

# A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols



Thursday 22 December 2022  
7.30pm

## **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.

### **Gift Aid**

During the service there will be a collection for the work and mission of the Cathedral. If you would like the Cathedral to reclaim the tax that you have paid on the donation, at no cost to yourself, please use the Gift Aid envelope that is with this order of service.



### **Hearing-loop**

The 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.*  
Organ music before the Service is played by Jed Hughes, *Sydney Nicholson*  
*Organ Scholar*

**Large-print copies of this booklet are also available.**

## Music before the service

Chromatic Fantasia, BWV 903	<i>J S Bach (1685-1750)</i> <i>arr Max Reger (1873-1916)</i>
Praeludium und Fugue a-Moll, BuxWV 153	<i>Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)</i>
Vesper Voluntaries, Op 14	<i>Edward Elgar (1857-1934)</i>
Introduction	
Andante	
Andantino	
Gelobet seist du Jesu Christ, BWV 604	<i>J S Bach</i>
Vom Himmel hoch, BWV 606	
Der tag der ist so freudenreich, BWV 605	
In dulci jubilo, BWV 608	

**Please stand** as the lights are dimmed.

**O Rex gentium (Plainsong procession)**

sung by the Choir

O Rex gentium,  
et desideratus earum,  
lapisque angularis, qui facis utraque  
unum:  
veni, et salva hominem,  
quem de limo formasti.

*O King of the gentiles  
and their desired One,  
the cornerstone that makes  
both one:  
come, and deliver man,  
whom you formed out of the  
dust of the earth.*

*Antiphon to the Magnificat*

**Carol**

***Please note that the Choir sings the first three verses.***

Choir  
only

*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.*

*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.*

*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.*

All

**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,  
When like stars his children crowned,  
All in white shall wait around.**

*Henry John Gauntlett (1805-76)  
Revised by A H Mann and Editors  
Descant by David Willcocks (1919-2015)*

*Mrs C F Alexander (1818-95)*

*Please remain standing*

## **The Bidding Prayer**

The Dean

We have come together as the family of God, in our Father's presence, to celebrate the great festival of Christmas. In this service we hear and receive the good news of the birth of Christ and we offer to God our thanksgiving in the joyful singing of carols.

As we gather together in the name of Christ, we pray  
for the world he came to save:

for the Church, that it may be enabled in our generation  
to surrender anew to God's holy Wisdom, and bear the  
good news of God's love to a needy world;

for the world, which is already Christ's,  
that all its peoples may recognise their responsibility for  
its future, and may be inspired by the message of  
Christmas to work together for the establishment of  
justice, freedom and peace everywhere;

for all in special need, the sick, the anxious, the lonely,  
the fearful and the bereaved, that the peace and light of  
the Christ-child may bring hope and healing to all who sit  
in darkness.

We commend all whom we love, or who have asked for  
our prayers, to the unfailing mercy of our heavenly  
Father, and say together, as Christ himself taught us:

### **The Lord's Prayer**

All            **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 who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
Amen.**

The Dean    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.

All            **Amen.**

*Please sit*

**This song is best!**

sung by the Choir

All this time this song is best  
*Verbum caro factum est! (The word made flesh)*

This night there is a child iborn  
That sprang out of Jesse's thorn.  
We must sing and say therefor.

Jesus is the child's name,  
And Mary is his dame,  
All our sorrow shall turn to game.

It fell upon a high midnight  
The stars shone both fair and bright.  
The angels sang from far on height.

Now kneel we down on our knees  
And pray to the Trinity,  
Our help, our succour for to be!

*Ian Kellam (b 1933)*

*Early English*

**First Lesson**

Genesis 3. 8-15  
read by a Chorister

***God announces in the Garden of Eden that the seed  
of woman shall bruise the serpent's head.***

**Remember, O thou man**

sung by the Choir

Remember, O thou Man,  
O thou Man, O thou Man,  
Remember, O thou Man,  
    Thy time is spent.  
Remember, O thou Man,  
How thou camest to me then,  
And I did what I can.  
    Therefore repent.

Remember God's goodness,  
O thou Man, O thou Man,  
Remember God's goodness  
    And promise made.  
Remember God's goodness,  
How his only Son he sent  
Our sins for to redress.  
    Be not afraid.

