

# Christmas Eve

FESTIVAL HOLY EUCHARIST



*O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in,  
Be born in us to-day.*

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2022 ☞ 10.30 p.m.  
ST. THOMAS'S CATHEDRAL, Mumbai

## Christmas at St. Thomas's Cathedral

I welcome you on this the most holiest of nights to the Cathedral Church of St. Thomas Apostle. You are here at one of Christianity's three most holy times (Easter and Pentecost being the others)—a day on which we give thanks for the coming among us of God in the life and witness of Jesus. Christmas is about what theologians call the Incarnation—the “enfleshment”—of God in us. God has become one of us in Jesus. From now on, we human beings and all that we are—our joys, our sorrows, our achievements, our losses—is blessed and transformed by God's healing and freeing love.

The waiting and watching of Advent is brought to fulfilment in the deepest part of the night. Mary brings to birth the newborn infant who is redeemer of all creation. The midnight service hallows the turning of the night to Christmas, and honours Jesus' birth in word and sacrament, carols and song.

### **“Remembering and telling the Christmas Story....”**

We often use symbols that have lost their meaning, signs without an obvious sense.

Somewhere in the north of Holland there is a church where all those who entered used to bow down in the direction of a whitewashed part of the church wall before settling in the pews. Nobody knew why. They had been doing this from generation to generation, and no question was ever asked.

Then, one day, the parish council decided to clean the walls. While doing this, they discovered some traces of a painting under the whitewash on the wall. Very carefully they started to peel off the chalk, and they uncovered a centuries-old painting of Jesus on the cross.

Nobody remembered that picture. There was no description of it to be found: the painting had been lost from human memory. It must have been painted centuries before. But the sign of respect had remained. They finally knew why they were bowing their heads before sitting down. The sign had been there, but its meaning was forgotten. Nobody knew the story of the origin of that sign, nobody could tell its tale.

Driving through the towns and villages during this Christmas night, one sees colourful lights everywhere. Driving like that, you will be driving alone, because everyone is at home, giving presents and gifts to one another, millions of them.

Those lights brightening up the darkness of our world, those gifts fulfilling so many wishes and desires, are obviously signs and symbols, too.

But who would understand them, if the Christmas story were not remembered and told?

The story about how they had been looking for him all through the ages. How even today so many are hoping for a redeemer. And how finally he came from God, God's gift to the world, a light brightening its darkness.

You should tell this story to yourself: How in your own world, which often seems so frustrating and lonely, new life was born. You should tell it to those around you, to give them the hope they need so very much. But you should especially tell it to your children, just as your parents told you the Christmas story.

It is the nicest story in the world, if you come to think of it, about God starting a new life in the midst of us. It is in this way that we can recapture the meaning of the lights we light in the night, of the gifts we give one another, fulfilling our desires.

That is why we have come here tonight, to start the new life he gave us.

Christmas is a time both for thanksgiving and renewal. As we gather in this beautiful Cathedral where worship has been offered for over 300 years, both our liturgy and our music remind us of how much we have to be thankful for and how God calls each one of us to be agents of love and healing in a broken world. We hope that you will find tonight's worship both soothing and stirring, and that you will leave here comforted and renewed in your commitment to love God by serving human beings created in God's image.

From all of us here at the Cathedral we wish you a blessed Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

THE REVD AVINASH T. RANGAYYA  
*Cathedral Presbyter*  
Christmas 2022, Mumbai

## Music before the service

### Organ prelude

“Votre bonté grand Dieu” ... .. Claude Balbastre (1724 - 1799)  
 (“Your goodness, great God”)

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

Prelude at Christmastide ... .. C. V. Stanford, Op. 182, No. 1 (1852 - 1924)

Go tell it on the mountain — Gigue ... .. A. D. Miller (b. 1972)

Chorale prelude on “Stille nacht, heilige nacht” ... .. Allan Bullard (b. 1947)  
 (“Silent night, holy night”)

### Harp

A medley of seasonal favourites

### All

sing while seated

**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.**

English traditional carol

### Choir

Hallelujah, glory hallelujah

Natalie Sleeth (1930 - 1992)

### All

sing while seated

**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.**

Spiritual by Jester Hairston (1901 - 2000)

### Choristers

All on a silent night (Incorporating “Silent night”)

Becki Slagle Mayo (b. 1956)

### All

sing while seated

**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.**

Calypso carol by Michael Perry (1942 - 1996)

### Choir

Born a King!

