

The Cathedral Church
of St Peter in Exeter



THE OFFICE OF
BISHOP JOHN GRANDISSON
FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

with
Nine Lessons and Carols
6pm
2017



Before the service, Dr Ed Jones, Organ Scholar, and Timothy Parsons, Assistant Director of Music, will play:

Prelude and Fugue in B minor BWV 544 J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

In Dulci Jubilo BuxWV 197 Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)
Wie schon leuchtet der Morgenstern BuxWV 223

Christum wir sollen loben schön BWV611 J.S. Bach
Wir Christenleut BWV 612

Ecce Dominus Veniet Marcel Dupré (1886-1971)
Omnipotens sermo tuus
Tecum principium, in die virtutis tuae
Stella ista

The Holy Boy John Ireland (1879-1962)

Desseins éternels (from La Nativité du Seigneur) Olivier Messiaen (1908-92)

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Unless otherwise marked, descants are by Sir David Willcocks (1919-2015)



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Welcome

WHEN the present Cathedral was newly completed, John Grandisson, Bishop of Exeter from 1327 to 1369, inserted into the Christmas liturgy a special ceremony. On 'this most holy night' of Christmas Eve two choristers with lighted tapers emerge from behind the high altar and, with the rest of the choir, announce the birth of our saviour, first in the Quire, then in the Nave. Our modern service begins with this ancient ceremony, its words taken from the *Ordinale Exoniensis* of 1369, set to music by Thomas Armstrong (Organist of Exeter Cathedral from 1928 to 1933). The Good News of the Nativity of Jesus Christ is then proclaimed more fully in readings of scripture, hymns and carols, and in the great procession to the High Altar via the Christmas Tree and the Christmas Crib. While we refer to the texts sung by the choir as 'carols', several of them are more properly motets, anthems or antiphons, although each seeks to reflect upon the adjacent scripture.

The crib scene placed at the Pulpitum screen is an aid to our devotion during the Christmas season. Originally created by St Francis of Assisi, in the tiny Italian village of Greccio, as a means of preaching and teaching the Incarnation, the first crib used real animals in a real cave, where Francis had a hermitage. During the Christmas season you are welcome to come back and light a candle by the crib, and say a prayer. In particular, pray for peace: especially for peace in the land of Jesus' birth and throughout the Middle East.

In the hope that all at this service will find joy in their worship both now and throughout Christmastide, the Dean and Chapter, and all the Cathedral Community, wish you a happy Christmas.

The collection at this service will be taken for the maintenance of the Cathedral and its life. Please use the gift aid envelope.

Please note that photography and recordings are not permitted.

At 5.55pm The Dean welcomes the congregation, after which silence is kept until the service begins at 6pm with the office of Bishop John Grandisson.

The congregation remains seated and silent as the choir moves in darkness to the Ambulatory. Choristers vested in albs and amices, each bearing a lighted candle, stand in front of the High Altar. Facing West, they sing

Hodie nobis coelorum rex
de virgine nasci dignatus est.

*Today the King of heaven has
for us deigned to be born of a Virgin.*

This announcement is repeated by the choristers, and the choir continues

Ut hominem perditum revocaret.
Gaudet exercitus angelorum
quia salus aeterna
humano generi apparuit.

*That he might restore lost humanity.
The angelic host rejoices
because eternal salvation
has appeared unto all people.*

During this antiphon, the choristers proceed Westwards towards the Nave. They are joined by the Precentor. The choir sings

Gloria in excelsis Deo,
et in terra pax hominibus
bonae voluntatis. Alleluia.

*Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace
to all people of goodwill. Alleluia.*

At the Pulpitum Screen, the Precentor hands on the glad tidings to the people assembled in the Nave

Hodie nobis coelorum rex
de virgine nasci dignatus est.

*Today the King of heaven has
for us deigned to be born of a Virgin.*

The choristers reply

Hodie illuxit nobis Dominus.

