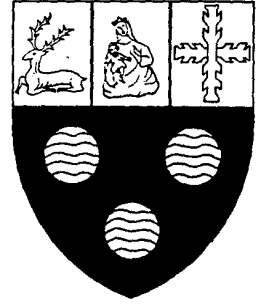


**Southwell
Minster**
THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF
THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY



EVENING PRAYER WITH CAROLS

CHRISTMAS DAY

Wednesday 25 December 2024

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

This service is led by The Revd Canon Dr Neil Evans, *Interim Dean of Southwell*.
The organ is played by Paul Provost, *Rector Chori*.

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. 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. Alternatively, you can 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 12 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

ORDER OF SERVICE

ORGAN PRELUDE

Pifa (from *Messiah*)

George Frederic Handel (1685-1759)

Please stand as the clergy enter the Quire

The Revd Canon Dr Neil Evans, Interim 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 (1926-2024)
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)

As you leave this service a retiring collection in support of the mission and ministry of the Cathedral will be taken. 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. Alternatively, you can donate online by visiting www.southwellminster.org/donate. Thank you for your generous support of the Cathedral and its ongoing work.

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.

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

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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*

Please take this Order of Service away with you.

Acknowledgements

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