The Angels all did sing,  
O thou Man, O thou Man,  
The Angels all did sing  
    On Sion hill.  
The Angels all did sing  
Praises to our Heavenly King,  
And peace to man living,  
    With right good will.

To Bethlem did they go,  
O thou Man, O thou Man,  
To Bethlem did they go  
    This thing to see.  
To Bethlem did they go  
To see whether it was so,  
Whether Christ was born or no,  
    To set us free.

In Bethlem was he born,  
O thou Man, O thou Man,  
In Bethlem was he born  
    For mankind dear.  
In Bethlem was he born  
For us that were forlorn.  
And therefore took no scorn  
    Our sins to bear.

Give thanks to God always,  
O thou Man, O thou Man,  
Give thanks to God always  
    With hearts most jolly.  
Give thanks to God always  
Upon this blessed day.  
Let all men sing and say,  
    Holy, Holy.

The Angels all did sing,  
O thou Man, O thou Man,  
The Angels all did sing  
    On Sion hill.  
The Angels all did sing  
Praises to our Heavenly King,  
And peace to man living,  
    With right good will.

*Arthur Oldham (1926-2003)*

*Thomas Ravenscroft (c 1588-1635)  
from his Melismata 1611*

**Second Lesson**

Genesis 22. 15-18  
read by a Lay Clerk

***God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed  
shall the nations of the earth be blessed.***

*Please stand*

**Carol**

sung by the Congregation and Choir

All      Of the Father's heart begotten,  
Ere the world from chaos rose,  
He is Alpha: from that Fountain  
All that is and hath been flows;  
He is Omega, of all things  
Yet to come the mystic Close,  
*Evermore and evermore.*

Women      By his word was all created;  
                  He commanded and 'twas done;  
                  Earth and sky and boundless ocean,  
                  Universe of three in one,  
                  All that sees the moon's soft radiance,  
                  All that breathes beneath the sun,  
                  *Evermore and evermore.*

Men            He assumed this mortal body,  
                  Frail and feeble, doomed to die,  
                  That the race from dust created  
                  Might not perish utterly,  
                  Which the dreadful Law had sentenced  
                  In the depths of hell to lie,  
                  *Evermore and evermore.*

Women        O how blest that wondrous birthday,  
                  When the Maid the curse retrieved,  
                  Brought to birth mankind's salvation,  
                  By the Holy Ghost conceived;  
                  And the Babe, the world's Redeemer,  
                  In her loving arms received,  
                  *Evermore and evermore.*

Men            This is he, whom seer and sybil  
                  Sang in ages long gone by;  
                  This is he of old revealèd  
                  In the page of prophecy;  
                  Lo! he comes, the promised Saviour;  
                  Let the world his praises cry!  
                  *Evermore and evermore.*

All             Sing, ye heights of heaven, his praises;  
                  Angels and Archangels, sing!  
                  Wheresoe'er ye be, ye faithful,  
                  Let your joyous anthems ring,  
                  Every tongue his name confessing,  
                  Countless voices answering,  
                  *Evermore and evermore.*

*Melody from Piaae Contiones 1582*  
*Last verse arr David Willcocks*

*Prudentius (348-413)*  
*trans R F Davis (1866-1937)*

*Please sit*

### **Third Lesson**

Isaiah 9. 2, 6 & 7  
read by a Bellringer

***Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.***

### **In dulci jubilo**

sung by the Choir

In dulci jubilo  
nun singet und seid froh,  
Unsers Herzens Wonne  
leit in praesepio,  
und leuchtet als die Sonne,  
matris in gremio.  
Alpha es et O,

*In sweet jubilation,  
now sing and be joyous!  
Our heart's bliss  
rests in a manger  
and shines like the sun  
in his mother's lap.  
You are the alpha and omega.*

*Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)*

*Heinrich Seuse (1295-1366)*

### **Fourth Lesson**

Isaiah 11.1-9  
read by a member of the congregation

***The peace that Christ will bring is foretold.***

### **O magnum mysterium**

sung by the Choir

O magnum mysterium  
et admirabile sacramentum  
ut animalia viderent Dominum  
natum  
jacentem in praesepio.  
Beata Virgo cujus viscera  
meruerunt portare  
Dominum Christum.

