

# The Eucharist

Sunday 28 December 2025 10.00am

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

PLEASE TAKE THIS SERVICE BOOK AWAY WITH YOU

#### Welcome to the Cathedral

The Cathedral Church of St Peter in Exeter, founded in 1050, has been the seat (cathedra) of the Bishops of Exeter, the symbol of their 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.

#### **Ministers**

President: The Revd Canon Cate Edmonds - Canon Steward

Deacon: The Revd Philip Wales - Priest Vicar

Subdeacon: The Revd Preb Nigel Guthrie - Priest Vicar

Preacher: The Revd Canon Chris Palmer - Canon Treasurer

#### Music

Mass Setting: Mass of St Thomas - David Thorne

Organist: Timothy Noon - Director of Music

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#### Children's Activities:

Cloister Club is on its Christmas holiday. There will be children's activity sheets available at the back of the Cathedral so please help yourself. We look forward to Cloister Club returning in January.

# **Holy Communion**

Communion will be offered in two kinds, bread and wine. Please do not dip the host in the wine. Please follow the directions of the sidesmen. Gluten-free wafers will be available at all communion stations, if you require a gluten-free wafer please indicate this to the clergy. If you wish to receive a blessing only please carry this order of service with you.

# **Collection and Giving**

A collection will be taken during this service. Please remember to use a Gift Aid envelope if you are a UK taxpayer. Also, you may support the work of the Cathedral by donating at the collection boxes and online terminals at the entrance and exit. Additionally, you may give to the Cathedral via this QR code or via the website: https://www.exetercathedral.org.uk/support-us/giving-to-exeter-cathedral/



#### **Newcomer Cards**

These are available on the Cathedral Community Table.

# Safeguarding

The care and protection of children, young people and adults involved in Church activities is the responsibility of everyone who participates in the life of the Church. If you are concerned that someone you know is at risk of or is being abused or presents a risk to others, email safeguarding@exeter-cathedral.org.uk or to speak to one of our contacts below

The Ven Nick Shutt - Chapter Safeguarding Lead, 07739 988975

Catherine Escott - Chief Operating Officer - 07914 901254

Jeremy Rawlings - Cathedral Safeguarding Officer - jeremy.rawlings@exeter-cathedral.org.uk

If there is immediate risk or danger please contact the Police on 999, or if necessary report the matter to the Local Authority Social Care Services without delay.

Please note that photography and recordings are not permitted during services.

## Organ music before the service

#### Order of service

# The Gathering Hymn

The congregation stands and sings

Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship Christ the new-born King.

Shepherds in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing;
yonder shines the infant Light:
Come and worship Christ the new-born King.

Though an infant now we view him,
he shall fill his Father's throne,
gather all nations to him;
every knee shall then bow down:
Come and worship Christ the new-born King.

Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854) Tune: Iris (Martin Shaw 1875-1958)

## Greeting

The president says:

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

Amen.

The Lord be with you. and also with you.

#### Introduction

The president greets the congregation.

#### **Invitation to Confession**

The deacon says

Hear the words of the angel to Joseph: 'You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' Therefore let us seek the forgiveness of God through Jesus the Saviour of the world.

cf Matthew 1.21

The congregation sits.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.

#### **Absolution**

The president says

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

#### Gloria

The congregation stands and sings



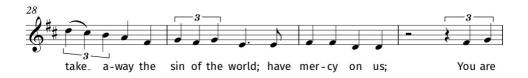








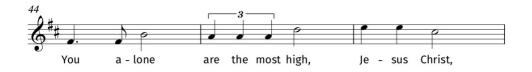
















#### The Collect

The congregation remains standing as the president invites us to pray

Almighty God,
who wonderfully created us in your own image
and yet more wonderfully restored us
through your Son Jesus Christ:
grant that, as he came to share in our humanity,
so we may share the life of his divinity;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

The congregation sits.

