

SAINT THOMAS' CATHEDRAL

The Diocese of Bombay • The Church of North India



The Nativity in scripture, carol and verse

Sunday 22nd December 2024 • 6:30 pm

Welcome

Welcome to St. Thomas' Cathedral for this service

A warm welcome to St. Thomas's Cathedral for this service of lessons and carols. We hear once again in verse and song the story of the nativity of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. May the '*tidings of great joy*' heralded by the heavenly host of angels so long ago continue to strengthen us and lead us in '*heart and mind*' to the manger.

This beautiful service (as we know it in its present form) was first instituted by Archbishop Edward Benson in Truro Cathedral (when he was Bishop of Truro) in England. It is based on a medieval vigil liturgy.

The story of the Nativity is read from the Bible by representatives of the Cathedral community here at St Thomas's. Carols and hymns are sung by the choir and congregation. The scriptures and hymns all combine to express the fulfilment of God's promise in the good news of great joy for all people, which is the birth of Jesus, who is the Messiah, the Lord.



Please ensure that mobile phones are switched off. Refrain from taking photographs during the service. Thank you for your co-operation.

Please take this **booklet away with you.**
Do not leave it behind.

This service is being livestreamed.

THE ORDER *of* SERVICE

Music before the service

Pieces from the following selection will be played before the service begins.

Nun komm der Heiden Heiland, BWV 661	Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685 - 1750
Carillon on the tune, 'Antioch' ('Joy to the world')	Mary Beth Bennett, b. 1954
<i>Harp</i> - A medley of seasonal favourites	
Interlude on 'Silent night'	Alan Bullard, b. 1947
Prelude on, 'Irby' ('Once in Royal David's city')	Sir David Willcocks, 1919 - 2015

Welcome

The Revd Avinash Rangayya, *Cathedral Presbyter*

The choir sings

Introit

A sound of angels from afar
fills all the quiet air,
and ah! How full of gladness are
the tidings that they bring.
The shepherds run to Bethlehem,
to see a wondrous sight—
The Lord of Lords to earth come down
is born for men tonight.
Yeah, Christ is born, our heavenly king,
salvation now is nigh,
so all mankind with angels sing
Glory to God on high.

Christopher Tye, c. 1500 - 1572

Stand in silence when the lights are extinguished

The Opening Sentences

Verses from Genesis 1 are read

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

And God saw everything he had made, and, behold it was very good.

The Processional Carol

All stand and join in singing from the third verse onwards

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

² 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

**³ And through all His wondrous childhood
He would honour and obey,
love and watch the lowly maiden,
in whose gentle arms He lay:
Christian children all must be
mild, obedient, good as He.**

All

**⁴ 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.**

All

**⁵ 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.**

All

**⁶ 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;
when like stars His children crowned
all in white shall wait around.**

Words: Mrs. C. F. Alexander, 1818 - 1895

Tune: IRBY

Henry John Gauntlet, 1805 - 1876

Verse 6 arrangement & descant: Stephen Cleobury, 1948 - 2019

*All remain **STANDING***

The Bidding Prayer

Read by the Cathedral Presbyter

BELOVED IN CHRIST, be it this Christmas time our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels; 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. 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. Yet first, because this of all things would rejoice Jesus' heart, let us pray to him for the needs of the whole world, and of all people; for peace upon the earth he came to save; for love and unity within the Church he did build; for goodwill among all the nations of the earth. And particularly at this time let us remember the poor, the cold, the hungry, the oppressed; the sick and those who mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and little children; and all 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 all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we forevermore are one.

All: Amen.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ Himself hath taught us:

**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 Presbyter says

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 be **seated***

Homily

The Reverend Avinash Rangayya

Sing aloud on this day!
Children all raise the lay,
Cheerfully we and they,
Hasten to adore thee,
Sent from highest glory.
For us born, born, born,
For us born, on this morn,
Of the Virgin Mary.

² Now a child, he is born,
Swathing bands him adorn,
Manger bed, he'll not scorn,
Ox and ass are near him;
We as Lord revere him,
And the vain, vain, vain,
And the vain powers of hell,
Spoiled of prey now fear him.

³ From the far Orient
Guiding star wise men sent;
Him to seek their intent,
Lord of all creation;
Kneel in adoration.
Gifts of gold, gold, gold,
Gifts of gold, frankincense,
Myrrh for their oblation.

⁴ All must join him in praise;
Men and boys voices raise
On this day of all days;
Angel voices ringing,
Christmas tidings bringing.
Join we all, all, all,
Join we all, Gloria
In excelsis singing.

