



# RIPON

## CATHEDRAL

# Festal Eucharist on Christmas Day



Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December 2023  
10.30am

 THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  

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Diocese of Leeds

## 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 for 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 the QR code.



## Welcome to this service

The task of the Christmas Morning Eucharist is to recall us, amid a multitude of joyful customs and celebrations, to this central truth of the Word made flesh for our salvation. The Creator becomes a creature in the world he made. God becomes poor so we human beings can be rich; he enters time so we can enter eternity; he becomes little so we can become great; he humbles himself so we can be lifted up. God becomes fully human and shares our earthly life so we humans can share his heavenly life forever.

For forty days, from Christmas to Candlemas on 2nd February, we celebrate, with the great joy and festivity the wonderful news that God is with us in the flesh; the light of God's love is shining in the darkness, bringing in his new day and new life. It is the feast of new birth; God is born and we humans are reborn. In the Northern hemisphere, we find the days get longer now, as the earth turns again to the sun. We pray that the light of the new-born King will scatter the darkness and fill our lives, homes, Cathedral, city, diocese and the world.

This Eucharist is one way in which that message has been proclaimed and interpreted down the ages. It speaks of God's love, his being with us and not against us. It speaks to us all both individually as well as here in this great city of Ripon and in the wider world.

May both the simplicity and joy of the story of God's dealings with us then and now be yours this Christmastide.

The President and Preacher is The Bishop of Leeds, Rt Revd Nick Baines.

The service is sung by the Full Choral Foundation to the *Missa Sancti Nicolai* by *Franz Josef Haydn (1732-1809)*.

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

The flower display is kindly provided by the Ripon Cathedral Flower Guild.

## 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 'Time and Seasons', material from which is included in this service, is copyright The Archbishops' Council.*

Words of welcome are given by The Dean.

# The Gathering

Please stand. During this hymn the altar is censed.

## Processional Hymn

God rest you merry, gentlemen,  
let nothing you dismay,  
for Jesus Christ our Saviour  
was born upon this Day,  
to save us all from Satan's power  
when we were gone astray:  
*O tidings of comfort and joy,  
comfort and joy!  
O tidings of comfort and joy!*

From God our heavenly Father  
a blessed Angel came,  
and unto certain shepherds  
brought tidings of the same,  
how that in Bethlehem was born  
the Son of God by name:  
*O tidings of comfort and joy,...*

And when they came to Bethlehem  
where our dear Saviour lay,  
they found him in a manger,  
where oxen feed on hay;  
his mother Mary kneeling down,  
unto the Lord did pray:  
*O tidings of comfort and joy,...*

Now to the Lord sing praises,  
all you within this place,  
and with true love and brotherhood  
each other now embrace;  
this holy tide of Christmas  
all other doth efface:  
*O tidings of comfort and joy,...*

NEH 25

Words: Traditional

Music: GOD REST YE MERRY London Carol Melody harmonised by David Willcocks (1919-2015)

*Please remain standing as the altar is censed.*

## The Greeting

President Welcome all wonders in one sight!  
Eternity shut in a span.  
Summer in winter, day in night,  
heaven in earth and God in man.  
Great little one whose all-embracing birth  
brings earth to heaven, stoops heaven to earth.

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

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

*Please remain standing as the president introduces the service.*

## Prayers of Penitence

Deacon The sun of righteousness has dawned  
with healing in his wings.  
Let us come to the light of Christ,  
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

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      The God of all healing and forgiveness  
draw you to himself,  
that you may behold the glory of his Son,  
the Word made flesh,  
and be cleansed from all your sins,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All              **Amen.**

## Gloria in excelsis

*Gloria in excelsis Deo.  
Et in terra pax hominibus, bonae  
voluntatis. Laudamus te, benedicimus  
te, Adoramus te, glorificamus te.  
Gratias agimus tibi propter magnam  
gloriam tuam.*

*Domine Deus, Rex coelestis, Deus  
Pater omnipotens. Domine Fili  
unigenite Jesu Christe. Domine Deus,  
Agnus Dei, Qui tollis peccata mundi,  
Miserere nobis. Qui sedes ad  
dexteram Patris, Suscipe  
deprecationem nostram.*

*Quoniam tu solus Sanctus,  
tu solus Dominus,  
tu solus Altissimus, Jesu Christe.  
Cum sancto spiritu in Gloria  
Dei Patris. Amen.*

*Please remain standing.*

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his 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

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

Almighty God,  
you have given us your only-begotten Son  
to take our nature upon him  
and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin:  
grant that we, who have been born again  
and made your children by adoption and grace,  
may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
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

### Old Testament Reading

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

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. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

*Isaiah 9:2,6-7*

Reader              This is the word of the Lord.

