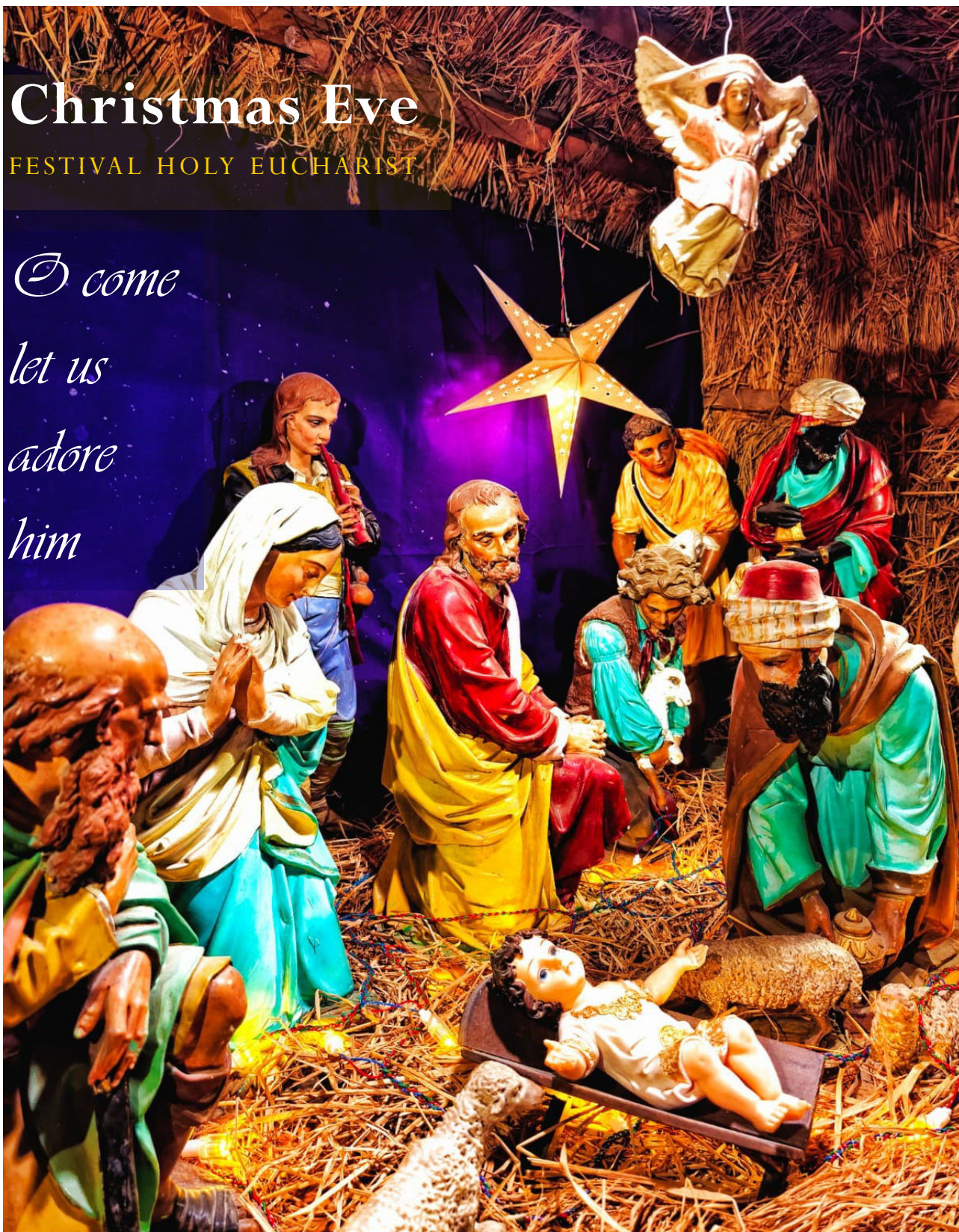


Christmas Eve

FESTIVAL HOLY EUCHARIST

*Come
let us
adore
him*



Tuesday 24th December 2024 • 10.30 pm

with Christmas music before the service 10 pm

ST. THOMAS'S CATHEDRAL

The Diocese of Bombay

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



Welcome

Christmas at St. Thomas's Cathedral

JOY AND CHRISTMAS

A reflection on Luke 1: 26 - 55

Welcome to the Cathedral Church of Saint Thomas the Apostle. Thank you for joining us for our Christmas celebrations. Whether you are here every Sunday or you are just visiting this one time, we are blessed to have you with us, and we hope you will find something of God's love, hope, and peace in this sacred space.