John W. Peterson (1921 - 2006)

### All

sing while seated

*Men* **Good Christian men, rejoice,  
With heart, and soul, and voice;**

*Ladies* **Give ye heed to what we say:  
Jesus Christ is born today;**

*All* **Ox and ass before Him bow,  
And He is in the manger now.**

**Christ is born today! Christ is born today.**

Medieval Latin Hymn  
Translated by John Neale

Tune: IN DULCI JUBILO  
German melody, 14<sup>th</sup> century

**O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,  
your leaves will surely teach me  
that hope and love and faithfulness  
are precious things I can possess.  
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,  
with faithful leaves unchanging.**

German traditional



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Worship lies at the heart of the Christian life. It is in worship that we express our theology and define our identity. It is through encountering God within worship that we are formed and transformed as the people of God. One of the glories of churches in the *Church of North India* with an Anglican heritage is their liturgical worship. Liturgy refers to the patterns, forms, words, and actions through which public worship is conducted.

The Communion settings will be sung to music by Martin Shaw (*'An Anglican Folk Mass'*) and Franz Schubert (*'German Mass'*).

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The text indicated in **bold** print is to be said or sung by **all**.  
Take part in the service by responding audibly and enthusiastically.  
Please take this **service bulletin away with you**. Do not leave it behind.



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

*The memorial flowers in the Sanctuary are placed in loving memory of  
Commander Arthur Moses and Mrs. Chandramathi Moses  
beloved parents of Dr. Kamal Jadhav.*

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# The Order of Service



## THE EVE OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Festival Holy Eucharist

24<sup>th</sup> December 2022 • 10.30 P.M.

### The Gathering

Welcome

The Blessing of the Crib

All **STAND** facing the West door, and sing

A - way in a manger no crib for a bed the  
little Lord Je - sus laid down His sweet head The stars in the bright sky looked  
down where He lay the little Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay

*Presbyter* Behold, the dwelling of God is with creation.

*All* **He will dwell with us and we shall be His people;**

*Presbyter* God Himself is with us. Alleluia.

*All* **Come let us adore him. Alleluia.**

*The Bishop* Eternal Father, you sent your only-begotten Son to take our human nature upon him, and to be born of a pure Virgin:

Bless, we pray, this crib, that it may be a sign of his humble birth; and grant that we who joyfully behold his appearing may be strengthened to greet him when he comes again in glory; even the same Jesus Christ our Lord and Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting.

*All* **Amen.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay  
close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,  
and fit us for heaven, to live with Thee there.**

Words: Anonymous  
Music: W. J. Kirkpatrick (1838 - 1921), arr. David Willcocks (1919 - 2015)

*A fanfare is sounded. All join in singing.*

## Carol at the Procession

### O come all ye faithful

1. O come all ye faithful joyful and triumphant O come ye O come ye to  
Be - th - le - hem Come and be - hold Him born the King of an - gels O come let us a -  
dore Him O come let us a - dore Him O come let us a - dore Him Chri - st the Lord

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

**O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.**

3 **See how the Shepherds,  
Summoned to his cradle,  
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;  
We too will thither  
Bend our joyful footsteps;**

4 **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?**

5 **Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:  
Glory to God  
In the Highest.**

*Continued*

6  
**Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,  
Born this happy morning,  
Jesu, to Thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father,  
Now in flesh appearing:**

Words: Latin 18<sup>th</sup> century, tr. F. oakeley (1802 - 80)

Tune: ADESTE FIDELES J.F. Wade (c. 1711 - 86)  
Descant: David Willcocks

*Please be SEATED*

## The Lighting of the Christ Candle

*The Advent wreath originally emerged as a devotional tool used in the home but eventually migrated into the church. It is a visual symbol that marks the progression of time in Advent. On Christmas the Christ Candle is lit — as a symbol of the light of Christ, which cannot be held back by distance, which shines in each one of us, no matter where we are.*

*The Bishop says*

Rejoice, people of God.

The Light has come into the world.

Sacred Mystery, we now light the candle of your nativity.



