



RIPON CATHEDRAL

Festal Eucharist Christmas Day



Thursday 25th December 2025
10.30am

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
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 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.



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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.

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 Dean, The Very Revd John Dobson DL.

The service is sung by the Full Choral Foundation to the *Missa Sancti Nicolai* by Franz Joseph 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 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 Canon Precentor.

The Gathering

Please stand.

Processional Hymn

The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep:
*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.*

They lookèd up and saw a star,
shining in the east, beyond them far:
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night:

And by the light of that same star,
three Wise Men came from country far:
To seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wheresoever it went:

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

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

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

NEH 36

Words: Traditional

Music: THE FIRST NOWELL English third mode melody, arr. John Stainer (1840-1901)
Descant: 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 Iesu 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, Iesu Christe.
Cum sancto spiritu in Gloria
Dei Patris. Amen.

*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.*

Please remain standing.

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, arr. 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.**

The Gospel is censed.

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.

All Holy God,
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.

All Holy God,
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,
hear our prayer.

A//

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,
hear our prayer.

A//

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

A//

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.

A// **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.

A// 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.

In the bleak midwinter
frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron,
water like a stone:
snow had fallen, snow on snow,
snow on snow,
in the bleak mid-winter,
long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him
nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away
when he comes to reign:
in the bleak mid-winter
a stable-place sufficed
the Lord God Almighty
Jesus Christ.

Enough for him, whom Cherubim
worship night and day,
a breastful of milk,
and a mangerful of hay;
enough for him, whom Angels
fall down before,
the ox and ass and camel
which adore.

Angels and Archangels
may have gathered there,
Cherubim and Seraphim
thronged the air:
but only his mother
in her maiden bliss
worshipped the Belovèd
with a kiss.

What can I give him,
poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man
I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him—
give my heart.

NEH 28

Words: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)
Music: CRANHAM Gustav Holst (1874-1934)

The organist improvises as 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.
All **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

President The Lord be with you
All **and also with you.**
President Lift up your hearts.
All **We lift them to the Lord.**
President Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All **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.

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

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

Ding dong! merrily on high,
in heav'n the bells are ringing.
Ding dong! verily the sky
is riv'n with angels singing.
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

E'en so here below, below,
let steeple bells be swungen,
and "lo, io, io,"
by priest, and people sungen.
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

Pray you, dutifully prime
your matin chime, ye ringers;
May you beautifully rime
your evetime song, ye singers.

Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

*Words: G. R. Woodward (1848-1934)
Music: Stuart Nicholson (b. 1975)*

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 distribute apples during which the lay clerks and scholars sing.

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

Tempus adest gratiæ
Hoc quod optabamus,
Carmina lætitiaæ
Devote reddamus.

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

Ezechielis porta
Causa pertransitur,
Unde lux est orta
Salus invenitur.

Ergo nostra contio
Psallat iam in lustro;
Benedicat Domino:
Salus Regi nostro.

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.

The closed gate o Ezekiel
Is passed through,
Whence the light is risen;
Salvation has been found.

Therefore, let our assembly
Now sing in brightness
Let it bless the Lord:
Salvation to our King.

Words: traditional

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

The Choristers now receive a coin from the Dean.

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.
A// **Amen.**

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

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

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

Prélude & Fugue in B (Op. 7, No. 1)

Marcel Dupré (1886-1971)

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CANDLEMAS FESTAL EUCHARIST AND PROCESSION

SATURDAY 31ST JANUARY
5.30pm

The Annual Service to celebrate the Presentation
of the infant Jesus in the Temple

Over 7000 candles set out in glorious designs will
illuminate the Cathedral



RIPON
CATHEDRAL

All Welcome