



RIPON
CATHEDRAL

FESTIVAL OF
LESSONS & CAROLS

23rd & 24th DECEMBER 2023

EXPLORING FAITH

AN INVITATION

Many of us, who would not say we have a strong Christian faith, have the sense of God's presence in our life from time to time or even more regularly.

If this Christmas season leaves you wondering what you really believe about God and Jesus, maybe 2024 is a time to explore?

If you would like to explore the Christian faith in a small group or one to one, then please let us know by emailing cathedraladmin@riponcathedral.org.uk in the first instance, and we will arrange something for you.



RIPON
CATHEDRAL

Welcome to Ripon Cathedral

Welcome to Ripon Cathedral for this Festival of Lessons and Carols, whether you join us in the cathedral itself or online. I am delighted that His Majesty the King is represented at each of our festival services by the Lord Lieutenant of North Yorkshire, Mrs Johanna Ropner, or by a Deputy Lieutenant.

I am very grateful to all who contribute to this service - not least our readers, choir, and musicians.

Once again, through the readings, music and singing, we celebrate the message of God's unfailing love for every person, and the resultant hope for the whole world. This is the gift that Christmas offers us, the gift of the Christ child who was laid in the manger, revealing the true nature and mystery of God. It is a gift the world so desperately needs in this time of international conflict and unrest.

Please, do enjoy this service, take hope and joy from it and have a very happy Christmas.

Dean John

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.



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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.

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
- use the QR code.



Music before the Service

Some, or all, of the following will be played before the service.

Offertoire sur deux Noëls	<i>Alexandre Guilmant (1837-1911)</i>
Prelude on 'Forest Green'	<i>Philip Marshall (1921-2005)</i> <i>(Organist of Ripon Cathedral 1957-1966)</i>
The Holy Boy	<i>John Ireland (1879-1962)</i>
Chorale Prelude on 'Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen'	<i>Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)</i>
Noël Grand jeu et Duo	<i>Louis-Claude Daquin (1694-1772)</i>

Please stand when a fanfare is played as the Dean escorts the Lord Lieutenant or her Deputy to their seat.

Welcome

The Dean, The Very Revd John Dobson DL.

Please stand as the hymn begins.

Processional Hymn

Solo 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.

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.

All **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.**

**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.**

An organ improvisation takes place at this point.

**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.**

*Words: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895)
Music: IRBY Henry Gauntlett (1805-1876), revised A. H. Mann (1850-1929)
Descant: David Willcocks (1919-2015)*

Please remain standing.

Bidding Prayer

Led by The Dean.

Beloved in Christ, be it this Christmastide our care and delight to hear again the message of the angels, and in 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.

But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace on earth and goodwill among all his people; for unity within the Church he came to build, and especially in this city and diocese.

And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us remember, in his name, the poor and helpless, the cold, 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 the Lord Jesus we are for ever one.

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

The Dean

May the Almighty God bless us with his grace;
Christ give us the joys of everlasting life,
and unto the fellowship of the citizens above
may the King of Angels bring us all.

All

Amen.

Please sit.

Carol

Adam lay ybounden,
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 lady
A-been heavené queen.

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

*Words: Anonymous 15th Century
Music: Boris Ord (1897-1961)*

First Lesson

The story of our first disobedience to God's command.

Genesis 3. 8-15

At the end:

Reader

This is the word of the Lord.

All

Thanks be to God.

Carol

Procedenti puero,
Eya, nobis annus est!
Virginis ex utero
Gloria! Laudes!
Deus homo factus est et immortalis.

*For the advent of a child,
Hurrah, the season is upon us!
From a virgin's womb
Glory! Praises! God has been made
man and immortal.*

Sine viri semine
Eya, nobis annus est!
Natus est de virgine;
Gloria! Laudes!
Deus homo factus est et immortalis.

*Without a husband's seed
Hurrah, the season is upon us!
He has been born of a virgin;
Glory! Praises! God has been made
man and immortal.*

Sine viri copia
Eya, nobis annus est!
Natus est ex Maria.
Gloria! Laudes!
Deus homo factus est et immortalis.

*Without recourse to a husband
Hurrah, the season is upon us!
He has been born of Mary.
Glory! Praises! God has been made
man and immortal.*

In hoc festo determino
Eya, nobis annus est!
Benedicamus Domino.
Gloria! Laudes!
Deus homo factus est et immortalis.

*Upon this festal tide
Hurrah, the season is upon us!
We bless the Lord.
Glory! Praises! God has been made
man and immortal.*

*Words: Sloane MS 2593 c. 1400
Music: Peter Warlock (1894-1930)*

Second Lesson

God's promise to Abraham.

Genesis 22.15-18

At the end:

Reader This is the word of the Lord.
All **Thanks be to God.**

Carol

This is the truth sent from above,
the truth of God, the God of love;
therefore don't turn me from your door,
but hearken all both rich and poor.

And at that season of the year
our blest Redeemer did appear;
he here did live, and here did preach,
and many thousands he did teach.