Today the Lord has shone upon us.

To this the choir responds

Alleluia.

The choir continues

Descendit de coelis
et homo factus est.
Gloria in excelsis Deo,
et in terra pax hominibus
bonae voluntatis. Alleluia.

*He came down from heaven,
and became human.
Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace
to all people of goodwill. Alleluia.*

Procession of the Cathedral Foundation

The congregation stands.

The first verse is sung by the choristers.

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.

*The choir moves to the Quire stalls via the North and South doors of the Sanctuary.
The full Procession enters the Cathedral Quire. The Cathedral lights are switched on.*

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.

This is he, whom seer and sibyl
sang in ages long gone by;
this is he of old revealed
in the page of prophecy;
lo! he comes, the promised saviour;
let the world his praises cry:
evermore and evermore.

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.

Prudentius 348-c. 413
Tr J. M. Neale (1818-1866)

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM (Piae Cantiones 1582)
arr. David Willcocks (1919-2015)

The congregation remains standing.

THE BIDDING PRAYER
The Very Revd Jonathan Greener - *Dean of Exeter*

BELOVED in the Lord, we have come to this time and this place together, drawn by the love of Him whose birth amongst us we now make ready to recall and celebrate. We come from the distractions of our living into his house of prayer, so that our hearts may be the more deeply prepared to receive him whom we would serve and adore. We are mindful how mighty is the gift of God to the world, how passing strange and wonderful, what weight of hope lies wrapped within it. Whom we partly know, we come praying to know more, whom we partly love, we come praying to love more. And so that our hearts and wills may be touched and stirred, we turn to gaze again at the scene of God's first coming, in meekness and wonderful humility. We see once more the stable with its lowly furniture, and those holy and humble men of heart who gathered to the Lord at his human birth. We place ourselves amongst the numberless and unseen company who, over the years of time and in countless circumstances, have been brought to kneel at the manger of the Lord Jesus, to make offering of themselves and to stretch out their hands to be grasped by his, never more to be let go.

And because he who was rich became poor, none richer in heaven, and no man poorer upon earth, so we follow his command and lift up to his glory the poor of the earth; the helpless old and the defenceless young, the possessionless, the forsaken and those deprived of hope, the exiled and the friendless, those who have no means of livelihood, no place to lay their head nor any light to guide their steps. For them, in their unnumbered hosts, and for ourselves in our own great need, we pray the words taught us by our Saviour:

OUR Father, who 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 those who 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.

The congregation sits as the choir sings:

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

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.
[from the rising of the sun]

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.
[O Trinity of blessed light]

The angels came down with one cry,
a fair song that night sung they
in worship of that child:
Gloria tibi Domine. Noël!
[Glory to thee, O Lord]

15th century

William Mathias (1934-1992)

THE FIRST LESSON - *read from the Quire by a chorister*
Genesis 3: 8-15, 17-19

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

AND they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden. And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. And the Lord God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat. And the Lord God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel. And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

Thanks be to God.

The choir sings:

A great and mighty wonder,
a full and holy cure!
The Virgin bears the Infant
with virgin honour pure.

*Repeat the hymn again!
To God on high be glory,
and peace on earth to men!*

The Word becomes incarnate
and yet remains on high!
And cherubim sing anthems
to shepherds from the sky.

Since all he comes to ransom,
by all he is adored,
the infant born in Beth'lem,
the Saviour and the Lord.

While thus they sing your monarch,
those bright angelic bands,
Rejoice, ye vales and mountains,
ye oceans clap your hands.

And idol forms shall perish,
and error shall decay,
and Christ shall wield his sceptre,
our Lord and God for ay.

St Germanus (634-734)
Tr J.M. Neale

Old German tune
arr. Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

THE SECOND LESSON - *read from the Quire*
by *Sophie-Dominique Waddie - Choral Scholar*
Genesis 22: 15-18

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

AND the angel of the Lord called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time, And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the Lord, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.

