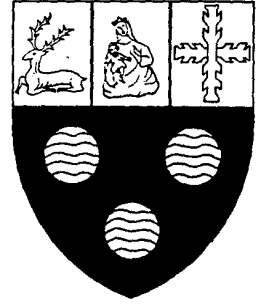


Southwell
Minster



THE CATHEDRAL CAROL SERVICE

Monday 23 and Tuesday 24 December 2024
7.00pm

Welcome to Southwell Minster

Before the service, please read and take note of the following information for your own comfort and safety. Please be sensitive to the needs of those around you who may wish to pray in silence.

Upon arrival you will have been given a candle. Please ensure care when they are lit, especially around children.

In the event of hearing the fire alarm, please calmly leave the building by the nearest exit and congregate in the Cathedral grounds. The Sidespersons will direct wheelchair-users to the appropriate exit. Do not return to the Cathedral for any reason.



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, Sidesperson 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 service on Monday 23 December will be live-streamed to the internet, and will be available at www.southwellminster.org/worship-online and on the Minster's YouTube channel until Monday 6 January. Live-streaming allows those joining from home to participate in the same act of worship as those in the Cathedral.

Support the Mission and Ministry of the Cathedral. As you leave this service a **retiring collection** in support of the mission and ministry of the Cathedral will be taken. Please give generously — every gift, no matter the size, makes a difference.

Welcome!

Welcome to Southwell Minster Cathedral this Christmas! We are delighted that you have come to share the joy and excitement of this wonderful season with us. At the heart of the Christmas story, we hear anew of the incredible love of our God who sends his Son to be one with us as the babe of Bethlehem.

We live in a world broken and torn apart in so many ways, yet we are reminded in the Christmas story of the hope we are offered by God reaching out to each one of us in love.

Our Christian faith is built around relationships; God's relationship with us and our relationships, one with another. There are many ways in which our Minster community shares in those relationships. If you would like to know more, please do contact us at office@southwellminster.org.uk or for more information please see our website www.southwellminster.org.

Amongst the many events and services coming in the New Year, you may like to join us as we mark the next part of the Christmas story, remembering the visit of the Wise Men on **Sunday 12 January at 3.30pm** with our **Epiphany Procession**.

Finally, if this event has touched you, and you would like to know more about the Christian faith, seeking to follow Jesus, you will see on page 26 details of an introduction course to Christian Faith led by the Bishop of Southwell & Nottingham and members of the Minster Team.

With all good wishes for a very happy Christmas and Blessed New Year.

The Revd Canon Dr Neil Evans
Interim Dean of Southwell

The Christmas Carol Service

The word 'carol' comes from the French *carole*, a kind of circle dance accompanied by singers. The earliest Christmas carols had their origin outside of church buildings, and were part of the celebration of Christmas in homes and public places. In countless carol services today, they convey the excitement and deep joy of the celebration of Christmas. In tonight's service, carols are combined with readings from the Bible that tell the story of God's love for humankind, woven through the history of Israel and bursting into life in the birth of Jesus, God in human form, in an obscure corner of the 'little town of Bethlehem'.

Music at this Service

The Cathedral Choir is directed by Paul Provost, *Rector Chori*. The organ is played by Jonathan Allsopp, *Assistant Director of Music*, and Timothy Selman, *Organ Scholar*.

Organ Music before the Service

<i>Prelude and Fugue in G, BWV 541</i>	Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)
<i>Noël sur les flûtes (from Livre de Noël)</i>	Louis-Claude Daquin (1694-1772)
<i>Noël Étranger (from Livre de Noël)</i>	Louis-Claude Daquin
<i>Variations on 'Adeste fideles'</i>	Marcel Dupré (1886-1971)
<i>Ou s'en vont ces gais bergers</i>	Claude Balbastre (1724-99)
<i>Christmas Cradle Song</i>	Alfred Hollins (1865-1942)

Acknowledgements

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ORDER OF SERVICE

Before the final organ prelude, the Revd Canon Dr Neil Evans, Interim Dean of Southwell, welcomes the congregation and introduces the service.

ORGAN PRELUDE *during which the congregation's candles are lit*

Gelobet seist du, Jesu Christ, BWV 604

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

After the organ prelude, please stand quietly

HYMN

Solo Once in royal David's city
 Stood a lowly cattle shed,
 Where a mother laid her baby
 In a manger for his bed:
 Mary was that mother mild,
 Jesus Christ her little child.

