

Prayer Requests & Announcements

Your prayers are requested for

- † God's protection and assuring presence in the face of new variants.
- † all pupils writing their examinations.
- † for all services during Advent and Christmastide, for public worship to continue.
- † for Emmanuel Marathi Church and the Revd D. S. Gaikwad.
- † the CNI's Diocese of Cuttack and the Rt Revd Surendra Nanda.
- † the CSI's Diocese of Cochin and the Rt Revd Baker Fenn.
- † in the *Anglican Communion*, for the Church of the Province of Central Africa and the Most Revd Albert Chama.

- *Banns of Marriage* between Daniel Jaiboy Phillips (bachelor son of Leena and Jaiboy Phillips) of St Thomas' Cathedral CNI and Lina Singh (spinster daughter of Tatiana and Brijendra Singh) of the Church in the Name of All Saints, Sarov, Russia. If any of you know any just cause why these two persons should not lawfully marry, you are to declare it in writing to the Presbyter-in-Charge of this congregation. This is the third time of asking.
- "**Sharing the Joy of Christmas**" Please contribute generously towards food rations (Rs. 3500/- per bag) for distribution to clergy in the dioceses of Maharashtra.
- Seating in church for worship is currently restricted to 50% of the capacity of the building. This can be a logistical challenge. It will be helpful and much appreciated if you indicate to the Presbyter, your intention of attending the Christmas services 24th and 25th December. This will then give an indication of how many visitors we can accommodate.
- If you would like to contribute towards the flowers in the sanctuary and the Communion wine and wafer, service bulletin; please indicate this on a sheet displayed on the notice board in the porch.

<i>Christmastide Services in the Cathedral 2021</i>	
Friday 24 th December 10.30 pm	Christmas Eve Eucharist with Blessing of the Crib and Lighting of the Christ Candle
Saturday 25 th December 9 am	The Nativity of our Lord Eucharist
Sunday 26 th December 7 am (<i>said</i>) • 8.45 am (<i>choral</i>)	Stephen, Deacon, First Martyr Eucharist
Friday 31 st December 11 pm (<i>choral</i>)	Watchnight Service Eucharist

ST. THOMAS' CATHEDRAL
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Contact the Presbyter for pastoral visits and administering Communion to the house-bound.



St. Thomas'
CATHEDRAL

Mumbai • Estd 1718
The Church of North India

A member of the worldwide Anglican Communion

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

incorporating

The Crib Service



Choral Eucharist
Sunday 19th December 2021 • 8.45 am

Welcome

ADVENT REFLECTIONS

The Bible tells us nothing about the birth date of Jesus, but it is quite clear about his birthplace: Bethlehem of Judea.

There are two very different ways of understanding Christmas. Let us call the first Christmas as *anniversary*. Christmas rolls around every year as surely as the earth makes its annual orbit around the sun. The second is far more personal and subjective. We might call this approach Christmas an *invitation*.

Christmas as invitation understands the Christmas story as a metaphor for what is happening in our own lives.. The birth of Jesus in a Bethlehem manger reminds us that Christ can only be born in a heart that is prepared, open, and receptive. As a wise old Episcopal priest once remarked, *“It is utterly useless to celebrate the birth of Christ in Bethlehem ... unless you are willing to become a crib yourself where Christ may be born.”*

God invites us to open our hearts to receiving the birth of Christ within us, but it is up to us to accept that invitation. Christmas as invitation is contingent upon our preparation to receive Christ and our acceptance of his saving grace.

The service this morning incorporates the crib service. This creates a space for children to take part in the story of the Nativity — an enactment, where actions speak louder than words.

*“O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in:
be born in us today.”*

Adapted from James J. Rawls. On the Way: 100 Reflections on the Journey of Faith

For your safety please respect others and give one another space.

▼
Please use **face covering** at all times during the service.

▼
Please use **hand sanitiser** on the way in and out.

▼
Please take this **service bulletin away with you** and dispose it yourself.

Bank details to make your online offering and payment of subscription.