*As the Christ candle is lit, the choir sings*

When Christ was born of Mary free,  
in Bethlehem in that fair city.  
Angels sung e'er with mirth and glee,

*In excelsis Gloria.*

A. H. Brown (1830 – 1926)

*All say*

**Help us to live by your light  
and shine as your lights in the world.**

**Glory to God in the highest.**

**Amen.**

*The Bishop says*

In the name of the † Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**All Amen.**

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

**All and also with you.**

The Collect for Purity

*All say*

**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.**

The Summary of the law

*The Presbyter*

OUR Lord Jesus Christ said: Hear O Israel, The Lord our God is one Lord; and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength. This is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this: Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandments greater than these. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

**All Lord, have mercy upon us, and write these Thy laws in our hearts, we beseech Thee.**

*Presbyter* The Lord be with you;

**All And also with you.**

*All STAND and sing*

Gloria in Excelsis

*The Gloria, or some other song of praise, centers the service on the God we gather to praise in our worship.*

**GLORY be to God on high, and in earth peace, good will towards men.  
We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee,  
we give thanks to Thee for Thy great glory,  
O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.**

**O Lord, the only-begotten Son Jesu Christ;  
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.  
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.  
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.  
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.  
For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord:  
Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
art most high in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.**

From 'An Anglican Folk Mass' by Martin Shaw (1875 - 1958)



## ***The Liturgy of the Word***

### **The Collect of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ**

*The Collect is the prayer appointed for each Sunday & Festival that “collects” or captures the theme of the day or season of the Church year. It summarizes the attributes of God as revealed in the scriptures for the day.*

**The Presbyter**    The Lord be with you.  
**All**                    **And also with you.**

**The Presbyter**

O God, who hast made this holy night to glow with the brightness of His coming,  
who is the light of the world:  
Grant that we who hail on earth the mystery of His appearing  
may rejoice hereafter in the light of His heavenly presence;  
who with Thee and the Holy Spirit liveth and reigneth, one God, world without end.

**All**                    **Amen.**

### **The Old Testament Reading**

*Isaiah 9. 2*

*This reading is typically from the Old Testament (Hebrew Scriptures) which Jesus knew and from which he often referred or quoted.*

A reading from the prophesy of Isaiah.

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. Thou hast multiplied the nation, Thou hast increased their joy: they joy before Thee according to the joy in harvest, and as men rejoice when they divide the spoil. For thou hast broken the yoke of his burden, and the staff of his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor as in the day of Midian. For all the armour of the armed man in the tumult and the garments rolled in blood, shall even be for burning for fuel of fire. 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. 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 hence- forth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

**Reader**            This is the word of the Lord.  
**Response**        **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm

*Sung by the choir to a chant by T. A. Walmisley*

### Psalm 98 • *Cantate Domino*

O SING unto the Lord a new song : for He hath done marvellous things.

<sup>2</sup> With His own right hand, and with His holy arm : hath He gotten Himself the victory.

<sup>3</sup> The Lord declared His salvation : His righteousness hath He openly shewed in the sight of the heathen.

<sup>4</sup> He hath remembered His mercy and truth toward the house of Israel : and all the ends of the world have seen the salvation of our God.

<sup>5</sup> Shew yourselves joyful unto the Lord, all ye lands : sing, rejoice, and give thanks.

<sup>6</sup> Praise the Lord upon the harp : sing to the harp with a psalm of thanksgiving.

<sup>7</sup> With trumpets also and shawms : O shew yourselves joyful before the Lord the King.

<sup>8</sup> Let the sea make a noise, and all that therein is: the round world, and they that dwell therein.

<sup>9</sup> Let the floods clap their hands, and let the hills be joyful together before the Lord : for He is come to judge the earth.

<sup>10</sup> With righteousness shall He judge the world : and the people with equity.

**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

Hebrews 1. 1

*This reading, taken from the New Testament, is typically from a letter (epistle) to the early Church, the Acts of the Apostles, or the Revelation to John.*

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Hebrews.

GOD who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son, whom He hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of His glory, and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; being made so much better than the angels, as He hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. For unto which of the angels said He at any time,

Thou art my Son,

This day have I begotten Thee?

And again,

I will be to Him a Father,

And He shall be to me a Son?

