



Choral Eucharist

Christmas Day 2020

1000 and 1215



www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk

Welcome to the Cathedral

The Cathedral Church of St. Peter in Exeter, founded in 1050, has been the seat [*cathedra*] of the bishop of Exeter, the symbol of his spiritual and teaching authority, for nearly 1000 years. As such the Cathedral is a centre of worship and mission for the whole of Devon. A centuries-old pattern of daily worship continues, sustained by the best of the Anglican choral tradition. The cathedral is a place of outreach, learning, and spirituality, inviting people into a richer and more engaged discipleship. The Cathedral is a destination for many pilgrims and visitors who come from near and far, drawn by the physical and spiritual heritage of this place. Exeter Cathedral belongs to all the people of Devon, and we warmly welcome you here.

President and Preacher

The Rt Revd Robert Atwell - *Bishop of Exeter*

Christmas

Christmas shopping and Christmas gifts, Christmas pudding and Christmas parties seem to be about very material things. But just scratch the surface and all sorts of spiritual realities lie beneath - the desire to share, to be generous, to bring joy, to take pleasure in the company of friends and family. Christians say all this is no accident: the world - and we - are part of a bigger enterprise. In the child Jesus, God becomes one of us sharing the joys and sorrows of humanity. He comes to share our human life so that we may share his divine life for which we were made. To be a Christian is to live this Christ centred life here on earth.

Offertory

We rely significantly upon the generosity of our congregations to sustain the Cathedral's worship and ministry. Please give by **contactless means** if you can. Money may be placed in the **Donation Boxes** as you leave. Please remember to use a **Gift Aid envelope** if you are a UK taxpayer.

For more information about planned and regular giving, please go to:
<https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/support-us/how-to-donate/>

Safeguarding

The Chapter takes the responsibility for safeguarding children and vulnerable adults seriously in their commitment to make Exeter Cathedral a safe and welcoming place. If you have any concerns please discuss them with a member of the Cathedral Chapter or contact the Cathedral Safeguarding Advisor, Charlie Pitman, Tel. 01392 345909

COVID-19: Infection Control

Face Coverings in the cathedral

As of 8 August 2020, wearing face coverings in places of worship is now mandatory. All congregants, visitors, volunteers, and staff must wear face coverings when in the cathedral. There are exemptions to this regulation, including anyone under the age of 11, those leading worship and preaching, those with disabilities and those with hidden health conditions. Full details can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own#when-you-do-not-need-to-wear-a-face-covering>

Speech and Singing

We ask that you do not sing. The Choir will lead singing on behalf of the congregation. When speaking responses or prayers, please do not raise your voice.

Conductor: Timothy Noon - *Director of Music*

Organist: Timothy Parsons - *Assistant Director of Music*

Setting of the Mass: Missa Brevis in C K220 (Spatzenmesse)

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

Social distancing

Measures are in place to protect the health and safety of worshippers, volunteers and staff. Please follow instructions as they are given.

Markings on the floor indicate:

- 2 metres (Blue tape)

Holy Communion

Communion will be offered in one kind only (consecrated bread). If you wish to receive communion, you will be required to wash your hands before receiving. Please remain in your seat and the president will come to you.

The Gathering

Introit

The ministers enter. The congregation stands. The choir sings

Ding dong merrily on high,
in heav'n the bells are ringing:
Ding dong! verily the sky
Is riv'n with angel singing
Gloria Hosanna in excelsis!

E'en so here below, below,
let steeple bells be swungen,
and "Io, io, io!"
by priest and people sungen

Pray you, dutifully prime
your matin chime, ye ringers,
may you beautifully rhyme
your eve'time song, ye singers.

Text: G.R. Woodward (1848-1934)

Music: 16th Century French tune

arr. Charles Wood (1866-1926)

The Greeting

The Bishop says

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Peace be with you.

and also with you.

The Bishop greets the people and introduces the service

Lighting of the Christmas Candle

A minister lights the Christmas candle on the Advent Wreath and the Bishop says

God our Father,
today the Saviour is born
and those who live in darkness are seeing a great light.
Help us, who greet the birth of Christ with joy,
to live in the light of your Son
and to share the good news of your love.
We ask this through Jesus Christ,
the light who has come into the world.
Amen.

