

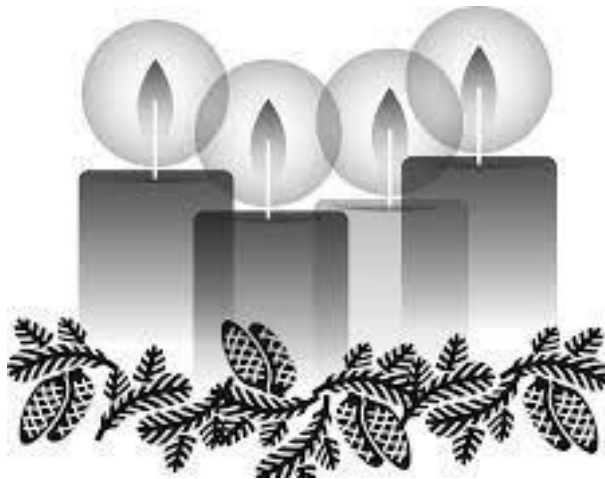


St. Thomas'
CATHEDRAL

*Mumbai • Estd 1718
The Church of North India*

A member of the worldwide Anglican Communion

The Order of Service *for Holy Eucharist*



The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday 18th December 2022 • 8.45 am

Welcome to St Thomas' Cathedral for this service

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.

Soon after the service this morning the children of the Sunday school will present the nativity play. 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*

Do not leave this service booklet behind. Take it home with you to reflect on the prayers and readings and as a reminder of your visit.



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

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Order of Service

The congregation is asked to join in all text printed in **bold**.

The Gathering

Voluntary

A meditation on, “A Virgin most Pure”

Eric Thiman (1900 - 1975)

Welcome

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.

*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.*

*Seven days before Christmas Eve monasteries would sing the “O antiphons”
in anticipation of Christmas Eve when the eighth antiphon, “O Virgo virginum”
 (“O Virgin of virgins”) would be sung before and after Mary’s canticle, the Magnificat
(Luke 1:46b-55).*

*All **stand** and join in singing the hymn*

Hymn at the Procession | # 309

The God whom earth and sea and sky

Tune: PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

All sit

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 choir sings

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming
from tender stem hath sprung,
of Jesse's lineage coming,
as men of old have sung.
It came, a flowret bright,
amid the cold of winter,
when half-spent was the night.

German carol
Harmonised Michael Praetorius (1571 - 1621)

✠ *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

**Lord, have mercy, Lord have mercy.
Christ have mercy, Christ have mercy
Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.**

*From 'Mass of St Thomas'
by David Thorne*

The Liturgy of the Word

The Collect for the Fourth Sunday of Advent | **Page 404**
Read by the Presbyter

The Collect for the First Sunday of Advent | **Page 397**

Old Testament Reading | **Page 404**

Isaiah 40. 1 - 9

A reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah

At the conclusion of the reading the reader says

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Psalm

5 v. v. 1 to 5, 7, 13

Sung by the choir

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.

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.

Continued

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.

Please be seated

The Epistle | **Page 405**

Philippians 4. 4 - 7

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians

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 | # 139

Rejoice! the Lord is King

Tune: DARWALL'S 148TH # 198

Remain standing for the Gospel

The Gospel of Christ | **Page 405**

St John 1. 19 - 28

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*

Alleluia

The Gospeller The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

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

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 and all recite together

The Nicene Creed | **Page 354**

All sit

Sermon
Deacon Paul George

Announcements

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

All stand

The 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.*

Preparation of the Table

*At this time an offering will be received for the ministries of the Cathedral.
Thank you for your generosity.*

All join in singing

Hymn at the Offertory | # 360

For Mary, Mother of our Lord

Tune: ST BOTOLPH

All say

Offertory Prayer | page 357

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

The Prayers of the People

Intercessor

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.

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.

Thank you God for Jesus.

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.

Thank you God for Jesus.

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.

Thank you God for Jesus.

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.

Thank you God for Jesus.

The Preparation for Communion | **Page 361**

The Consecration | **Page 363**

The Communion | **Page 368**

Hymn at the Communion | **# 25**

The advent of our King

Tune: FRANCONIA

All say

Post Communion Prayer

**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.**

All stand and sing

The Advent Message

**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.**

choir

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.

**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 Presbyter

The Blessing

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.

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.*

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 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

The First Nowell — *Intrada*

Ashley Grote (b. 1982)

Birthdays this week

“Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever!”

Psalm 107. 1

Bhanumathi Patil (18), Ramola Joshi (19), Pritam Knox (19),
Alka Tiwari (19), Prakash Patole (24)

Pray with us

† **THE WORLD** We pray for international assistance to continue in Somalia, that the potential for famine next year is averted. For peace and goodwill among all nations and peoples.

† **OUR COUNTRY** Pray that India will utilise its G20 presidency most effectively to help in the development of our country and other poor nations.

• Having strong diplomatic relations with both Russia and Ukraine, pray that we could play the role of a mediator to resolve the ongoing conflict.

† **THE WORLDWIDE CHURCH** With the Church universal we pray for the faithful as we prepare for the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ. • In the *Anglican Communion* for the Anglican Church of Korea and the Most Revd Peter Kyongho Lee.

† **THE CHURCH IN INDIA** For the Diocese of Pune • The Diocese of Karimnagar (Telengana) and the Rt Revd Reuben Mark.

† **THE DIOCESE OF BOMBAY** For God's continued guidance to all clergy, laity and pastorates in the diocese. • Grace Church, Sion-Koliwada and the Revd B. S. Christdoss

† **THE CATHEDRAL** We Pray for God's healing hand on all who are unwell: Mr. Allen Moses, Mr, David Roberts, Mr. William Millns and others known to us.

• For the church staff. We thank them and the volunteers for putting up the crib and the Christmas tree.

Nativity Play

by the Sunday School

This morning 10.45 am
outside the parish hall
All are welcome



Christmas Eve

Saturday 24th December 2022

10. 30 pm Festival Choral Eucharist
(carols & Christmas music 10 pm)

The Nativity of our Lord

9 am Festival Choral Eucharist

Christmas Day

Sunday 25th December 2022

ST. THOMAS' CATHEDRAL

3 Veer Nariman Road, Fort, Mumbai – 400 001

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

Telephone: (Vestry) **2283 9783**, (R) **2207 1275**, **98207 50090**

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