

RIPON CATHEDRAL

Sung Eucharist

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday 21st December 2025

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 21st 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.



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. We worship in the season of Advent. This 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.

As we worship today in this Cathedral church we pray that we may all encounter God and be filled with God's life and love, and that we may reach out to include others in sharing our joy.

About this service

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

The Preacher is The Canon Pastor, The Revd Canon Wendy Dalrymple

The service is sung by the lay clerks of the cathedral choir to the *Missa Simile est regnum caelorum* by *Francisco Guerrero (1528-1599)*.

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

Children at Ripon Cathedral

There are two **Children's Church** groups taking place. Mustard Seeds (0-6 yrs, with their parents/carers – or school age children can be dropped off if preferred) and Mighty Trees (7-11 yrs). For Mustard Seeds please make your way up the stairs to the Library after the first hymn. For Mighty Trees please drop-off your child from 10.15 at the Chapel of the Resurrection, using the outside door on the south side. Please then collect your child from the same place during the Peace.

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 via safeguarding@riponcathedral.org.uk The Leeds Diocesan Safeguarding Team are available Monday to Friday and can be contacted on: 0113 353 0257 or via safeguarding@leeds.anglican.org.uk

For more information about Safeguarding at Ripon Cathedral visit www.riponcathedral.org.uk/safeguarding

Words of welcome are given by The Dean after which please stand.

The Gathering

Processional Hymn

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, Adonai,
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)*

The Greeting

President
A//

With love and compassion,
come, Lord Jesus.

President
A//

With judgement and mercy,
come, Lord Jesus.

President
A//

In power and glory,
come, Lord Jesus.

President
A//

In wisdom and truth,
come, Lord Jesus.

President
A//

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

The President introduces the service.

Prayer of Preparation

A//

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

President Heavenly Father, you have created a universe of light:
 forgive us when we return to darkness.
 Lord, have mercy.

A// **Lord, have mercy.**

President Lord Jesus, you are the light of the world:
 cleanse and heal our blinded sight.
 Christ, have mercy.

A// **Christ, have mercy.**

President Holy Spirit, you give us light in our hearts:
 renew us in faith and love.
 Lord, have mercy.

A// **Lord, have mercy.**

Choir	Kyrie eleison,	<i>Lord, have mercy.</i>
	Christe eleison,	<i>Christ, have mercy.</i>
	Kyrie eleison.	<i>Lord, have mercy.</i>

The Absolution

President Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,
 have mercy upon you,
 pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
 confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
 and keep you in life eternal;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.

A// **Amen.**

Lighting of a candle on the Advent Wreath

The fourth candle on the Advent Wreath is lit.

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, merciful and gentle:
to you be praise and glory for ever.
Your light has shone in our darkened world
through the child-bearing of blessed Mary;
grant that we who have seen your glory
may daily be renewed in your image
and prepared like her for the coming of your Son,
who is the Lord and Saviour of all.

All

Blessed be God for ever.

The Collect

President

Let us pray.
God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of your Son:
grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour,
so we may be ready to greet him
when he comes again as our judge;
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 LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, 'Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.' But Ahaz said, 'I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.' Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.'

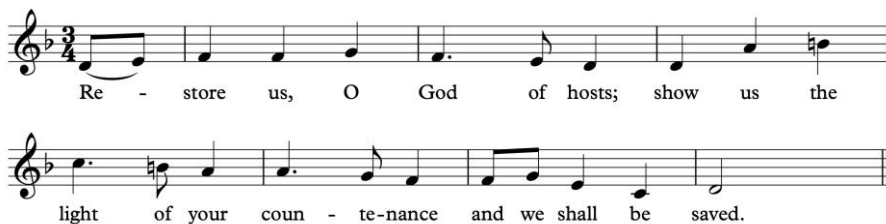
Isaiah 7.10-16

All

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

Psalms

The choir sings the response and then it is repeated by the congregation.



Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.

[Response]

O Lord God of hosts,
how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?
You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
You have made us the derision of our neighbours,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

[Response]

Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand,
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your name.

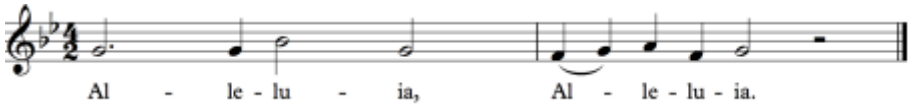
[Response]

Psalm 80.1-7, 16-18

The Gospel

Please stand and turn to face the Deacon reading the Gospel.