Words: Piae Cantiones, 1582

Music: German, 1360
arranged Gustav Holst, 1874 - 1934

The First Lesson

Genesis 3. 8 - 15, 17 - 19

Read by a Chorister

Adam and Eve rebel against God and are cast out of the Garden of Eden

AND they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden. And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?
And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?

And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. And the Lord God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat. And the Lord God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: and I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The choir sings

Carol

Adam lay ybounden (*bound*),
Bounden (*bound*) in a bond;
Four thousand winter
Thought he not too long.

And all was for an apple,
An apple that he took,
As clerkës (clerics) finden (now find)
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 (may) singen
Deo gratias! (*God is gracious*)

Words: anonymous 15th century

Music: Boris Ord, 1897 - 1961

The Second Lesson

Genesis 22

Read by a gentleman of the choir

*God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed
shall the nations of the earth be blessed*

AND the angel of the Lord called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time, and said, By myself have I sworn, saith the Lord, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: that in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

All **stand** and sing

Carol

**God rest you merry gentlemen,
Let nothing you dismay,
Remember Christ our Saviour
Was born on Christmas Day,
To save us all from Satan's power
When we were gone astray;
O tidings of comfort and joy
Comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.**

Continued

² **From God our Heavenly Father
A blessed Angel came;
And unto certain shepherds
Brought tidings of the same,
How that in Bethlehem was born
The Son of God by Name.
O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy.**

³ **Now to the Lord sing praises,
All you within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood
Each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas
Is drawing on a pace
O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy.**

English traditional carol, possibly 18th century

*Please be **seated***

The Third Lesson

Isaiah 9

Read by a Server of the Altar Guild

The prophet foretells the coming of the Saviour

THE people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Continued

Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon His kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgement and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

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

The choir sings

Anthem

Incorporating the carol, 'Still, still, still'

Darkness has fallen o'er the earth on this winter night
the world prepares to greet a King.
Prophets tell of the peace He'll bring.

Come to us now, Emmanuel; all the world awaits.
We've seen the signs, the time is near.
We believe You will soon be here.
Come to us now Emmanuel, as we watch and wait.

Still, still, still, all the world lies quiet and still.
A star appears in heaven above us;
God sends a Son to lead us and love us.
Still, still, still, for the promise is now fulfilled.

Peace, peace, peace, little Child of love and peace,
come fill our hearts with joy and singing.
Help us share in the love you bring.
Peace, peace, peace, help the world to live in peace.

At the same time, the men sing:

You are the light we long to see, Child of love and peace.
Now let our hearts be glad and sing.
Help us share in the love you bring.
You are the light we long to see. Help us live in peace.

*Words: Nancy Price and Don Besig
Music: Don Besig, b. 1936 incorporating the carol, 'Still, Still, Still'*

**To us a Child of royal birth,
heir of the promises, is given;
the invisible appears on earth,
the Son of Man, the God of Heaven.**

² **A Saviour born, in love supreme,
he comes our fallen souls to raise;
he comes his people to redeem,
with all the fulness of his grace.**

³ **The Christ, by raptured seers foretold,
filled with the eternal Spirit's power,
Prophet, and Priest, and King behold,
the Lord of all the worlds adore.**

⁴ **The Lord of Hosts, the God most high,
who quits his throne on earth to live,
with joy we welcome from the sky,
with faith into our hearts receive.**

Words: Charles Wesley, 1707 - 88

Tune: PUER NOBIS NASCITUR
Melody by Michael Praetorius, 1571 - 1621

Please be **seated**

The Fourth Lesson

Isaiah 11

Read by an office bearer of the Pastorate Committee

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold

AND there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots: and the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord; and shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord. With righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth.

Continued

The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The choir sings

Carol

Behold, I bring you good tidings,
I bring you good tidings of joy;
Let all the people rejoice and sing.
Behold I bring you good tidings,
I bring you good tidings of joy.

In David's city is born this day,
The Saviour whom prophets foretold;
Let all the people rejoice and sing.
In David's city is born this day,
The Saviour whom prophets foretold.

Peace on the earth and good will to men,
To God in the highest give praise;
Let all the people rejoice and sing.
Peace on the earth and good will to men,
To God in the highest give praise.

Words: Luke 2, Romans 5

Music: Eugene L. Clark, 1925 - 1982

**O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by:
Yet in the dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee to-night.**

**2 For Christ is born of Mary;
Aand, gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to men on earth.**

Choir

³ *How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming;
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him still,
The dear Christ enters in.*

Continued

**⁴ O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in:
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel.**

Words: Bishop Phillips Brooks, 1835 - 1893

Tune: FOREST GREEN
English traditional tune,
arr. Vaughan Williams
Descant: Thomas Armstrong

Please be seated

The Fifth Lesson

St Luke 1

Read by a member of the Women's Fellowship for Christian Service

The Archangel Gabriel visits the Blessed Virgin Mary

AND in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His father David:

Continued

and He shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of His kingdom there shall be no end. Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The choir sings

Spiritual

Mary had a baby, yes, Lord!
The people keep a-coming and the train done gone.