Choir He came down to earth from heaven
 Who is God and Lord of all,
 And his shelter was a stable,
 And his cradle was a stall;
 With the poor and mean and lowly
 Lived on earth our Saviour holy.



All **And through all his wondrous childhood
He would honour and obey,
Love and watch the lowly maiden,
In whose gentle arms he lay:
Christian children all must be
Mild, obedient, good as he.**

**For he is our childhood's pattern,
Day by day like us he grew,
He was little, weak, and helpless,
Tears and smiles like us he knew:
And he feeleth for our sadness,
And he shareth in our gladness.**

**And our eyes at last shall see him,
Through his own redeeming love,
For that child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in heaven above;
And he leads his children on
To the place where he is gone.**

**Not in that poor lowly stable,
With the oxen standing by,
We shall see him; but in heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high;
Where like stars his children crowned
All in white shall wait around.**

Words: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-95)

Tune: IRBY CC2 31

*Henry John Gauntlett (1805-76)
arr. Arthur Henry Mann (1850-1929)
Descant: David Willcocks (1919-2015)*

Please remain standing

BIDDING *given by the Dean*

Beloved in Christ, be it this Christmastide our care and delight to hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger.

Therefore let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by this Holy Child.

But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace on earth and goodwill among all his people; for unity within the Church he came to build, and especially in this town of Southwell and diocese of Southwell and Nottingham.

And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us remember, in his name, the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry, and the oppressed; the sick and them that mourn, the lonely and the unloved, the aged and the little children; all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore, and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom in the Lord Jesus we are for ever one.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the Throne of Heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

PRAYER

Dean May the Almighty God bless us with his grace;
Christ give us the joys of everlasting life,
and unto the fellowship of the citizens above
may the King of Angels bring us all.
Amen.

Please sit

FIRST LESSON: 'The First Sin and its Punishment'
read by a Chorister

Genesis 3: 8–15

They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, 'Where are you?' He said, 'I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.' He said, 'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?' The man said, 'The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.' Then the Lord God said to the woman, 'What is this that you have done?' The woman said, 'The serpent tricked me, and I ate.'

The Lord God said to the serpent,

 'Because you have done this,
 cursed are you among all animals
 and among all wild creatures;
upon your belly you shall go,
 and dust you shall eat
 all the days of your life.

I will put enmity between you and the woman,
 and between your offspring and hers;
he will strike your head,
 and you will strike his heel.'

Thanks be to God.

CAROL *sung by the choir*

This is the truth sent from above,
the truth of God, the God of love;
therefore don't turn me from your door,
but hearken all both rich and poor.

The first thing which I do relate
Is that God did man create;
The next thing which to you I'll tell
Woman was made with man to dwell.

Thus we were heirs to endless woes,
Till God the Lord did interpose;
And so a promise soon did run
That he would redeem us by his Son.

And at that season of the year
our blest Redeemer did appear;
he here did live, and here did preach,
and many thousands he did teach.

Thus he in love to us behaved,
to show us how we must be saved;
and if you want to know the way,
be pleased to hear what he did say.

*Words and Music: English Traditional Carol
arranged by Philip Moore (b. 1943)*

SECOND LESSON: 'The Righteous Reign of the Coming King'
read by a Lay Clerk

Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness —
on them light has shined.

For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and
his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and
for evermore.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL sung by the choir

The tree of life my soul hath seen,
Laden with fruit, and always green:
The trees of nature fruitless be
Compared with Christ the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel:
By faith I know, but ne'er can tell
The glory which I now can see
In Jesus Christ the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought,
And pleasure dearly I have bought:
I missed of all; but now I see
'Tis found in Christ the apple tree.

I'm weary with my former toil,
Here I will sit and rest awhile:
Under the shadow I will be,
Of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,
It keeps my dying faith alive;
Which makes my soul in haste to be
With Jesus Christ the apple tree.

*Words: Anonymous, from the collection of
Joshua Smith, New Hampshire (1784)*

Music: Elizabeth Poston (1905-85)

Please stand

HYMN



1. It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
'Peace on the earth, good-will to men,
From heaven's all gracious King!'
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

2. Still through the cloven skies they come,
With peaceful wings unfurled;
And still their heavenly music floats
O'er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hovering wing;
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.

