

# CHECK IN CHRIST MAS



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

Christmas Eve, 7pm  
**Nine Lessons & Carols**

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

## Welcome

This service in word and song traces God's purposes from Creation to the birth of Jesus our Saviour. There are no announcements, please stand and sing the carols and be seated for the choral items. It is traditional to stand for the final reading of the Gospel of the Word from John 1.

## Introit: Matin Responsory *Palestrina*

*I look from afar:*

*and lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth.*

*Go ye out to meet him and say:*

*Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?*

*High and low, rich and poor, one with another,*

*Go ye out to meet him and say:*

*Hear, O thou Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep.*

*Tell us, art thou he that should come?*

*Stir up thy strength, O Lord, and come to reign over thy people Israel.*

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.*

*I look from afar:*

*and lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth.*

*Go ye out to meet him and say:*

*Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?*

## Poem Checking in at the Bethlehem Arms

*"Saturday Night at the Bethlehem Arms" by Gareth Owens*

*Very quiet really for a Saturday.  
Just the old couple come to visit relations  
Who took the double room above the yard  
And were both in bed by half past nine.  
Left me with that other one, the stranger.  
Sat like he was set till Domesday at the corner of  
the bar  
Sipping small beer dead slow and keeping mum,  
Those beady, tax-collector's eyes of his  
On my reflection in the glass behind the bar  
Watching me, watching me.  
And when he did get around to saying something  
His talk was like those lines of gossamer  
That fishermen send whispering across the water  
To lure and hook unwary fish.  
Not my type. And anyway I'd been on the go  
since five.  
Dead beat I was.  
Some of us have a bed to go to, I thought to myself.*

*I was just about to call Time  
When the knock came at the door.  
At first I was for turning them away;  
We only have two rooms see and both of them  
were taken  
But something desperate in the woman's eyes  
Made me think again and I told them,  
They could rough it in the barn  
If they didn't mind the cows and mules for  
company.  
I know, I know. Soft, that's me.*

*I yawned, locked up, turned out the lights,  
Rinsed my hands to lose the smell of beer.  
Went up to bed.  
A day like any other.  
That's how it is.  
Nothing much ever happen here.*

## Carol: Once in Royal David's City

*Words: C F Alexander Music: H J Gauntlett (1805-76), arr. David Willcocks (1919-2015).*

*Soloist*

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.

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.

*Choir*

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 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.

*All*

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.

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.

## Bidding Prayer and Lord's Prayer

*Please be seated.*

Beloved in Christ, at this Christmas-tide let it be our care and delight to hear again the message of the angels, and in our heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger.

Therefore let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious redemption brought us by this Holy Child: and let us make this place glad with our carols of praise.

But first let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace and goodwill over all the earth; for unity and brotherhood within the Church he came to build, and especially in this our diocese.

And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us at this time remember, in his name, the poor and helpless, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and them that mourn, the lonely and the unloved, the aged and the little children, all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no man can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the Throne of Heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us, saying:

**Our Father, which art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
Thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done, on 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.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

## Musical Interlude

### First Lesson Genesis 3:8-15

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

### Choir: Adam Lay Y-Bounden

*Words: Anon 15<sup>th</sup> Century Music: Boris Ord*

Adam lay y-bounden  
Bounden in a bond;  
Four thousand winter,  
Thought he not too long.

And all was for an apple  
An apple that he took.  
As clerkes finden,  
Written in their book.'

Ne had the apple taken been  
The apple taken been,  
Ne had never our ladie,  
Abeen heav'ne queen.

Blessed be the time  
That apple taken was,  
Therefore we moun singen.  
Deo gracias!

## Second Lesson Genesis 22:15-18

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

### Carol: O come, O come, Emmanuel

*Words: 18<sup>th</sup> century, trans. T.A. Lacey*

*Music: Veni Emmanuel, arr. David Willcocks*

*All*

O come, O come, Emmanuel  
Redeem thy captive Israel,  
That into exile drear is gone,  
Far from the face of God's dear Son.