Prayer of Penitence

The Bishop says

Christ the light of the world has come
to dispel the darkness of our hearts.
In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

The congregation sits. The Bishop says

God our Father,
you sent your Son full of grace and truth:
forgive our failure to receive him.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Jesus our Saviour,
you were born in poverty and laid in a manger:
forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Spirit of love,
your servant Mary responded joyfully to your call:
forgive the hardness of our hearts.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

The Bishop says

May the God of all healing and forgiveness
draw you to himself,
that you may behold the glory of his Son,
the Word made flesh,
and be cleansed from all your sins,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Gloria in Excelsis

The congregation stands and the choir sings

Gloria in excelsis Deo,
et in terra pax,
hominibus bonae voluntatis.
Laudamus te, benedicimus te,
adoramus te, glorificamus te.
Gratias agimus tibi
propter magnam gloriam tuam.
Domine Deus, rex coelestis,
Deus Pater omnipotens.

Domine Fili unigenite,
Jesu Christe.
Domine Deus, Agnus Dei,
filius Patris,
qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.

Qui tollis peccata mundi,
suscipe deprecationem nostrum;
qui sedes ad dexteram Patris,
miserere nobis.

Quoniam tu solus sanctus,
tu solus Dominus,
tu solus altissimus, Jesu Christe,
cum Sancto Spiritu,
in gloria Dei Patris. Amen.

*Glory be to God on high,
and in earth peace,
goodwill towards men.
We praise thee, we bless thee,
we worship thee, we glorify thee,
we give thanks to thee
for thy great glory,
O Lord God, heavenly King,
God the Father almighty.*

*O Lord, the only-begotten Son
Jesu Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God,
Son of the Father,
that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.*

*Thou that takest away the sins of the
world, have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sins of the
world, receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of
God the Father, have mercy upon us.
For thou only art holy;
thou only art the Lord;
thou only, O Christ,
with the Holy Ghost, art most high
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.*

The Collect

The congregation remains standing. The Bishop says

Almighty God,
you have given us your only-begotten Son
to take our nature upon him
and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin:
grant that we, who have been born again
and made your children by adoption and grace,
may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

The congregation sits.

New Testament Reading

Hebrews 1:1-4

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Psalm 98

The congregation remains seated. The choir sings:

O sing unto the Lord a new song : for he hath done marvellous things.

² With his own right hand, and with his holy arm : hath he gotten himself the victory.

³ The Lord declared his salvation : his righteousness hath he openly shewed in the sight of the heathen.

⁴ He hath remembered his mercy and truth toward the house of Israel : and all the ends of the world have seen the salvation of our God.

⁵ Shew yourselves joyful unto the Lord, all ye lands : sing, rejoice, and give thanks.

⁶ Praise the Lord upon the harp : sing to the harp with a psalm of thanksgiving.

⁷ With trumpets also and shawms : O shew yourselves joyful before the Lord the King.

⁸ Let the sea make a noise, and all that therein is: the round world, and they that dwell therein.

⁹ Let the floods clap their hands, and let the hills be joyful together before the Lord : for he is come to judge the earth.

¹⁰ With righteousness shall he judge the world : and the people with equity.

Gospel Acclamation

The congregation stands.

Alleluia, Alleluia!

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
and we have seen his glory. **Alleluia.**

Gospel Reading

John 1:1-14

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you O Christ.

The congregation sits.

Sermon

The Bishop of Exeter - *The Rt Revd Robert Atwell*

The Nicene Creed

The congregation stands.

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.**

Prayer of Intercession

The Bishop introduces the intercessions and says

Let us pray to our incarnate Lord,
who has brought us out of darkness
and into his own marvellous light.

The congregation sits.

Christ born for us,
Son of God given for us:
help us to know you,
to worship and to serve you.
For all who are affected by coronavirus,
through illness, isolation or anxiety,
that they may find relief and recovery:
Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Wonderful counsellor,
you order all things with your wisdom:
help the Church to reveal the mystery of your love
and fill her with the Spirit of truth.
For all those who are worshipping online,
who are unable to go to places of worship,
for all who are leading worship today.
Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Mighty God,
the government is on your shoulders:
guide the leaders of the nations
and bring in your kingdom of justice and righteousness.
For those who are guiding our nation at this time, for Elizabeth our
Queen, for her Government and all in authority,
that they may make wise decisions for the Common Good.
Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Everlasting Father,
you call us to live together in unity:
protect by your mercy all your children,
bless our families and renew our communities.
For doctors, nurses and medical researchers,
that through their skill and insights
many will be restored to health and wholeness:
Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Prince of peace,
you bring reconciliation through the cross:
by your healing power, give to all who suffer
your gift of wholeness and peace.
For the vulnerable and the fearful,
and for the gravely ill,
that they may know your comfort:
Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

We commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray,
to the mercy and protection of God.
Merciful Father,
**accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

The congregation stands. The Bishop introduces the Peace

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,
and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Preparation of the Table

Offertory

The congregation sits.

