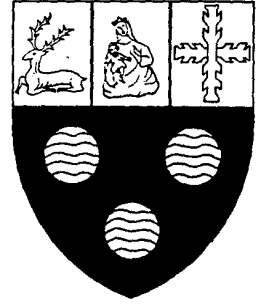


**Southwell  
Minster**  
THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF  
THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY



# EVENING PRAYER WITH CAROLS

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

Monday 25 December 2023

3.30pm

# Welcome to Southwell Minster



As you prepare for worship, please be sensitive to the needs of those around you who may wish to pray in silence. Please switch off mobile telephones and do not use photographic, video or recording equipment at any time.



A loop system is in operation throughout the Minster. Hearing aids that are equipped to do so should be switched to the 'T' position or the loop setting appropriate to your equipment.



**Large print** orders of service are available. Please ask a Churchwarden, Sidesman or Verger for a copy.



Toilet facilities (including disabled access) are situated in the Archbishop's Palace, opposite the South Door of the Minster.



We are a Fairtrade cathedral, committed to continuing and increasing our use of fairly traded goods wherever possible.

The congregation is invited to join in all texts printed in **bold**.

*The weekly notice sheet for the Minster, Pew News, is available on the Minster website at [www.southwellminster.org/worship/pew-news/](http://www.southwellminster.org/worship/pew-news/)*

We are always delighted to welcome newcomers and visitors. If you would like to keep in regular contact with the Minster, please either speak to one of the clergy or churchwardens, or email [office@southwellminster.org.uk](mailto:office@southwellminster.org.uk)

# Welcome!

We are delighted that you have been able to join us for one of our Christmas services. It is a fabulous time of the year and though extremely busy, it is great to be able to share and celebrate the truth that God became flesh and blood in Jesus. It may be that as you have been with us you have thought about exploring further what it means to believe in the God who is shown to us in Jesus. At the Cathedral we offer many ways where this can happen and here are just a few:

- If you would like to join us as we mark the next part of this story, then we shall remember the visit of the Wise Men or Magi on **Sunday 14 January at 3:30pm** with our **Epiphanytide Procession**. You are most welcome to come and join us.
- Next year, the Minster will have been a Cathedral for 140 years, so we are hosting a special exhibition, **CATHEDRAL 140: The Story of Us**, which will showcase 140 objects over 10 months, exploring the Minster's history as both a building and a community of faith. Why not come and visit, any time between February and November, and learn more about our story and how you can be part of it?
- Finally if you would like to know more about being a Christian then please do contact me below.

I do hope you are able to join us for some of these times that we might get to know you better and together seek to follow Jesus.

Have a fantastic Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

Paul Rattigan (*Canon Missioner*)

Email: [Paul.Rattigan@southwellminster.org.uk](mailto:Paul.Rattigan@southwellminster.org.uk)

## Clergy at this Service

This service is led by The Very Revd Nicola Sullivan, *Dean of Southwell*.

## Music at this Service

The organ is played by Timothy Selman, *Organ Scholar*.

## Collection

A retiring collection will be taken, net proceeds of which will go towards the work of Home Start Newark. Please place your donation in one of the donation baskets as you leave if you would like to contribute. If you are a UK taxpayer, you are invited to fill in your details on one of the Gift Aid envelopes so that we can reclaim your income tax and thus increase your donation by 25p for every £1 given. Please give generously.



Home-Start Newark is a local charity which supports families during difficult times. Trained volunteers visit families, usually once a week, to provide help. It might be developing parenting skills, improving the home environment, reducing isolation or strengthening parent-child relationships. Volunteers listen, and care; and bring fun, laughter and hope to families. Volunteers bring an extra pair of hands when life is chaotic, and will support and encourage in a non-judgmental way. Home Start Newark also runs support groups and holds social events for families. For more information, please see <https://www.homestartnewark.co.uk/> or call 01636 705011.

# ORDER OF SERVICE

## ORGAN PRELUDE

*In dir ist Freude*, BWV 615

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

*Please stand as the clergy enter the Quire*

*The Very Revd Nicola Sullivan, Dean of Southwell, welcomes the congregation.*

## OPENING SENTENCE

Luke 2: 10–11

Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people: for unto you is born in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

## PRECES

O Lord, open thou our lips:

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

O God, make speed to save us:

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

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

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

Praise ye the Lord:

**The Lord's name be praised.**

# HYMN



1. 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.

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 to-day.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell:  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Emmanuel.

Words: Phillips Brooks (1835-93)

Tune: FOREST GREEN CC1 27

English traditional

arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

*Please sit*

O Lord our governor,  
how glorious is your name in all the world!  
**Your majesty above the heavens is praised  
out of the mouths of babes at the breast.**  
You have founded a stronghold against your foes,  
that you might still the enemy and the avenger.  
**When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars that you have ordained,**  
What are mortals, that you should be mindful of them;  
mere human beings, that you should seek them out?  
**You have made them little lower than the angels  
and crown them with glory and honour.**  
You have given them dominion over the works of your hands  
and put all things under their feet,  
**All sheep and oxen,  
even the wild beasts of the field,**  
The birds of the air, the fish of the sea  
and whatsoever moves in the paths of the sea.  
**O Lord our governor,  
how glorious is your name in all the world!**

*Please stand*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
**As it was in the beginning, is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

