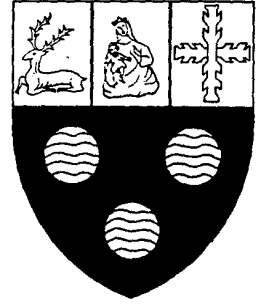


**Southwell
Minster**
THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF
THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY



EVENSONG

Christmas Eve

Sunday 24 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.



This Order of Service is printed on sustainably produced paper.

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

The Cathedral Choir is directed by Paul Provost, *Rector Chori*.

The organ is played by Jonathan Allsopp, *Assistant Director of Music*.

This service will be live-streamed to the internet, and will be available at www.southwellminster.org/worship-online and on the Minster's YouTube channel, for one day. Live-streaming allows those joining from home to participate in the same act of worship as those in the Cathedral.

A collection for the mission and ministry of the Cathedral will be taken during the Offertory Hymn at this service. If you are a UK taxpayer, you are invited to fill in your



details on the Gift Aid envelopes provided so that we can reclaim your income tax and thus increase your donation by 25p for every £1 given. Cash donations can also be placed in the donation box near each entrance or card donations made using the contactless card station. Alternatively, to make a donation online, please scan this QR code or visit www.southwellminster.org/donate. Please give generously.

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

The Service of Evensong

The experience of the service of Evensong is unique. It takes place at the end of the working day, and the choir leads worship through their singing. The service is centred around the singing of psalms, ancient texts that speak powerfully and accessibly to our very human hopes, fears and dreams. Every service of Evensong also includes two canticles, or songs, recorded in St Luke's Gospel: the *Magnificat* and *Nunc dimittis*. Both canticles focus on hope and the fulfilment of what God promised to his people, and so have acted as a foundation for prayer and reflection towards the end of the day for many hundreds of years. The beauty of daily sung services in cathedrals is that no two composers' interpretation of these texts is the same, so in the repetition of familiar texts we find fresh meaning every single day.

As we look forward to Christmas Day tomorrow, many of the elements surrounding the Christmas story are rehearsed and hinted at this afternoon within the structure of this service that takes place every day, yet this afternoon's readings and our final hymn challenge us to look much further forward, beyond Christmas, to the second coming of Christ, when the promises of God found in scripture shall be fulfilled.

The gift of the service of Evensong is that it requires little active participation from the congregation; it is a service of respite from the stresses of the day. Our hope is that those of you for whom this is your first taste of Evensong will let yourselves be immersed in the experience: you need simply to be receptive, and to allow yourself to be carried by the choir in song and prayer. In letting others take on the responsibility for prayer on your behalf, you are left with greater freedom to be open to the presence and grace of God.

Standing, Sitting and Kneeling

Throughout the booklet, you will find various references to posture:

- **Standing** is used for parts of the service where the emphasis is on praising or praying to God together; so we usually stand to sing hymns, and for certain important prayers.
- **Sitting** indicates listening and receiving; so we sit for the first and second readings from the Bible, and for the sermon.
- **Kneeling** is the traditional position for personal prayer. Please speak to one of the Vergers or Sidesmen if you would like a cushion for kneeling.

Adopting the same posture is a way of showing that we are worshipping God together, as his people. However, please always feel free to adopt a different posture, especially if standing or kneeling is uncomfortable.

ORDER OF SERVICE

ORGAN MUSIC BEFORE THE SERVICE

Andante sostenuto (from *Symphonie gothique*)

Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937)

INTROIT *sung by the choir in the Crossing*

Peace be to you and grace from him
Who freed us from our sins,
Who loved us all and shed his blood
That we might saved be.

Sing Holy, Holy to our Lord,
The Lord, Almighty God,
Who was and is and is to come;
Sing Holy, Holy, Lord!

Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein,
Rejoice on earth, ye saints below,
For Christ is coming, is coming soon,
For Christ is coming soon!

E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come,
And night shall be no more;
They need no light nor lamp nor sun,
For Christ will be their all!

*Words: Ruth Manz
after Revelation 22*

*Music: E'EN SO, LORD JESUS, QUICKLY COME
Paul Manz (1919-2009)*

Please stand as the choir and clergy enter the Quire

PRECES sung by the Canon Precentor and the choir

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.

Music: Thomas Tomkins (1572-1656)

The Very Revd Nicola Sullivan, Dean of Southwell, welcomes the congregation and introduces the service.

OFFICE HYMN



**1. Long ago, prophets knew
Christ would come, born a Jew.
Come to make all things new;
Bear his People's burden,
Freely love and pardon.**

*Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
When he comes, when he comes,
Who will make him welcome?*

**2. God in time, God in man,
This is God's timeless plan:
He will come, as a man,
Born himself of woman,
God divinely human.**

Ring, bells, ring...

**3. Mary, hail! Though afraid,
She believed, she obeyed.
In her womb God is laid;
Till the time expected
Nurtured and protected.**

Ring, bells, ring...