And again, when He bringeth in the first-begotten into the world, He saith,

And let all the angels of God worship Him.

And of the angels He saith,

Who maketh His angels spirits,

And His ministers a flame of fire.

But unto the Son He saith,

Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever;

A sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of Thy kingdom;

Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity;

Therefore God, even Thy God, hath anointed Thee

With the oil of gladness above Thy fellows.

And,

Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth;

And the heavens are the works of Thine hands:

They shall perish, but Thou remainest;

And they all shall wax old as doth a garment;

And as a vesture shalt Thou fold them up,

And they shall be changed;

But thou art the same,

And thy years shall not fail.

*Reader* This is the word of the Lord.

*Response* **Thanks be to God.**

*All STAND and sing the Gradual carol. Turn over.*

## The Gradual

The term “Gradual” comes from the Latin for “step”.

Traditionally, this was a psalm sung by a solo cantor on the steps of an elevated platform.

The ‘gradual hymn’ moves us toward the summit of the Liturgy of the Word — the reading of the Holy Gospel.

Gospel means “good news” — specifically the “good news of Jesus.”

Joy to the world the Lord is come let earth re-ceive her  
King Let ev-ry heart pre-pare Him room, And heav'n and na-ture  
sing, and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na-ture sing

**<sup>2</sup> 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)**

**<sup>3</sup> 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)**

**<sup>4</sup> 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)

*Remain **STANDING** for the Gospel and Creed.*

Remain **STANDING** for the Gospel and Creed

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, And we have seen his glory.

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

## The Gospel of Christ

*St John 1. 1*

*The Gospel readings are taken from one of the four gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John), which depict the life, teachings, death, resurrection, and ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ. We stand for the Gospel reading to show the particular importance placed on Jesus' words and actions.*

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

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

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: which 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 as of the only-begotten of the Father) full of grace and truth.

**Gospeller**

**All**

This is the Gospel of Christ.

**Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 6/8 time. The first staff contains the melody for "Glo-ri-a, glo-ri-a, in ex-cel-sis De-o!". The second staff contains the melody for "Glo-ri-a, glo-ri-a! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!". Circled numbers 1 through 4 indicate specific measures or phrases within the music.

*Taizé chant by Jacques Berthier (1923 - 1994)*

Remain **STANDING** and recite the Creed

## The Nicene Creed

*The word “creed” comes from the Latin “credo” for “I believe.” First formulated at the Council of Nicaea in 325 A.D. and confirmed in 381 A.D., the Nicene Creed is said at the Holy Eucharist and reflects what Christians believe regarding the relationship between the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit: The Holy Trinity.*

**I BELIEVE in one God the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible:  
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God,  
light of light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father,  
through whom all things were made:  
Who for us men, and for our salvation came down from heaven,  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man, and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and  
was buried,  
and the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures,  
and ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand of the Father.  
And He shall come again with glory  
to judge both the quick and the dead:  
Whose Kingdom shall have no end.  
And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceedeth from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified,  
who spake by the Prophets.  
And I believe One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church.  
I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins.  
And I look for the Resurrection of the dead,  
and the Life of the world to come.  
Amen.**

*Music: from ‘An Anglican Folk Mass’ by Martin Shaw*

**Please be SEATED**

*The sermon directly follows the Gospel and Creed because it is to be grounded in the scriptures.*

## The Sermon

The Rt Revd Sharad Yuvraj Gaikwad  
*The Bishop of Nasik  
and the Moderator’s Episcopal Commissary to the Diocese of Bombay*

O VIRGO VIRGINUM

O Virgin of virgins, how shall this be?  
for neither before thee there was any like thee, nor shall there be after.  
Daughters of Jerusalem, why marvel ye at me?  
The thing which ye behold is a divine mystery.

*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. An antiphon is a short verse that is used like a refrain.  
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).*

## The Prayers of the People

*We pray for ourselves and particularly on behalf of others.  
In our prayers we pray for the Universal Church, the nation and all who govern, the welfare of the world,  
the concerns of our community of faith, including those who are in need or suffer, and for the departed.  
We are reminded in prayer that we are part of a larger fellowship, the Church—the Body of Christ.*

**Intercessor**

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Father, in this holy night your Son our Saviour was born in human flesh.