For I am about to create new heavens  
and a new earth;  
the former things shall not be remembered  
or come to mind.  
But be glad and rejoice for ever  
in what I am creating;  
for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy,  
and its people as a delight.  
I will rejoice in Jerusalem,  
and delight in my people;  
no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it,  
or the cry of distress.  
No more shall there be in it  
an infant that lives but a few days,  
or an old person who does not live out a lifetime;  
for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth,  
and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed.  
They shall build houses and inhabit them;  
they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.  
They shall not build and another inhabit;  
they shall not plant and another eat;  
for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be,  
and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.  
They shall not labour in vain,  
or bear children for calamity;  
for they shall be offspring blessed by the Lord —  
and their descendants as well.  
Before they call I will answer,  
while they are yet speaking I will hear.  
The wolf and the lamb shall feed together,  
the lion shall eat straw like the ox;  
but the serpent—its food shall be dust!  
They shall not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain,  
says the Lord.



*Please stand*

## MAGNIFICAT



**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord:  
Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;  
Tender to me the promise of his word;  
In God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name:  
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;  
His mercy sure, from age to age the same;  
His holy name, the Lord, the Mighty One.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might:  
Powers and dominions lay their glory by;  
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,  
The hungry fed, the humble lifted high.**

**Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word:  
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.  
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord  
To children's children and for evermore.**

*Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926)  
after Luke 1: 46–55  
Copyright © 1961 Timothy Dudley-Smith  
(Admin. by Oxford University Press)*

*Tune: WOODLANDS NEH 186  
Walter Greatorex (1877-1949)*

*Please sit*

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.

*Please stand*

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.**

## RESPONSORY

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,  
full of grace and truth.

**The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,  
full of grace and truth.**

And we have seen his glory,  
the glory as of a father's only son,  
**full of grace and truth.**

Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit.

**The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,  
full of grace and truth.**

## LESSER LITANY, LORD'S PRAYER AND RESPONSES

Let us pray.

*Please sit or kneel*

Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Christ, have mercy upon us.**

Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Our Father, which art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name.**

**thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
in earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive them that trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**Amen.**

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

**And grant us thy salvation.**

O Lord, save the King.

**And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.**

Endue thy Ministers with righteousness.

**And make thy chosen people joyful.**

O Lord, save thy people.

**And bless thine inheritance.**

Give peace in our time, O Lord.

**Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.**

O God, make clean our hearts within us.

**And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.**

#### COLLECT FOR THE DAY

Almighty God,

who hast given us thy only-begotten Son

to take our nature upon him,

and as at this time to be born of a pure Virgin:

Grant that we being regenerate,

and made thy children by adoption and grace,

may daily be renewed by thy Holy Spirit;

through the same our Lord Jesus Christ,

who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit,

ever one God, world without end.

**Amen.**

#### 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.**

## 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.**

*Please stand*

## HYMN



**1. In the bleak midwinter  
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 midwinter,  
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 midwinter  
A stable-place sufficed  
The Lord God Almighty,  
Jesus Christ.**

**3. Angels and archangels  
May have gathered there,  
Cherubim and Seraphim  
Thronged the air  
But only his mother  
In her maiden bliss  
Worshipped the Beloved  
With a kiss.**

**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.**

*Words: Christina Rossetti (1830-94)*

*Tune: CRANHAM NEH 28  
Gustav Holst (1874-1934)*

*Please sit or kneel*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION *led by the Dean*

*The following response is used:*

Jesus, Saviour,  
**hear our prayer.**

THE GRACE

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
be with us all evermore.  
Amen.**

*Please stand*

PROCESSIONAL HYMN *during which candles are lit and all move to the Crib*



**1. Silent night, holy night.  
All is calm, all is bright,  
Round yon virgin mother and child;  
Holy infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.**

**2. Silent night, holy night.  
Shepherds quake at the sight,  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heav'nly hosts sing alleluia:  
Christ the Saviour is born.**

**3. Silent night, holy night.  
Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from thy holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.**

*Words: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848)  
trans. John Freeman Young (1820-85)*

*Tune: STILLE NACHT CP 69  
Franz Xaver Grüber (1787-1863)*

HYMN *sung once all are gathered at the Crib*



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: *American, anonymous*

Tune: *CRADLE SONG NEH 22*  
*William James Kirkpatrick (1838-1921)*

BLESSING

May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds,  
the perseverance of the wise men,  
the obedience of Joseph and Mary  
and the peace of the Christ Child be yours this Christmas;  
and the blessing of God Almighty;  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you today and always.  
**Amen.**

ORGAN VOLUNTARY *during which the clergy depart*

*The Holy Boy*

John Ireland (1879-1962)

*A retiring collection will be taken, net proceeds of which will go towards the work of Home-Start Newark. Please place your donation in one of the donation baskets as you leave if you would like to contribute. If you are a UK taxpayer, you are invited to fill in your details on the Gift Aid envelopes so that we can reclaim your income tax and thus increase your donation by 25p for every £1 given. Please give generously.*

**We wish you a holy, blessed and peaceful Christmas.**



Go to [www.churchofengland.org/christmas](http://www.churchofengland.org/christmas) for details of the Church of England's Advent and Christmas theme:

**Follow The Star: Join the Song**

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Join our mailing list by completing the online form at [www.southwellminster.org/newsletter](http://www.southwellminster.org/newsletter)

**Please take this Order of Service away with you.**

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