Stars keep a shining, yes, Lord!
Moving in the elements, yes, my Lord!
Stood above the stable, yes, Lord!
The people keep a-coming and the train done gone.

Mary had a baby, yes, Lord!
The people keep a-coming and the train done gone.

Where did she lay him? Yes, Lord!
Laid him in the manger, yes, my Lord!
Wrapped him in the swaddling, yes, Lord!
The people keep a-coming and the train done gone.

Mary had a baby, yes, Lord!
The people keep a-coming and the train done gone.

What did she name him? Yes, Lord!
Named him King Jesus, yes, my Lord!
Wonderful, Counsellor, yes Lord!
The people keep a-coming and the train done gone.

Arranged Malcolm Sargent, 1895 - 1967

The Sixth Lesson

St Luke 2

Read by a Cathedral Trustee

St Luke tells of the birth of Jesus

AND it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Cæsar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judæa, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The choir sings

Anthem

Incorporating the carol, 'Hark the herald angels sing'

Rejoice!
Sing an alleluia and proclaim with jubilant song.
Rejoice!
Sing an alleluia, for today Messiah has come.

Fill the earth with the sound of his music.
Fill the air with the sound of his praise.
Fill each heart with the light of his glory.
Sing to the Lord a jubilant song.

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.”

Words: Charles Wesley

Music: Joseph M. Martin, b. 1959
incorporating the tune MENDELSSOHN
by Felix Mendelssohn, 1809 - 1847

All **stand and sing**

Carol

- Joy to the world; the Lord is come;
Let Earth receive her King;
Let every Heart prepare him room,
And Heaven and nature sing. (3)**
- ² **Joy to the earth! The Saviour reigns;
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy. (3)**
- ³ **No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found. (3)**
- ⁴ **He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love. (3)**

Words: Isaac Watts, 1674 - 1748

Tune: ANTIOCH
G. F. Handel, 1685 - 1759

Please be **seated**

The Seventh Lesson

St Luke 2

Read by the Organist & Choirmaster

The shepherds go to the manger

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, 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, and on earth peace, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The choir sings

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Glory to God in the highest.

Antonio Vivaldi, 1678 - 1741

**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.***

² **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.**

³ **Then entered in those wise men three,
Full reverently upon the knee,
And offered there in his presence
Their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.**

⁴ **Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
That hath made heaven and earth of nought,
And with his blood mankind hath bought.**

Traditional English carol
Last verse arranged by Sir David Willcocks, 1919 - 2015

Please be **seated**

The Eighth Lesson

St Matthew 2

Read by a member of the Cathedral congregation

The wise men are led by a star to Jesus

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judæa in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, Where is He that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen His star in the east, and are come to worship Him. When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judæa: for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel. Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, inquired of them diligently what time the star appeared.

And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.

When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary His mother, and fell down, and worshipped Him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto Him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh. And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**We three kings of Orient are
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.**

Refrain **O star of wonder, star of light,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.**

Solo ² Born a King on Bethlehem's plain
Gold I bring to crown Him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
Over us all to reign:

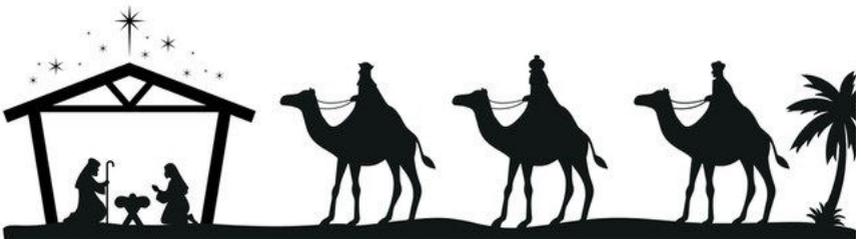
Solo ³ Frankincense to offer have I;
Incense owns a Deity nigh;
Prayer and praising, all men raising,
Worship Him God on high:

Solo ⁴ Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
Sealed in the stone cold tomb:

⁵ **Glorious now, behold Him arise;
King, and God, and sacrifice;
Alleluia, alleluia!
Peals through the earth and skies.**

John H. Hopkins Jr, 1820 - 1891

Remain **standing**



Remain **standing**

The Ninth Lesson

St John I

Read by the Cathedral Presbyter

St. John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation

IN the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made. In Him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that light, but was sent to bear witness of that light. That was the true light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by Him, and the world knew Him not. He came unto His own, and His own received Him not. But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only-begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please be **seated**

How do you capture the wind on the water?
How do you count all the stars in the sky?
How can you measure the love of a mother,
Or how can you write down a baby's first cry?