The choir sings, then all repeat:



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

All **Alleluia, Alleluia.**

Deacon Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

The birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,' which means, 'God is with us.' When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Matthew 1.18-25

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The organist improvises as the Gospel party returns.

The Sermon

Please sit at the invitation of the preacher.

After the sermon, please stand with the president.

The Nicene Creed

A//

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.

Intercessions

President Watchful at all times, let us pray for strength to stand with confidence before our Maker and Redeemer.

Please sit.

This response is used after each petition:

Intercessor Lord, in your mercy,
All **hear our prayer.**

And at the end:

Intercessor Merciful Father,
All **accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

Please stand.

Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

President In the tender mercy of our God,
the dayspring from on high shall break upon us,
to give light to those who dwell in darkness
 and in the shadow of death
and to guide our feet into the way 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 and bread and wine are placed upon it.

Offertory Hymn

A collection is taken during this hymn. Card readers will be brought round for those who prefer to give by card. Alternatively, please use this QR Code.



**Sing we of the blessèd Mother
who received the angel's word,
and obedient to his summons
bore in love the infant Lord;
sing we of the joys of Mary
at whose breast that child was fed
who is Son of God eternal
and the everlasting bread.**

**Sing we, too, of Mary's sorrows,
of the sword that pierced her through,
when beneath the cross of Jesus
she his weight of suffering knew,
looked upon her Son and Saviour
reigning high on Calvary's tree,
saw the price of man's redemption
paid to set the sinner free.**

**Sing again the joys of Mary
when she saw the risen Lord,
and in prayer with Christ's apostles,
waited on his promised word:
From on high the blazing glory
of the Spirit's presence came,
heavenly breath of God's own being,
manifest through wind and flame.**

**Sing the chiefest joy of Mary
when on earth her work was done,
and the Lord of all creation
brought her to his heavenly home:
Virgin Mother, Mary blessèd,
raised on high and crowned with grace,
may your Son, the world's redeemer,
grant us all to see his face.**

NEH 185

Words: G. B. Timms (1910-1997)

Music: ABBOTS LEIGH Cyril Taylor (1907-1992)

Taking of the Bread and Wine

President Look upon us in mercy not in judgement;
draw us from hatred to love; make the frailty of our praise
a dwelling place for your glory.
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 It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,
Almighty God and everlasting Father,
through Jesus Christ your Son.
For when he humbled himself to come
among us in human flesh,
he fulfilled the plan you formed before the foundation
of the world
to open for us the way of salvation.
Confident that your promise will be fulfilled,
we now watch for the day
when Christ our Lord will come again in glory.
And so we join our voices with angels and archangels
and with all the company of heaven
to proclaim your glory, for ever praising you and singing.

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus,	<i>Holy, holy, holy Lord,</i>
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.	<i>God of power and might,</i>
Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua.	<i>heaven and earth are full of your</i>
Hosanna in excelsis.	<i>glory. Hosanna in the highest.</i>
Benedictus qui venit in nomine	<i>Blessed is he who comes in the name</i>
Domini Hosanna in excelsis.	<i>of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.</i>

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
A//

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:
**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life:
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

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.

A//

Amen.

Please sit.

The Lord's Prayer

President Awaiting his coming in glory,
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.**

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,
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.

A//

**Most merciful Lord,
your love compels us to come in.
Our hands were unclean, our hearts were unprepared;
we were not fit
even to eat the crumbs from under your table.
But you, Lord, are the God of our salvation,
and share your bread with sinners.
So cleanse and feed us
with the precious body and blood of your Son,
that he may live in us and we in him;
and that we, with the whole company of Christ,
may sit and eat in your kingdom. Amen.**

We welcome communicants of all denominations to receive holy communion. If you require a gluten-free wafer, please indicate this to the minister. 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.

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

Agnus Dei

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi.
Miserere nobis.

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

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

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

Motet

Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus
tecum. Benedicta tu in mulieribus, et
benedictus fructus ventris tui.
Alleluia.

*Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is
with you. Blessed are you among
women, and blessed is the fruit of
your womb. Alleluya.*

*Words: after Luke 1.28
Music: David Pisaro (b. 1975)*

Prayer after Communion

President Heavenly Father, who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of the promised saviour:
fill us your servants with your grace,
that in all things we may embrace your holy will
and with her rejoice in your salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

A//

Notices may be given after which, please stand.