Renew your Church as the Body of Christ. Holy God,

**All**

**hear our prayer.**

In this holy night there was no room for your Son in the inn. Protect with  
your love those who have no home and all who live in poverty. Holy God,

**hear our prayer.**

Word of life, on the night of your birth you hallowed all time and all flesh.

Expand the vision of this faith community. Pray for all Church leaders,

especially: Bijay our Moderator, Dharmaraj the Moderator of the *Church of South*

*India*, Theodosius Mar Thoma the Metropolitan of the *Mar Thoma Church*, Sharad the

Moderator’s Episcopal Commissary to the Diocese of Bombay, Avinash our Presbyter

and Deacon Paul. Holy God,

**hear our prayer.**

In this holy night Mary, in the pain of labour, brought your Son to birth.

Hold in your hand all who are in pain or distress.

We pray for China and other countries combatting the pandemic.

May God restore and renew His creation. Holy God,

**hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor*

In this holy night your Christ came as a light shining in the darkness.  
Give strength to those who suffer from loneliness and anxiety. We pray for all senior citizens and those who live alone in our community. Holy God,

*All*

**hear our prayer.**

In this holy night the angels sang, 'Peace to God's people on earth.'  
Strengthen those who work for peace and justice in all the world. Holy God,

**hear our prayer.**

In this holy night shepherds in the field heard good tidings of joy.  
Give us grace to preach the gospel of Christ's redemption. Holy God,

**hear our prayer.**

In this holy night strangers found the Holy Family, and saw the baby lying  
in the manger. Bless our homes and all whom we love. Holy God,

**hear our prayer.**

In this holy night heaven is come down 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.**

In this holy night Christians the world over celebrate Christ's birth.

Open our hearts that he may be born in us today. Holy God,

**hear our prayer.**

And so Lord, rejoicing in the fellowship of St. Thomas and all your saints, we commend  
ourselves and the whole creation to your unfailing love.

**Merciful father**

**accept these prayers for the sake of your son,  
our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**Anthem**

*Sung by the choir*

*Puer Nobis Nascitur*

Unto us a Boy is born!  
King of all creation,  
Came He to a world forlorn,  
The Lord of every nation.

<sup>3</sup> Herod then with fear was filled:  
"A prince," he said, "in Jewry!"  
All the little boys he killed  
At Bethlehem in his fury.

<sup>2</sup> Cradled in a stall was He  
With sleepy cows and asses;  
But the very beasts could see  
That He all men surpasses.

<sup>4</sup> Now may Mary's Son, who came  
So long ago to love us,  
Lead us all with hearts aflame  
Unto the joys above us.

<sup>5</sup> Omega and Alpha he!  
Let the organ thunder,  
While the choir with peals of glee  
Doth rend the air asunder.

Words: Medieval Christmas carol, 15<sup>th</sup> century  
translated by Revd Percival Dearmer (1867 - 1936)

Music: Piae Cantiones, 1582  
arr. Geoffrey Shaw (1879 - 1943)

**Announcements**



# The Liturgy of the Sacrament

All **STAND**

## Greeting of Peace

*The Bishop offers a greeting of peace*

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,  
and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace. *Isaiah 9.6*

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*

## The Offertory

*Having listened to the Word of God, affirmed our faith, confessed our sins, received forgiveness and shared in the peace, we are prepared for the drama and miracle of the Holy Communion.*

*At the offertory, we gratefully offer back to God some of what God has given us, symbolically in the bread and wine, and in the money we give.*

*Presbyter*

**LET** us present our offerings to the Lord with reverence and godly fear.

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given. *Isaiah 9. 6*

All **STAND** and join in singing

## Carol at the Presentation

The image shows three staves of musical notation for a carol. The first staff starts with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 3/8 time signature. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. The second staff begins at measure 13 and features a melisma on the word 'star' with a long note and a fermata. The third staff begins at measure 23 and concludes the piece with a double bar line.

**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 night,  
star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light.**

*Choir* <sup>2</sup> Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,  
gold I bring to crown him again,  
King forever, ceasing never,  
over us all to reign.

**Refrain: All**

*Choir* <sup>3</sup> Frankincense to offer have I;  
incense owns a Deity nigh;  
prayer and praising, voices raising,  
worshiping God on high.