Name: Society of St Thomas' Cathedral

Account no.: 917010054452406

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IFSC code: UTIB0000004

**2 They looked 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 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 wherever it went.**

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

Traditional English carol

The Dismissal

From the West Door, the Presbyter says:

As we await our coming Saviour,
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All reply **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Postlude

Improvisation on the *‘The First Nowell’*

C.P.P, Burton (1916 - 57)

Birthdays this Week

May God bless you abundantly.

Ramola Joshi (19), Pritam Knox (19), Alka Tiwari (19),
Raina Michayari (25), Gayatri Long (25),

All **STAND** and sing

Come Lord Jesus, come Lord Jesus, amen come Lord Jesus. (2)
O come quickly, come Lord Jesus,
O come quickly, come Lord come,
come Lord Jesus, come Lord Jesus, Amen, come Lord Jesus.

Cantors

The voice of Him that crieth in the wilderness,
prepare ye the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert, a highway for our God.

All

Come Lord Jesus, come Lord Jesus, come Lord Jesus come (2),
Yea come quickly (3), come Lord come,
Amen, come Lord come.

Martin How (b. 1931)

The Blessing

The Presbyter

May God the Holy Spirit, by whose working the Virgin Mary conceived the Christ, help you bear the fruits of holiness. And the blessing of God almighty, † the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

All join in singing the hymn

Carol at the Closing

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.

The Gathering

Voluntary

'A Virgin most pure' – *a meditation*

Eric Thiman (1900 - 1975)

'Gabriel's Message' – *dance*

Michael Bedford (b. 1949)

Welcome & Dedication of Choristers

The Presbyter addresses the choristers saying:

As a singer who lifts praise to God, do you joyfully and willingly offer your skills and training, devotion and sensitivity to this ministry?

Chorister: I do by the grace of God.

Will you honour those with whom you make music, and in faithfulness to Christ, offer your best for the glory of God?

Chorister: I will, God being my helper.

May God give you grace to offer your music and your life in faithfulness and consecration.

Bless, O Lord, us Thy servants
who minister in Thy temple.
Grant that what we sing with our lips,
we may believe in our hearts,
and what we believe in our hearts,
we may show forth in our lives.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

All keep silence and prepare for worship

The Great Advent Antiphons

Intoned by the cantors

O EMMANUEL

O Emmanuel, our King and Lawgiver,
the Desire of all nations, and their Salvation:
Come and save us O Lord, our God.

An antiphon is a short verse that is used like a refrain, either repeated at points through another text or to begin and end it. The Gospel Canticle at Morning, Evening and Night Prayer has an antiphon at the beginning and the end.

The Gospel canticle at Evening Prayer is the Magnificat, the Song of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Luke 1.46-55).

Each of the antiphons addresses Christ by one of His Scriptural names or titles, each one praises the coming of the Saviour by a different name, and each one closes with a petition appropriate to the title.

Hymn at the Procession

**Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.**

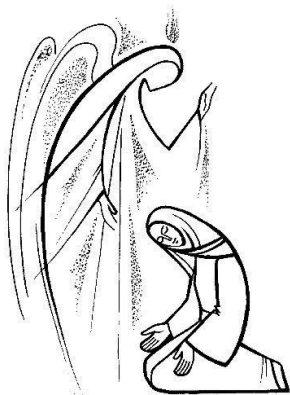
**2 Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.**

**3 Born thy people to deliver;
born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us for ever;
now thy gracious kingdom bring.**

**4 By thine own eternal Spirit,
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thy all-sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.**

Words: Charles Wesley (1707 - 88)
Tune: *CROSS OF JESUS*, by John Stainer (1840 - 1901)

All sit



Carol at the Communion

**The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
"All hail," said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favoured lady," Gloria!**

**2 "For known a blessed Mother thou shalt be,
All generations laud and honour thee,
Thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
Most highly favoured lady," Gloria!**

**3 Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said,
"My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name."
Most highly favoured lady. Gloria!**