*O great mystery  
and wonderful sacrament  
that even the animals saw the new  
-born Lord  
lying in a manger.  
Blessed Virgin, whose womb  
was worthy to bear  
our Lord Christ.*

*Francis Poulenc (1899-1963)*

*5th Responary of Matins on Christmas Day*

*Please stand*

## Carol

sung by the Congregation and Choir

God rest you merry, gentlemen,  
Let nothing you dismay,  
Remember 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,  
comfort and joy!  
O tidings of comfort and joy!*

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 ...*

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 blessèd Babe to find.  
*O tidings ...*

*Quieter*  
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 ...*

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 other doth efface:  
*O tidings of comfort and joy,  
comfort and joy!*  
*O tidings of comfort and joy!*

*London Carol melody*

*Traditional*

*Harmonised by John Stainer (1840-1901)*

*Last verse arr by David Willcocks*

*Please sit*

## **Fifth Lesson**

Luke 1. 26-38  
read by a Warden

### ***The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.***

## **Joys Seven**

sung by the Choir

The first good joy that Mary had it was the joy of one,  
To see the blessed Jesus Christ, when he was first her son  
When he was first her son, good man, and blessed may he be,  
Both Father, Son and Holy Ghost, through all eternity.

The next good Joy that Mary had it was the joy of two,  
To see her own son, Jesus Christ, to make the lame to go,  
To make the lame to go, good man, and blessed may he be,  
Both Father, Son and Holy Ghost, through all eternity.

The next good joy that Mary had it was the joy of three,  
To see her own son Jesus Christ to make the blind to see.  
To make the blind to see, good man, and blessed may he be,  
Both Father, Son and Holy Ghost, through all eternity.

The next good joy that Mary had it was the joy of four,  
To see her own son Jesus Christ to read the bible o'er.  
To read the bible o'er, good man, and blessed may he be,  
Both Father, Son and Holy Ghost, through all eternity.

The next good joy that Mary had it was the joy of five,  
To see her own son Jesus Christ to bring the dead alive.  
To bring the dead alive, good man, and blessed may he be,  
Both Father, Son and Holy Ghost, through all eternity.

The next good joy that Mary had it was the joy of six,  
To see her own son Jesus Christ upon the crucifix,  
Upon the crucifix, good man, and blessed may he be,  
Both Father, Son and Holy Ghost, through all eternity.

The next good joy that Mary had it was the joy of seven,  
To see her own son Jesus Christ to wear the Crown of Heaven.  
To wear the Crown of Heaven, good man, and blessed may he be,  
Both Father, Son and Holy Ghost, through all eternity.

*English Traditional*  
*arr Stephen Cleobury (1948-2019)*

*Please stand*

**Carol**

sung by the Congregation and Choir

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.

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 wond'ring love.

**Choir  
only**      *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.*

**All**      Where children pure and happy  
Pray to the blessed 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.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in,  
Be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell:  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Emmanuel.

*English traditional melody*

*Harmonised by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1938)*

*Verse 3 by Henry Walford Davies (1869-1941)*

*Descant by Thomas Armstrong (1898-1994)*

*Phillips Brooks (1835-93)*

*All sit*

## **Sixth Lesson**

Luke 2. 1 & 3-7  
read by a Verger

***Saint Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.***

## Entre le boeuf et l'âne gris

sung by the Choir

Entre le boeuf et l'âne gris  
Dort, dort, dort le petit fils  
Mille anges divins, mille séraphins  
Volent à l'entour de ce Dieu d'amour.

Entre les deux bras de Marie  
Dort, dort, dort le petit fils  
Mille anges divins, mille séraphins  
Volent à l'entour de ce Dieu d'amour.

Entre les roses et les lis  
Dort, dort, dort le petit fils  
Mille anges divins, mille séraphins  
Volent à l'entour de ce Dieu d'amour.

En ce beau jour si solennel  
Dort, dort, dort l'Emmanuel,  
Mille anges divins, mille séraphins  
Volent à l'entour de ce Dieu d'amour.