*Candlelight, angel light, firelight and star-glow
Shine on his cradle till breaking of dawn.
Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo!
Angels are singing; the Christ child is born.*

Shepherds and wise men will kneel and adore him,
Seraphim 'round him, their vigil will keep;
Nations proclaim him their Lord and their Saviour,
But Mary will hold him and sing him to sleep.

*Candlelight, angel light, firelight and star-glow
Shine on his cradle till breaking of dawn.
Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo!
Angels are singing; the Christ child is born.*

Find him in Bethlehem laid in a manger:
Christ our Redeemer, asleep in the hay.
Godhead incarnate and hope of salvation:
A child with his mother that first Christmas Day.

*Candlelight, angel light, firelight and star-glow
Shine on his cradle till breaking of dawn
Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo!
Angels are singing; the Christ child is born.*

Words and music: Sir John Rutter CBE, b. 1945

**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.**

² **God of God,
Light of light,
Lo, He abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God,
Begotten not created:**

³ **Child, for us sinners
Poor and in the manger,
Fain we embrace Thee, with awe and love;
Who would not love Thee,
Loving us so dearly?**

⁴ **Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:
"Glory to God
in the highest."**

Words: Latin, translated F. Oakley, 1802 - 80
Tune: ADESTE FIDELES, by F. J. Wade, c. 1711 - 86
Organ arrangement and descant: Sir David Willcocks, 1919 - 2015

Please be **SEATED**

The Collect and Blessing

The Presbyter The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

The Presbyter Let us pray.

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

The Presbyter

CHRIST who by His incarnation gathered into one all things in heaven and on earth, fill you with His joy and peace; and the blessing of God almighty, † The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

As a fanfare is sounded, all STAND and sing

Carol

**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.*

Continued

**² Christ, by highest Heav'n adored,
Christ, the Everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come
Offspring of a Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the God-head 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.*

**³ 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
Glory to the new-born King.*

Words: Charles Wesley, 1707- 88
& G. Whitefield, 1714 - 70

Tune: MENDELSSOHN
Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, 1809 - 1847
Organ arrangement & descant: David Willcocks

Remain standing as the choir and clergy make their way to the West Door.

:

Postlude

Fantasia on, 'In Dulci Jubilo', BWV 729 - Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685 - 1750

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.

Christina Rossetti, 1830 - 1894



THE CHOIR

Soprano

Advita Mundhra
Danika Pandian
Kusum Parker
Vyoma Rupji
Supriya Vijayan

Treble

Jason Ranawat
Aditya Rathod
Nathanael Suganth

Alto

Srishti Jain
Ava Moos
Mitali Rao
Sarah Solomon

Tenor

Melech Bansode
Abhishek Kharat

Bass

Jehaan Dhalla
Roydon Gonsalves
Stavan Telgote

Harp

Meagan Pandian

The organist & choirmaster

Ravi Paul Joshua

The Cathedral Presbyter

The Reverend Avinash Theophilus Rangayya



EUCHARIST SERVICES *at the Cathedral*



Christmas Eve

Tues 24th Dec

10 pm

10.30 pm

Christmas music

Festival Choral Eucharist

with blessing of crib and lighting of the Christ candle

The Nativity of our Lord

Christmas Day

Wed 25th Dec

9 am

Festival Choral Eucharist

The Sunday after Christmas

Sun 29th Dec

7 am

Eucharist (said)

8.45 am

Eucharist (sung)

Watchnight service *on New Year's Eve*

Tues 31st Dec

11 pm

Choral Eucharist

The Naming & Circumcision of Jesus

Thanksgiving for a new year

Wed 1st January 2025

9 am

Eucharist (said)



The Epiphany

Mon 6th

6 pm Evening prayer with carols and hymns

AN AMAZING OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUR SON OR DAUGHTER

**Could your child be a chorister in
Bombay Cathedral choir?**

We will be very happy for you to get in touch with us to find out more details. Feel free to drop in with your child at choir practice on Sundays at 11 a.m. starting 12th January 2025 to get a first-hand experience of what it feels like to be a cathedral chorister.

If you yourself enjoy singing and can make a weekly commitment, we will be happy to hear from you!

The Presbyter revavinashrangayya@yahoo.com

The Organist & Choirmaster r.joshua@cathedral-school.com



ST. THOMAS' CATHEDRAL

3 Veer Nariman Road, Fort, Mumbai – 400 001

Presbyter-In-Charge: The Revd. Avinash T. Rangayya

Telephone: **98207 50090**

Contact the Presbyter for pastoral visits and administering Communion to the house-bound.

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