



Exeter
Cathedral

Choral Evensong

Christmas Day 2020
with
Carols from the Minstrels' Gallery

4pm



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.

Minister

The Revd Canon Mike Williams - *Canon Treasurer*

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.

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)

The Preces and Responses are sung to the setting by Bernard Rose (1916-1996).

The congregation stands at the entry of the choir and ministers

The choir sings

V. O Lord, open thou our lips.

R. *And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.*

V. O God, make speed to save us.

R. *O Lord, make haste to help us.*

V. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost.

R. *As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.*

V. Praise ye the Lord.

R. *The Lord's Name be praised.*

Welcome

The Revd Canon Mike Williams - *Canon Treasurer*

The congregation sits. The choir sings

Psalm 8

Domine, Dominus noster

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

² 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.

³ For I will consider thy heavens, even the works of thy fingers:
the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained.

⁴ What is man, that thou art mindful of him:
and the son of man, that thou visitest him?

⁵ Thou madest him lower than the angels:
to crown him with glory and worship.

⁶ Thou makest him to have dominion of the works of thy hands:
and thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet;

⁷ All sheep and oxen:
yea, and the beasts of the field;

⁸ The fowls of the air, and the fishes of the sea:
and whatsoever walketh through the paths of the seas.

⁹ O Lord our Governor:
how excellent is thy Name in all the world!

The congregation stands.

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.

The congregation sits.

The First Lesson

Isaiah 65:17-25

Here begins the seventeenth verse of the sixty fifth Chapter of 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.

Here ends the First Lesson.

Magnificat

The congregation stands. The choir sings

My soul doth magnify the Lord :
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
For he hath regarded :
the lowliness of his handmaiden.
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.

*Setting: Service in A major
Composer: Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)*

The congregation sits.

The Second Lesson

Philippians 2:5-11

Here begins the fifth verse of the second Chapter of 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.

Nunc Dimittis

The congregation stands. The choir sings

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.

*Setting: Service in A major
Composer: Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)*

The Apostles' Creed

The congregation remains standing and says

**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 Prayers

The choir and minister sing

V. The Lord be with you.

R. And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

The congregation sits.

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.*

V. O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.
R. And grant us thy salvation.

V. O Lord, save the Queen.
R. And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

V. Endue thy ministers with righteousness.
R. And make thy chosen people joyful.

V. O Lord, save thy people.
R. And bless thine inheritance.

V. Give peace in our time, O Lord.
R. Because there is none other that fighteth for us,
but only thou, O God.

V. O God, make clean our hearts within us.
R. And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

Members of the choir move to the Minstrels Gallery.

The Collect

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 Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Collect for Peace

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.

The Collect for Aid against all Perils

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.

Carols from the Minstrels' Gallery

Silent night -
arr. Timothy Noon (b1974)

There is no rose -
anon.

The Holly and the Ivy -
arr. Henry Walford Davies (1869-1941)

Ding dong merrily on high -
arr. David Willcocks (1919-2015)

The Blessing

The congregation stands. The Canon Treasurer says

May the humility of the Shepherds;
the perseverance of the wise men;
the obedience of Joseph;
the song of the angels; the holiness of Mary
and the peace of the Christ-child
be God's gifts to you this Christmas Day and for evermore:
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Organ Voluntary

Toccata on "Vom Himmel hoch" - Garth Edmundson
(1872-1971)

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.*

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