3. Yet with the woes of sin and strife
The world has suffered long;
Beneath the angel-strain have rolled
Two thousand years of wrong;
And man, at war with man, hears not
The love-song which they bring:
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,
And hear the angels sing!

4. For lo! the days are hastening on,
By prophet bards foretold,
When, with the ever-circling years
Comes round the age of gold;
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendours fling,
And the whole world give back the song
Which now the angels sing.

Words: *Edmund Sears (1810-76)*

Tune: NOEL CC2 44

English traditional

arr. Arthur Sullivan (1842-1900)

Descant: David Willcocks (1919-2015)

Please sit

read by an Organist

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth.
He shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL *sung by the choir*

Nowell, nowell, nowell.

Out of your sleep arise and wake,
for God mankind now hath y-take,
all of a maid without any make;
of all women she beareth the bell.

And through a maiden fair and wise
now man is made of full great price;
now angels kneelen to man's service,
and at this time all this befell.

Now man is brighter than the sun;
now man in heaven on high shall wone;
blessèd be God, this game is begun,
and his mother empress of hell.

That ever was thrall, now is he free;
that ever was small, now great is she;
now shall God deem both thee and me
unto his bliss, if we do well.

Now man may to heaven wend;
now heaven and earth to him they bend;
he that was foe now is our friend.
This is no nay that I you tell.

Now, blessed brother, grant us grace,
at doomsday to see thy face,
and in thy court to have a place,
that we may there sing thee nowell.

Words: Anonymous (c. 1450)

Music: Imogen Holst (1907-84)

read by a member of the Cathedral staff (23 December) and

read by a representative of the Guild of Minster Stewards (24 December)

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL *sung by the choir*

Angelus ad virginem,
Subintrans in conclave,
Virginis formidinem
Demulcens, inquit "Ave!
Ave, regina virginum:
Coeli terraeque dominum
Concipies et paries intacta
Salutem hominum;
Tu porta coeli facta,
Medela criminum."

*The angel came to the Virgin,
entering secretly into her room;
the Virgin's fear
calming, he said, "Hail!
Hail, queen of virgins:
you will conceive the Lord of heaven and earth
and bear him, still a virgin,
to be the salvation of mankind;
you will be made the gate of heaven,
the cure of sins."*

"Quomodo conciperem,
Quae virum non cognovi?
Qualiter infringerem,
Quae firma mente vovi?"
"Spiritus sancti gratia
Perficiet haec omnia.
Ne timeas, sed gaudeas
Secura, quod castimonia
Manebit in te pura
Dei potentia."

Ad haec, virgo nobilis
Respondens inquit ei,
"Ancilla sum humilis
Omnipotentis Dei.
Tibi coelesti nuntio,
Tanti secreti conscio,
Consentiens et cupiens videre
Factum quod audio,
Parata sum parere
Dei consilio."

Eia Mater Domini,
Quae pacem reddidisti
Angelis et homini
Cum Christum genuisti!
Tuum exora filium
Ut se nobis propitium
Exhibeat, et deleat peccata,
Praestans auxilium
Vita frui beata
Post hoc exsilium.

*"How can I conceive,
When I have never known a man?
How can I transgress
resolutions that I have vowed with a firm mind?"
"The grace of the Holy Spirit
shall do all this.
Do not be afraid, but rejoice
without a care, since your chastity
will remain in you unspoilt
through the power of God."*

*To this, the noble Virgin,
replying, said to him,
"I am the humble maidservant
of almighty God.
To you, heavenly messenger,
and bearer of such a great secret,
I give my consent, and wishing to see
done what I hear,
I am ready to obey
the will of God."*

*The angel vanished,
and at once the girl's
womb swelled
with the force of the pregnancy of salvation.
He, protected by the womb
for nine months in number,
left it and began the struggle,
fixing to his shoulder
a cross, with which he dealt the blow
to the deadly Enemy.*

Words: Traditional

Music: 14th century Irish carol
arr. David Willcocks (1919-2015)

FIFTH LESSON: 'The Birth of Jesus'

Luke 2: 1-7

*read by a representative of Southwell Minster Choir Association (23 December) and
read by a representative of the Friends of Southwell Cathedral (24 December)*

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL sung by the choir

Sing lullaby, sing lullaby,
while snow doth gently fall,
sing lullaby, to Jesus
born in an oxen-stall.