**Refrain: All**

*Continued*

**Choir** <sup>4</sup> Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume  
breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

**Refrain:** *O star of wonder, star of night,  
star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light.*

**All** <sup>5</sup> Glorious now behold him arise;  
King and God and sacrifice:  
Alleluia, Alleluia!  
peals through the earth and skies.

1. It came up - on the mid - night clear that glo - rious song of  
old from an - gels bending near the earth to touch their harps of  
gold peace on the earth good - will to men from heaven's all gra - cious  
King the world in so - lemn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing

<sup>2</sup> **Still through the cloven skies they come,  
With peaceful wings unfurled;  
And still their heavenly music floats  
O'er all the weary world:  
Above its sad and lowly plains  
They bend on hovering wing;  
And ever o'er its Babel-sounds  
The blessèd Angels sing.**

<sup>3</sup> **Yet with the woes of sin and strife  
The world has suffered long;  
Beneath the Angel-strain have rolled  
Two thousand years of wrong;  
And man, at war with man, hears not  
The love-song which they bring:  
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,  
And hear the Angels sing!**

*Presbyter* Let us pray.

*All* **All things come of Thee, and of Thine own do we give unto Thee,  
O Creator of the world,  
who art ever adored by the holy Angels.  
We humbly beseech Thee to accept at our hands these (alms and) oblations,  
which we present at Thy holy Table,  
and with them the offering of our selves to the service of Thy divine Majesty;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Please be SEATED*

### The Preparation for Communion

*Celebrant* YE that do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins,  
and are in love and charity with your neighbours, and intend to lead a new life,  
following the commandments of God,  
and walking from henceforth in His holy ways;  
Draw near with faith, and take this Holy Sacrament to your comfort;  
and make your humble confession to Almighty God,  
meekly kneeling upon your knees.

### Prayers of Penitence

*Confessing our sins, receiving forgiveness (absolution), and showing signs of peace to one another prepare us to receive Christ in the Sacrament of Holy Communion.*

*All say*

**ALMIGHTY God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
maker of all things, judge of all men:  
We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness,  
which we, from time to time, most grievously have committed,  
by thought, word, and deed, against Thy divine majesty,  
provoking most justly Thy wrath and indignation against us .  
We do earnestly repent,  
and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings:  
The remembrance of them is grievous unto us;  
the burden of them is intolerable.  
Have mercy upon us,  
have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;  
for Thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,  
forgive us all that is past;  
and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please Thee in newness of life,  
to the honour and glory of Thy name;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

## The Absolution

*The Bishop says*

ALMIGHTY God, our heavenly Father, who of His great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all them that with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto Him: Have mercy upon you; pardon and deliver you from all your sins; confirm and strengthen you in all goodness; and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

*The celebrant says*

Hear what comfortable words our Saviour Christ saith unto all that truly turn to Him.  
COME unto me all that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you.

*St. Matthew 11.28*

So God loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

*St. John 3. 16*

Hear also what Saint Paul saith. This is a true saying, and worthy of all men to be received, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

*1 Timothy 1. 15*

Hear also what Saint John saith. If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and He is the propitiation for our sins.

*1 St. John 2. 1*

## The Eucharistic Prayer

*In the Great Thanksgiving, we do what Jesus himself asked us to do: thank God and recall all that God has done for us in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. The Great Thanksgiving, or Eucharistic Prayer, is a long prayer with four parts. Each of these four parts corresponds to a different action of Jesus at the Last Supper, where he took, blessed, broke, and gave bread and wine as sacraments of his body and blood. We begin the Great Thanksgiving with the Sursum Corda, meaning "Lift up your hearts."*

*Celebrant*

The Lord be with you;

*All*

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts;

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to our Lord God;

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

*The Celebrant*

IT is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto Thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God.