During the preparation of the altar, the choir sings

O 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.*

God of God,
Light of Light,
lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
very God, begotten, not created;
O come...

Child, for us sinners
poor and in the manger,
fain we embrace thee, with awe and love;
who would not love thee,
loving us so dearly?
O come...

Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;
glory to God in the highest;
O come...

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning,
Jesu, to thee be glory giv'n;
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing;
O come...

*Text: Latin, 18th century
tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880) and others
Tune: Adeste Fideles (J. F. Wade 1711-1786)
Descant by David Willcocks (1919-2015)*

Prayer over the gifts

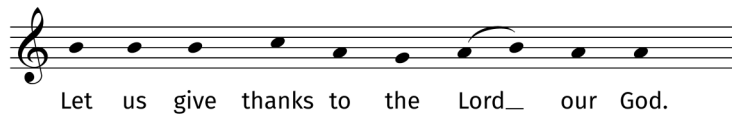
The congregation stands. The Bishop takes the bread and wine and says

Word made flesh, life of the world,
in your incarnation you embraced our poverty:
by your Spirit may we share in your riches.

Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer

The Bishop and choir sing



All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,
mighty creator, ever-living God.
We give you thanks and praise for your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who for love of our fallen race humbled himself,
and was born of the Virgin Mary
by the power of your Spirit,
and lived as one of us.
In this mystery of the Word made flesh
you have caused his light to shine in our hearts,
to give knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.
In him we see our God made visible
and so are caught up in the love of the God we cannot see.
Therefore with all the angels of heaven
we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name
and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

The choir sings

Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus, Dominus Deus Sabaoth. Pleni sunt coeli, et terra gloria tua.	<i>Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory.</i>
Hosanna in excelsis. Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini. Hosanna in excelsis.	<i>Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.</i>

The Bishop continues

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may become for us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.

The deacon says

Great is the mystery of faith

Christ is died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St Joseph
and all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has 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.**

Breaking of the Bread

The Bishop breaks the consecrated bread.

We break the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.
**God here among us,
light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.**

Giving of Communion

Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.
**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

The congregation sits and is invited to receive Holy Communion. The president will come to your seat. Alternatively you may ask the priest for a blessing.

Please hold up this book to indicate that you wish to receive a blessing.

Gluten Free hosts are available—please hold up a piece of paper saying 'Gluten Free'.

No words of distribution will be said and you are asked not to speak.

During the distribution of Holy Communion, the choir sings

Agnus Dei

Agnus Dei,
qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.

*Lamb of God,
who takes away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.*

Agnus Dei,
qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.

*Lamb of God,
who takes away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.*

Agnus Dei,
qui tollis peccata mundi,
dona nobis pacem.

*Lamb of God,
who takes away the sins of the world,
grant us peace.*

Carol

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

And what was in those ships all three?
On Christmas Day in the morning.

Our Saviour Christ and his Lady,
On Christmas Day in the morning.

Pray, whither sailed those ships all three?
On Christmas Day in the morning.

O, they sailed into Bethlehem
On Christmas Day in the morning.

And all the bells on earth shall ring,
On Christmas Day in the morning.

And all the angels in heav'n shall sing,
On Christmas Day in the morning.

And all the souls on earth shall sing,
On Christmas Day in the morning.

Then let us all rejoice amain
On Christmas Day in the morning.

*Text: English Traditional
Music: English Traditional
arr. Simon Preston (b1938)*

Prayer after Communion

The congregation stands. The Bishop says

God our Father,
whose Word has come among us
in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:
may the light of faith illumine our hearts
and shine in our words and deeds;
through him who is Christ the Lord.
Amen.

**Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work
to your praise and glory
Amen.**

The Dismissal

The Bishop says

Our help is in the name of the Lord
who made heaven and earth.

Blessed be the name of the Lord
from this time forth and for evermore.

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 upon you and remain with you always.
Amen.

The Blessing

Sending Out

Go in the light and peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

Organ Voluntary

Carillon-Sortie - Henri Mulet (1878-1967)

Please wait in your seat until directed to leave.

*The Dean and Chapter of Exeter Cathedral
wish you and those whom you love
a very happy and blessed Christmas.*