*Rejoice! rejoice!*

*Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*Men*

O come, thou Branch of Jesse! draw  
The quarry from the lion's claw;  
From the dread caverns of the grave,  
From nether hell, thy people save.

*Women*

O come, O come, thou Dayspring bright!  
Pour on our souls thy healing light;  
Dispel the long night's ling'ring gloom,  
And pierce the shadows of the tomb.

*Men*

O come, thou Lord of David's Key!  
The royal door fling wide and free;  
Safeguard for us the heav'nward road,  
And bar the way to death's abode.

*All*

O come, O come, Adonai,  
Who in thy glorious majesty  
From that high mountain clothed with awe  
Gavest thy folk the elder law.

## Third Lesson Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

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

## Choir: Nativity Carol

*Words and music: John Rutter*

Born in a stable so bare  
Born so long ago  
Born 'neath light of star  
He who loved us so.  
Far away, silent he lay  
Born today, your homage pay  
For Christ is born for aye  
Born on Christmas Day.

Wise men from distant far land  
Sheperds from starry hills  
Worship this babe so rare  
Hearts with his warmth he fills.  
Far away, silent he lay  
Born today, your homage pay  
For Christ is born for aye  
Born on Christmas Day.

Cradled by mother so fair  
Tender her lullaby  
Over her son so dear  
Angel hosts fill the sky.  
Far away, silent he lay  
Born today, your homage pay  
For Christ is born for aye  
Born on Christmas Day.

Love in that stable was born  
Into our hearts to flow  
Innocent dreaming babe  
Make me thy love to know.  
Far away, silent he lay  
Born today, your homage pay  
For Christ is born for aye  
Born on Christmas Day.

## Fourth Lesson Micah 5:2-4

*The prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem.*

## Carol: O little town of Bethlehem

*Words: Bishop Phillips Brooks Music: English trad, arr. Vaughan Williams; Descant: Thomas Armstrong*

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 hope and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight.

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 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.

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.

## Fifth Lesson Luke 1:26-35, 38

*The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.*

### Choir: Myn Lyking

I saw a fair mayden sytten and sing.  
She lulled a lyttel childe, a swete Lording.  
*Lullay myn lyking, my dere sonne, my sweetling.*  
*Lullay my dere herte, myn own dere derling.*

That same Lord is he that made alle thing;  
Of alle lordis he is Lord, of alle kynges Kyng.

There was mickle melody at that chylde's birth.  
All that were in heuenly blisse they made mickle mirth.

Aungels bright sang their song to that chylde,  
Blyssid be thou and so be she so meke and so milde.

## Sixth Lesson Matthew 1:18-23

*St Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus.*

### Carol: Away in a manger

*Text: Anon Music: Traditional Normandy tune*

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 on high,  
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.

## Reflection

*Reflections on the birth of Jesus in Luke 2 by Matthew Henry (1662-1714).*

## Choir: Sir Christemas

*Words: Anon Music William Mathias*

Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell

Who is there that singeth so

Nowell, nowell, nowell?

I am here, Sir Christēmas

Welcome, my lord Sir Christēmas

Welcome to all, both more and less

Come near. Nowell.

Dieu vous garde, beaux sieurs,

tidings I you bring:

A maid hath borne a child full young

which causeth you to sing

Nowell.

Christ is now born of a pure maid

In an ox-stall he is laid

Wherefore sing we at a brayde

Nowell.

Buvez bien par toute la compagnie

Make good cheer and be right merry

And sing with us now joyfully

Nowell!

## Seventh Lesson Luke 2:8-16

*The shepherds go to the manger.*

## Carol: Hark! the herald Angels sing

*Words: Charles Wesley et al. Music: Felix Mendelssohn, arr. Willcocks*

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 the angelic host proclaim,

Christ is born in Bethlehem.

*Hark! The herald angels sing*

*Glory to the new-born King.*

Hail, the heav'n-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.

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, the incarnate Deity!