*Between the ox and the grey donkey  
Sleeps, sleeps, sleeps the little son,  
A thousand divine angels, a thousand seraphim  
Fly around this God of love.*

*Between the two arms of Mary  
Sleeps, sleeps, sleeps the little son,  
A thousand divine angels, a thousand seraphim  
Fly around this God of love.*

*Between the roses and the lilies  
Sleeps, sleeps, sleeps the little son,  
A thousand divine angels, a thousand seraphim  
Fly around this God of love.*

*On this beautiful, so solemn day  
Sleeps, sleeps, sleeps Emmanuel,  
A thousand divine angels, a thousand seraphim  
Fly around this God of love.*

French 17th century Christmas Carol  
arr Graham Caldbeck

## **I saw three ships**

sung by the Choir

I saw three ships come sailing in  
On Christmas day, on Christmas day;  
I saw three ships come sailing in  
On Christmas day in the morning.

And what was in those ships all three,  
On Christmas day, on Christmas day?  
And what was in those ships all three,  
On Christmas day in the morning?

Our Saviour Christ and his lady,  
On Christmas day, on Christmas day;  
Our Saviour Christ and his lady,  
On Christmas day in the morning.

Pray whither sailed those ships all three,  
On Christmas day, on Christmas day?  
Pray whither sailed those ships all three,  
On Christmas day in the morning?

O they sailed into Bethlehem,  
On Christmas day, on Christmas day;  
O they sailed into Bethlehem,  
On Christmas day in the morning.

And all the bells on earth shall ring,  
On Christmas day, on Christmas day;  
And all the bells on earth shall ring,  
On Christmas day in the morning.

And all the Angels in Heaven shall sing,  
On Christmas day, on Christmas day;  
And all the Angels in Heaven shall sing,  
On Christmas day in the morning.

And all the Souls on Earth shall sing,  
On Christmas day, on Christmas day;  
And all the Souls on Earth shall sing,  
On Christmas day in the morning.

Then let us all rejoice amain,  
On Christmas day, on Christmas day;  
Then let us all rejoice amain,  
On Christmas day in the morning.

*English Traditional*  
*arr John LeGrove*

*Please stand*

**Carol**

sung by the Congregation and 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, good-will 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 lowly plains  
They bend on hovering wing;  
And ever o'er its Babel sounds  
The blessed angels sing.

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!

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.

*Traditional English melody  
adapted by Arthur Sullivan (1842-1900)*

*Edmund Sears (1810-1876)*

*Please sit*

## **Seventh Lesson**

Luke 2. 8-16

read by the Organist and Master of the Choristers

### ***The Shepherds go to the manger.***

## **In the bleak midwinter**

sung by the Choir

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.

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.

Enough for him, whom Cherubim  
Worship night and day  
A breast full of milk  
And a manger full of hay.  
Enough for him, whom angels  
Fall down before,  
The ox and ass and camel  
which adore.

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)*

**As I outrode this enderes night**

sung by the Choir

As I outrode this enderes night  
Of three jolly shepherds I saw a sight;  
And all about their fold a star shone bright,  
*They sang terliterlow:*  
*So merrily the shepherds their pipes can blow.*

Down from heaven so high of angels  
There came a great company with joy and mirth;  
And great solemnity.  
*They sang terliterlow:*  
*So merrily the shepherds their pipes can blow.*

*Gerald Hendrie (b 1935)*

*Traditional*

*Please stand*

## Carol

sung by the Congregation and Choir

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 to the earth be peace;  
Good-will henceforth from heav'n to men  
Begin and never cease.'

*Este's Psalter*  
*Harmony by David Willcocks*  
*Descant by Christopher Stokes*

*Nahum Tate (1652-1715)*

*Please sit*

## **Eighth Lesson**

Matthew 2. 1-11

read by a lay member of the Cathedral Chapter

***The Wise Men are led to Jesus by the star.***

## Coventry Carol

sung by the Choir

*Lully, lulla, thou little tiny child,  
By by, lully lullay,  
Thou little tiny child,  
By by, lully lullay.*

O sisters too, how may we do  
For to preserve this day  
This poor youngling, for whom we do sing,  
By by, lully lullay?

