



# RIPON CATHEDRAL

## **Sung Eucharist**

First Sunday of Christmas

Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023  
10.30am

## Welcome to Ripon Cathedral

Welcome to Ripon Cathedral for this act of worship. Christian worship has taken place on this site since Wilfrid built the first church here in 672AD. The crypt of that original church still survives and is the oldest part of any English cathedral and regular prayer has taken place there over 1350 years.

Built on the firm foundation of that heritage, the Cathedral today continues to proclaim the Christian faith, with daily prayer and active service in Jesus' name.

If you would like to find out more about how the cathedral community is seeking to grow God's Kingdom in this 21<sup>st</sup> century, please visit our website. Regular updates of all that we are involved in and our worship are posted on our Facebook page and we tweet regularly using "@riponcathedral".

## Sitting, kneeling, standing

As human beings, we worship with our bodies as well as through our music and prayers. This order of service invites you to sit, kneel or stand as appropriate. Please see these as merely invitations and adopt the posture you find most comfortable.

Large print versions of the Order of Service are available. Please ask those who welcomed you if you would like one.



*giftaid it*



## Giving to support the work of the Cathedral

Stewardship of all the gifts that God has given is a part of Christian discipleship. Giving is a part of that, and the support of charities and the church is an important part of that in terms of time, talent and money. We would encourage you in your stewardship, offering the following easy ways to support the work of the Cathedral:

- use the collection bags or plates;
- use the card terminals;
- for bank transfers Account Name: The Chapter of Ripon Cathedral Sort Code: 40 38 23 Account Number: 91067737.
- To support the Development Trust use this QR code.



## **Welcome to this service**

We welcome you to this act of worship. Whatever has brought you here today, we trust that you will find yourself more aware of God through the words, prayers and music.

For many, the Christmas season is celebrated for twelve days, ending at Epiphany. Contemporary use has sought to express an alternative tradition, in which Christmas lasts a full forty days ending with the Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas) on 2 February. For Christmas is much more than the celebration of Jesus's birth, and the Liturgy over these forty days seeks to help worshippers to recall the central truth of the Word made flesh for our salvation.

## **About this service**

The President is The Canon Chancellor, The Revd Canon Matthew Pollard.

The Preacher is The Canon Precentor, The Revd Canon Michael Gisbourne.

The organist is the Director of Music, Dr Ronny Krippner.

The Cathedral bells are rung by the Ripon Cathedral Guild of Bellringers.

## **Children at Ripon Cathedral**

Children's church is for primary school aged 6 and above. Little Children's Church for babies and small children. The older group meets in the rooms beneath the Chapter House and the younger ones in the Library. Children's Church begins again next Sunday.

## **Safeguarding**

Ripon Cathedral is committed to the safety and wellbeing of everyone, especially children, young people and vulnerable adults. If you have any safeguarding concerns, please do not hesitate to contact one of the clergy. You can also contact the Safeguarding Team on 0113 353 0257.

*'Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England', and 'Times and Seasons' material from which is included in this service, is copyright The Archbishops' Council.*

*Words of welcome are given by the the Canon Precentor.*

# The Gathering

## Processional Hymn

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:  
*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, ...*

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 wheresoever it went:  
*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, ...*

This star drew nigh to the north-west;  
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,  
and there it did both stop and stay  
right over the place where Jesus lay:  
*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, ...*

Then entered in those Wise Men three,  
full reverently upon their knee,  
and offered there in his presence  
both gold and myrrh and frankincense:  
*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, ...*

Then let us all with one accord  
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
that hath made heaven and earth of naught,  
and with his blood mankind hath bought:  
*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, ...*

*NEH 36*

*Words: Traditional*

*Music: THE FIRST NOWELL, English third mode melody*

## The Greeting

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

*All* **Amen.**

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

*All* **and also with you.**

*The President introduces the service.*

## Prayer of Preparation

*All* **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.**

## Prayer of Penitence

Deacon Hear the words of the angel to Joseph:  
'You shall call his name Jesus,  
for he will save his people from their sins.'  
Therefore let us seek the forgiveness of God  
through Jesus the Saviour of the world.

