



Established 1718

ST. THOMAS' CATHEDRAL, MUMBAI

The Church of North India • A member of the worldwide Anglican Communion

Choral Eucharist



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

Bishop Phillips Brooks, 1835 - 1893

The First Sunday of Christmas

Sunday 31st December 2023

8.45 a.m.

Welcome

Welcome to St Thomas' Cathedral for this service

We are the mother church of the Diocese of Bombay in the Church of North India, a member of the worldwide Anglican Communion. Christian worship has been offered to God here for over 300 years. By worshipping with us today, you become part of that living tradition.

The basis for our worship is the *Book of Common Prayer*, our common liturgical heritage with Anglicans across the world (all churches descended from the Church of England). We are rooted in tradition but celebrate the richness and diversity of the Communion. Music and hymnody represent the best of the Anglican choral tradition.

Follow the readings and the Order of Service for the Lord's Supper from *The Book of Common Prayer* (refer page numbers).

The hymns can be found in *The English Hymnal*.



We kindly request that you do not take photographs, or video or sound recording in the cathedral at any time during services. You are welcome to take photographs at any other time.

You are encouraged to take this booklet home with you to reflect on the prayers and readings and as a reminder of your visit. If you do not intend to take this booklet with you, leave it in the box provided, so that it can be recycled.

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The Gathering

Voluntary

A meditation on the carol, 'A Virgin most Pure'
Pastorale from Christmas Concerto

Eric Thiman, 1900 - 1975
A. Corelli, 1653 - 1713

Welcome

*All keep silence and prepare for worship.
All stand and join in singing the carol.*

Carol at the Entry | # 28

O come, all ye faithful

Tune: ADESTE FIDELES

All sit

The Acclamation of the Nativity

Presbyter

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

All

**And blessed be God's kingdom,
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us;
and we beheld His glory.

All say together

The Collect for Purity | page 260

The Liturgy of the Word

The Collect for the Day | page 319

Read by the Presbyter

Old Testament Reading | **page 319**

Isaiah 62. 10 - 12

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

At the conclusion of the reading the reader says

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Psalm | **page 227**

121

Read responsively

The Epistle | **page 320**

Galatians 4.1 - 7

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Galatians.

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 carol.

Gradual Carol

**Away in a manger no crib for His bed
the little Lord Jesus lay down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky look down where He lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

**² The cattle are lowing the poor Baby wakes
but little Lord Jesus no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus look down from the sky
and stay by my side till morning is nigh.**

Continued

³ **Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care
and take us to Heaven to live with Thee there.**

William Kirkpatrick, 1838 - 1921

*Remain standing for the Gospel
as the cantor sings the Alleluia and we respond.*

The Gospel of Christ | **page 320**

St Matthew 1.18 - 25

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

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

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew
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 265**

All sit

Sermon

The Revd Avinash Rangayya, *Cathedral Presbyter*

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

All stand

The Peace

The Celebrant offers a greeting of peace.

Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to all in whom He delights.
The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*Members of the congregation greet one another.
Remain standing to sing the offertory hymn.*

*At this time the altar is set with the gifts of bread and wine and the
gifts of the people are gathered and presented. Thank you for your generosity.*

All join in singing

Hymn at the Offertory | # 30

While shepherds watched

Tune: WINCHESTER OLD

See inside front cover for bank details to make your offering.

All say

Offertory Prayer | **page 270**

Kneel as able or remain seated.

The Prayers of the People

Intercessor Christ, born in a stable,
give courage to all who are homeless.
Jesus, Saviour,

All **hear our prayer.**

Christ, for whom the angels sang,
give the song of the kingdom to all who weep.
Jesus, Saviour,

hear our prayer.

Christ, worshipped by the shepherds,
give peace on earth to all who are oppressed.
Pray for peace in the land of our Lord's birth.

Jesus, Saviour,

hear our prayer.

Christ, before whom the wise men knelt,
give humility and wisdom to all who govern.

Jesus, Saviour,

hear our prayer.

Christ, whose radiance filled a lowly manger,
give the glory of your resurrection to all who rest in you.

Jesus, Saviour,

hear our prayer.

Jesus, Saviour, child of Mary,

you know us and love us,

you share our lives

and hear our prayer.

Glory to you for ever. Amen.

The General Confession & Absolution | *pages 275, 276*

The Consecration | *page 277*

The Communion | *page 284*

*Proceed to the High Altar for receiving Communion.
During the administration of Communion, while seated we sing.*

Hymn at the Communion | # 25

In the bleak mid-winter

Tune: CRANHAM

The Thanksgiving | *page 287*

All stand and sing.

Gloria in Excelsis | *page 288*

The Presbyter

The Blessing

May Christ,
who by his incarnation gathered into one
things earthly and heavenly,
fill you with 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.

Carol at the Closing

**Good Christian men, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ was born today.
Ox and ass before him bow,
and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!**

Continued

² **Good Christian men, rejoice**
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door,
and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!

³ **Good Christian men, rejoice**
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave:
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!

