

CHECK IN CHRIST MAS



Thank God
He checked in with us
Jesus: Emmanuel
God with us

Christmas Eve, 11pm
Midnight Communion

Warning: Jesus as a close personal contact may lead to faith-like symptoms



St David's Cathedral

COME



Please be aware of the step when entering and exiting the pews.

Introduction

Cathedral in darkness, the Christmas Candle is lit in the Nave Sanctuary. The Dean says
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.
John 1:1-5

All other candles are then lit from the Christmas Candle.

Please light the candles of those around you. The Nativity Scene is illuminated.

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. From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.
John 1:14, 16

The Choir only sings

Silent night, holy night:
All is calm, all is bright.
Round the virgin mother and child,
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night:
Wondrous star, lend your light;
With the angels let us sing
Alleluia to our King;
Christ our Saviour is born,
Christ our Saviour is born.

All sing

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.

AHB 236

Text: Joseph Mohr, tr. John F. Young

Music: Franz Grüber

The Dedication of the Christmas Crib

The angel announced good news. "Today in the city of David a Saviour is born to you: He is Christ the Lord. You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." The shepherds said "Let us see this which the Lord has told us about."

The Dean dedicates the nativity scene saying

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, we dedicate this Christmas Crib, as a visual symbol of the great love and the great humility of Jesus Christ your Son: who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human and so was God with us.

Bless all who see it that they may join the shepherds in worship of their Saviour whom with you and the Holy Spirit be all honour, majesty, glory and worship, now and for ever.

**Glory to God in the highest
and on earth peace to all on whom his favour rests. Amen.**

Processional Hymn: While Shepherds watched

AHB 223 *Text: Nahum Tate*

Music: Winchester Old (from Este's Psalter, 1592)

As the lights come on, please extinguish your candle and pass to the sides-people.

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 swaddling clothes
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!
Goodwill henceforth from heaven to men
Begin and never cease.

Gathering in God's name

The Celebrant welcomes all to the Cathedral and says

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; for to us a child is born, to us a son is given.

The Lord be with you
 and also with you.

The Prayer of Preparation *Please sit or kneel.*

The Deacon says

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Confession and Absolution

The Deacon says

Christ the grace of God has dawned upon the world with healing for all.

The Choir sings the Kyrie eleison

'Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy.'

After a short pause for reflection, the Deacon continues

Let us bring our weaknesses and infirmities to Him, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

**Merciful God,
our maker and our judge,
we have sinned against you
in thought, word and deed,
and in what we have failed to do:
we have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.
Father, forgive us.
Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Celebrant pronounces the Absolution

Almighty God, who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to Him in faith: pardon you and set you free from all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The congregation stands as the Choir sings the Gloria.

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's 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.**

The Collect for Christmas Night

The Celebrant prays,

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 our Lord. **Amen.**

The people sit for the readings.

Old Testament 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. ³You 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.

⁴For 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. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For 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. ⁷His 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.

Hear the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 96 *Sung by the Choir*

O SING unto the Lord a new song : sing unto the Lord, all the whole earth.

² *Sing unto the Lord, and praise his Name : be telling of his salvation from day to day.*

³ *Declare his honour unto the heathen and his wonders unto all people.*

⁴ *For the Lord is great, and cannot worthily be praised : he is more to be feared than all gods.*

⁵ *As for all the gods of the heathen, they are but idols : but it is the Lord that made the heavens.*

⁶ *Glory and worship are before him power and honour are in his sanctuary.*

⁷ *Ascribe unto the Lord, O ye kindreds of the people : ascribe unto the Lord worship and power.*

⁸ *Ascribe unto the Lord the honour due unto his Name : bring presents, and come into his courts.*

⁹ *O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness : let the whole earth stand in awe of him.*

¹⁰ *Tell it out among the heathen that the Lord is King :*

and that it is he who hath made the round world so fast that it cannot be moved;

and how that he shall judge the people righteously.

¹¹ *Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad : let the sea make a noise, and all that therein is.*

¹² *Let the field be joyful, and all that is in it : then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice before the Lord.*

¹³ *For he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth :*

and with righteousness to judge the world, and the people with his truth.

The Epistle Titus 2: 11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Hear the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn: O Little Town of Bethlehem

Carols for Choirs 1 (27)

Words: Bishop Phillips Brooks Music: English trad, arr. Vaughan Williams

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 wondering love.

How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming;
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still
The dear Christ enters in.

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.

Gospel Acclamation

The people join before and after with



Good News and great joy to all the world: today is born a Saviour, Christ the Lord.

The Holy Gospel Luke 2:1-14

The Lord be with you **and also with you**

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke chapter 2, beginning at verse 1 **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

¹⁰But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!

This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The Sermon

The Creed *All stand*

**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 of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.**
**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.**

The Prayers

The people sit or kneel for the prayers

Eternal God, your Word brings everything into being, and in your grace we are adopted as your children. Teach us to honour and respect your image in all people. Your light shines in the darkness and nothing can overcome it.

God with us

bring your peace on earth.

Word of life, you inspire prophets to tell of your wonders and call your people to walk in your ways. Guide the steps of those who sit in government. Bring justice and peace for the good of your whole creation.

God with us

bring your peace on earth.

