

A Christmas Meditation: Festive Music & Readings



Tuesday 22 December 2020
7.30 pm

Welcome to Manchester Cathedral

Welcome to the Cathedral and Collegiate Church of St Mary, St Denys and St George in the heart of the City of Manchester. The building is the old mediaeval Parish Church of Manchester. King Henry V first granted it Collegiate status in 1421 and it became Manchester's Cathedral on the creation of the Diocese of Manchester in 1847. It is believed that there has been a church on or near this site for over a thousand years.

Safeguarding

Manchester Cathedral works hard to create safe environments where children and young people are protected and where all people, especially those who may be vulnerable for any reason, are able to worship and pursue their faith journey with encouragement and in safety. We follow the policies and procedures detailed within the Cathedral Safeguarding Handbook. We act promptly on any complaints made, and work in partnership with Manchester Diocese, the police and social care services whenever appropriate to do so. Details of our policy and how to voice a concern can be found on a dedicated page of our website and on the noticeboard at the south porch.

Hearing-loop



Manchester Cathedral has a hearing-loop.
Please set your hearing aid to setting T.

Have you turned off your mobile phone?

Please make sure that you have turned off your mobile phone and any other electronic equipment that might interrupt the service.

Photography

Please do not use cameras, photo-imaging devices or recording equipment during the service.

Musicians

The Cathedral Choir is conducted by
Christopher Stokes, Organist and Master of the Choristers
The organ is played by Geoffrey Woollatt, Sub-Organist

Music before the service

Resonet in laudibus, Op 106 No 3
The Holy Boy
Interlude on the Coventry Carol

Sigfrid Karg-Elert (1877-1933)
John Ireland (1879-1962)
W S Lloyd-Webber (1914-82)

The Truth from above

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.

Then after this 'twas God's own choice,
To place them both in Paradise,
There to remain from evil free,
Except they ate of such a tree.

And they did eat, which was a sin,
And thus their ruin did begin;
Ruined themselves, both you and me,
And all of their posterity

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.

English traditional carol

arranged by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Welcome

The Dean

My brothers and sisters: in the name of Christ I welcome you. We have come together as Christmas draws near to prepare for our celebration of the birth of God's beloved Son. Through the days of Advent we have followed the light of Christ, and now we travel in spirit with Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem to acclaim with the multitude of the heavenly host the coming of the Prince of Peace. Through Scripture, poetry and song let us hear again the wonderful story of our redemption, and, hearing, let us rejoice and respond with lively faith.

A babe is born

sung by the Choir

A babe is born all of a may,
To bring salvation unto us.
To him we sing both night and day.
Veni Creator Spiritus.

At Bethlehem, that blessed place,
The child of bliss now born he was;
And him to serve God give us grace,
O lux beata Trinitas.

There came three kings out of the East,
To worship the King that is so free,
With gold and myrrh and frankincense,
A solis ortus cardine.

The angels came down with one cry,
A fair song that night sung they
In worship of that child:
Gloria tibi Domine.

A babe is born all of a may,
To bring salvation unto us.
To him we sing both night and day.
Veni Creator Spiritus. Noel!

William Mathias (1934-92)

15th century Anon

Reading

Luke 2. 1-7

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)

And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)

To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

The Holly and the Ivy

sung by the Choir

The holly and the ivy,
When they are both full grown;
Of all the trees that are in the wood
The holly bears the crown.

*O the rising of the sun
And the running of the deer,
The playing of the merry organ,
Sweet singing in the choir.*

The holly bears a blossom
As white as lily flower;
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
To be our sweet Saviour.

*O the rising of the sun
And the running of the deer,
The playing of the merry organ,
Sweet singing in the choir.*

The holly bears a berry
As red as any blood;
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
To do poor sinners good.

*O the rising of the sun
And the running of the deer,
The playing of the merry organ,
Sweet singing in the choir.*

The holly bears a prickle
As sharp as any thorn;
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
On Christmas Day in the morn.

*O the rising of the sun
And the running of the deer,
The playing of the merry organ,
Sweet singing in the choir.*

The holly bears a bark
As bitter as any gall;
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
For to redeem us all.
*O the rising of the sun
And the running of the deer,
The playing of the merry organ,
Sweet singing in the choir.*

*English traditional carol
arranged by Henry Walford Davies (1869-1941)*

Blessed be that Maid Marie

sung by the Choir

Blessed be that Maid Marie;
Born he was of her body;
Very God ere time began,
Born in time the Son of Man.