Thanks be to God.

The choir sings:

On Christmas night all Christians sing,
to hear the news the angels bring,
news of great joy, news of great mirth,
news of our merciful King's birth.

When sin departs before his grace,
then life and health come in its place;
angels and men with joy may sing,
all for to see the new-born King.

Then why should men on earth be so sad,
since our redeemer made us glad,
when from our sin he set us free,
all for to gain our liberty?

All out of darkness we have light,
which made the angels sing this night:
Glory to God and peace to men,
now and forever more, Amen.

English Traditional

Traditional Carol *arr.* Philip Ledger (1937-2012)

THE THIRD LESSON - *read from the Quire*
by Mrs Heather Morgan - Chair of the Exeter Cathedral Community Committee
Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah

THE people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

Thanks be to God.

Procession to the Crib

As the Procession moves to the Nave, the congregation stands and sings:

OLITTLE 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.

The choir sings verse 3

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 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.

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.

Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)

FOREST GREEN

(English Traditional melody, *arr.* R. Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958)

Descant by Thomas Armstrong (1898-1994)

The Bishop prays before the crib:

Let us pray:

O GOD the Son, most holy and most high,
Thou wast humbled to share our birth and our death:
Bring us with the shepherds and the wise men
To kneel before thy holy cradle,
That we may come to sing with the angels
Thy glorious praises in heaven;
Where with the Father and the Holy Spirit thou livest and reignest,
God, world without end.
Amen.

The congregation sits as the choir sings:

Hodie Christus natus est: hodie salvator apparuit.
Hodie in terra canunt angeli, laetantur archangeli: hodie exsultant
justi, dicentes: Gloria in excelsis Deo.

*Today Christ is born: today the saviour appears. Today the angels sing
on earth, and the archangels rejoice. Today we raise our voices with the
angels, proclaiming: Glory to God in the highest.*

Magnificat Antiphon
at Second Vespers on Christmas Day

Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck (1562-1621)

THE FOURTH LESSON - *read from the Nave*
by Mr Gavin Hall - Member of the Exeter Cathedral Council
Isaiah 11:1-4, 6-9

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown

AND there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord; And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth: with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

Thanks be to God.

The choir sings:

A Spotless Rose is blowing,
sprung from a tender root,
Of ancient seers' foreshowing,
of Jesse promised fruit;
Its fairest bud unfolds to light
amid the cold winter,
And in the dark midnight.

The Rose which I am singing,
whereof Isaiah said,
Is from its sweet root springing
in Mary, purest Maid;
For through our God's great
love and might,
The Blessed Babe she bare us
In a cold winter's night.

14th century

Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

The Angel Gabriel from heaven came,
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
'All hail!' said he, 'thou lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favoured lady.' *Gloria!*

For known a blessed Mother thou shalt be,
all generations laud and honour thee,
thy son shall be Immanuel, by seers foretold;
Most highly favoured lady.' *Gloria!*

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head:
'To me be as it pleaseth God,' she said,
'my soul shall laud and magnify his holy name:'
Most highly favoured lady.' *Gloria!*

Of her, Immanuel, the Christ was born
in Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:
Most highly favoured lady.' *Gloria!*

Basque carol
paraphrased by Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924)

Traditional Basque carol
arr. David Willcocks

THE FIFTH LESSON - read from the *Quire* by the Lord Mayor of Exeter
Luke I: 26-35, 38

The Angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary

AND in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

Thanks be to God.

The choir sings:

See the child that Mary bore
on her lap so softly sleeping
In a stable cold and poor,
ox and ass their vigil keeping.

*Sing lullaby, my own dear son,
my child, my little baby.*

Flights of angels round his head
sing him joyful hymns of greeting:
Peace on earth, good will to men.
Each to each the song repeating.

Shepherds kneeling by his bed
offer homage without measure;
Wise men, by a bright star led,
bring him gifts of richest treasure.