Words: Attributed to Heinrich Suso, ca. 1295 - 1366
From Piaie Cantiones.
Translated by John Mason Neale

Tune: IN DULCI JUBILO
14th century German melody

From the West Door, the Presbyter says:

The Dismissal

Let us go forth in the name of the Child of Bethlehem,
Jesus the Christ.

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

Postlude

Der Tag, ist der so freundenreich, *BWV 605*
(The day is very joyful)

Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685 - 1750

Please stay back after the service for a time of fellowship over a cup of coffee.
Introduce yourself to the Presbyter if you are worshipping with us for the first time.

Birthdays this week

*'For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works,
which God prepared in advance for us to do.'*

Ephesians 2:10

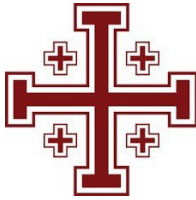
Deepali Furtado (1st January), Rahul Jadhav (6), Varun Patole (6)

Wedding anniversary this week

'Be devoted to one another in love. Honour one another above yourselves.'

Romans 12:10

Sunita & Gladston Somervel (31st December)



PATRIARCHS AND HEADS OF THE CHURCHES IN JERUSALEM

Statement on the Celebration of Advent and Christmas in the Midst of War in the Holy Land

10th November 2023

Each year during the sacred seasons of Advent and Christmastide, our Christian communities throughout the Holy Land take great delight in the preparations for the commemoration of the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. In addition to attendance in religious services, these celebrations have normally involved participation in numerous public festivities and the large-scale display of brightly lit and expensive decorations as a means of expressing our joy at the approach and arrival of the Feast of the Nativity.

But these are not normal times. Since the start of the War, there has been an atmosphere of sadness and pain. Thousands of innocent civilians, including women and children, have died or suffered serious injuries. Many more grieve over the loss of their homes, their loved ones, or the uncertain fate of those dear to them. Throughout the region, even more have lost their work and are suffering from serious economic challenges. Yet, despite our repeated calls for humanitarian ceasefire and de-escalation of violence, the war continues.

Therefore, We, the Patriarchs and Heads of the Churches in Jerusalem, call upon our congregations to stand strong with those facing such afflictions by this year foregoing any unnecessary festive activities. We likewise encourage our priests and the faithful to focus more on the spiritual meaning of Christmas in their pastoral activities and liturgical celebrations during this period, with the focus directed at holding in our thought our brothers and sisters affected by this war and its consequences, and with fervent prayers for a just and lasting peace for our beloved Holy Land.

Moreover, during this season of giving, we invite the faithful to advocate, pray, and contribute generously as they are able for the relief of the victims of this war and for those in dire need, as well as to encourage others to join them in this mission of mercy.

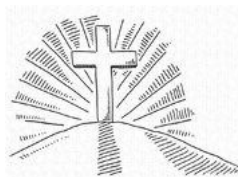
In these ways, we believe, we will be standing in support of those continuing to suffer--just as Christ did with us in His Incarnation in order that all of God's children might receive the hope of a New Jerusalem in the presence of the Almighty, where "death shall be no more, neither mourning, nor crying, nor pain, for the former things have passed away." (Revelation 21:4)

—The Patriarchs and Heads of the Churches in Jerusalem

Watchnight Service

Worship with us tonight.

Spend time in prayer and reflection, hear words of assurance from the Holy Bible and sing hymns.



Tonight 11 pm

Usher in the New Year in the Sanctuary with prayer and praise.

Notices

- We pray for God's comforting presence to be with Mrs. Jyotsna Mayadas and the family as they grieve the passing away of her father Colonel Parvez Andrews.
- **Watchnight Service** 11 pm tonight to usher in the New Year and thank God for the year that is coming to an end.
- Eucharist 9am on New Year's Day Monday 01st January 2024 **The Naming and Circumcision of Jesus.**
- The **Epiphany of our Lord** is on Saturday 6th January 2024. There will be evening prayer with a short homily and singing of carols and hymns for Epiphany.
- The **Baptism of Jesus and Renewal of Covenant** will be on Sunday 7th January 2024.

Pray with us

- † **THE WORLD** We continue to pray for peace in the Land of our Lord's birth. Pray for peace and reconciliation in all areas experiencing conflict.
- † **OUR COUNTRY** Pray for the containment and reduction of COVID cases.
- † **THE WORLDWIDE CHURCH** In the *Anglican Communion* - Eglise Anglicane du Rwanda (Anglican Church of Rwanda) and the Most Reverend Laurent Mbanda.
- † **THE CHURCH IN INDIA** For the Diocese of Gujarat and the Right Reverend Silvans Christian.
- † **THE DIOCESE OF BOMBAY** This week for the Church of St. Michael and All Angels and the Reverend Mahendra Kawatekar.
- † **OUR CATHEDRAL** All senior citizens and those who are unwell. Pray for all care providers. We thank God for the services and programmes held over Advent and Christmastide in the Cathedral and for the many visitors who worshipped with us.

ST. THOMAS' CATHEDRAL

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

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

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