*Eya! Ihesus hodie
Natus est de Virgine.*

In a manger of an ass
Jesu lay and lulled was;
Born to die upon the Tree
Pro peccante homine.

*Eya! Ihesus hodie
Natus est de Virgine.*

Sweet and blissful was the song
Chanted of the Angel throng,
“Peace on earth, Alleluya!
In excelsis gloria!”

*Eya! Ihesus hodie
Natus est de Virgine.*

Fare three kings from far-off land,
Incense, gold and myrrh in hand;
In Bethlem the Babe they see,
Stelle ducti lumine.

*Eya! Ihesus hodie
Natus est de Virgine.*

Make we merry on this fest,
In quo Christus natus est.
On this Child I pray you call,
To assoil and save us all.

*Eya! Ihesus hodie
Natus est de Virgine.*

Gareth Tresseder (b 1985)

15th century traditional

Reading What the donkey saw

No room in the inn of course,
And not that much in the stable,
What with the shepherds, Magi, Mary,
Joseph, the heavenly host –
Not to mention the baby
Using our manger as a cot.
You couldn't have squeezed another cherub in
For love or money.

Still, in spite of the overcrowding,
I did my best to make them feel wanted.
I could see the baby and I
Would be going places together.

U A Fanthorpe (1929-2009)

It came upon the midnight clear

sung by the Choir

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, goodwill to men,
From heaven's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay,
To hear the angels sing.

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 lonely plains,
They bend on hovering wing,
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.

All ye, beneath life's crushing load,
Whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way
With painful steps and slow,
Look now! for glad and golden hours
Come swiftly on the wing:
O rest beside the weary road,
And hear the angels sing.

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.

Richard Storrs Willis (1819-1900)

Edmund Sears (1810-76)

What sweeter music

sung by the Choir

What sweeter music can we bring
Than a carol, for to sing
The birth of this our heavenly King?
Awake the voice! Awake the string!
Dark and dull night, fly hence away,
And give the honour to this day
That sees December turn to May.
Why does the chilling winter's morn
Smile, like a field beset with corn?
Or smell like a meadow newly shorn
Thus on the sudden? Come and see

The cause, why things thus fragrant be:
'Tis he is born, whose quickening birth
Gives life and lustre, public mirth,
To heaven and the underearth.
We see him come, and know him ours,
Who, with his sunshine and his showers,
Turns all the patient ground to flowers.
The darling of the world is come,
And fit it is, we find a room
To welcome him. The nobler part
Of all the house here, is the heart,
Which we will give him; and bequeath
This holly, and this ivy wreath,
To do him honour; who's our King,
And Lord of all this revelling.

John Rutter (b 1945)

Robert Herrick (1591-1674)
abridged and altered

Reading

Luke 2. 8-20

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, 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, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and
the babe lying in a manger.

And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the
saying which was told them concerning this child.

And all they that heard it wondered at those things which
were told them by the shepherds.

But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her
heart.

And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for
all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told
unto them.

Quem viditis pastores dicite

sung by the Choir

Quem vidistis pastores dicite:

Annuntiate nobis in terris quis apparuit:

Natum vidimus, et choros angelorum collaudantes Dominum.

Dicite quidnam vidistis, et annuntiate Christi nativitatem.

Tell us, shepherds, whom have you seen?

Relate to us, who has appeared on earth?

*We have seen a new born babe, and choirs of Angels
praising God together.*

Proclaim what you have seen, and announce the birth of Christ.

Francis Poulenc (1899-1963)

from the office of Matins on Christmas Day

Reading What the donkey saw

After the frantic shopping

The anxious road

After the office parties

The crowded inn

Before the quarterly bills

The stones gathered

Before the January sales

And Stephen, broken

After the carols and lessons

The psalms, the prophets

After the gifts are wrapped

The swaddling clothes

Before the Queen's Speech
A baby's cry
Across the morning suburbs
The Light of the World

U A Fanthorpe

In the bleak midwinter

sung by the Choir

In the bleak midwinter frosty winds 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.