Sing lullaby to Jesus
born now in Bethlehem,
the naked black-thorn's growing
to weave his diadem.

Sing lullaby to Jesus,
while thickly snow doth fall
Sing lullaby to Jesus
the Saviour of all.

Words: Frederick William Harvey (1888-1957)

Music: Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

Please stand

HYMN *with verse 3 sung by the choir alone*



**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..**

Choir only **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. Where children pure and happy
Pray to the blessèd Child,
Where misery cries out to thee,
Son of the mother mild;
Where charity stands watching
And faith holds wide the door,
The dark night wakes, the glory breaks,
And Christmas comes once more.**

**5. 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)

Descant: Thomas Armstrong (1898-1994)

Please sit

SIXTH LESSON: 'The Shepherds and the Angels'

Luke 2: 8–16

*read by the Head Teacher of the Minster School (23 December) and
read by a Churchwarden (24 December)*

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL sung by the choir

Going through the hills on a night all starry
On the way to Bethlehem,
Far away I heard a shepherd boy piping
On the way to Bethlehem.

*Angels in the sky brought this message nigh:
'Dance and sing for joy that Christ the newborn King
Is come to bring us peace on earth,
And he's lying cradled there at Bethlehem.'*

'Tell me, shepherd boy piping tunes so merrily
On the way to Bethlehem,
Who will hear your tunes on these hills so lonely
On the way to Bethlehem?'

*Angels in the sky brought this message nigh:
'Dance and sing for joy that Christ the newborn King
Is come to bring us peace on earth,
And he's lying cradled there at Bethlehem.'*

'None may hear my pipes on these hills so lonely
On the way to Bethlehem;
But a King will hear me play sweet lullabies
When I get to Bethlehem.'

*Angels in the sky came down from on high,
Hovered o'er the manger where the babe was lying
Cradled in the arms of his mother Mary,
Sleeping now at Bethlehem.*

'Where is this new King, shepherd boy piping merrily,
Is he there at Bethlehem?'
'I will find him soon by the star shining brightly
In the sky o'er Bethlehem.'

*Angels in the sky brought this message nigh:
'Dance and sing for joy that Christ the newborn King
Is come to bring us peace on earth,
And he's lying cradled there at Bethlehem.'*

'May I come with you, shepherd boy piping merrily,
Come with you to Bethlehem?
Pay my homage too at the new King's cradle
Is it far to Bethlehem?'

*Angels in the sky brought this message nigh:
'Dance and sing for joy that Christ the infant King
Is born this night in lowly stable yonder,
Born for you at Bethlehem.'*

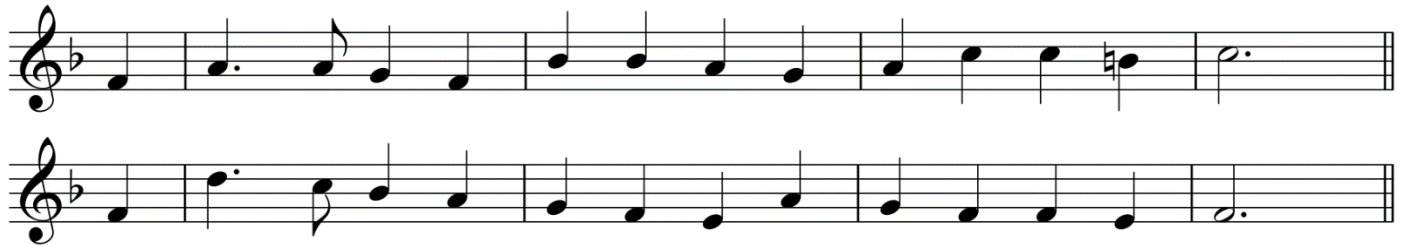
Words and music: SHEPHERD'S PIPE CAROL
John Rutter (b. 1945)

A CHRISTMAS REFLECTION *given by*

*The Bishop of Southwell and Nottingham, the Rt Revd Paul Williams (23 December),
and the Bishop of Sherwood, The Rt Revd Dr Andy Emerton (24 December)*

Please stand

HYMN



**While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
All seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down
And glory shone around.**

