleth on the flower

He came also stille ther his moder lay  
as dew in Aprylle, that falleth on the spray.

Moder and maiden was never none but she:  
well may such a lady Godes moder be.

*Words* Anonymous English ♦ *Music* Richard Shephard

*Please stand.*

## Hymn

**W**HILE shepherds watched their flocks by night,  
all seated on the ground,  
the angel of the Lord came down,  
and glory shone around.

2. 'Fear not,' said he (for mighty dread  
had seized their troubled mind);  
'Glad tidings of great joy I bring  
to you and all mankind.

4. 'The heavenly Babe you there shall find  
to human view displayed,  
all meanly wrapped in swathing bands,  
and in a manger laid.'

3. 'To you in David's town this day  
is born of David's line  
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;  
and this shall be the sign:

5. Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith  
appeared a shining throng  
of angels praising God, who thus  
addressed their joyful song:

6. 'All glory be to God on high,  
and on the earth be peace;  
Good-will henceforth from heaven to men  
begin and never cease.'

*Words* Nahum Tate (1652–1715), after Luke 2.8–14

*Tune* WINCHESTER OLD, Thomas Este's *Psalter* (1592)

*Please sit.*

## The Seventh Lesson

*The shepherds go to the manger.*

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, 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, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

LUKE 2.8-16a

Thanks be to God.

## Carol

**A**LL 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 this song is best:  
'Verbum caro factum est.'*

Jesus is the childes name, and Mary mild is his dame;  
all our sorrow shall turn to game:

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

It fell upon high midnight: the starres shone both fair and bright;  
the angels sang with all their might.

*All this time this song is best:*

*'Verbum caro factum est.'*

Now kneel we down on our knee, and pray we to the Trinity  
our help, our succour for to be.

*All this time this song is best:*

*'Verbum caro factum est.'*

*Words* Sixteenth-century text incorporating John 1.14 (*The Word was made flesh*)

*Music* William Walton (1902–83)

## The Eighth Lesson

*The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.*

**N**OW when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.

Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.

When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense and myrrh.

And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

MATTHEW 2.1–12

Thanks be to God.

## Carol

In the bleak mid-winter  
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 mid-winter, long ago.

2. Our God, heaven cannot hold him  
nor earth sustain;  
heaven and earth shall flee away  
when he comes to reign:  
in the bleak mid-winter  
a stable-place sufficed  
the Lord God almighty, Jesus Christ.

*Words* Christina Rossetti (1830–94) ♦ *Music* Harold Darke (1888–1976)

*Please stand. An organ fanfare heralds the Christmas Gospel.*

3. Enough for him, whom cherubim  
worship night and day,  
a breast full of milk,  
and a manger full of hay:  
enough for him, whom angels  
bow down before,  
the ox and ass and camel which adore.

4. 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.

## The Ninth Lesson

*St John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.*

**I**N the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

JOHN 1.1-14

Thanks be to God.

*Please remain standing.*

## Carol

**H**ODIE 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)*

*Please remain standing.*

# Hymn

COME, all ye faithful,  
joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
come and behold him  
born the King of Angels:  
*O come, let us adore him,*  
*O come, let us adore him,*  
*O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

2. God of God,  
Light of Light,  
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
very God,  
begotten not created:  
*O come, let us adore him...*

4. Lo, star-led chieftains,  
magi, Christ adoring,  
offer him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
we to the Christ-child  
bring our hearts' oblations:  
*O come, let us adore him...*

3. See how the shepherds  
summoned to his cradle,  
leaving their flocks, draw nigh  
with lowly fear;  
we too will thither  
bend our joyful footsteps:  
*O come, let us adore him...*

(*sung by the choir alone*)  
5. Child, for us sinners  
poor and in the manger,  
fain we embrace thee  
with love and awe;  
who would not love thee,  
loving us so dearly?  
*O come, let us adore him...*

6. Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
'Glory to God  
in the highest:'  
*O come, let us adore him,*  
*O come, let us adore him,*  
*O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

*Words* Latin hymn, translated by Frederick Oakeley (1802–80)

*Tune* ADESTE FIDELES, attributed to J F Wade (1711–86)

*Please remain standing.*

## The Collect of Christmas Eve

*The Archbishop says:*

**A**LMIGHTY God,  
you make us glad with the yearly remembrance  
of the birth of your Son Jesus Christ.  
Grant that, as we joyfully receive him for our Redeemer,  
we may with sure confidence  
behold him when he shall come to be our judge;  
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

## The Blessing

*The Archbishop says:*

**M**AY the Father,  
who has loved the eternal Son from before the foundation of the world,  
shed that love upon you his children.

**Amen.**

May Christ,  
who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly,  
fill you with joy and peace.

**Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit,  
by whose overshadowing Mary became the Godbearer,  
give you grace to carry the good news of Christ.

**Amen.**

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

**Amen.**

## Hymn

*during which the Ministers and Choir move from the Sanctuary.*

**H**ARK! 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 the angelic host proclaim,  
'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'

*Hark! the herald angels sing  
glory to the new-born King.*

2. Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come  
offspring of a Virgin's womb!  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see:  
Hail, the incarnate Deity,  
pleased as man with man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel:

*Hark! the herald angels sing  
glory to the new-born King.*

3. 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 them second birth:

*Hark! the herald angels sing  
glory to the new-born King.*

*Words* Charles Wesley (1707–88)

*Tune* MENDELSSOHN, F Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809–47)

## Organ Voluntaries

In dulci jubilo, BWV 729

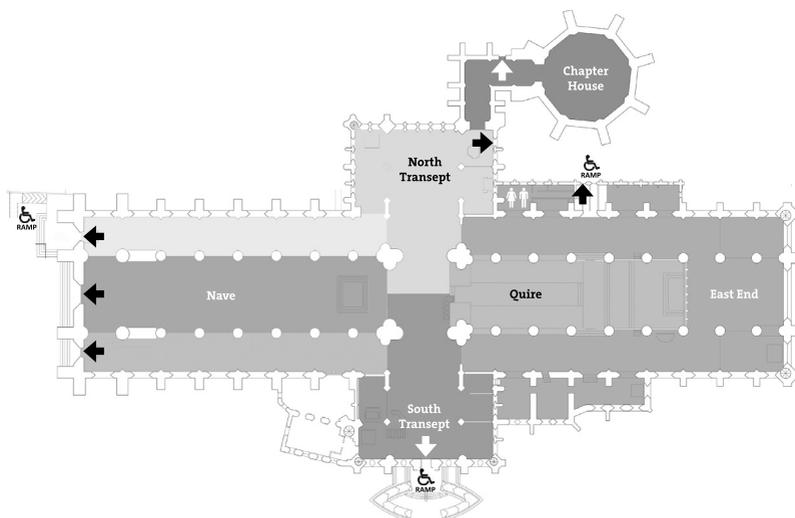
J S Bach

Festival Toccata on 'In dulci jubilo'

Samuel Kemp

*FESTIVAL TOCCATA by Samuel Kemp, which receives its first performances at these services, is the winning entry in Category 2 of the Grand Organ Composers' Competition.*

*In the unlikely event, that we need to evacuate the building, the exit routes are:*



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# York Minster Choristers

A life-changing opportunity for children who love to sing

Does your child love to sing? We are looking for girls and boys, currently in Year 3, to join York Minster Choir from September 2022.

Please visit our website to find out more and apply:  
[www.stpetersyork.org.uk/york-minster-choristers](http://www.stpetersyork.org.uk/york-minster-choristers)