Our God, Heav'n cannot hold him nor earth sustain;
Heav'n and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign:
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed.
The Lord God Almighty Jesus Christ.

Enough for him, whom cherubim worship night and day,
A breastful of milk and a mangerful of hay;
Enough for him, whom angels fall down before,
The ox and ass and camel which adore.

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.

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.

Harold Darke (1888-1976)

Christina Rossetti (1830-94)

Prayers

led by the Sub-Dean

Let us pray to Jesus our Saviour
Christ, born in a stable,
give courage to all who are homeless.
Jesus, Saviour,

All **hear our prayer.**

Christ, for whom the angels sang,
give the song of the kingdom to all who weep.
Jesus, Saviour,

All **hear our prayer.**

Christ, worshipped by the shepherds,
give peace on earth to all who are oppressed.
Jesus, Saviour,

All **hear our prayer.**

Christ, before whom the wise men knelt,
give humility and wisdom to all who govern.
Jesus, Saviour,

All **hear our prayer.**

Christ, whose radiance filled a lowly manger,
give the glory of your resurrection to all who rest in you.
Jesus, Saviour,

All **hear our prayer.**
Jesus, Saviour, child of Mary,
you know us and love us,
you share our lives
and hear our prayer.
Glory to you for ever. Amen.

Silent night

sung by the Choir

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,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Saviour is born!
Christ the Saviour is born!

Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light;
Radiance beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Franz Grüber (1787-1863)

Joseph Mohr (1792-1848)

Blessing

led by The Right Rev'd Mark Davies
Bishop of Middleton

Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one
things earthly and heavenly,
fill you with peace and goodwill
and make you partakers of the divine nature;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All

Amen.

Music after the service

Chorale Prelude on 'In dulci jubilo', BWV 729

J S Bach (1685-1750)

Choral-Improvisation on In dulci jubilo

Sigfrid Karg-Elert

Wednesday 23 December

- 9am Morning Prayer (live on Facebook)
- 1.10pm Holy Communion (live on Facebook)
- 4.30pm Evening Prayer (live on Facebook, no congregation)

CHRISTMAS EVE

- 9am Morning Prayer (live on Facebook)
- 4.30pm Evening Prayer (live on Facebook)
- 11.30pm Midnight Mass (live on BBC Radio 4)

CHRISTMAS DAY

- 10.30am Christmas Day Eucharist (live on Facebook)
- 12pm Evening Prayer (live on Facebook)

Saturday 26 December

- 11am Morning Prayer (live on Facebook)
- 3.30pm Evening Prayer (live on Facebook)

Sunday 27 December - The First Sunday of Christmas

- 9am Morning Prayer (live on Facebook)
- 4.30pm Evening Prayer (live on Facebook)

Monday 28 December

- 9am Morning Prayer (live on Facebook)
- 4.30pm Evening Prayer (live on Facebook)

Tuesday 29 December

- 9am Morning Prayer (live on Facebook)
- 4.30pm Evening Prayer (live on Facebook)

Wednesday 30 December

- 9am Morning Prayer (live on Facebook)
- 4.30pm Evening Prayer (live on Facebook)

Thursday 31 December

- 9am Morning Prayer (live on Facebook)
- 4.30pm Evening Prayer (live on Facebook)

Christmas 2020 at Manchester Cathedral

Manchester
Cathedral



The Fourth Sunday of Advent Sung Eucharist

Sunday 20 December, 10.30 am

A Christmas Meditation: Festive Music & Readings

Tuesday 22 December, 7.30 pm

Midnight Mass (Live BBC Radio 4 Broadcast)

Christmas Eve, 11.30 pm
with The Bishop of Manchester
(Incense will be used at this service)

Christmas Day Sung Eucharist

Christmas Day, 10.30 am
with The Bishop of Bolton
(Incense will be used at this service)

The First Sunday of Christmas The Eucharist

Sunday 27 December, 10.30 am
with The Bishop of Middleton

The Epiphany

Sunday 3 January 2021, 10.30 am

The Baptism of Christ Sung Eucharist

Sunday 10 January 2021, 10.30 am

You are very welcome to all our services
but you will require a free ticket(s) here:
www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/manchester-cathedral-7097457847
otherwise worship with us live on Facebook.

Common Worship: Times and Seasons,
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