Words & Music by John Rutter (b.1946)

THE SIXTH LESSON - *read from the Nave by the Lord Lieutenant of Devon*
Matthew 1: 18-23

St Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus

NOW the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily. But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

Thanks be to God.

The Procession to the Christmas Tree

*The congregation stands. A collection is taken in the Quire.
The Procession moves to the Christmas Tree.*

The congregation sings:

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.

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.

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.

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.

Francis Alexander (1818-1895)

IRBY (H. J. Gauntlett 1805-1876)

The congregation sits as the choir sings:

A child is born in Bethlehem,
alleluia,
and joy is in Jerusalem,
alleluia.

To thee, O Lord, be glory paid,
alleluia,
thou Son of Mary, Mother-maid,
alleluia.

Rejoice, rejoice, sing high, sing low,
alleluia,
benedicamus Domino,
alleluia.

To Holy Trinity give praise,
alleluia,
with *Deo gracias* always,
alleluia.

Latin, 13th century

Samuel Scheidt (1587-1654)

THE SEVENTH LESSON - *read from the West End*
by The Venerable Trevor Jones - Chapter Canon
Luke 2: 8-16

The shepherds go to the manger

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.

Thanks be to God.

The Procession to the Quire

As the Procession moves to the Quire, the congregation stands and sings:

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.

‘The heavenly Babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
and in a manger laid.’

‘Fear not,’ said he (for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind);
‘glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and all mankind.

Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song:

‘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:

‘All glory be to God on high,
and on the earth be peace;
good-will henceforth from heaven to men.
begin and never cease.’

Nahum Tate (1652-1715)

WINCHESTER OLD (Thomas Ester’s Psalter 1592)

The congregation sits as the choir sings:

*Lullay my liking, my dear son, my sweeting;
Lullay my dear heart, mine own dear darling!*

I saw a fair maiden sitten and sing:
she lulled a little child, a sweete lording;

That eternal Lord is he that made alle thing;
of alle lordes he is Lord, of alle kinges King:

There was mickle melody at that childes birth:
Although they were in heaven’s bliss they made mickle mirth:

Angels bright they sang that night and saiden to that child
‘Blessed be thou, and so be she that is both meek and mild:’

Pray we now to that child, and to his mother dear,
God grant them all his blessing that now maken cheer:

15th century

Philip Lawson (b.1957)

*All this time this song is best:
'Verbum caro factum est.'*

This night there is a child y born
That sprang out of Jesse's thorn;
We must sing and say therefor,

It fell upon high midnight:
The starres shone both fair and bright;
The angels sang with all their might,

Jesus is the childes name,
And Mary mild is his dame;
All our sorrow shall turn to game:

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

16th century

William Walton (1902-83)

THE EIGHTH LESSON - *read from the Quire*
by the Revd Canon Dr Mike Williams - Residentiary Canon
Matthew 2:1-11

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus

NOW when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel. Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also. When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense and myrrh.

Thanks be to God.

The choir sings:

Three kings from Persian lands afar
to Jordan follow the pointing star:
and this the quest of the travellers three,
where the new-born King of the Jews may be.
Full royal gifts they bear for the King;
gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.

*How brightly shines the morning star!
With grace and truth from heaven afar
Our Jesse tree now bloweth.*

The star shines out with a steadfast ray;
the kings to Bethlehem make their way,
and there in worship they bend the knee,
as Mary's child in her lap they see;
their royal gifts they show to the King;
gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.

*Of Jacob's stem and David's line,
for thee, my Bridegroom, King divine,
my soul with love o'erfloweth.*

Thou child of man, lo, to Bethlehem
The kings are trav'ling, travel with them!
The star of mercy, the star of grace,
shall lead thy heart to its resting place.
Gold, incense, myrrh thou canst not bring;
Offer thy heart to the infant King.

