

RIPON  
CATHEDRAL

**The Advent  
Carol Service and  
Procession**

Advent Sunday  
30<sup>th</sup> November 2025

5.30pm



## 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 Advent Procession and Carol Service

Advent is a time of expectation: the word itself means ‘coming’. It recalls ancient Israel’s hope for the advent of the Messiah and it also expresses the Christian hope for the fulfilment of God’s Kingdom in the second coming of Christ.

Processions, outside and inside churches, form some of the earliest drama. This service is a journey. The procession of the choir moves from the east, the Advent Responsory being sung in the quire. The choir then process, with candles, around the congregation to the West door enveloping the congregation in light and the worship. The Advent Prose is sung at the West door. The choir then make their way through the congregation as the first congregational hymn is sung. Congregational candles are lit at this point as the light has been symbolically brought from the High Altar by the choir to the congregation. As the service progresses the Cathedral gradually gets brighter. The final responsory is sung by the choir and they then lead the congregation out into the world to share the light of Christ.

The words and music seek to enable us to worship God, who calls us to do his will and make the world what he created it to be – full of his glory.

“The Kingdom of God is about the will of God for this earth here below ... it is about the transformation of this world into holiness, not the evacuation of this world into heaven.”

*John Dominic Crossan*

### About this service

The service is sung by the Choral Foundation.

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

### Safeguarding



Ripon Cathedral is committed to the safety and wellbeing of everyone, especially children, young people, and vulnerable adults. If you have any concerns about your own or another’s welfare, please report to the Cathedral Safeguarding Team via the QR code or speak to the member of clergy leading the service today. You can also contact our Cathedral

Safeguarding team on 01765 643889 or [safeguarding@riponcathedral.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@riponcathedral.org.uk)

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## The Collect

The Dean        Let us pray that they too may be illumined by Christ  
                         who is our light.

*The whole congregation prays silently, after which the Dean draws the prayers together with the Advent collect.*

The Dean        Almighty God,  
                         give us grace to cast away the works of darkness  
                         and to put on the armour of light,  
                         now in the time of this mortal life,  
                         in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;  
                         that on the last day,  
                         when he shall come again in his glorious majesty  
   to judge the living and the dead,  
                         we may rise to the life immortal;  
                         through him who is alive and reigns with you,  
                         in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
                         one God, now and for ever.

All

**Amen.**

*There is a time of Silence.*

*The Dean is verged to greet the choir, gathered in the quire, who then sings.*

## The Advent Responsory

I look from afar: and lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth. Go ye out to meet him and say: Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel? High and low, rich and poor, one with another, go ye out to meet him and say: Hear, O thou Shepherd of Israel, thou that ledest Joseph like a sheep, tell us, art thou he that should come? Stir up thy strength, O Lord, and come to reign over thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

*Words: Matin Responsory, Advent Sunday*

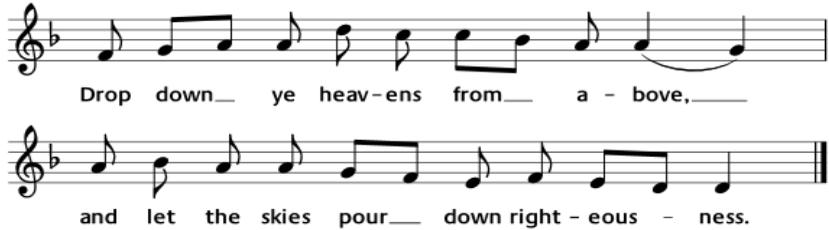
*Music: from a Nunc dimittis by G. P. da Palestrina (c. 1525-1594)*

*Please stand as the choir processes from the quire to the West enveloping the congregation in light, as the the organist plays. The congregational candles remain unlit until after the Advent Prose.*

*The Choir sings the Advent Prose. Please join in with the Antiphon.*

## The Advent Prose

*Antiphon.*



Drop down\_\_ ye heav-ens from\_\_ a - bove,\_\_\_\_  
and let the skies pour\_\_ down right - eous - ness.

Be not wroth very sore, O Lord, neither remember iniquity forever: thy holy cities are a wilderness, Sion is a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation: our holy and beautiful house, where our fathers praised thee.

*All*

**Drop down ye heavens from above,  
and let the skies pour down righteousness.**

We have sinned, and are as an unclean thing, and we all do fade as a leaf: and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away; thou hast hid thy face from us: and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities.

*All*

**Drop down ye heavens from above, ...**

Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen; that ye may know me and believe me: I, even I, am the Lord, and beside me there is no Saviour: and there is none that can deliver out of my hand.