Spirit of truth and wisdom, you bring hope to birth and lighten the hearts of all who call on you. May this celebration of our Saviour's birth renew within us the good news of your gift.

God with us

bring your peace on earth.

Blessed Lord, shine your light on all who walk in darkness; any for whom this season heightens distress. We pray for all in need, for the sick and suffering for the anxious and the grieving.

God with us

bring your peace on earth.

Lord, you restore all things to yourself. We thank you for your promise of new life. With the whole host of heaven, we sing your praises and exalt your name.

As you taught us we are confident to 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.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power and the glory
are yours now and for ever. Amen.**

The Peace

The people stand for the greeting of peace led by the Celebrant.

Unto us a child is born, to us a Son is given; and His name is called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Prince of Peace, Emmanuel, God with us.

**Glory to God in highest
and on earth peace to those whom he favours.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Please share a greeting of peace with those nearby.

Please do not move around the building during this time

The Offertory Hymn: It came upon the midnight clear

*Carols for Choirs 1 (18) Words: E H Sears Music: English trad, adapted Arthur Sullivan
A collection for the work and ministry of the Cathedral is received.*

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 heav'n's all gracious King!
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the 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:
Oh hush the noise, ye men of strife,
And hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come
With peaceful wings unfurled
And still their heav'nly music floats
O'er all the weary world
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hov'ring wing
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed 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 send back the song
Which now the angels sing.

The Great Thanksgiving

Led by the Celebrant. The people remain standing

The Lord be with you. **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 our thanks and praise.

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,
mighty Creator, everliving God.

We give you thanks and praise for our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary and lived as one of us.
In your Word made flesh you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to
give the knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

By His death on the cross and rising to new life,
He offered the one true sacrifice for sin
and obtained an eternal deliverance for His people.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we
proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and singing

The Choir sings

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts,
heaven and earth are full of thy glory:
Glory be to thee, O Lord most high.
Blessed is he that comes in the Name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the Highest.**

Merciful God, we thank you for these gifts of your creation,
this bread and this wine,
and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit,
we who eat and drink them
may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

On the night He was betrayed Jesus took bread;
and when He had given you thanks
he broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying,
'Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper, He took the cup and again giving you thanks;
he gave it to His disciples saying,
"Drink from this, all of you.

This is my blood of the new covenant shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

CANTOR: ALL:



Christ has__ died; Christ is___ ri - sen; Christ will__ come a - gain.__

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again

Therefore, we do as our Saviour has commanded:
proclaiming His offering of himself
made once for all on the cross,
his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for His coming again,
we celebrate with this bread and this cup,
His one perfect and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.

Renew us by your Holy Spirit, unite us in the body of your Son
and bring us with all your people into the joy of your eternal kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
with whom and in whom, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
we worship you, Father, in songs of never-ending praise:

We all sing

CANTOR: ALL:



Bless-ing and hon-our: and glo-ry and pow'r are yours for-ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

Blessing & honour & glory & power are yours forever & ever. Amen

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
We who are many are one body in Christ.

For we all share in the one bread.

Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ in remembrance that he died for us, and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

The Choir sings the Agnus Dei:

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

Communion

We welcome all who have faithfully participated in the service to join with us in Communion as we celebrate our Saviour's saving life, death and resurrection.

Please come forward as directed by the sides-persons.

You will be given a wafer pre infused with wine. There are also gluten free wafers on request.

Please continue to maintain physical distancing.

Anyone wishing to receive a blessing please keep your hands by your side.

It is our custom to keep silent during the distribution of the communion.

Children and Communion: Children are welcome to be brought forward for a blessing.

Children only take communion if they have been confirmed or if their parents are convinced they understand the meaning of taking the bread and wine and they regularly participate in Holy Communion.

Please be aware of the step when entering and exiting the pews

Communion Anthems:

Myn Lyking

Sir Christemas

The Sending out of God's people *The Celebrant says*

God of heaven, dwelling among us, we thank you for feeding us with this holy food. By your grace keep us ever faithful to your Word made flesh that as his body in the world we may bring your presence to all people.

**Most loving God, send us into the world you love,
and give us grace to go thankfully
and with courage in the power of the Spirit. Amen.**

The Recessional Hymn

Carols for Choirs Text: tr. Frederick Oakeley, William Mercer & others Tune: Adeste Fideles

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:

See how the shepherds
Summoned to his cradle
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with holy fear;
We too will thither
Bend our joyful footsteps:
Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God
in the Highest:

Yea, Lord we greet Thee,
Born this happy morning,
Jesu, to Thee be glory given;
Word of the Father
now in flesh appearing:

The Blessing

Come Lord Jesus
We come to you in living faith.
Come to bring God's kingdom
We come to you in repentance.
Come in the power of God's Spirit
We come to be your disciples.
Come Lord Jesus Come
We come to you our true hope.

The Celebrant says

Christ the Son of God, born of Mary, fill you with His grace to trust His promises and obey His will; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The Deacon says

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **In the Name of Christ. Amen.**

Voluntary:

Toccata from Organ Symphony no. 5 C.-M. Widor.

Please be aware of the step when entering and exiting the pews

Choir Director: Thomas Rimes Organist: Rod Thomson Setting: Darke in F
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