**4 Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:
"Most highly favoured lady," Gloria!**

Words: S. Baring-Gould (1834 - 1924)
Basque carol, arranged by David Willcocks

Post Communion Prayer

All say

**Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the spiritual food of the most precious **Body and Blood**
of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members
of the **Body of your Son**, and heirs of your eternal Kingdom.**

**O Lord our God,
make us watchful and keep us faithful
as we await the coming of your Son our Lord.
Amen.**

Song at the Offertory

*At this time an offering will be received for the ministries of the Cathedral.
Thank you for your generosity. All join in singing the hymn.*

**Long time ago in Bethlehem, so the Holy Bible say,
Mary's boy child Jesus Christ was born on Christmas Day .**

***Hark, now hear the angels sing, a new King born today,
and man will live for evermore, because of Christmas Day.
Trumpets sound and angels sing, listen to what they say,
that man will live for ever more, because of Christmas Day.***

**While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
them see a bright new shining star,
them hear a choir sing, the music seemed to come from afar.
Now Joseph and his wife Mary, come to Bethlehem that night,
them find no place to born the Child, not a single room was in sight.**

**By and by they find a little nook in a stable all forlorn,
and in a manger cold and dark, Mary's little Boy was born.
Long time ago in Bethlehem, so the Holy Bible say,
Mary's Boy Child, Jesus Christ, was born on Christmas Day.**

Spiritual by Jester Hairston (1901 - 2000)

Prayer

All say the prayer on page 357

All sit

The Preparation for Communion
Page 361

The Consecration
Page 363

The Communion
Page 368

*Please follow the directions of the Servers to proceed to the High Altar
Communicants are requested to leave space on either side of them*

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The Presbyter says

May the grace and peace of God be with you.

All And also with you.

Reader

God our Father,
the angel Gabriel told the Virgin Mary
that she was to be the mother of your Son.
Though Mary was afraid,
she responded to your call with joy.
Help us, whom you call to serve you,
to share like her in your great work
of bringing to our world your love and healing.
We ask this through Jesus Christ,
the light who is coming into the world.

All Amen.



As the candle is lit, the cantors sing

A great and mighty wonder,
a full and holy cure!
the Virgin bears the Infant
with virgin-honour pure:
Repeat the hymn again
'To God on high be glory,
And peace on earth to men.'

Words: St. Germanus (c. 634 - c. 734)
Tune: *ES IST EIN' ROS'*, German carol melody

✠ The Service begins on **page 350** of the Book of Common Prayer ✠
During the Advent Season we sing the Kyrie instead of the Summary of the Law

Kyrie eleison. (3) *Lord, have mercy.*
Christe eleison. (3) *Christ, have mercy.*
Kyrie eleison. (3) *Lord, have mercy.*

*From 'Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena'
by Healey Willan (1880 - 1968)*

The Liturgy of the Word

The Collect for the Day

Read by the Presbyter

Page 404

The Collect for the First Sunday of Advent

Page 397

Old Testament Reading

A reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah

Page 404

At the conclusion of the reading the reader says

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Sung by the cantors

Psalm 5 verses 1 to 5, 7 & 13 • *Verba mea auribus*

PONDER my words, O Lord, * consider my meditation.

2 O hearken thou unto the voice of my calling, my King and my God; *
for unto thee will I make my prayer.

Leader

May we be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the wise men and above all the peace of the Christ Child.

Renew in our hearts the wonder and the awe of the miracles of the Gift of Christmas. Let our new found wonder spread to our families and friends and enable us to come together to celebrate your reality in our lives.

All

Thank you God for Jesus.

Advent Prose

Refrain (all)

**Pour down, O heavens, from above
and let the skies rain down righteousness.**

Comfort my people, comfort them; my salvation shall not be delayed. I have swept your offences away like a cloud; fear not, for I will save you.

I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your redeemer.

**Pour down, O heavens, from above
and let the skies rain down righteousness.**

Edited by Stephen Cleobury

All STAND

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Greeting of Peace

The Celebrant offers a greeting of peace

May the God of peace make you completely holy,
ready for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

While remaining in your place, share the sign of peace with a namaste with your neighbour

Leader Help us to be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another just as you forgave us. Teach us to do acts of kindness to those who are in need, especially at this time of the year. Jesus, You are the Light of the World, help us to share your Truth and be your Light, leading many to You.