*All*

**Drop down ye heavens from above, ...**

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, my salvation shall not tarry: I have blotted out as a thick cloud thy transgressions: fear not, for I will save thee: for I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, the Redeemer.

*All*

**Drop down ye heavens from above, ...**

*NEH 501  
Music: RORATE CAELI, Mode i*

## Processional Hymn

*During the procession the congregation's hand-held candles are lit.*

*Once lit, please use your candle to light your neighbours' candles.*

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

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, thou Wisdom from on high!  
Who madest all in earth and sky,  
creating man from dust and clay:  
to us reveal salvation's way.

*Rejoice! ...*

O come, O come, Adonāi,  
who in thy glorious majesty  
from Sinai's mountain, clothed with awe,  
gavest thy folk the ancient law.

*Rejoice! ...*

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

*Rejoice! ...*

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

*Rejoice!*

O come, O come, thou Dayspring bright!  
Pour on our souls thy healing light;  
dispel the long night's lingering gloom,  
and pierce the shadows of the tomb.

*Rejoice! ...*

**O come, Desire of nations! show  
thy kingly reign on earth below;  
thou Corner-stone, uniting all,  
restore the ruin of our fall. *Rejoice! ...***

NEH 11

*Words: Ancient Advent Antiphons, tr. T. A. Lacey (1853-1931) and Editors  
Music: VENI EMMANUEL Melody adapted from a French Missal by T. Helmore (1811-1890)*

*Please remain standing as the censuring of the altar takes place.*

## **Prayers of Penitence**

The Dean            When the Lord comes,  
                                 he will bring to light things now hidden in darkness,  
                                 and will disclose the purposes of the heart.  
                                 Therefore in the light of Christ we confess our sins.

*cf 1 Corinthians 4.5*

Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations  
into the peace of your kingdom:

Lord, have mercy.

*All*

**Lord, have mercy.**

The Dean            You come in word and sacrament to strengthen us in holiness:  
                                 Christ, have mercy.

*All*

**Christ, have mercy.**

The Dean            You will come in glory with salvation for your people:  
                                 Lord, have mercy.

*All*

**Lord, have mercy.**

## **Absolution**

The Dean            Almighty God,  
                                 who in Jesus Christ has given us a kingdom  
                                 that cannot be destroyed,  
                                 forgive you your sins,  
                                 open your eyes to God's truth,  
                                 strengthen you to do God's will  
                                 and give you the joy of his kingdom,  
                                 through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All*

**Amen.**

*Please sit.*

*You are invited to keep your candle lit until after the third reading.  
If, however, you extinguish it earlier, please keep it upright for a few seconds to  
minimise the risk of spilt candle wax.*

## The Word of God

### The First Reading

*Read by Mrs Eleanor Charlesworth, a chorister parent.*

A reading from the book of Genesis.

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

*Genesis 1.1-5*

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

### Anthem

O Radiant Dawn, Splendour of eternal Light,  
Sun of Justice:  
Come, shine on those who dwell in darkness  
and the shadow of death.  
Isaiah had prophesied,  
The people who walked in darkness have seen the great light  
upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone.  
Amen.

*Words: Advent Antiphon for 2<sup>1st</sup> December  
Music: James MacMillan (b. 1959)*

## The Second Reading

*Read by Revd Darryl Hall, Vicar of the United Parish of Upper Nidderdale.*

A reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah.

I will go before you and level the mountains, I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron, I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the LORD, the God of Israel, who call you by your name. For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name, I surname you, though you do not know me. I am the LORD, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me, so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me; I am the LORD, and there is no other. I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe; I the LORD do all these things. Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the skies rain down righteousness; let the earth open, that salvation may spring up, and let it cause righteousness to sprout up also; I the LORD have created it.

*Isaiah 45.2-8*

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

## Anthem

Choir There is no rose of such virtue  
As is the rose that bare Jesu; *Alleluia.*

For in this rose contained was  
Heaven and earth in little space; *Res miranda.*

By that rose we may well see  
That He is God in persons three, *Pari forma.*

The angels sungen the shepherds to:  
*Gloria in excelsis Deo: Gaudeamus.*

Now leave we all this worldly mirth  
And follow we this joyful birth; *Transeamus.*

*Words: Anon 14<sup>th</sup> cent.*

*Music: Robert Millington (b. 1948)*

*Please stand.*

Hills of the North, rejoice;  
echoing songs arise,  
hail with united voice;  
him who made earth and skies;  
he comes in righteousness and love;  
he brings salvation from above.