Pleased as Man with man to dwell,

Jesus, our Emmanuel.

## Eighth Lesson Matthew 2:1-11

*The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.*

### Choir: O Holy Night

*Words: Based on a poem by Placide Cappeau Music: Adolphe Adam, arr. Stephen DeCesare*

O Holy night! The stars are brightly shining  
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining  
'Til He appeared and the soul felt its worth.  
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn  
Fall on your knees;  
O hear the Angel voices!  
O night divine, O night when Christ was born  
O night, O Holy night, O night divine!

Truly He taught us to love one another;  
His law is love and His Gospel is Peace  
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother  
And in His name, all oppression shall cease.  
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we  
Let all within us Praise His Holy name  
Christ is the Lord;  
O praise His name forever!  
His power and glory evermore proclaim  
His power and glory evermore proclaim.

### Offertory Carol: The First Nowell

*Words: Anon (17th century) Music: English traditional, arr. David Willcocks*  
*A collection for the work and ministry of the Cathedral will be taken during this carol.*

The first Nowell the angel did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
Born is the King of Israel.*

They lookèd up and saw a star  
Shining in the east beyond them far,  
And to the earth it gave great light,  
And so it continued both day and night.

And by the light of that same star,  
Three wise men came from country far;  
To seek for a king was their intent,  
And to follow the star wherever it went.

This star drew nigh to the northwest,  
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest,  
And there it did both stop and stay  
Right over the place where Jesus lay.

Then entered in those wise men three  
Full reverently upon their knee,  
And offered there in his presence  
Their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.

Then let us all with one accord  
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord;  
That hath made heaven and earth of nought,  
And with his blood mankind hath bought.

*Please stand for the reading of the Gospel of the Word.*

## Ninth Lesson: John 1:1-14

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

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.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

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.

## Choir: And the Word became flesh

*Text: John 1:14,18      Music by Thomas Rimes*

And the Word became flesh and made its dwelling among us.  
We have seen the glory of the one and only son.  
Full of grace and full of truth.

## Prayers

*Please sit or kneel for the prayers.*

The Lord be with you  
**And also with you.**

Let us pray:

O God who makest us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of thy only Son, Jesus Christ:  
Grant that, as we joyfully receive him for our redeemer,  
so we may with sure confidence behold him  
when he shall come to be our judge:  
Who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, world without end. **Amen.**

Lord Jesus, Redeemer and Saviour of humanity,  
Only Begotten of the Father, shining Morning Star,  
Sun of Righteousness,  
we thank thee that thou hast appeared in our darkness  
and that thy radiant splendour will never set.

The patriarchs hoped in thee;  
Abraham rejoiced to see thy day;  
the sages awaited thee;  
the holy prophets foretold thy coming;  
sages from the east and the shepherds of Bethlehem appeared at thy manger;  
the heavenly hosts sang at thy birth;  
apostles, martyrs and saints repeated the song of the angels,  
and with them thy church glorifies and praises thee,  
in all languages and tongues, as her King and Lord.  
Thy compassion be praised.  
Thy mercy be praised.  
Thy grace be praised forever. **Amen.**

## Carol: O come, all ye faithful

*Text: F. Oakeley, W.T. Brooke and others*

*Tune: Adeste fideles, arr. Willcocks*

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; <i>O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.</i>	Lo! Star-led chieftains, Magi, Christ adoring, Offer him incense, gold and myrrh; We to the Christ Child bring our hearts' oblations;  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?  Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above; Glory to God in the highest;
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 lowly fear; We too will thither Bend our joyful footsteps;	

## Benediction

May Christ the Son of God gladden your hearts by his coming to dwell among us, and bring you his peace, and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Voluntary: "Carillon De Westminster" by Louis Vierne

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*Director of Music: Thomas Rimes*  
*Trumpet: Yoram Levy, Melanie Wilkinson*  
*Trombone: Les Johnston*

*Organist: Peter Warren*  
*French Horn: Rhiannon Hurn*  
*Tuba: Joe Cook*

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