In 1719, a year after the construction of St. Thomas' was completed, the renowned hymn writer Isaac Watts gifted the world the carol — *'Joy To The World'*, based on Psalm 98. It is hard to imagine a more joyful declaration than the announcement of a family expecting a child. Yet, there was no greater or more life-changing announcement than when Mary was told she would bear the Son of God. This birth was unlike any other, for God Himself would be the Father, and the child would be the God-man.

The passage in Luke 1:26-55 records this moment of divine joy. The events surrounding the announcement of Christ's birth are often referred to as the *Annunciation*—the foretelling of Jesus' arrival. But this was more than just a birth announcement; it was an announcement filled with pure joy. Let's dive deeper into the narrative:

There was a messenger: Archangel Gabriel's mission was clear—to bring joy, not only to Mary but to the entire world.

There was a message: God was about to step into human history, and joy would be the result.

An amazed response: Mary accepted the divine will, showing a deep trust in God's plan.

Mary's joy: In the final verses of Luke 1, we hear Mary's beautiful expression of joy and praise—the *Magnificat*. "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour..."

It is here that we see the true nature of the announcement—joy! Not just for Mary, but for the world. God was doing something marvellous in her life, and she rejoiced.

Christmas, then, is not merely a celebration of a birth. **It is a celebration of joy—a joy that transcends time and space, a joy that is rooted in the birth of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world.** As we reflect on Luke 1:26-55, may our hearts join in Mary's joyful praise and the resounding chorus of *"Joy to the World!"*

Let this Christmas remind us of the joy that is found in Christ—the joy that began with an angel's announcement, echoed in Mary's song, and is proclaimed to the world today.

I hope and pray that you and your family and friends, will experience the joy of this special time of year and that you have a very happy Christmas and New Year.

THE REVD AVINASH T. RANGAYYA
Cathedral Presbyter
Christmas 2024, Mumbai

The picture on the front cover is of the crib in the Cathedral.

Music before the service

Organ prelude

Noël Suisse (*variations based on a Swiss carol*) - Louis-Claude Daquin, 1694 - 1772

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

'Angels we have heard on high' - arranged Richard Warner

Canon & Finale on the tune 'Winchester Old' ('While shepherds watched') - David Blackwell, b.1961

Gigue on, 'Go tell it on the mountain' - A. D. Miller, b. 1972

'Der Tag, der ist so freudenreich', BWV 605

(The day of gladness now appears) - Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685 - 1750

French Horn

A medley of seasonal favourites

All

Stand and sing

**JOY to the world; the Lord is come;
Let Earth receive her King;
Let every Heart prepare him room,
And Heaven and nature sing. (3)**

**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

Choir

Dona nobis pacem (Grant us Thy peace)

Choir

Welcome Christmas Day (*Riu, Riu, Chiu*)

16th century Spanish carol
arranged by Audrey Snyder

All

sing while seated

All

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

Ladies sing

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

Men sing

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

All

Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

(Interlude)

Men

**Good Christian men, rejoice,
With heart, and soul, and voice!**

Ladies

**Now ye need not fear the grave;
Jesus Christ was born to save!**

Men

**Calls you one, and calls you all
To gain His everlasting hall.**

All

Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Words: Medieval Latin hymn
tran. By John M. Neale

Tune: IN DULCI JUBILO
German melody, 14th century

All

sing while seated

**The holly and the ivy,
When they are both full grown
Of all the trees that are in the wood
The holly bears the crown**

**The holly bears a bark
As bitter as any gall;
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
For to redeem us all.**

**O the rising of the sun
And the running of the deer
The playing of the merry organ
Sweet singing of the choir**

Traditional English carol
arr. Andrew Sims

Choir

Good King Wenceslas

Words: John Mason Neale (1853) Tune: Adapted from a 13th century Spring hymn

All

**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



**We wish you a Merry Christmas (3)
And a Happy New Year!
Good tidings we bring to you and all of your kin.
We wish you a merry Christmas And a Happy New Year!**

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

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.

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The Order of Service



THE EVE OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Festival Holy Eucharist

24th December 2024 • 10.30 P.M.

The Gathering

Welcome

The Blessing of the Crib

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

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

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.**

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 18th century, tr. F. Oakeley, 1802 - 80

Tune: ADESTE FIDELES J. F. Wade, c. 1711 - 86
Descant: David Willcocks, 1919 - 2015

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

Awake and arise and hail the blessed morn,
whereon that our Lord and saviour was born,
the great prince of peace,
called Jesus by name
our fathers of old recorded the same.

