



CATHEDRAL EUCHARIST

CHRISTMAS DAY

Wednesday 25 December 2024 10.00am

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, 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 President of the Eucharist is the Bishop of Southwell and Nottingham, the Rt Revd Paul Williams. The Deacon is the Revd Canon Dr Neil Evans, *Interim Dean of Southwell*. The Preacher is the Revd Dr Richard Frith, *Canon Precentor*.

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

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 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. A collection for the Cathedral's mission and ministry will be taken during the Offertory Hymn. If you are a UK



taxpayer, please consider using the Gift Aid envelopes provided – this allows us to increase your donation by 25p for every £1 you give at no extra cost to you. Card donations can be made at the contactless stations located near the main exits. You can also donate online by scanning the QR code or visiting www.southwellminster.org/donate. Thank you for your generous support of the Cathedral and its ongoing work.

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 iv 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

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 <u>bishopsmanor@southwell.anglican.org</u> or phone 01636 817990.

Communion

Holy Communion will be offered in both kinds (bread and wine) but please feel free to leave the altar rail after receiving the bread if you prefer. The Church teaches that Holy Communion is received fully in either the consecrated wafer or the wine. Please do not intinct (dip your wafer in the wine) as this carries an increased risk of transmitting infection. The administrant will not offer you the chalice to intinct, but only to drink from.

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*. The setting for the Eucharist is the *Missa brevis Sancti Joannis de Deo* by Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809).

Organ Prelude before the Service

Rhapsodie sur des Noëls (from Dix pièces)

Eugène Gigout (1844-1925)

ORDER OF SERVICE

Before the service, the Revd Canon Dr Neil Evans, Interim Dean of Southwell, greets the congregation. Please stand at the start of the opening hymn.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN during which the clergy enter



1. 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!

2. 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...

3. 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...

4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born this happy morning,
Jesu, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing:
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)

THE GATHERING

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

Amen.

GREETING

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you and also with you.

The Bishop introduces the Eucharist.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS CANDLE

As the final candle on the Advent wreath is lit, the choir sings:

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, King of Peace: to you be praise and glory for ever.
The new light of your incarnate Word gives gladness in our sorrow, and a presence in our isolation.
Fill our lives with your light, until they overflow with gladness and praise.
Jesus our Saviour and King of the ages.



Music: Malcolm Archer (b. 1952)

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

Deacon The sun of righteousness has dawned with healing in his wings.

Let us come to the light of Christ,

confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Silence is kept.

Bishop Christ came in humility to share our lives:

forgive our pride.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ came with good news for all people:

forgive our silence.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ came in love to a world of suffering:

forgive our self-centredness.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

ABSOLUTION given by the Bishop

May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw you to himself and cleanse you from all your sins, that you may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh

the Word made flesh,

Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Choir

Gloria in excelsis Deo, et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis.

Laudamus te, benedicimus te, adoramus te, glorificamus te, gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam.

Domine Deus, Rex caelestis, Deus Pater omnipotens. Domine Fili unigenite, Jesu Christe: Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis, qui tollis peccata mundi, suscipe deprecationem nostram; qui sedes ad dexteram Patris, miserere nobis.

Quoniam tu solus Sanctus; tu solus Dominus; tu solus altissimus, Jesu Christe, cum Sancto Spiritu, in gloria Dei Patris. Amen. Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

COLLECT

Bishop Let us pray.

Silence is kept.

Almighty God, you have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin: grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Please sit

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING read by Wendy Whitaker

Hebrews 1: 1–4

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand

GRADUAL 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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Choir Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.AllAlleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Choir Today Christ is born, alleluia.Today the Saviour has come, alleluia.Today the angels sing on earth, alleluia.Glory to God in the highest.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Music: Mode vi and Katherine Dienes-Williams (b. 1970)

GOSPEL READING John 1: 1–14

Deacon Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John



Glo-ry to you, O Lord.

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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Praise to you, O Christ.

Please turn back, and then sit when invited by the preacher.

SERMON given by the Canon Precentor

Please stand

CREED

Bishop Let us declare our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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.

Please sit or kneel when invited

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The following response is used:

Jesus, light of the world, shine in our lives today.

and at the end:

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Please stand

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

THE PEACE

Bishop Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,

and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

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

The Deacon invites the congregation to share a sign of peace.