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 Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Thy glorious name; evermore praising Thee, and saying,

The Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy) is the hymn of praise that never ceases before God and is based on Isaiah 6:3

Ho - ly ho - ly ho - ly Lord God of power and might -----  
 ----- Ho - ly ho - ly ho - ly Lord God of power and  
 might ----- hea - ven and earth are full ----- full ----  
 of Your glo - ry Ho - san - na in the high - est Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est Bless - ed is He Who comes ----  
 ---- in the name of the Lord ----- Ho - san - na in the  
 high - est ho - san - na in the high - est

Setting: from 'German Mass' F. Schubert (1797 - 1828) arr. Richard Proulx (1937 - 2010)

## The Breaking of Bread

We recall God's acts of salvation history. The presider says the "Words of Institution" that Jesus said at the Last Supper. At the Memorial Acclamation we remember Christ's death, resurrection, and promise to return at the end of the age. During the prayer, the Holy Spirit is invoked to bless and sanctify the gifts of bread and wine.

### The Celebrant

HOLY in truth art Thou, and blessed in truth,  
 O Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
 for that Thou of Thy tender mercy didst give  
 Thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon Him,  
 and to suffer death upon the Cross for our redemption;  
 who made there, by His one oblation of Himself once offered,  
 a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction,  
 for the sins of the whole world;  
 and did institute, and in His holy Gospel command us to continue,  
 a perpetual memorial of that His precious death, until His coming again:

Who, in the same night that He was betrayed, took Bread;  
and when He had given thanks to Thee, He brake 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.

Likewise after supper He took the Cup; and , when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying,  
Drink ye all of this: for this is my Blood of the New Covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many for the remission of sins:  
Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me. **Amen.**

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father we Thy humble servants  
do celebrate and make here before Thy Divine Majesty, with these Thy holy gifts,  
the memorial Thy Son hath commanded us to make;  
having in remembrance His blessèd passion, and precious death,  
His mighty resurrection, and glorious ascension;  
rendering unto Thee most hearty thanks for the same,  
and looking for His coming again with power and great glory,

And we entirely desire Thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept on high  
this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,  
beseeching Thee to grant, that by the merits and death of Thy Son Jesus Christ,  
and through faith in His blood,  
we and all Thy whole Church may obtain remission of our sins,  
and all other benefits of His passion.

And we humbly beseech Thee, most merciful Father,  
to send down Thy holy and life-giving Spirit upon us and upon these Thy gifts,  
that the Bread which we break may be the communion of the Body of Christ,  
and the Cup which we bless may be the communion of His Blood;  
and grant, that all we who are partakers of this Holy communion  
may be fulfilled with Thy grace and heavenly benediction,  
and made one body in Thy Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

*All say*

**And here we offer and present unto Thee,  
O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies,  
to be a reasonable, holy, and lively sacrifice unto Thee.  
And although we be unworthy,  
through our manifold sins, to offer unto Thee any sacrifice,  
yet we beseech Thee  
to accept this our bounden duty and service;  
not weighing our merits,  
but pardoning our offences, 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 unto Thee,  
O Father Almighty, world without end. Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

*We pray together the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples to pray. The link between our daily bread and the spiritual food we receive in the Eucharist is an ancient connection.*

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

*While SEATED, all sing*

**OUR FATHER,**  
    **who art in heaven,**  
    **hallowed be Thy name;**  
**Thy Kingdom come;**  
**Thy will be done; in earth as it is in heaven.**  
**Give us this day our daily bread.**  
**And forgive us our trespasses,**  
    **as we forgive them that 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.**

Sung to a setting by Albert Hay Malotte (1895 - 1964)

## The Prayer of Humble Access

*All say*

**WE do not presume to come to this Thy Table,**  
**O merciful Lord,**  
**Trusting in our own righteousness,**  
**But in Thy manifold and great mercies.**  
**We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under Thy table.**  
**But Thou art the same Lord,**  
**Whose property is always to have mercy:**  
**Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,**  
**So to eat the Flesh of Thy dear Son Jesus Christ,**  
**and to drink His Blood,**  
**That our sinful bodies may be made clean by His Body,**  
**and our souls washed through His most precious Blood,**  
**And that we may evermore dwell in Him,**  
**And He in us. Amen.**

Je - sus Lamb of God -- have mer - cy on --- us Je - sus bear - er  
of our sins have mer - cy on --- us Je - sus re - deem - er re  
deemer of the world give us your peace give us your peace

Setting 'German Mass' by F. Schubert

## The Distribution of Communion

*The Celebrant addresses them that come to receive the Holy Communion:*

DRAW near and receive the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
which were given for you, and feed on Him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

*Please follow the directions of the ushers to proceed to the High Altar*

*Communicants are requested to leave space on either side of them while kneeling at the Altar*

*And when the Celebrant delivers the Bread, he shall say:*

The Body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for thee, preserve thy body and soul unto everlasting life. Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for thee, and feed on Him in Thy heart by faith with thanksgiving.