The Dismissal

The Blessing

President 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 among you and remain with you always.
A// Amen.

Recessional Hymn

**Ye who own the faith of Jesus
sing the wonders that were done,
when the love of God the Father
o'er our sin the vict'ry won,
when he made the Virgin Mary
Mother of his only Son.
Hail Mary, full of grace.**

**Blessèd were the chosen people
out of whom the Lord did come,
blessèd was the land of promise
fashioned for his earthly home;
but more blessèd far the Mother
she who bare him in her womb.
Hail Mary, full of grace.**

**Wherefore let all faithful people
tell the honour of her name,
let the Church in her foreshadowed
part in her thanksgiving claim;
what Christ's Mother sang in gladness
let Christ's people sing the same.
Hail Mary, full of grace**

Let us weave our supplications,
she with us and we with her,
for the advancement of the faithful,
for each faithful worshipper,
for the doubting, for the sinful,
for each heedless wanderer,
Hail Mary, full of grace.

Praise, O Mary, praise the Father,
praise thy Saviour and thy Son,
praise the everlasting Spirit,
who hath made thee ark and throne;
o'er all creatures high exalted,
lowly praise the Three in One.
Hail Mary, full of grace.

NEH 188

Words: Vincent Stuckey Stratton Coles (1845–1929)

Music: DAILY DAILY from a French paroissien

The Dismissal

Deacon
All

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

Organ Voluntary

Ave Maris Stella (*from Vêpres du Commun, Op. 18*)

Marcel Dupré (1886-1971)



***Dean John & Nicola invite you for sherry and mince pies
following the 10.30am Sung Eucharist
and before the 12.30 Eucharist.
Served in the South Transept***



**Jennyruth Workshops Xmas stall
in the Cathedral after this morning's 10.30am Eucharist All proceeds go to
Jennyruth, one of our C3 partners**

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Services later today and this week

12.30pm Holy Eucharist (BCP) *President: Canon Wendy Dalrymple*

3.30pm Evening Prayer

5.30pm Christmas Carol Concert

Worship for the Week

Morning Prayer: Monday to Saturday at 8.30am

Evening Prayer: Monday to Saturday 5.30pm

Monday	9.00am	The Eucharist	President: Reverend Peter Ford
Tuesday	9.00am	The Eucharist	President: The Dean
	12noon	The Eucharist	President: Canon Matthew Pollard
	5.30pm	Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols	
Christmas	10.00am	The Eucharist	President: Canon Michael Gisbourne
Eve	11.00am	Journey to Bethlehem	
	5.30pm	Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols	
	11.00pm	Festal Eucharist for Christmas	President & Preacher: The Rt Revd Dr Toby Howarth
Christmas Day	8.00am	Holy Communion	President & Preacher: Canon Wendy Dalrymple
	9.30am	Matins	
	10.30am	Festal Eucharist	President & Preacher: The Dean
	12.30pm	Holy Communion	President: Canon Michael Gisbourne
	3.30pm	Evening Prayer	
Boxing Day	9.30am	Holy Communion followed by a Pilgrimage to Fountains Abbey, which leaves around 10.15am	
		President & Preacher: Rt Revd Anna Eltringham	
	12noon	The Eucharist	President: Canon Wendy Wilby
Saturday	12 noon	The Eucharist	President: Canon Wendy Dalrymple

Worship Next Sunday, 28th December, The Holy Innocents

8.00am Eucharist (BCP) *President & Preacher: Canon Michael Gisbourne*

9.30am Morning Prayer

10.30am Sung Eucharist *President: Canon Wendy Dalrymple*
Preacher: Canon Matthew Pollard

3.30pm Evensong

Bereavement drop in on New Year's Eve

December 31st from 10am-11.30am

Wherever you are on your journey of grief, you are welcome to join members of the Cathedral Bereavement team for hot drinks and cake, at Thorpe Prebend House on December 31st from 10am- 11.30am. For more information contact

fionapearman@riponcathedral.org.uk



Christmas & New Year Special Services

Christmas Eve

11.00am Journey to
Bethlehem (for all the family)
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
sung at the abbey

New Year's Eve 11.15pm

Watchnight with procession to
market square for midnight

Tuesday 6th January 5.30pm

Festal Eucharist for Epiphany

Saturday 31st January 5.30pm

Festal Eucharist for Candlemas
with candlelit procession

All Welcome

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