D. G. Mason

All say

**Lord Jesus, Light of light,
you have come among us.
Help us who live by your light
to shine as lights in your world.
Glory to God in the highest.
Amen.**

The Presbyter 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

Glory be to God

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

**All Glory be to God the Father,
glory be to God the Son,
glory be to God the Spirit:
great Jehovah, Three in One!
Glory, glory
while eternal ages run!**

Choir ³ Glory to the King of angels,
glory to the Church's King,
glory to the King of nations;
heaven and earth your praises bring!
**All Glory, glory,
to the King of glory sing!**

Choir ² Glory be to him who loved us,
washed us from each spot and stain;
glory be to him who bought us,
made us kings with him to reign!

**All Glory, glory
to the Lamb that once was slain!**

All ⁴ **Glory, blessing, praise eternal!
thus the choir of angels sings;
honour, riches, power, dominion!
thus its praise creation brings.
Glory, glory
glory to the King of kings!**

Words: Horatius Bonar, 1808 - 1889
Tune: REGENT SQUARE Henry Smart, 1813 - 79

Please be SEATED

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 - 7

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 henceforth 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.**

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

Cantate Domino

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

² With his own right hand, and with his holy arm :
hath he gotten himself the victory.

³ The Lord declared his salvation :
his righteousness hath he openly shewed in the sight of the heathen.

⁴ 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.

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

⁶ Praise the Lord upon the harp :
sing to the harp with a psalm of thanksgiving.

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

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

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

¹⁰ 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 - 12

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.**

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.”



ANGELS we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o’er the plains,
and the mountains in reply
echo back their joyous strains:

Refrain **Gloria in excelsis Deo. (2)**

**³ Come to Bethlehem, and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
come adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the new-born King.**

Gloria in excelsis Deo. (2)

**² Shepherds why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be,
which inspire your heavenly song?**

Gloria in excelsis Deo. (2)

**⁴ See within a manger laid
Jesus, Lord of heaven and earth!
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
With us sing our Saviour’s birth.**

Gloria in excelsis Deo. (2)

French Carol

The Gospel Acclamation

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

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 - 14

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 Saint 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 This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

All join in singing

**CHRIST, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come
Offspring of a Virgin's womb!
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.**

**Hark, the herald-angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.**

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.
It illuminates the scriptural readings and relates them to daily life.*

The Sermon

The Right Reverend Manoj Charan
Bishop of Bombay

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.

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

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*

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

All **STAND** and join in singing

Carols at the Presentation

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

Continued

² **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.**

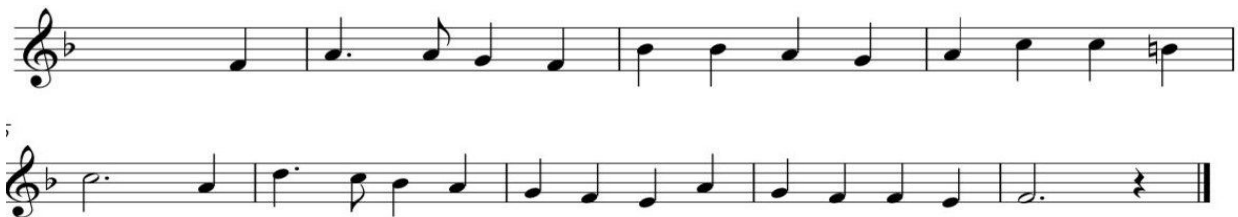
³ **Yet with the woes of sin and strife
 The world has suffered long;
 Beneath the Angel-strain have rolled
 Two thousand years of wrong;
 And man, at war with man, hears not
 The love-song which they bring:
 O hush the noise, ye men of strife,
 And hear the Angels sing!**

Words: E. H. Sears, 1810 - 1876

Tune: NOEL

English traditional melody adapted by Arthur Sullivan, 1842 - 1900

While shepherds watched their flocks by night



**WHILE shepherds watched their flocks by night,
 All seated on the ground,
 The Angel of the Lord came down,
 And glory shone around.**

² **'Fear not,' said he (for mighty dread
 Had seized their troubled mind);
 'Glad tidings of great joy I bring
 To you and all mankind.**

³ **'To you in David's town this day
 Is born of David's line
 A Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
 And this shall be the sign:**

Continued

⁴ **'The heavenly Babe you there shall find
To human view displayed,
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
And in a manger laid.'**

⁵ **Thus spoke the Seraph; and forthwith
Appeared a shining throng
Of Angels praising God, who thus
Addressed their joyful song:**

⁶ **'All glory be to God on high,
And to the earth be peace;
Good-will henceforth from heaven to men
Begin and never cease.'**

Words: Nahum Tate, 1652 - 1715

Tune: WINCHESTER OLD,
first appeared in Este's Psalter, 1592

Offertory Prayer

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 choir sings

Candlelight Carol

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

² Shepherds and wise men will kneel and adore him,
Seraphim round him, their vigil will keep;
Nations proclaim him their Lord and their Saviour,
But Mary will hold him and sing him to sleep.