**Amen.**

*And the Minister that delivers the Cup says:*

The Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for thee, preserve thy body and soul unto everlasting life. Drink this is remembrance that Christ's Blood was shed for thee, and be thankful.

**Amen.**

*During the administration of the Communion the choir sings*

"O Holy Night"

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining,  
It is the night of the dear Saviour's birth.  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,  
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.  
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.



*Fall on your knees! Oh, hear the angel voices!  
O night divine, O night when Christ was born;  
O night, O holy night, O night divine!*

Truly He taught us to love one another,  
His law is love and His gospel is peace.  
Chains shall he break for the slave is our brother,  
And in His name all oppression shall cease.  
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,  
Let all within us praise His holy name.

*Christ is the Lord! Then ever, ever praise we,  
His power and glory evermore proclaim!  
His power and glory evermore proclaim!*

Words: Cappeau De Roquemaure (1808 - 1877)

Music: Adolphe Adam (1803 - 1856)

*"Gabriel's Message"*

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!

<sup>3</sup> 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!

<sup>2</sup> "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!

<sup>4</sup> 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)

Music: Basque carol, arranged by David Willcocks

*While seated, all join in singing*

**What child is this?**

The musical score consists of five staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The melody is simple and repetitive. The second staff continues the melody. The third staff is marked 'Refrain' and features a more complex rhythmic pattern. The fourth and fifth staves continue the melody and end with a double bar line.

**What Child is this, who, laid to rest,  
On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
While shepherds watch are keeping?**

*Continued. Turn over.*

*Chorus:*

**This, this is Christ, the King,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:  
This, this is Christ, the King,  
The Babe, the Son of Mary.**

<sup>2</sup> **Why lies He in such mean estate  
Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading.**

<sup>3</sup> **So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,  
Come, peasant, king to own Him;  
The King of kings salvation brings,  
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.**

Words: William Dix (1837 - 1898)

Tune: GREENSLEEVES  
Traditional English melody

*The Presbyter*

Prayer after Communion

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.**

*While SEATED, all say*

**Father of all,  
we give you thanks and praise,  
that when we were still far off  
you met us in your Son and brought us home.  
Dying and living, he declared your love,  
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.  
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;  
we who drink his cup bring life to others;  
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.  
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,  
so we and all your children shall be free,  
and the whole earth live to praise your name;  
through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

Christ the Son of God, born of Mary,  
fill you with his grace, to trust his  
promises and obey his will;  
And the blessing of God almighty,  
† the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

All sing

A - men, A - men, A -  
men glo - ry be to God on high

As the lights are dimmed and the candles lit, the choir sings

Dona nobis pacem.

Grant us Thy peace.

All STAND and sing

Carol at the Closing

1. Si - lent night Ho - ly night al is calm all is bright Round yon virgin mother and child  
Ho - ly infant so tender and mild sleep in heavenly pea - ce sleep in heavenly peace

**<sup>2</sup> Silent night! Holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight!  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heavenly hosts sing, "Alleluia!"  
Christ, the Saviour is born!  
Christ, the Saviour is born!**

**<sup>3</sup> Silent night! Holy night!  
Son of God, loves pure light!  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth!  
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth!**

**<sup>4</sup> Silent night! Holy night!  
All is dark save the light  
Yonder where they sweet vigil keep  
O'er the Babe who in silent sleep  
Rests in heavenly peace.  
Rests in heavenly peace.**

*From the West Door the Bishop says*

The Dismissal

Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.

*All reply*      **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Toccata (*from the 5th Symphony for Organ, Op. 42*)

Charles-Marie Widor (1844 - 1937)



**May the hope, peace, love and joy  
of the Christ Child  
be yours now and always.  
Wishing you and your loved ones  
a blessed Christmas and a happy New Year.**

**ST. THOMAS' CATHEDRAL**

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

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**Website** <http://stthomascathedralmumbai.com>