**'Fear not', said he (for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled mind),
'Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind.**

**'To you in David's town this day
Is born of David's line
A Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
And this shall be the sign:**

**'The heavenly Babe you there shall find
To human view displayed,
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
And in a manger laid.'**

**Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith
Appeared a shining throng
Of angels praising God, who thus
Addressed their joyful song:**

**'All glory be to God on high,
And on the earth be peace;
Good-will henceforth from heaven to men
Begin and never cease.'**

*Words: Nahum Tate (1652-1715)
after Luke 2: 8-14*

*Tune: WINCHESTER OLD NEH 42
from Thomas Este's Psalter, 1592*

Please sit

SEVENTH LESSON: 'The Visit of the Wise Men'

Matthew 2: 1-11

*read by the Lord-Lieutenant (23 December) and
read by a representative of the Cathedral Chapter (24 December)*

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL *sung by the choir*

And lo! the star, that they saw in the east, went before them,
till it came, and stood above, where the child was.
And they saw the star, and joyed with a full great joy.
And they entered the house, and found the child with Mary, his mother;
and they felled down, and worshipped him.
And when they had opened their treasures,
they offered to him gifts, gold, incense, and myrrh.

Words: *Matthew 2: 1-12*
as translated by John Wycliffe (c. 1328-84)

Music: *Judith Bingham (b. 1952)*

Please stand

EIGHTH LESSON: 'The Word Became Flesh'

John 1: 1-14

read by the Dean

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.

Thanks be to God.

Please extinguish your candle and be seated

CAROL *sung by the choir*

Les anges dans nos campagnes
Ont entonné l'hymne des cieux;
Et l'écho de nos montagnes
Redit ce chant mélodieux.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo.

*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.*

Glory to God in the highest.

Bergers, pour qui cette fête?
Quel est l'objet de tous ces chants?
Quel vainqueur, quelle conquête
Mérite ces cris triomphants?

Gloria, in excelsis Deo.

*Shepherds, in the field abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing;
Yonder shines the infant light:*

Glory to God in the highest.

Ils annoncent la naissance
Du libérateur d'Israël,
Et pleins de reconnaissance
Chantent en ce jour solennel.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo.

*Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations;
Ye have seen His natal star.*

Glory to God in the highest.

Cherchons tous l'heureux village
Qui l'a vu naître sous ses toits,
Offrons-lui le tendre hommage
Et de nos coeurs et de nos voix!

Gloria, in excelsis Deo.

*Saints, before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear;
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In His temple shall appear.*

Glory to God in the highest.

Dans l'humilité profonde
Ou vous paraissez à nos yeux,
Pour vous louer, Dieu du monde,
Nous redirons ce chant joyeux :

Gloria, in excelsis Deo.

*Though an infant now we view Him,
He shall fill His Father's throne,
Gather all the nations to Him;
Every knee shall then bow down:*

Glory to God in the highest.

Words: French Traditional

English translation: J Montgomery (1771-1854)

Music: Bob Chilcott (b. 1955)

Please stand

HYMN



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, let us adore him...

See how the Shepherds,
Summoned to his cradle,
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
We too will thither
Bend our joyful footsteps:
O come, let us adore him...

**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, let us adore him...

**Sing, choirs of Angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God
In the Highest:**

O come, let us adore him...

*Words: Latin, 18th century
trans. Frederick Oakeley (1802-80),
William Thomas Brooke (1848-1917) et al.*

*Tune: ADESTE FIDELES CC1 26
John Francis Wade (c. 1711-86)
arr. David Willcocks (1919-2015)*

Please remain standing

COLLECT

Dean Let us pray.

Silence is kept.

Almighty God,
you make us glad with the yearly remembrance
of the birth of your Son Jesus Christ:
grant that, as we joyfully receive him as our redeemer,
we may with sure confidence behold him
when he shall come to be our judge;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

BLESSING given by the Bishop of Southwell and Nottingham (23 December) and the Bishop of Sherwood (24 December)

May the Father,
who has loved the eternal Son
from before the foundation of the world,
shed that love upon you his children.

Amen.

May Christ, who has gathered into one
things earthly and heavenly,
fill you with joy and peace.

Amen.

May the Holy Spirit,
by whose overshadowing Mary became the God-bearer,
give you grace to carry the good news of Christ.

Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

HYMN



1. 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 th'angelic host proclaim,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.

*Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.*

2. Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come
Off-spring of a Virgin's womb:
Veiled in flesh the God-head see,
Hail th'incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.

*Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.*

3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Ris'n with healing in his wings;
Mild he lays 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 angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.*

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-88) et al.

Tune: MENDELSSOHN CC1 14
Felix Mendelssohn (1808-47)
Descant: David Willcocks (1919-2015)

ORGAN VOLUNTARIES

In dulci jubilo, BWV 729

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Prelude and Fugue in B

Marcel Dupré (1886-1971)

You are invited to sit quietly to listen to the organ voluntaries. Should you wish to leave before they have finished, please be sensitive to those who wish to listen.

*As you leave this service a **retiring collection** in support of the mission and ministry of the Cathedral will be taken. Thank you for your generous support of the Cathedral and its ongoing work.*

Pew News, the Minster's weekly notice sheet (which includes further information about future events at the Cathedral, and also information for prayer), is available on the Minster website at www.southwellminster.org/worship/pew-news/

Please take this order of service away with you.



Do you know a child who sings?

Southwell Minster Choir is always on the lookout for boys and girls aged 6-9 who love singing and would benefit from being a part of our amazing group of choristers.

- Sing as part of a first-rate choir
- Receive free singing lessons
- Make friends for life
- Learn to read music to a high level
- Enjoy singing in our wonderful building
- Termly payment
- Social events and musical trips

Why not get in touch?

Please contact Paul Provost:

paul.provost@southwellminster.org.uk

or scan the QR code for more information:



SERVICES ON CHRISTMAS DAY

- 8.00am Holy Communion with Carols** BCP *Quire*
Preacher: The Revd Prof. Alison Milbank, *Canon Theologian*
- 10.00am Cathedral Eucharist** CW *Nave (and live-streamed)*
sung by the Cathedral Choir
Preacher: The Revd Dr Richard Frith, *Canon Precentor*
- 11.15am Festal Mattins** BCP *Quire*
sung by the Cathedral Choir
Preacher: The Revd Canon Dr Neil Evans, *Interim Dean of Southwell*
- 12.15pm Holy Communion** BCP *Quire*
- 3.30pm Evening Prayer with Carols** BCP *Quire*

After Christmas our next choral services will be Evensong at **5.30pm on Saturday 4 January** (sung by the choir of St Peter's, Nottingham) and Evensong at 3.30pm on **Sunday 5 January** (sung by the choir of St Mary's, Newark). The Cathedral Choir will resume singing services with Evensong at 5.30pm on **Monday 6 January**.

The Three Miracles : The Cathedral Epiphany Procession service will be held at **3.30pm on Sunday 12 January** and will include music by Palestrina, Poulenc, Allain, Holst and Bingham.

Exploring Faith

Hosted by Bishop Paul and Sarah Williams with Southwell Minster

These evenings offer the opportunity to explore how faith in Jesus can bring new peace and hope in our lives and the world today.

Exploring Faith begins on Wednesday 26 February for an introductory evening for those curious to know more. Then every Wednesday from 12 March until 9 April.

Starts at 6.30pm with a simple supper at Bishop's Manor, Southwell followed by a short talk, conversation and finish by 9pm.

All are welcome – to find out more or book your place please contact bishopsmanor@southwell.anglican.org or phone 01636 817990.



PLEASE DONATE TO SUPPORT YOUR CATHEDRAL

If this evening's carol service has brought you joy, please consider making a donation to help keep the Minster thriving.

Every gift, no matter the size, makes a difference.

WHY YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS

It costs £3,000 a day to run the Cathedral, to preserve and maintain our sacred heritage. We receive no government funding, and the Church of England contributes only 25% of funds required to keep the Minster operating. As a charity, we must raise everything else ourselves.

By making a Christmas gift to the Minster, you will help us keep this historic treasure shining bright!

HOW TO DONATE

COMPLETE A GIVING ENVELOPE

Place cash or a cheque inside and hand it to a Churchwarden as you leave tonight.

SCAN TO DONATE ONLINE



USE A DONATION STATION

Use your phone or card to donate as you leave tonight.

THANK YOU



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: Calm and Bright

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

Tel.: [01636 812649](tel:01636812649)

office@southwellminster.org.uk

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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