President 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.**

President 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.**

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

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

## The Absolution

President God, who loved the world so much  
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour  
forgive you your sins  
and make you holy to serve him in the world,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

## Gloria

**Glory in the highest to the God of heaven;  
peace to all your people through the earth be given.  
Mighty God and Father, thanks and praise we bring,  
singing Alleluia to our heavenly king.**

**Jesus Christ is risen, God the Father's Son;  
with the Holy Spirit, you are Lord alone.  
Lamb once killed for sinners, all our guilt to bear,  
Show us now your mercy, now receive our prayer.**

**Christ the world's true Saviour. High and holy one.  
Seated now and reigning from your Father's throne:  
Lord and God, we praise you! Highest heaven adores:  
In the Father's glory, all the praise be yours!**

*Words Christopher Idle (b.1938)  
Music: EVELYNS W. H. Monk (1823-1889)*

*Please remain standing.*

## The Collect

President Almighty God, in the birth of your Son  
you have poured on us the new light of your incarnate Word,  
and shown us the fullness of your love:  
help us to walk in his light and dwell in his love  
that we may know the fullness of his joy;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

All

**Amen.**

*Please sit.*

## The Liturgy of the Word

### New Testament Reading

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Galatians.

When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

*Galatians 4.4–7*

All

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Gradual Hymn

**Unto us a boy is born!  
King of all creation,  
came he to a world forlorn,  
the Lord of every nation.**

**Cradled in a stall was he  
with sleepy cows and asses;  
but the very beasts could see  
that he all men surpasses.**

**Herod then with fear was filled:  
'A prince', he said, 'in Jewry!'  
And all the little boys he killed  
at Bethlem in his fury.**

**Now may Mary's son, who came  
so long ago to love us,  
lead us all with hearts aflame  
unto the joys above us.**

**Omega and Alpha he!  
Let the organ thunder,  
while the choir with peals of glee  
doth rend the air asunder.**

*NEH 39*

*Words: Latin 15<sup>th</sup> century tr. Percy Dearmer (1867-1936)*

*Music: PUER NOBIS from Piaae Cantiones 1582*

## **The Gospel**

*Please remain standing and turn to face the Deacon reading the Gospel.*

Deacon            Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.  
*All*                **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke. When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

*Luke 2.15-21*

*All*                This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please sit.*

## **The Sermon**

*Please sit at the invitation of the preacher.*

*After the sermon, please stand with the president.*



## The Nicene 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

- President In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ,  
let us pray to the Father.
- Intercessor We pray for God's faithfulness to be known in our world.  
In a world of change and hope, of fear and adventure,  
faithful God  
*All* **glorify your name.**
- Intercessor In the common life of our, city, region, diocese and nation  
in prosperity and need,  
faithful God  
*All* **glorify your name.**
- Intercessor As your Church proclaims your goodness in words and action,  
faithful God  
*All* **glorify your name.**
- Intercessor Among our friends and in our homes,  
faithful God  
*All* **glorify your name.**
- Intercessor In our strengths and triumphs, in our weakness and struggles,  
faithful God  
*All* **glorify your name.**

*Please stand.*

## Liturgy of the Sacrament

### The Peace

- President Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace to all in whom he delights.
- All* The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**
- Deacon Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*We exchange warm greetings with those nearest us.*

### Preparation of the Altar

*The table is prepared, the bread and wine are placed upon it.*

## Offertory Hymn

*A collection is taken during this hymn. Please look out for the new credit / debit card terminals that will also be passed around.*

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 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 to-day.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell:  
O come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord Emmanuel.

