

Midnight Mass



Saturday 24 December 2022
11.30 pm

President: The Very Reverend Rogers Govender
Dean of Manchester

Preacher: The Right Reverend Mark Ashcroft
Bishop of Bolton

Spatzen-messe, K. 220 W A Mozart

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.

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.

Hearing-loop

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



Photography

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

Gluten-free wafers

If you require a gluten-free communion wafer please inform a vergier before the service. Please note that the wine may contain traces of gluten.

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

Prelude on 'This endris nyght' *Healey Willan (1880-1968)*

Large-print copies of this booklet are also available

The Gathering

The Choir sings a Christmas Acclamation from the North Quire Aisle then please stand

Christmas Acclamation

sung by the Choir

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Glory be to God on high.

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.

Alleluia.

Christopher Stokes

Luke 2. 10, 11

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:

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:
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.

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

Adeste Fideles NEH 30

Melody probably by

John Francis Wade (1711-86)

Descant by Philip Ledger (1937-2012)

Latin 18th century

trans. Frederick Oakeley (1802-80) and others

The Greeting

The President may say

President In the name of the Father and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

President 'Do I not fill heaven and earth?' says the Lord.

All **Now the Word is made flesh
and laid in a narrow manger.**

President From eternity you are God,
All **and now we see you as a new born child.**

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

All **And also with you.**

The president welcomes the people.

Prayers of Penitence

Deacon Christ the Light of the world has come
to dispel the darkness of our hearts.
Let us turn to the light and confess our sins.

Silence is kept.

Deacon God our Father,
you sent your Son full of grace and truth:
forgive our failure to receive him.
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord have mercy.**

Jesus our Saviour,
you were born in poverty and laid in a manger:
forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.
Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

Spirit of love,
your servant Mary responded joyfully to your call:
forgive the hardness of our hearts.
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

President 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,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Gloria in excelsis

sung by the Choir

Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Et in terra pax hominibus
bonae voluntatis.
Laudamus te, benedicimus te,
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 be to God on high,
and in earth peace,
good will towards men.
We praise thee, we bless thee, adoramus
we worship thee, we glorify thee,
we give thanks to thee
for thy great glory,
O Lord God, heavenly King,
God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son
Jesu Christ; O Lord God,
Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away
the sins of the world,
receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand
of God the Father,
have mercy upon us.

For thou only art holy;
thou only art the Lord;
thou only, O Christ,
with the Holy Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

The Collect

President Let us pray in the peace of this Christmas celebration
that our joy in the birth of Christ will last forever.

Silence is kept

Eternal God,
who made this most holy night
to shine with the brightness of your one true light:
bring us, who have known the revelation
of that light on earth,

to see the radiance of your heavenly glory;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Liturgy of the Word

Please sit

Reading

Isaiah 9.2-7

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.
You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
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.

At the end the reader says

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

Hymn

During the hymn the deacon carries the Book of the Gospels into the midst of the congregation.

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,
Heav'nly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ, the Saviour is born,
Christ, the Saviour is born.

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,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Stille Nacht NEH 35
Franz Gruber (1787-1863)

G B Timms (1910-1997)
based on J Mohr (1792-1848)

Gospel Reading

Luke 2. 1-20

All turn to face the Gospel book. An acclamation (Alleluia) heralds the Gospel reading

All 
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Cantor The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
and we have seen his glory.

All sing **Alleluia, alleluia.**

Deacon Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke.



(Choir: Glo - ry to you) All: Glo - ry to you O Lord

Please sit

Sermon The Right Reverend Mark Ashcroft, Bishop of Bolton

After the sermon silence is kept for reflection.

Please stand with the president as we affirm our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed.

The Creed

All **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

Prayers of Intercession

Leader Let us pray.

Father, in this holy night, your Son our Saviour was born as a child. Renew your Church as the living body of Christ.

All Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In this holy night, Christians the world over are celebrating his birth. Open our hearts that he may be born in us today.

All Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In this holy night, there was no room for your Son in the inn. Protect with your love those who have no home, and all who live in poverty, remembering that we are all tenants of this earth.

All Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In this holy night, Mary, in the pain of labour, brought your Son to birth. Hold in your hand all who are in any kind of pain or distress.

All Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In this holy night, your Christ came as the light shining in darkness. Bring comfort to all who suffer in the sadness of this world.

All Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In this holy night, shepherds in the fields heard good tidings of joy. Give us grace to preach the gospel of Christ's redemption.

All Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In this holy night, angels and shepherds worshipped at the manger throne. Receive the worship we offer in fellowship with the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints.

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

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Please stand

The Peace

President Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

All The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Deacon Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

The Preparation of the Table and Taking of the Bread and Wine

Hymn

During which a collection is taken for the work and mission of the Cathedral.

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.

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.

Irby NEH 34

Henry John Gauntlett (1805-76)
Revised by A H Mann (1850-1929)
and Editors

Mrs C F Alexander (1818-95)

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

All **Amen.**

All remain standing

President The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

The Eucharistic Prayer

President 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:

Choir	Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus, Dominus Deus Sabaoth. Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua. Osanna in excelsis.	<i>Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts, heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Hosanna in the highest.</i>
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President 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 Jesus Christ is Lord:
All **Lord, by your cross and resurrection
you have set us free.
You are the Saviour of the world.**

President 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 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 **Amen.**

Please sit

The Lord's Prayer

President 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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

President We break the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.

All **God is here among us,
light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.**

The Giving of Communion

President Christ is the true bread which has come down from heaven.

All **Lord, give us this bread always.**

Members of all Christian Churches are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

If you wish to receive a blessing instead, please keep your hands down.

Holy Communion will be offered in both kinds (i.e. consecrated bread and wine). If you prefer, continuing to receive only bread is also permitted. Please refrain from touching the chalice and consecrated bread must not be intincted (dipped) in the wine.

During the administration of communion, the Choir sings the Agnus Dei and a selection of Christmas anthems.

Agnus Dei

Agnus Dei,
qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis. *O Lamb of God
that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.*

Agnus Dei,
qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis. *O Lamb of God
that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.*

Agnus Dei,
qui tollis peccata mundi,
dona nobis pacem. *O Lamb of God
that takest away the sins of the world,
grant us thy peace.*

After communion please stand when the president approaches the holy table.

Prayer after Communion

President God our Father,
 In this night, you have made known to us again
 the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:
 confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him,
 until the day dawns and Christ the Morning Star
 rises in our hearts.
 To him be glory, both now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

All **Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory.
Amen.**

Hymn

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.*

Mendelssohn NEH 26

From a chorus by

Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809-47)

Descant by Howard Arman (b 1954)

Charles Wesley & others (1707-88)

The Blessing

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 upon those you love,
this Christmas Day, and always.

All **Amen.**

The Dismissal

Deacon Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.
All **Glory, thanks and praise to God.**

The ministers and people depart.

Music after the service

Toccata, Symphony No 5, Op 42 Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937)

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



The Cathedral would like to take this opportunity in wishing you a very Peaceful and Joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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