Thus he in love to us behaved,
to show us how we must be saved;
and if you want to know the way,
be pleased to hear what he did say.

*Herefordshire carol
arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)*

Third Lesson

The prophecy of the Messiah's birth.

Isaiah 9. 2, 6–7

At the end:

Reader
All

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

Hymn

Silent night! Holy night!
Heaven is near, earth is bright
angel songs are heard above
as the Child of peace and love
sleeps in Mary's arms.

Silent night! Holy night!
skies are clear, stars are bright,
now the shepherds wend their way,
homage to this Child to pay:
he is Christ the Lord

Silent night! Holy night!
Christ is here, all is light,
shadows of the past are gone
with the advent of the Son,
born to save us all.

NEH 35

Words: G. B. Timms (1910-1997) based on Josef Mohr (1792-1848)

Music: STILLE NACHT Franz Gruber (1787-1863)

Incorporating the descant of P. Norbert Weber (1933-2000)

arr. Ronny Krippner (b. 1980)

Please sit.

Fourth Lesson

The Messiah will be born in Bethlehem.

Micah 5.2-4

At the end:

Reader

This is the word of the Lord.

All

Thanks be to God.

Carol

Joseph was an old man and an old man was he,
When he married Mary in the land of Galilee.

And as they were walking through an orchard so good,
There were cherries and berries as red as any blood.

"Oh," then bespoke Mary, with words both meek and mild,
"Pluck me once cherry, Joseph, for that I am with Child."

"Go to the tree, then Mary, and it shall bow to thee,
And you shall gather cherries, by one, by two, by three!"
Then bowed down the highest tree unto our lady's smile,
"See," Mary said, "see, Joseph, I have cherries at command."

"Oh, eat your cherries, Mary. Oh, eat your cherries now.
Oh, eat your cherries, Mary, that grow upon the bough."

Then Mary plucked a cherry as red as any blood,
Then Mary went she homewards all with her heavy load.

*Words: English c. 1500
Music: arr. David Willcocks (1919-2015)*

Fifth Lesson

The annunciation to Mary.

Luke 1. 26-35, 38

At the end:

Reader This is the word of the Lord.
All **Thanks be to God.**

Carol

Of one that is so fair and bright
velut maris stella, *as the star of the sea*
brighter than the day is light,
parens et puella: *both mother and maiden*
I cry to thee, thou see to me,
Lady, pray thy son for me,
tam pia, *you who are so gracious*
that I may come to thee, Maria.

All this world was forlorn
Eva peccatrice, *when Eve did sin*
till our Lord was y-born
de te genetrice. *from you his mother.*
With Ave it went away
darkest night, and comes the day
salutis; *of salvation*
the well springeth out of thee,
virtutis. *fount of goodness*

Lady, flower of everything,
Rosa sine spina, *Rose without a thorn*
thou bare Jesu, heaven's King,
gratia divina: *through heavenly grace*
of all thou bearest the prize,
Lady, queen of paradise
electa: *you are chosen*
maid mild, mother es effecta. *you have become.*

Words: English c. 1300
Music: Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)

Sixth Lesson

The birth of Jesus.

Luke 2. 1-7

At the end:

Reader This is the word of the Lord.
All **Thanks be to God.**

Carol

*Gaudete, gaudete!
Christus est natus
Ex Maria virgine, gaudete!*

*Tempus adest gratiæ
Hoc quod optabamus,
Carmina lætitiæ
Devote reddamus.*

*Deus homo factus est
Natura mirante,
Mundus renovatus est
A Christo regnante.*

Rejoice, rejoice!
Christ is born
Of the Virgin Mary - Rejoice!

The time of grace has come-
What we have wished for;
Songs of joy
Let us give back faithfully.

God has become man,
With nature marvelling,
The world has been renewed
By the reigning Christ.

Words: traditional

*Music: publ. in Piae Cantiones 1582
arr. Michael Neaum (b. 1939)*

Seventh Lesson

The Shepherds go to the manger.

Luke 2. 8-16

At the end:

Reader This is the word of the Lord.
All **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

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 to the earth be peace;
good will henceforth from heaven to men
begin and never cease.'

Words: Nahum Tate (1652-1715)

Music: WINCHESTER OLD in Thomas Este's Psalter 1592

Descant: David Willcocks (1919-2015)

Eighth Lesson

Wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

Matthew 2. 1–11

At the end:

Reader This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Carol

The holly and the ivy
when they are both full grown;
of all the trees that are in the wood
the holly bears the crown.

*The rising of the sun
and the running of the deer,
the playing of the merry organ,
sweet singing in the choir.*

The holly bears a blossom
as white as any flower;
and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
to be our sweet Saviour.

The rising of the sun...

The holly bears a berry
as red as any blood;
and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
to do poor sinners good.

The rising of the sun...

The holly bears a prickle
as sharp as any thorn;
and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
on Christmas Day in the morn.

The rising of the sun...

The holly bears a bark
as bitter as any gall;
and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
for to redeem us all.

The rising of the sun...