*All*                    **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*

## Gradual Hymn

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King:  
Let every heart prepare him room,  
And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Saviour reigns!  
Let all their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness,  
And wonders of his love,  
And wonders of his love,  
And wonders, wonders of his love.

A&M 72

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

Music: ANTIOCH W. Holford's *Voce di Melodia*, c. 1834, arranged by Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

## The Gospel

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

*The choir sings and all repeat:*



Cantor Christ was revealed in flesh, proclaimed among the nations  
and believed in throughout the world.

All **Alleluia.**

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

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered.



Joseph 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. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And 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. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and 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 heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

*Luke 2:1-14*

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

*The organist improvises as the Gospel party returns.*

## Sermon

*Please sit at the invitation of the preacher.*

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

## Affirmation of Faith

President                      Let us declare our faith in God:

All                              **We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us  
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

## Prayers of Intercession

President In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

*Please sit.*

Intercessor Father, today your Son our Saviour was born in human flesh.  
Renew your Church as the Body of Christ.

Holy God,  
*All* **hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Today the angels sang, 'Peace to God's people on earth.'  
Strengthen those who work for peace and justice in all the  
world.

Holy God,  
*All* **hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Today your Christ came as a light shining in the darkness.  
Bring comfort to all who suffer in the sadness of our world.

Holy God,  
*All* **hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Today heaven is come to earth, and earth is raised to heaven.  
Hold in your hand all those who have passed through death in  
the hope of your coming kingdom.

Holy God,  
*All* **hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Today Christians the world over celebrate Christ's birth.  
Open our hearts that he may be born in us today.

Holy God,  
*All* **hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Father, today angels and shepherds worshipped at the manger  
throne. Receive the worship we offer in fellowship with Mary,  
Joseph and all the saints, through him who is your Word made  
flesh, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

*All* **Amen.**

*Please stand.*

# The Liturgy of the Sacrament

## The Peace

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

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

Deacon            Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*We exchange warm greetings with those nearest us.*

## Preparation of the Altar

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

## Offertory Hymn

*A collection is taken during this hymn.*

**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 swathing bands  
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;  
good will henceforth from heaven to men  
begin and never cease.'**

*NEH 42*

*Words: Nahum Tate (1652-1715)*

*Music: WINCHESTER OLD first published in Thomas Este's Psalter 1592*

*Descant: David Willcocks (1919-2015)*

*At the end of the hymn the gifts are censed.*

## **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.**

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:

*Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus,  
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.  
Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua.  
Hosanna in excelsis.*

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power  
and might. Heaven and earth are full  
of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.

We praise and bless you, loving Father,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit,  
that broken bread and wine outpoured  
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends  
and, taking bread, he praised you.  
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:  
Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.  
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:  
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So Father, we remember all that Jesus did,  
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice  
made once for all upon the cross.  
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,  
we proclaim his death and resurrection  
until he comes in glory.

Deacon  
*All*

Great is the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.**

President

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day  
when your kingdom comes  
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms  
and bring us with the Blessed Virgin Mary, St Joseph,  
St Peter, St Wilfrid and all the saints  
to feast at your table in heaven.  
Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever.

*All*

**Amen.**

*Please sit.*

## The Lord's Prayer

President 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.**

## Breaking of the Bread

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

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

## The Giving of Communion

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

## Giving of Communion

*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.*

*During communion, the choir sings the Agnus Dei and a Motet.*

## Agnus Dei

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi.  
Miserere nobis.*

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of  
the world, Have mercy on us.

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi.  
Dona nobis pacem.*

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of  
the world, Grant us peace.

## Motet

I saw three ships come sailing in,  
On Christmas day, on Christmas day,  
I saw three ships come sailing in,  
On Christmas day in the morning.

And what was in those ships all three?  
On Christmas day, on Christmas day,  
And what was in those ships all three? On Christmas day .

Our Saviour Christ and his lady  
On Christmas day, on Christmas day,  
Our Saviour Christ and his lady, On Christmas day .

Pray whither sailed those ships all three?  
On Christmas day, on Christmas day,  
Pray whither sailed those ships all three? On Christmas day .

Oh, they sailed into Bethlehem,  
On Christmas day, on Christmas day,  
Oh, they sailed into Bethlehem, On Christmas day .

And all the bells on earth shall ring,  
On Christmas day, on Christmas day,  
And all the bells on earth shall ring, On Christmas day .

And all the Angels in Heaven shall sing,  
On Christmas day, on Christmas day,  
And all the Angels in Heaven shall sing, On Christmas day .

And all the souls on earth shall sing,  
On Christmas day, on Christmas day,  
And all the souls on earth shall sing, On Christmas day .