Isles of the southern seas,  
sing to the listening earth,  
carry on every breeze,  
hope of a world's new birth:  
in Christ shall all be made anew,  
his word is sure, his promise true.

Lands of the East, arise,  
he is your brightest morn;  
greet him with joyous eyes,  
praise shall his path adorn.  
The God whom you have longed to know,  
in Christ draws near, and calls you now.

Shores of the utmost West,  
lands of the setting sun,  
welcome the heavenly guest,  
in whom the dawn has come;  
he brings a never-ending light  
who triumphed o'er our darkest night.

Shout, as you journey on;  
songs be in every mouth;  
lo, from the North they come,  
from East, and West, and South.  
in Jesus all shall find their rest,  
in him the sons of earth be blest.

NEH 7

Words: Charles Oakley (1832-1865)

Music: LITTLE CORNARD Martin Shaw (1875-1958)

*Please sit.*

*The following reading tells that our 'light has come' As a sign of this the lights will come up during the following anthem. Please extinguish your candle, keeping it upright for a few seconds to minimise the risk of spilt wax.*

## The Third Reading

*Read by Mrs Louise Leong, a chorister parent.*

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice.

*Isaiah 60. 1-5*

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

## Anthem

How lovely are the messengers  
that preach us the gospel of peace.  
To all the nations is gone forth the sound of their words,  
throughout all the lands their glad tidings.

*Words: Romans 10. 15, 18*

*Music: Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)*

## The Fourth Reading

*Read by Revd Simon Dowson, Vicar of Easby, Skeeby, Brompton-on-Swale and Bolton-on-Swale.*

A reading from 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. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest as people exult when dividing plunder. 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. 2-3 & 6-7*

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

## Anthem

Lux, calida gravisque pura velut  
aurum et canunt angeli molliter  
modo natum.

*Light, warm and heavy as pure gold  
and the angels sing softly  
to the new-born baby.*

*Words: Edward Esch tr. into Latin by Charles Anthony Silvestri (b. 1965)  
Music: Eric Whitacre (b. 1970)*

## The Fifth Reading

*Read by Mr Steve Kersys, part of the Cathedral's team of education volunteers.*

A reading from the first Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, 'There is peace and security', then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober.

*1 Thessalonians 5. 1-6*

This is the word of the Lord.

*All*

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*

## Offertory Hymn

*A collection is taken during this hymn.*

**Wake, O wake! With tidings thrilling.** [organ fanfare]  
**the watchmen all the air are filling,** [organ fanfare]  
**arise, Jerusalem, arise!**  
**Midnight strikes! No more delaying,** [organ fanfare]  
**'The hour has come!' we hear them saying.** [organ fanfare]  
**'Where are ye all, ye virgins wise?'** [organ fanfare]  
**The Bridegroom comes in sight,**  
**Raise high your torches bright! Alleluia!**  
**The wedding song swells loud and strong:** [organ fanfare]  
**Go forth and join the festal throng.** [organ fanfare]

NEH 16

Words: Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608) tr. F. C. Burkitt (1864-1935)

Music: WACHET AUF Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608); Harmony by J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

*Please remain standing and turn to face the Gospel reader.*

## The Gospel

*The choir sings and all repeat:*



Cantor Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,  
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

*All* **Alleluia.**

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

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

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for

ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.’ Mary said to the angel, ‘How can this be, since I am a virgin?’ The angel said to her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.’ Then Mary said, ‘Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.’ Then the angel departed from her.

*Luke 1.26-38*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

*All*

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please sit when the Gospel procession has returned.*

## **Anthem**

O thou the central orb of righteous love,  
pure beam of the most high, eternal light  
of this our wintry world, thy radiance bright  
awakes new joy in faith, hope soars above.

Come, quickly come, and let thy glory shine,  
gilding our darksome heaven with rays divine;  
thy saints with holy lustre round thee move,  
as stars about thy throne, set in the height  
of God’s ordaining counsel, as thy sight  
gives measured grace to each, thy power to prove.

Let thy bright beams disperse the gloom of sin,  
our nature all shall feel eternal day,  
in fellowship with thee, transforming day  
to souls erewhile unclean, now pure within. Amen.