*Thy word, Jesu, inly feeds us,
rightly leads us, life bestowing.
Praise, O praise such love o'erflowing.*

Die Könige, *Tr* H. N. Bate (1871)

Peter Cornelius (1824-1874)
arr. Ivor Atkins

Procession to the High Altar

The congregation stands and the Procession moves to the High Altar. A collection will be taken in the Nave.

The congregation sings:

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:

Lo! star-led chieftains,
magi, Christ adoring,
offer him incense, gold and myrrh;
we to the Christ Child
bring our hearts' oblations

See how the Shepherds,
summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly
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:

Latin, 18th century

ADESTE FIDELES (J. F. Wade 1711-1786)

The congregation remains standing.

THE NINTH LESSON - *read from the High Altar by The Dean*
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. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of

God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

Thanks be to God.

The choir sings:

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

*O great mystery,
and wonderful sacrament,
that animals should see the new-born Lord,
lying in a manger!
Blessed is the Virgin whose womb
was worthy to bear
our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Alleluia!*

Responsorial Chant for Mattins at Christmas

Morten Lauridsen (b.1943)

THE COLLECT FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

Let us pray:

ALMIGHTY 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 as our redeemer,
so we may with sure confidence behold him
when he shall come to be our judge;
who liveth and reigneth with thee
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

THE BLESSING

The Bishop says:

Our help is in the Name of the Lord.
Who hath made heaven and earth.

Blessed be the name of the Lord.
From this time forth for evermore.

May he who by his incarnation
gathered into one things earthly and heavenly
grant you the joy of inward peace and goodwill;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

As the Procession moves to the West End, the congregation sings:

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.*

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:

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:

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

MENDELSSOHN
(F. Mendelssohn Bartholdy 1809-1847)

Organ voluntaries:

In dulci jubilo BWV 729
Dieu parmi nous (La Nativité du Seigneur)

J.S. Bach
Olivier Messiaen

CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT THE CATHEDRAL

(Choral Services are in **BOLD** type)

11.30pm **Midnight Mass** (CW) *sung by the St Peter's Singers*

MONDAY 25 DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS DAY

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00am **Procession and Choral Eucharist** (CW)

11.45am **Choral Mattins** (BCP)

4.00 pm **Choral Evensong & Carols from the Minstrels' Gallery** (BCP)

TUESDAY 26 DECEMBER - ST STEPHEN'S DAY

8.00am Morning Prayer (CW)

11.00am **Solemn Eucharist** (CW) *in the Quire, sung by the Lay Vicars and Choral Scholars to include the Blessing of the Serving Clerks.*

4.00pm Evening Prayer (CW)

WEDNESDAY 27 - SATURDAY 30 DECEMBER

8.00am Morning Prayer (CW)

8.20am The Eucharist (CW)
(Wednesday only; 1.15pm The Eucharist)

4.00pm Evening Prayer (CW)

SUNDAY 31 DECEMBER

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00am **Choral Eucharist** (CW)

4.00pm **Choral Evensong** (BCP)

MONDAY 1 JANUARY 2018 - THE NAMING AND CIRCUMCISION OF JESUS

8.00am Morning Prayer (CW)

11.00am **Choral Eucharist** (CW)

4.00pm Evening Prayer (CW)

Do you know a child who loves singing and would like to be a Cathedral Chorister for a day?

As demand exceeded capacity at our recent Be a Chorister for Day event, Exeter Cathedral is holding another free Chorister open day on **Saturday 20 January 2018**.

This is open to boys and girls between the ages of 7 and 9 who enjoy singing. It is a great chance for young people to be encouraged and coached by professional musicians in an inspirational setting.

The children will have a great time with the current Choristers, rehearsing and then singing with them in the Cathedral during a service of Choral Evensong. They will hear all about the Choristers' daily routine, radio and television broadcasts, recordings and tours, and have the opportunity to ask lots of questions.

No previous experience is required; all are welcome to attend this free day of discovery and information. There is an optional programme for parents.

More information about the event and how to book is available on the cathedral website: **www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk**