Then let us all rejoice, amain,  
On Christmas day, on Christmas day,  
Then let us all rejoice, amain, On Christmas day .

*Words: English traditional*

*Music: traditional arr. Philip Marshall (1921-2005)*

## Prayer after Communion

President        God our Father,  
                      whose Word has come among us  
                      in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:  
                      may the light of faith illumine our hearts  
                      and shine in our words and deeds;  
                      through him who is Christ the Lord.

All                 **Amen.**

*The Choristers now distribute apples during which the lay clerks and scholars sing Gaudete.*

*The Choristers then receive a coin from the Dean.*

*Gaudete, gaudete! Christus est natus*        Rejoice, rejoice! Christ is born  
*Ex Maria virgine, gaudete!*                Of the Virgin Mary - Rejoice!

*Tempus adest gratiæ*                        The time of grace has come-  
*Hoc quod optabamus,*                        What we have wished for;  
*Carmina lætitiæ*                                Songs of joy  
*Devote reddamus.*                             Let us give back faithfully.

*Deus homo factus est*                        God has become man,  
*Natura mirante,*                                With nature marvelling,  
*Mundus renovatus est*                        The world has been renewed  
*A Christo regnante.*                            By the reigning Christ.

*Ezechielis porta*                                The closed gate o Ezekiel  
*Clausæ pertransitur,*                        Is passed through,  
*Unde lux est orta*                                Whence the light is risen;  
*Salus invenitur.*                                Salvation has been found.

*Ergo nostra contio*                             Therefore, let our assembly  
*Psallat iam in lustro;*                        Now sing in brightness  
*Benedicat Domino:*                             Let it bless the Lord:  
*Salus Regi nostro.*                             Salvation to our King.

*Please stand.*



# The Dismissal

## The Blessing

President            The Father, who has loved the eternal Son  
                         from before the foundation of the world,  
                         shed that love upon you his children.

*All*                    **Amen.**

President            Christ, who by his incarnation  
                         gathered into one things earthly and heavenly,  
                         fill you with joy and peace.

*All*                    **Amen.**

President            The Holy Spirit, by whose overshadowing  
                         Mary became the God-bearer,  
                         give you grace to carry the good news of Christ.

*All*                    **Amen.**

President            And the blessing of God almighty,  
                         the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
                         be among you and remain with you always.

*All*                    **Amen.**

## Hymn

**Hark! The herald angels sing  
Glory to the new-born King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled:  
Joyful all ye nations rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies,  
With 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:  
*Hark! The herald angels sing ...***

**Hail the heaven-born Prince of peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
Risen with healing in his wings;  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
Born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth,  
Born to give them second birth:**

***Hark! The herald angels sing ...***

*NEH 26*

*Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)*

*Music: MENDELSSOHN from a chorus by Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809-1847)*

*Descant: David Willcocks (1919-2015)*

Deacon

Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.

All

**Glory, thanks and praise to God.**

*Please remain standing as the cathedral procession recesses.*

## **Organ Voluntary**

Nuages ensoleillés sur le cap Nègre (*from Promenades en Provence*)

*Eugène Reuchsel (1900-1988)*

Thank you  
for your support

## We're on a match funding mission



RIPON  
CATHEDRAL

Music is the heartbeat of our lives at Ripon Cathedral, and the talented choristers are on a mission to raise money for their music tuition, scores, and chaperones. They're building up to a CD release and tour, and they need your help!

Through generous  
pledges we have raised  
£13,200

We now need your  
support to match this with  
£13,200

To reach our target of  
£26,400

Bravo! Last year, you supported music at the cathedral with a tremendous £14,500. Now, we hope to exceed that with a series of fundraisers. Help us match the donor pledges and ensure the music of Ripon flourishes and prospers for years to come.



To donate visit  
[www.riponcathedral.org.uk/music](http://www.riponcathedral.org.uk/music)

SCAN ME



*"...the pitch-perfect voices of the rehearsing choristers soar, swell and swirl around you."*  
The Telegraph



# Christmas & New Year Special Services

## **Boxing Day**

9.30am St Stephen's Day  
Eucharist

10.15am Pilgrimage to  
Fountains Abbey with carols

## **New Year's Eve 11.15pm**

Watchnight with procession  
to market square for midnight

## **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January 10.30am**

Festal Eucharist for Epiphany

## **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January**

Plough Sunday Service

2.30pm refreshments

3.30pm Service

## **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 7.30pm**

Festal Eucharist for Candlemas  
with candlelit procession

All Welcome

Find all services & events at: [www.riponcathedral.org.uk](http://www.riponcathedral.org.uk)

Tickets are not required for any of the services