**4. Journey ends! Where afar
Bethlem shines, like a star,
Stable door stands ajar.
Unborn Son of Mary,
Saviour, do not tarry!**

*Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
Jesus comes! Jesus comes!
We will make him welcome.*

Please sit

PSALMODY *sung by the choir*

Psalm 85

Lord, thou art become gracious unto thy land:
 thou hast turned away the captivity of Jacob.
Thou hast forgiven the offence of thy people:
 and covered all their sins.
Thou hast taken away all thy displeasure:
 and turned thyself from thy wrathful indignation.
Turn us then, O God our Saviour:
 and let thine anger cease from us.
Wilt thou be displeased at us for ever:
 and wilt thou stretch out thy wrath from one generation to another?
Wilt thou not turn again, and quicken us:
 that thy people may rejoice in thee?
Shew us thy mercy, O Lord:
 and grant us thy salvation.
I will hearken what the Lord God will say concerning me:
 for he shall speak peace unto his people, and to his saints, that they
 turn not again.
For his salvation is nigh them that fear him:
 that glory may dwell in our land.
Mercy and truth are met together:
 righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
Truth shall flourish out of the earth:
 and righteousness hath looked down from heaven.
Yea, the Lord shall shew loving-kindness:
 and our land shall give her increase.
Righteousness shall go before him:
 and he shall direct his going in the way.

Please stand

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.

Chant: Stanley Vann (1910-2010)

Please sit

FIRST LESSON

Zechariah 2

I looked up and saw a man with a measuring line in his hand. Then I asked, 'Where are you going?' He answered me, 'To measure Jerusalem, to see what is its width and what is its length.' Then the angel who talked with me came forward, and another angel came forward to meet him, and said to him, 'Run, say to that young man: Jerusalem shall be inhabited like villages without walls, because of the multitude of people and animals in it. For I will be a wall of fire all round it, says the Lord, and I will be the glory within it.'

Up, up! Flee from the land of the north, says the Lord; for I have spread you abroad like the four winds of heaven, says the Lord. Up! Escape to Zion, you that live with daughter Babylon. For thus said the Lord of hosts (after his glory sent me) regarding the nations that plundered you: Truly, one who touches you touches the apple of my eye. See now, I am going to raise my hand against them, and they shall become plunder for their own slaves. Then you will know that the Lord of hosts has sent me. Sing and rejoice, O daughter Zion! For lo, I will come and dwell in your midst, says the Lord. Many nations shall join themselves to the Lord on that day, and shall be my people; and I will dwell in your midst. And you shall know that the Lord of hosts has sent me to you. The Lord will inherit Judah as his portion in the holy land, and will again choose Jerusalem.

Be silent, all people, before the Lord; for he has roused himself from his holy dwelling.

Please stand

ANTIPHON AND MAGNIFICAT *sung by the choir,*

When the sun shall have risen from heaven, ye shall see the King of Kings
proceeding from the Father, as a bridegroom from his chamber.

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.

When the sun shall have risen from heaven, ye shall see the King of Kings
proceeding from the Father, as a bridegroom from his chamber.

Words: Luke 1: 46-55

Music: from EVENING SERVICE IN B MINOR

Hugh Blair (1864-1932)

Antiphon: CUM ORTUS FUERIT

Mode viii

Please sit

The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place; he made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw.

Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of the prophecy, and blessed are those who hear and who keep what is written in it; for the time is near.

John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Look! He is coming with the clouds;
every eye will see him,
even those who pierced him;
and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.

So it is to be. Amen.

'I am the Alpha and the Omega', says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

Please stand

NUNC DIMITTIS *sung by the choir*

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.

Words: Luke 2: 29-32

*Music: from EVENING SERVICE IN B MINOR
Hugh Blair (1864-1932)*

Please turn east towards the High Altar

CREED

**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.**

Please turn back

LESSER LITANY, LORD'S PRAYER AND RESPONSES

sung by the Canon Precentor and the choir

The Lord be with you:
And with thy spirit.

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 in heaven art,
Lord, hallowed be thy Name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done in earth,
even as the same in heaven is.
Give us O Lord our daily bread this day.
As we forgive our debtors, so forgive our debts we pray.
Into temptation lead us not, from evil make us free.
For kingdom, power and glory thine,
both now and ever be.

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 makest us glad with the yearly remembrance
of the birth of thy only Son Jesus Christ:
grant that, as we joyfully receive him as our redeemer,
so we may with sure confidence behold him
when he shall come to be our judge;
who liveth and reigneth with thee
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
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.

*Music: Thomas Tomkins (1572-1656)
and John Farmer (c. 1570-1605)*

Please sit

ANTHEM sung by the choir

O sing unto the Lord a new song,
sing unto the Lord all the whole earth.
Sing unto the Lord and praise his Name,
be telling of his salvation from day to day.
For he cometh to judge the earth,
and with righteousness to judge the world and the people with
his truth.