The holly and the ivy
when they are both full grown;
of all the trees that are in the wood
the holly bears the crown.

The rising of the sun...

*Words: Unknown, English Traditional
Music: Tim Harper (b. 1986)*

Please stand.

Hymn

It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
'Peace on the earth, good-will to men,
from heaven's all gracious King!'
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come,
with peaceful wings unfurled;
and still their heavenly music floats
o'er all the weary world:
above its sad and lowly plains
they bend on hovering wing;
and ever o'er its Babel-sounds
the blessèd angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife
the world has suffered long;
beneath the angel-strain have rolled
two thousand years of wrong;
and man, at war with man, hears not
the love-song which they bring:
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,
and hear the angels sing!

For lo! the days are hastening on,
by prophet bards foretold,
when, with the ever-circling years
comes round the age of gold;
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendours fling,
and the whole world give back the song
which now the angels sing.

NEH 29

Words: Edmund Sears (1810-1876)

Music: NOEL Trad. English Melody adapted by Arthur Sullivan (1842-1900)

Last verse arr. David Willcocks (1919-2015)

Ninth Lesson

Please remain standing and turn to face the priest reading the Gospel.

The incarnation of the Word of God

John 1. 1-14

At the end:

Reader This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Offertory Hymn

A collection is taken during this hymn. To see the different ways that you can give to support the work of the Cathedral across the region, please see the 'Giving to support the work of the Cathedral' section at the start of this order of service.

**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:
*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!***

See how the Shepherds,
summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
we too will thither
bend our joyful footsteps:

*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!*

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

*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!*

Sing, choirs of Angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to the God
In the Highest:

*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!*

Words: 18th Century Latin hymn tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880)

Music: ADESTE FIDELES attrib. J. F. Wade (1711-1786)

Descant: David Willcocks (1919-2015)

Please remain standing.

Collect

The Dean

Almighty God, you make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your 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 is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All

Amen.

The Blessing

May he who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, bestow upon you the fullness of inward peace and goodwill; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon 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 th'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 th'incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel:
Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.

Hail the heaven-born Prince of peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Ris'n 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
Glory to the new-born King.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Music: MENDELSSOHN Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847) Descant: David Willcocks (1919-2015)

*Please remain standing as the choir, cathedral procession and
Lord-Lieutenant or her deputy depart.*

Organ Voluntary

Toccata in D

Marcel Lanquetuit (1894-1985)

23rd December

Representing HM the King:

Mrs Johanna Ropner
The Lord-Lieutenant of North Yorkshire

- 1st Lesson** Ava Crabtree Cathedral chorister
- 2nd Lesson** Mrs Victoria Kirkman, Cathedral congregation and member of Education Committee
- 3rd Lesson** Mr Jay Mackinnon, RAF Menwith Hill
- 4th Lesson** Mrs Clare Granger, High Sheriff of North Yorkshire
- 5th Lesson** Reverend Leslie Newton, Ecumenical Canon, Chair of Yorkshire North & East Methodist District
- 6th Lesson** Mrs Johanna Ropner, Lord-Lieutenant of North Yorkshire
- 7th Lesson** Reverend Canon Paul Maybury, Honorary Canon, Rector of Leeds Minster
- 8th Lesson** Lt Col (Ret'd) Amanda Anderson, Cathedral Chief Operating Officer
- 9th Lesson** The Reverend Canon Matthew Pollard, Canon Chancellor
- The Blessing** The Right Reverend Anna Eltringham, Bishop of Ripon

24th December

Representing HM the King:

Mr Tom Ali DL
The Lord-Lieutenant's Deputy

- 1st Lesson** Xander Galloway-Gee, Cathedral chorister
- 2nd Lesson** Councillor Sid Hawke, The Right Worshipful The Mayor of Ripon
- 3rd Lesson** Mrs Anne-Marie Tarter, Cathedral congregation and member of Cathedral Community Connections
- 4th Lesson** Mr Chris Tate, Diocesan Director of Communication
- 5th Lesson** Mr Simon Hewitt, member of Ripon Together Board and St Wilfrid Stars 'Volunteer of the Year'
- 6th Lesson** Ms Meg Munn, ecumenical representative of the Cathedral Consultative Council
- 7th Lesson** Mr Jonathan Webb, Headmaster, Ripon Grammar School
- 8th Lesson** Mr Tom Ali, DL
- 9th Lesson** The Reverend Canon Claire Renshaw, Canon Pastor
- The Blessing** The Dean, The Very Revd John Dobson DL

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

SCAN ME



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

The Telegraph



Christmas & New Year Special Services

Christmas Eve

11.30am Journey to
Bethlehem
11pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

8.00am Holy Communion
10.30am Festal Eucharist

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 7th January 10.30am

Festal Eucharist for Epiphany

Sunday 14th January

Farming Sunday
2.30pm refreshments
3.30pm Service

Friday 2nd February 7.30pm

Festal Eucharist for Candlemas
with candlelit procession

All Welcome

Find all services & events at: www.riponcathedral.org.uk

Tickets are not required for any of the services