# The Liturgy of the Word The First Reading

Hebrews 2:10-18

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying, 'I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.' And again, 'I will put my trust in him.' And again, 'Here am I and the children whom God has given me.' Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same

things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## Hymn

The congregation stands and sings

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes. I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky, and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay close by me for ever, and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

Words: Anonymous

Tune: Away in a manger, W.J. Kirkpatrick (1838-1921)

## **Gospel Acclamation**

The congregation turns to face the deacon.

The acclamation heralds the Gospel reading.

The cantor sings the Alleluia, then all repeat it.



The cantor sings:

The Lord is King, and hath put on glorious apparel: the Lord hath put on his apparel, and girded himself with strength.

All sing the Alleluia.

# **Gospel Reading**

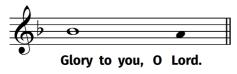
Matthew 2:13-23

The deacon says

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

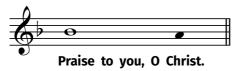
 $Hear the \ Gospel \ of \ our \ Lord \ Jesus \ Christ \ according \ to \ Matthew.$ 



After the wise men had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his

mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son." When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more." When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



 $The\ congregation\ sits.$ 

#### Sermon

The Revd Canon Chris Palmer - Canon Treasurer

#### The Nicene Creed

The congregation stands and says

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.

## **Prayers of Intercession**

The president introduces the prayers. The congregation sits.

Lord, in your mercy hear our prayer.

At the end
Merciful Father;
Accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.

# The Liturgy of the Sacrament The Peace

 $The\ congregation\ stands.\ The\ president\ says$ 

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

Isaiah 9.6

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

## **Offertory Collection**

A collection is taken. Please remember to use a Gift
Aid envelope if you are a UK taxpayer. You may also
donate by phone or cards at the contactless points as
you leave. Additionally, you may give to the
Cathedral by scanning this QR code or via



https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/support-us/giving-to-exeter-cathedral/

## Preparation of the Table

The altar is prepared and the congregation sings.

See, amid the winter's snow, born for us on earth below, see, the Lamb of God appears, promised from eternal years!

- 3. Say, ye holy shepherds, say, what your joyful news today; wherefore have ye left your sheep on the lonely mountain steep? Hail...
- Hail, thou ever-blessèd morn!
  Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
  Sing through all Jerusalem:
  Christ is born in Bethlehem!
- 4. 'As we watched at dead of night, lo, we saw a wondrous light; angels, singing "Peace on earth," told us of a Saviour's birth.' *Hail...*
- 2. Lo, within a manger lies he who built the starry skies, he who, throned in height sublime, sits amid the cherubim!Hail...
- 5. Sacred Infant, all divine, what a tender love was thine, thus to come from highest bliss down to such a world as this!
  Hail...

Words: Edward Caswall (1814-1878) Tune: Humility, John Goss (1800-1880)

# Prayer over the gifts

The congregation remains standing. The president says

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:

through your goodness we have this bread to set before you, which earth has given and human hands have made.

It will become for us the bread of life.

Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:

through your goodness we have this wine to set before you,

fruit of the vine and work of human hands.

It will become for us the cup of salvation.

Blessed be God for ever.

## **Eucharistic Prayer**

The president says

The Lord be with you and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

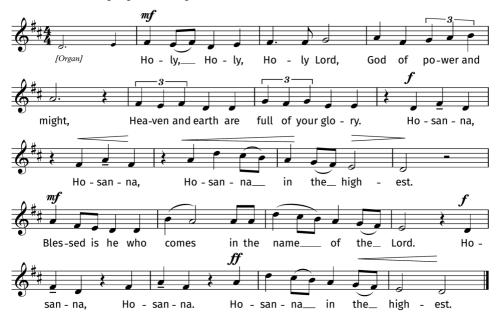
All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere, mighty creator, ever-living God.

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

The congregation sings:

and sing our joyful hymn of praise:



#### The president continues:

We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son. On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.

Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:

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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

The deacon says
Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died: Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms so that we, in the company of the Blessed Virgin Mary,

St Peter, St Boniface, St Sidwell, St Edward the Confessor and all the saints to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever.

#### Amen.

## The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence in the words 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 president breaks the consecrated bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ. Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.

# **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. If you wish to receive communion please follow the directions of the sidesmen, joining the appropriate queue and returning to your seats via the side aisles. If you wish to receive a blessing please hold up this book to indicate that you wish to receive a blessing. Please do not dip the host in the wine. Gluten-Free hosts are available—simply say "gluten-free."

# **Agnus Dei**



# Hymn

During the distribution of Holy Communion, the following hymn is sung

What child is this, who, laid to rest
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds worship and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring him praise
The Babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate,
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Come, have no fear, God's son is here,
His love all loves exceeding:
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through,
The cross be borne for me, for you:
Hail, hail, the Saviour comes,
The Babe, the son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold and myrrh,
All tongues and peoples own him,
The King of kings salvation brings,
Let every heart enthrone him:
Raise, raise your song on high
While Mary sings a lullaby,
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
The Babe, the son of Mary.

Words: W. Chatterton Dix (187-1898)
Tune: Greensleeves, Traditional English Melody

## **Prayer after Communion**

The president says

Let us pray.

The congregation stands and says

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 congregation sits. Notices are given.

#### The Dismissal

### Blessing

The congregation stands. The president says

The Lord be with you

and also with you.

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.

#### **Dismissal**

 $The \ deac on \ says$ 

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ, Amen.

## Hymn

The congregation remains standing and sings

Hark! 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...
- 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 lay 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...

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788) and others

Tune: Mendelssohn, F. Mendelssohn Bartholdy (1809-1847)

# **Organ Voluntary**

#### For your prayers

#### Those who are sick or in need:

Marion Newbery, Rachel, Ian Marfell, Sarah Huxtable, Rosemarie, Penny Endersby, Rosemary Henry, Olivia Parkinson, Sarah, Ann, John Bowers, John Massey, Nikki Cann, Jonathan Bush

**Departed:** Dallas Capsey, John Tanzley, Mariette Rogers, Mary Leary, Sue Parks, Mary Davenport, Jim Garrard

**Anniversaries of Death:** Elizabeth Searle, Olive Eyles

Readings next Sunday (04 January 2026 10am The Eucharist,

Epiphany): Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:-12

**Incense at the 10am Choral Eucharist**: this will be used on Sunday 04 January 2026 (Epiphany).

#### Pastoral Care Team

Members of the Pastoral Care Team are entrusted to visit the sick and the housebound with Communion. If you would like a member of the Pastoral Care Team to contact you, please email: pastoral.care@exeter-cathedral.org.uk If you would like a conversation whether in joy or sorrow, please contact the Canon Chancellor, Canon Deborah Parsons: 07776359402 (deborah.parsons@exeter-cathedral.org.uk) or Canon Ian Morter 07527735640 (ian.morter@exeter-cathedral.org.uk)

 $For wedding \ enquiries, please \ contact \ Prebendary \ Julian \ Ould \\ (julian.ould@exeter-cathedral.org.uk)$ 

For baptism enquiries, please contact Prebendary Nigel Guthrie (nigel.guthrie@exeter-cathedral.org.uk)

**Sundays**@**6.30pm:** After consultation, with those leading the services, the decision has been made to stop the Sundays@6.30pm and the monthly Service of Healing and Wholeness. We will discern whether or not to resume these at some stage in the future. The "In conversation with..." series will continue in 2026.