Herod, the king in his raging,  
Charged he hath this day  
His men of might, in his own sight,  
All young children to slay.

That woe is me, poor child for thee!  
And ever morn and day,  
For thy parting neither say nor sing  
By by, lully lullay!

*Lully, lulla, thou little tiny child,  
By by, lully lullay,  
Thou little tiny child,  
By by, lully lullay.*

arr Christopher Stokes

from the Pageant of the Shearmen  
and Tailors, 15th century

Please stand

## Ninth Lesson

John 1. 1-14  
read by the Dean

***Saint John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.***

Remain standing

## Tomorrow shall be my dancing day

sung by the Choir

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day:  
I would my true love did so chance  
To see the legend of my play,  
To call my true love to my dance:  
*Sing O my love, O my love, my love, my love;*  
*This have I done for my true love.*

Then was I born of a virgin pure,  
Of her I took fleshly substance;  
Thus was I knit to man's nature,  
To call my true love to my dance:  
*Sing O my love, O my love, my love, my love;*  
*This have I done for my true love.*

In a manger laid and wrapped I was,  
So very poor this was my chance,  
Betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass,  
To call my true love to my dance:  
*Sing O my love, O my love, my love, my love;*  
*This have I done for my true love.*

Then afterwards baptized I was;  
The Holy Ghost on me did glance,  
My Father's voice heard from above,  
To call my true love to my dance:  
*Sing O my love, O my love, my love, my love;*  
*This have I done for my true love.*

*John Gardner (1917-2011)*

*Traditional*

## Carol

sung by the Congregation and Choir

*During the carol a collection is taken for the work and mission of the cathedral.*

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:  
*Refrain*

See how the shepherds,  
Summoned to his cradle,  
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;  
We too will thither  
Bend our joyful footsteps:  
*Refrain*

Lo! star-led chieftains,  
Magi, Christ adoring,  
Offer him incense, gold and myrrh;  
We to the Christ Child  
Bring our hearts' oblations:  
*Refrain*

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?  
*Refrain*

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

*Melody probably by John Francis Wade (1711-86)*

*transc*

*Descant by Philip Ledger (1937-2012)*

*Frederick Oakeley (1852-80)*

*Please remain standing for the final prayer and blessing which will be given by  
The Right Reverend Dr David Walker, Bishop of Manchester.*

Bishop Let us pray.

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,  
so 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.

All **Amen.**

Bishop 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 upon you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

## Carol

sung by the Congregation and Choir

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.*

Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold him come,  
Offspring of a Virgin's womb:  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead 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.*

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
Risen 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.*

*Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809-47)  
Descant by Howard Arman (b 1954)*

*Charles Wesley & others*

## **Music after the service**

Finale, Symphony No 6

*Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937)*

*Please take this order of service away with you to reflect upon the music, readings and prayers  
as a reminder of your visit to us this evening.*

### **Choristers at Manchester Cathedral**

If you have a son or daughter in Years 3 or 4 at school who likes singing and is enthusiastic about music, we encourage you to get in touch with Christopher Stokes (Organist and Master of the Choristers), who can tell you about the benefits that come with being a chorister, and answer your questions about life in the Cathedral Choir and Chetham's School of Music.

Please email him at [christopher.stokes@manchestercathedral.org](mailto:christopher.stokes@manchestercathedral.org)  
or telephone 0161 833 2220 (ext. 225).

Manchester Cathedral, Victoria Street, Manchester, M3 1SX.

Auditions are held throughout the year.

### **The Cathedral's Voluntary Choir**

Manchester Cathedral Voluntary Choir is seeking to recruit adult singers in all voices. This auditioned choir sings evensong on Sundays during term time and rehearses on Friday evenings.

For further information and to book an audition please contact  
[Geoffrey.Woollatt@manchestercathedral.org](mailto:Geoffrey.Woollatt@manchestercathedral.org)

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**Christmas at Manchester Cathedral**

**Saturday 24 December, Christmas Eve**

Blessing of the Crib with Children's Nativity 12 noon

Midnight Mass 11.30pm (Incense will be used at this service)

**Sunday 25 December, Christmas Day**

Sung Eucharist 10.30am