*Words: Henry Ramsden Bramley (1833–1917)*

*Music: Charles Wood (1866–1926)*

## The Prayers

*After each petition please respond with the phrase,*

*All*                    **Come, Lord Jesus!**

Intercessor        In the times when we find it hard to pray.  
                          In the times when we are too occupied by busyness.  
                          In the times when we stop working for the Kingdom.  
                          In the times when we find it hard to forgive.  
                          In the times when we lack compassion towards our neighbours.  
                          In the times when we want only to think of ourselves.  
                          In the times when we do not want to get involved in social issues.  
                          In the times when we want to have more material possessions.  
                          In the times when we put off living as if this day is the last.  
                          In the times when we fail to long for you.

## The Lord's Prayer

Intercessor        Looking for the coming of God's Kingdom,  
                          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.**

*Please stand.*

## The Dismissal Gospel

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

All

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said, 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.'

*John 3.16-21*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please remain standing.*

## The Final Responsory

Choir

Judah and Jerusalem, fear not, nor be dismayed;  
*Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord he will be with you.*

Stand ye still, and ye shall see the salvation of the Lord.  
*Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord he will be with you.*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.  
*Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord he will be with you.*

*Words: Vesper Responsory*

*Music: adapted from G. P. da Palestrina (c. 1525-1594)*

The Dean           The night is far spent, the day is at hand.  
Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness  
and put on the armour of light.  
Come, O Lord, comfort the soul of your servant.  
*All*                 **Even so, Lord, come.**

The Dean           O Lord Jesus Christ, come  
*All*                 **at evening time, with light,**

The Dean           and in the morning, with your glory,  
*All*                 **to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

The Dean           He who receives our prayers says:  
Surely I come quickly.  
I am the root and offspring of David,  
I am the bright and morning star.  
*All*                 **Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.**

## The Blessing

The Dean           Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,  
scatter the darkness from before your path,  
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;  
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

**Lo, he comes with clouds descending,  
once for favoured sinners slain;  
thousand thousand saints attending  
swell the triumph of his train:  
Alleluia!  
God appears on earth to reign.**

**Every eye shall now behold him  
robed in dreadful majesty;  
those who set at naught and sold him,  
pierced and nailed him to the Tree.  
Deeply wailing,  
shall the true Messiah see.**

**Those dear tokens of his passion  
still his dazzling body bears,  
cause of endless exultation  
to his ransomed worshippers:  
with what rapture  
gaze we on those glorious scars!**

*An organ interlude is played at this point.*

**Yea, Amen, let all adore thee,  
high on thine eternal throne;  
Saviour, take the power and glory,  
claim the kingdom for thine own:  
O come quickly!  
Alleluia! Come, Lord, come.**

*NEH 9*

*Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)*

*Music: HELMSLEY T. Olivers (1725-1799) included in Wesley's Select Hymns 1765*

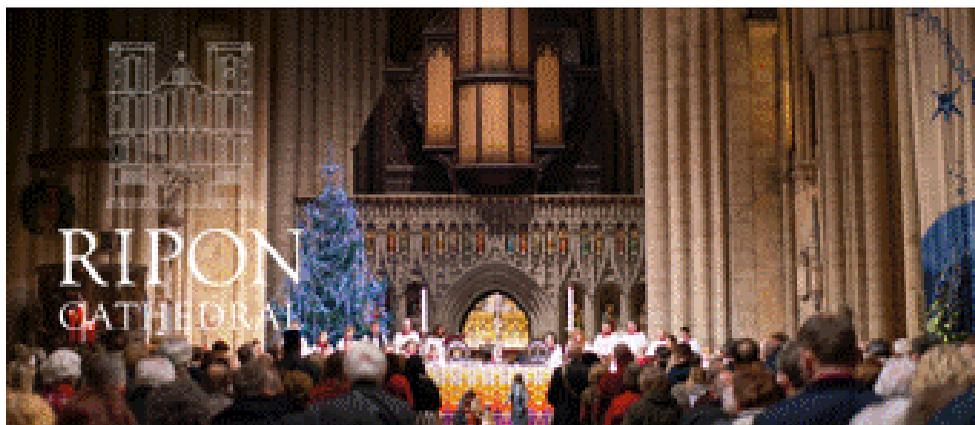
*Descant: M. How (1931-2022)*

*Please remain standing as the choir and clergy process out.*

## Organ Voluntary

Le Monde dans l'attente du Sauveur (*from* Symphonie-Passion Op. 23)

*Marcel Dupré (1886-1971)*



# Christmas Organ Meditation

Thursday 18th Dec 2025

*La Nativité du  
Seigneur*

Nine Meditations on the birth of our Lord  
by Olivier Messiaen  
performed by Tim Harper

All Welcome

Find all services & events at: [www.riponcathedral.org.uk](http://www.riponcathedral.org.uk)  
Tickets are not required