Words: Psalm 96: 1, 2, 13

*Music: A NEW SONG
James MacMillan (b. 1959)*

Please remain seated or kneel when invited

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION led by the Revd Erika Kirk, Priest Vicar

The following response is used:

Lord, hear us.
Lord, graciously hear us.

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

OFFERTORY HYMN *during which a collection is taken for the mission and ministry of the Cathedral*



1. Lo! he comes with clouds descending,
Once for favoured sinners slain;
Thousand thousand saints attending
Swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia!
God appears, on earth to reign.

2. Every eye shall now behold him
Robed in dreadful majesty;
We who set at nought and sold him,
Pierced and nailed him to the tree,
Deeply grieving
Shall the true Messiah see.

3. Those dear tokens of his passion
Still his dazzling body bears,
Cause of endless exultation
To his ransomed worshippers:
With what rapture
Gaze we on those glorious scars!

4. Yea, Amen! let all adore thee,
High on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory:
Claim the kingdom for thine own:
O come quickly!
Alleluia! Come, Lord, come!

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-88) (*altd.*)
and John Cennick (1718-55)

Tune: HELMSLEY NEH 9
Thomas Olivers (1725-99)
Descant: Christopher Robinson (b. 1936)

BLESSING *given by the Dean*

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,
scatter the darkness from before your path,
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

DISMISSAL *sung by the Canon Precentor and the choir*

The Lord be with you:
And with thy Spirit.

Let us bless the Lord:
Thanks be to God.

Music: after Thomas Tomkins (1572-1656)

ORGAN VOLUNTARY *during which the clergy and choir depart*

Toccata (from Suite)

Maurice Duruflé (1902-86)

Once the ministers and choir have departed, you are invited to sit to listen quietly to the organ voluntary. If you wish to leave at this point, please do so without disturbing those who may still wish to listen or pray. The clergy will stand in the crossing to greet you on your way out.

LATER TODAY

7.00pm Cathedral Carol Service *Nave*

11.15pm Eucharist of Christmas Night *Nave (and live-streamed)*
sung by the Minster Chorale

Preacher: The Bishop of Southwell and Nottingham

Malcolm *Missa ad praesepe* • Mawby *Psalm 150*
Rutter *What sweeter music* • arr. Willcocks *Sussex Carol*
Cochereau *Sortie on 'Adeste Fideles'*

CHRISTMAS DAY

8.00am Holy Communion with Carols BCP *Quire*
Preacher: The Revd Dr Richard Frith, *Canon Precentor*

10.00am Cathedral Eucharist CW *Nave (and livestreamed)*
sung by the Cathedral Choir

Preacher: The Revd Paul Rattigan, *Canon Missioner*

Schubert *in G* • arr. Nicholson *Ding Dong! merrily on high*
Edmundson *Toccata-Prelude on 'Vom Himmel hoch'*

11.15am Festal Mattins BCP *Quire*
sung by the Cathedral Choir

Preacher: The Very Revd Nicola Sullivan, *Dean of Southwell*

arr. Wood *Ding Dong! merrily on high* • Smith *Responses*
Psalm 97 • Stanford *in C* • Mathias *Sir Christèmas*
Balbastre *Quand Jesus naquit à Noël*

12.15pm Holy Communion BCP *Quire*

3.30pm Evening Prayer with Carols BCP *Quire*
Psalm 8 • Ireland *The Holy Boy*

Sunday 31 December

The First Sunday after Christmas

7.40am Litany

Quire

8.00am Holy Communion BCP

Quire

Preacher: The Revd Erika Kirk, *Priest Vicar*

10.00am Cathedral Eucharist CW

Nave (and live-streamed)

Preacher: The Revd David McCoulough, *Priest Vicar*

3.30pm Evening Prayer BCP

Quire

Preacher: The Revd Paul Rattigan, *Canon Missioner*

After Christmas our next choral service will be the Sung Eucharist to celebrate the Epiphany at **5.30pm on Saturday 6 January**, sung by the Minster Chorale (who will also be singing at our services on Sunday 7 January)

The Cathedral Choir will resume singing services after the Christmas break with Evensong at 5.30pm on Thursday 11 January.

Our **Epiphanytide Procession** service will be held at **3.30pm on Sunday 14 January** and will include music by Palestrina, Bingham, Allain, Gardner and Warlock.

The weekly notice sheet for the Minster, Pew News, is available on the Minster website at www.southwellminster.org/worship/pew-news/

Please take this order of service away with you.

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

We wish you a holy, blessed and peaceful Christmas.



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

Follow The Star: Join the Song

The Minster Centre, Church Street, Southwell, NG25 0HD

Tel.: 01636 812649

office@southwellminster.org.uk

www.southwellminster.org

Facebook: @SouthwellMinster

X: @SouthwMinster

Instagram: @SouthwellMinster

Would you like to hear more about news, services, concerts and/or events taking place at the Minster?

Join our mailing list by completing the online form at www.southwellminster.org/newsletter

Acknowledgements

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