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

³ Find him in Bethlehem laid in a manger:
Christ our Redeemer, asleep in the hay.
Godhead incarnate and hope of salvation:
A child with his mother that first Christmas Day.

Words & Music: Sir John Rutter CBE, b. 1945
Accompanied on the harp, Meagan Pandian

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: Bijaya our Moderator, the clergy and laity of the *Church of South India*, Theodosius Mar Thoma the Metropolitan of the *Mar Thoma Church*,

Manoj our Bishop and Avinash our Presbyter. 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. Holy God,

hear our prayer.

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,

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.

Continued

Intercessor 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.

The General Confession & Absolution

*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.*

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.

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 celebrant 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

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

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

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,

Continued

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 blessed 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

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 in remembrance that Christ's Blood was shed for thee, and be thankful.

Amen.

During the administration of the Communion the choir sings

'Mary, mother of Jesus'

Hush, O little baby Jesus
See your mother is here
Mary mother of Jesus
Watching o'er the Babe.
Born in a lowly manger
Whom shepherds and kings came to praise
Bowing down to worship a King
With all the gifts they did bring.

Hush, O little baby Jesus
See your mother is here
Mary mother of Jesus
Watching o'er a King.
He who came with a promise
Of health and salvation to bring
God of mercy God of grace
To reign for ever more.

'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!*

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming;
With glowing hearts by his cradle we stand:
So, led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,
Here came the Wise Men from out the orient land,
The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger,
In all our trials born to be our friend.

*He knows our need, our weakness is no stranger;
Behold your King! Before Him lowly bend!
Behold your King! Before Him bend!*

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
Accompanied on the harp, Meagan Pandian

'An Advent Prayer'

Lord, Saviour come to me,
Jesus I wait for Thee,
angels and all the earth give praise to you, O Lord;
your glory shines on me,
your birth shall set me free.
Holy, are you, O Lord.

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming,
from tender stem shall come,
we praise you Lord and call your name;
of Jesse's lineage coming,
holy are you, O Lord.
Great and mighty are you, O Lord.
Lord, come to me in peace and love.

*Music: A medley of 'Panis Angelicus' – C. Franck, 1822 – 1890
and 'Lo, how a rose' – traditional German, 16th cent, arranged by Patrick Liebergen, b. 1949*

While seated, all join in singing

What child is this?

(words overleaf)



**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?**

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

*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.*

**³ 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 C. Dix, 1837 - 1898

Tune: GREENSLEEVES
Old 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.

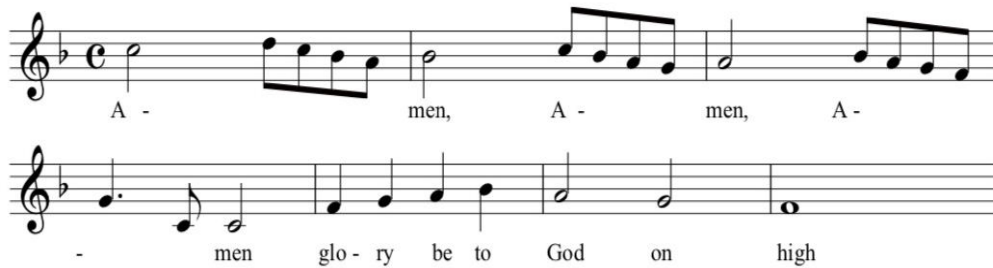
All Amen.

All stand and 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



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

Holy night! peaceful night! Through the darkness beams the light;
Yonder, where they sweet vigil keep
O'er the Babe, who, in silent sleep
Rests in heavenly peace.

Silent night! holiest night! Darkness flies and all is light!
Shepherds hear the angels sing
"Hallelujah! Hail the King!
Jesus the Saviour is here!"

J. Barnby, 1838 - 1896

All STAND and sing

Carol at the Closing



² 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!

³ 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!

Continued

4 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.

Words: Joseph Mohr, 1792 - 1848

Tune: STILLE NACHT
Franz Grüber, 1787 - 1863

From the West Door the Presbyter says

The Dismissal

Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.

All reply **Thanks be to God.**

Music after the Service

Organ Toccata from the 5th Symphony for organ, Op, 42 - Charles-Marie Widor, 1845 - 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

3 Veer Nariman Road, Fort, Mumbai – 400 001

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

Telephone: (Vestry) **98207 50090**

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

FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY. PLEASE SHARE THIS SERVICE BULLETIN WITH A FRIEND.

Website <http://stthomascathedralmumbai.com>