All **Thank you God for Jesus.**

Leader Lord, we pray for those who are experiencing loss this Christmas; those who have lost their loved ones in this pandemic. We pray that in Your mercy, You will comfort them.

Let Your healing power flow all over the World and put an end to this terrible pandemic.

We pray for all who find themselves in difficult situations. Thank you Lord Jesus that You are the wonderful Counsellor and Prince of Peace even in the midst of these uncertain times.

All **Thank you God for Jesus.**

Leader Lord, we pray for those in governance and power, that they may put aside their individual differences and lead the nations in the path of righteousness and truth.

Raise Godly leaders who will turn the hearts of those in authority to do Your will in our nations.

All **Thank you God for Jesus.**

Leader Lord, we pray for students who are preparing to write their exams and schools that are gearing to reopen after this long break. Lord Jesus, You are the fountainhead of wisdom, knowledge and understanding. Guide us to navigate safely.

All **Thank you God for Jesus.**

Leader We thank you for the presence of our parents, our grandparents, our god parents, our mentors, our spiritual leaders, our faith-filled friends who motivate and guide us when we feel lost and confused; for being there for us; for sharing your unconditional love.

All **Thank you God for Jesus.**

3 My voice shalt thou hear betimes, O Lord ; * early in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up.

4 For thou art the God that hast no pleasure in wickedness; * neither shall any evil dwell with thee.

5 Such as be foolish shall not stand in thy sight; * for thou hatest all them that work vanity.

7 But as for me, I will come into thine house, even upon the multitude of thy mercy; * and in thy fear will I worship toward thy holy temple.

13 For thou, Lord, wilt give thy blessing unto the righteous, * and with thy favourable kindness wilt thou defend him as with a shield.

All stand

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,

And to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:

World without end. Amen.

Sit

Epistle

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians

Page 405

At the conclusion of the reading the reader says

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

All STAND and join in singing the gradual hymn

Gradual Hymn

**For Mary, Mother of the Lord
God's holy name be praised,
who first the Son of God adored
as on her child she gazed.**

**2 Brave, holy Virgin, she believe,
though hard the task assigned,
and by the Holy Ghost conceived
the Saviour of mankind.**

Continued

**3 Hail, Mary, you are full of grace,
above all women blest;
and blest your Son, whom your embrace
in birth and death confessed.**

Words: J. R. Peacey (1896 - 1971)
Tune: st. botolph, by Gordon Slater (1896 - 1979)

Remain standing for the Gospel

The Gospel of Christ

Alleluia.
Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God. *cf Isaiah 40.3–5*

All **Alleluia**

The Gospeller The Lord be with you
All **and also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St St John
chapter 1 beginning at verse 19. **Page 405**

All **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

At the conclusion of the reading

The Gospeller This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
All **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

Remain standing for the Creed, all reciting together

The Nicene Creed **Page 354**

All sit

The Crib Service

Presbyter Today we remember Jesus and the story of his birth;
All **Jesus is our King.**

Presbyter Jesus Christ is the light of the world;
All **Jesus is the Way.**

Presbyter With Jesus even dark places are light;
All **Jesus is the Truth.**

Presbyter In Jesus we shall live for ever:
All **Jesus is our Life.**

While seated, we sing

**See him lying on a bed of straw
Draughty stable with an open door
Mary cradling the babe she bore;
The Prince of Glory is his name.**

**O now carry me to Bethlehem
To see the Lord appear to men
Just as poor as was the stable then,
The Prince of Glory when he came.**

Michael Perry (b. 1942)

The children of the Sunday school share the story of the Nativity.

Homily

Prayers

Leader Dear God, help us to keep our focus first on Christ this season! Help us to reflect again on what Christmas is really all about. Thank You that You came to give new life, peace, hope and joy. Help us to remember that the gift of Jesus, Immanuel is our greatest treasure, not just at Christmas, but for the whole year through.

All **Thank you God for Jesus.**