Sunday 28 THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

8.00am Holy Communion Quire

BCP p61 for Collect, Epistle and Gospel

9.00am Morning Prayer St Gabriel Chapel

10.00am The Eucharist CW Order t Quire

Mass of St Thomas David Thorne

4.00pm Congregational Evensong BCP Quire

Monday 29Thomas Becket, archbishop, martyr, c.11709.00amMorning Prayer CWwww.zoom.us

 $\begin{array}{ccc} 10.00 \text{am} & \text{Morning Prayer } CW & \text{Quire} \\ 10.20 \text{am} & \text{The Eucharist } CW & \text{Quire} \\ \end{array}$ 

12,30pm Prayers for Healing

3.00pm Evening Prayer BCP Lady Chapel

Tuesday 30

9.00am Morning Prayer CW www.zoom.us 10.00am Morning Prayer CW Quire 10.20am The Eucharist CW Quire

3.00pm Evening Prayer BCP Lady Chapel

Wednesday 31

9.00am Morning Prayer CW www.zoom.us

10.00amMorning Prayer CWQuire10.20amThe Eucharist CWQuire1.15pmThe Eucharist CWLady Chapel3.00pmEvening Prayer BCPLady Chapel

The Very Revd Jonathan Greener – Dean

The Revd Canon James Mustard - Canon Precentor

Timothy Noon - Director of Music

# 28 December 2025-04 January

Thursday 01 January 2026		Naming and Circumcision of Jesus	
9.00am	Morning Prayer CW		www.zoom.us
11.00am	Morning Prayer CW		Quire
11.20am	The Eucharist CW		Quire
3.00pm	Evening Prayer BCP		Lady Chapel
Friday 02	B	asil the Great and Greg	ory of Nazianzus,
	b	ishops, teachers, 379 ar	nd 389
8.15am	Morning Prayer CW		Quire
8.35am	The Eucharist CW		Quire
9.00am	Morning Prayer CW		www.zoom.us
5.30pm	Evening Prayer BCP		Lady Chapel
Saturday 03			
8.15am	Morning Prayer CW		Quire
8.35am	The Eucharist CW		Quire
5.30pm	Evening Prayer BCP		Lady Chapel
Sunday 04	E	PIPHANY	
8.00am	Holy Communion BCP p65 for Collect	t, Epistle and Cospel	Quire
9.00am	Morning Prayer		St Gabriel Chapel
10.00am	The Eucharist CW Order 1		Quire
Mass of St Thomas David Thorne			
4.00pm CW = Commo	Congregational Evensong BCP	he Church of Knaland (2	Quire
CW - Common Worship, services and prayers for the Church of England (2000)  Zoom Morning Prayer: www.zoom.us Meeting ID: 99638985011, Passcode: 1FopuR			
BCP – Book of Common Prayer (1662)			

#### **Christmas Community Quiz Sheet**

These are available from Sunday 14 December to take away and work your way through. Submit your completed sheet for a chance to win the £30 cash prize. Entries are £2 per sheet (proceeds to the Cathedral Sound System Appeal) and are available from the Cathedral Shop, card payments are accepted. The deadline for entries is Sunday 24th January 2026. We hope to announce the winner from Sunday 1st February. Completed sheets can be returned to the Cathedral Shop, or you can email a scanned copy to jake\_hibberd@hotmail.co.uk.

#### In Conversation with Dr Bridget Gillard

Sunday 11 January | 6:30pm (refreshments served from 6pm)
Bridget Gillard tells Grace Costin's story, highlighting her journey and the community she founded. After studying History of Art at the University of London, Dr Gillard worked and lectured in building conversation in London, Cornwall and Devon. Join us for a conversation followed by a short service of compline.

**Funeral of Mary Leary:** Monday 12 January at 11am in the Lady Chapel. All are welcome.

# Installation of Canon Chris Palmer as Dean of Winchester– Coach Trip from Exeter to Winchester: Sunday 15 March 2026

The coach will depart Exeter at 10.15am from South Street arriving in time for the 3.00pm service at Winchester. We will return by coach at 5.30pm, arriving back in Exeter at approximately 8.30pm. Tickets cost £20 per person. All are warmly invited to come along and support this significant and joyful occasion in the life of both Cathedrals. Please do book quickly as spaces are limited. https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/