OFFERTORY HYMN during which a collection is taken for the mission and ministry of the Cathedral and the table is prepared for Communion



- 1. God rest you merry, gentlemen, Let nothing you dismay, For Jesus Christ our Saviour Was born upon this day, To save us all from Satan's power When we were gone astray:
 - O tidings of comfort and joy!
- 2. From God our heavenly Father A blessèd angel came, And unto certain shepherds Brought tidings of the same, How that in Bethlehem was born The Son of God by name:

O tidings of comfort and joy!

- 3. The shepherds at those tidings Rejoicèd much in mind, And left their flocks a-feeding, In tempest, storm and wind, And went to Bethlehem straightway This blessed babe to find: O tidings of comfort and joy!
- 4. But when to Bethlehem they came, Whereat this infant lay, They found him in a manger, Where oxen feed on hay; His mother Mary kneeling, Unto the Lord did pray: O tidings of comfort and joy!
- 5. Now to the Lord sing praises, All you within this place, And with true love and brotherhood Each other now embrace; This holy tide of Christmas All others doth deface:

O tidings of comfort and joy!

Words: English traditional

Tune: GOD REST YOU MERRY CC1 11 London traditional arr. David Willcocks (1919-2015)

Prayer at the Preparation of the Table

Bishop Let us pray.

Word made flesh, life of the world, in your incarnation you embraced our poverty: by your Spirit may we share in your riches. Amen.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER



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, 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 and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS sung by the choir

Sanctus, sanctus Holy, holy, holy Lord,
Dominus Deus Sabaoth, God of power and might,

pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua. heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in excelsis. Hosanna in the highest.

Benedictus qui venit Blessed is he who comes in nomine Domini. in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in excelsis. Hosanna in the highest.

Bishop

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.

Deacon Great is the mystery of faith:

All



Bishop 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 and bring us with the Blessed Virgin Mary 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.

All



Please sit or kneel

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us, as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world. God here among us, light in the midst of us, bring us to light and life.

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.

AGNUS DEI sung by the choir whilst the altar party receives communion

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi: Lamb of God, you take away the sin

miserere nobis. of the world; have mercy upon us.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi: Lamb of God, you take away the sin miserere nobis.

of the world; have mercy upon us.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi: Lamb of God, you take away the sin

dona nobis pacem. *of the world; grant us peace.*

All baptised, communicant members of Christian churches are invited to receive Communion.

Holy Communion will be offered in both kinds (bread and wine) both at the communion rail and at the font. If you prefer to receive in one kind please feel free to leave after receiving the bread. The Church teaches that Holy Communion is received fully in either the consecrated wafer or the wine. Please do not intinct (dip your wafer in the wine) as this carries an increased risk of transmitting infection. The administrant will not offer you the chalice to intinct, but only to drink from. Thank you.

Please follow the instructions of Churchwardens to approach to receive Communion.

Gluten-free wafers are available on request. If you would prefer to receive a blessing (without physical contact), please bring this order of service with you as an indication. If you are unable to move to the altar, please inform a Churchwarden and the President will come to you.

Please sit or kneel on your return from Communion.

COMMUNION MOTET 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.*

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.

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

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.

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.

Words: French Traditional English translation: J Montgomery (1771-1854) 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Music: Bob Chilcott (b. 1955)

COMMUNION HYMN Please remain seated



- 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. Enough for him, whom Cherubim Worship night and day,
 A breast full of milk,
 And a mangerful of hay:
 Enough for him, whom angels
 Fall down before,
 The ox and ass and camel
 Which adore.
- 4. 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.
- 5. 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)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Bishop Let us pray.

God our Father,
whose Word has come among us
in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:
may the light of faith illumine our hearts
and shine in our words and deeds;
through him who is Christ the Lord.
Amen.

THE DISMISSAL

Please stand

BLESSING given by the Bishop

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 and remain with you always. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Deacon Go in the light and peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

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 VOLUNTARY

Final (from Symphony No 1)

Louis Vierne (1870-1937)

Once the clergy 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 outside the north door to greet you on your way out.

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

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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 <u>www.southwellminster.org/newsletter</u>

Acknowledgements

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