*NEH 32  
Words: Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)  
Music: English traditional melody*

## Taking of the Bread and Wine

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

## The Eucharistic Prayer

President The Lord be with you  
A// **and also with you.**

President Lift up your hearts.  
A// **We lift them to the Lord.**

President Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
A// **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

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,  
and 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:

**Holy, most holy, all holy the Lord  
In power and wisdom forever adored.  
The earth and the heavens are full of your love:  
Our joyful hosannas re-echo above.**

**Blessed, most blessed, all blessed is he,  
Whose life makes us whole and whose death sets us free;  
Who comes in the name of the Father of light?  
Let endless hosannas resound in the highest.**

*Music: SLANE Trad. Irish tune*

President

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
and according to your holy will,  
these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,  
took bread and gave 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.

In the same way, after supper  
he took the cup and gave you thanks;  
he gave it to them, saying:

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.

Deacon  
*All*

Great is the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,  
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;  
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,  
and looking for his coming in glory,  
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.  
As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,  
we bring before you this bread and this cup  
and we thank you for counting us worthy  
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people  
and gather into one in your kingdom  
all who share this one bread and one cup,  
so that we, in the company of the Blessed Virgin Mary,  
St Peter, St Wilfrid and the all the saints,  
may praise and glorify you for ever,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be yours,  
almighty Father, for ever and ever.

*All*

**Amen.**

*Please sit.*

## The Lord's Prayer

President Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,  
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us.

*All* **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.**

## Agnus Dei

**O Lamb of God, come cleanse our hearts  
and take our sins away,  
O Lamb of God, your grace impart,  
and let our guilty fear depart,  
have mercy, Lord, we pray  
have mercy, Lord, we pray.**

**O Lamb of God, our lives restore,  
our guilty souls release,  
Into our lives your Spirit pour  
and let us live for evermore  
in perfect heav'nly peace  
in perfect heav'nly peace.**

*Music: REPTON C. Hubert H. Parry (1848-1918)*

## The Breaking of the Bread

President We break this bread  
to share in the body of Christ.

*All* **Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

## The Giving of Communion

President Draw near with faith,  
receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ  
which he gave for you,  
Eat in remembrance that he died for you,  
and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

*We welcome communicants of all denominations to receive holy communion. If you are not a communicant and would like to receive God's blessing, please come with this service sheet in your hand. Please move as directed. If you require a gluten-free wafer, please indicate this to the minister.*

## Prayer after Communion

President All praise to you,  
almighty God and heavenly king,  
who sent your Son into the world  
to take our nature upon him  
and to be born of a pure virgin:  
grant that, as we are born again in him,  
so he may continually dwell in us  
and reign on earth as he reigns in heaven,  
now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

## Notices

*Notices may be given after which please stand.*

## The Dismissal

President 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 the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit  
be among you and remain with you now and always.

All **Amen.**

## Recessional Hymn

As with gladness men of old  
did the guiding star behold,  
as with joy they hailed its light,  
leading onward, beaming bright,  
so, most gracious God, may we  
evermore be led to thee.

As with joyful steps they sped,  
to that lowly manger-bed,  
there to bend the knee before  
him whom heaven and earth adore,  
so may we with willing feet  
ever seek thy mercy-seat.

As they offered gifts most rare  
at that manger rude and bare,  
so may we with holy joy,  
pure, and free from sin's alloy,  
all our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ, to thee our heavenly King.

Holy Jesu, every day  
keep us in the narrow way;  
and, when earthly things are past,  
bring our ransomed souls at last  
where they need no star to guide,  
where no clouds thy glory hide.

In the heavenly country bright  
need they no created light;  
thou its Light, its Joy, its Crown,  
thou its Sun which goes not down:  
there for ever may we sing  
alleluias to our King.

*NEH 47*

*Words: William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898)*

*Music: DIX adapted from Conrad Kocher (1788-1872) by W. H. Monk (1823-1889)*

Deacon  
All

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

**Organ Voluntary**