



ST. THOMAS' CATHEDRAL  
MUMBAI  
Since 1718



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

Sundays 7 am Eucharist (*said*) † 8.45 am Eucharist (*sung*)  
Weekdays 7 am to 6 pm for a time of quiet prayer and reflection

**The Work of Christmas**

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with their flock,  
The work of Christmas begins:  
    To find the lost,  
    To heal the broken,  
    To feed the hungry,  
    To release the prisoner,  
    To rebuild the nations,  
To bring peace among others,  
To make music in the heart.

*Howard Thurman, 1899 - 1981*

# The First Sunday of Christmas

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December 2024 • 8.45 a.m.

*Choral Eucharist*

## 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. For over 300 years, the people of St. Thomas' Cathedral have sought to be a body through which the light of Christ is seen, his life is shared, and his work is done.

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.

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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 *Hymns Ancient & Modern New Standard*

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***Please take this order of service away with you.***

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Society of St. Thomas Cathedral

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# Order of Service

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

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## The Gathering

### Voluntary

Prelude on 'Greensleeves' - Alec Rowley, 1892 - 1958  
'Angels we have heard on high' - arranged Richard Warner  
Canon & Finale on the tune 'Winchester Old' ('While shepherds watched')  
- David Blackwell, b.1961

### Welcome

*All keep silence and prepare for worship.*

### Introit

*Sung by the cantors*

O how blest that wondrous birthday,  
When the Maid the curse retrieved,  
Brought to birth mankind's salvation,  
By the Holy Ghost conceived,  
And the Babe, the world's Redeemer,  
In her loving arms received,  
Evermore and evermore.

Words: Prudentius, 4<sup>th</sup> century

Tune: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM  
Melody from 'Piae Cantiones', 1582

*All stand and face the West Door.*

### Call to Worship

*Presbyter*

Wonder of wonders! Christ is born!

*All*

**The Child of God has come to dwell with us.**

The Word is made flesh.

**The Divine is with us, and among us.**

Earth is blessed.

**All life is holy.**

**We worship in awe, in joy, and in love. Alleluia!**

*All join in singing the hymn*

The Entrance Carol | **# 37**

**While shepherds watched**

Tune: WINCHESTER OLD

*Please be seated*

*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*

The Old Testament Lesson | **page page 319**

*Isaiah 62. 10 - 12*

A reading from the Book of the Isaiah.

*At the conclusion of the reading:* This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*All stand and say the refrain*

Responsorial Psalm

*148*

*Refrain:* **O praise the name of the Lord.**

- <sup>1</sup> Alleluia. Praise the Lord from the heavens; ♦  
praise him in the heights.
- <sup>2</sup> Praise him, all you his angels; ♦  
praise him, all his host.
- <sup>3</sup> Praise him, sun and moon; ♦  
praise him, all you stars of light.
- <sup>4</sup> Praise him, heaven of heavens, ♦  
and you waters above the heavens.
- <sup>5</sup> Let them praise the name of the Lord, ♦  
for he commanded and they were created.
- <sup>6</sup> He made them fast for ever and ever; ♦  
he gave them a law which shall not pass away.

*All* **O praise the name of the Lord.**

- <sup>7</sup> Praise the Lord from the earth, ♦  
you sea monsters and all deeps;

*Continued*

- 8 Fire and hail, snow and mist, ♦  
tempestuous wind, fulfilling his word;
- 9 Mountains and all hills, ♦  
fruit trees and all cedars;
- 10 Wild beasts and all cattle, ♦  
creeping things and birds on the wing;
- 11 Kings of the earth and all peoples, ♦  
princes and all rulers of the world;
- 12 Young men and women,  
old and young together; ♦  
let them praise the name of the Lord.
- 13 For his name only is exalted, ♦  
his splendour above earth and heaven.
- 14 He has raised up the horn of his people  
and praise for all his faithful servants, ♦  
the children of Israel, a people who are near him. Alleluia.

**Refrain: O praise the name of the Lord.  
O glorious God,  
your whole creation sings your marvellous work;  
may heaven's praise so echo in our hearts  
that we may be good stewards of the earth;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

*Please be seated*

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*

**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.**

**<sup>2</sup> 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.**

**<sup>3</sup> 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 Acclamation

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

## The Gospel of Christ | **page 320**

*St Matthew 1.18 - 25*

*Gospeller*      The Lord be with you.  
*All*                **And with thy spirit.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Matthew.  
**Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

*At the end of the Gospel:*

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

Remain standing, all reciting the Creed

## The Nicene Creed | page 265

Please be seated

Sermon

The Reverend Avinash T. Rangayya, Cathedral Presbyter

## The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

All stand

The Celebrant offers a greeting of peace

Celebrant

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.**

All

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

Carol at the Offertory | # 46

Once in royal David's city omit v.v. 3 & 4

Tune: IRBY

All say

Offertory Prayer | page 270

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



*Kneel as able or sit*

## 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 | *page 275, 276*

The Consecration | *page 277*

The Communion | *page 284*

*Proceed to the High Altar for receiving Communion*



*While seated, we sing*

## Carol at the Communion

**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?**

*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 C. Dix, 1837 - 1898

Tune: GREENSLEEVES  
Old English melody

The Thanksgiving | **page 287**

*All stand and sing*

Gloria in Excelsis | **page 288**

The Blessing

*The Presbyter*

*Presbyter*

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.**

**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)**

**<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

*From the West Door the Presbyter says*

**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**

Carillon on the tune, 'Antioch' ('Joy to the World') – Mary Beth Bennett, b. 1954

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

Mr. M. John (29), Mr. Reuben Baker (30), Mr. Suresh Patil (30)  
Deepali Furtado (1<sup>st</sup> January)

**~ Wedding Anniversaries this Week ~**

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

Romans 12:10

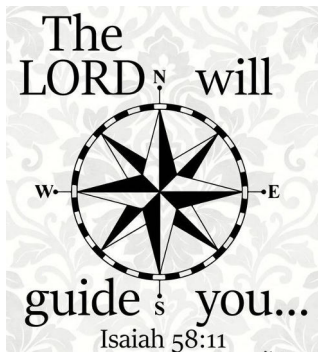
Mr. Rahul & Mrs. Roshni Jadhav (29),  
The Reverend Avinash & Reverend Mrs. Arpana Rangayya (29),  
Mr. Vivek and Miriam John (30), Mr. Minnal & Shilpa Pastala (30),  
Mr. Gladston Somervell & Mrs. Sunita Gladston (31)

**Watchnight Service**

Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 • 11 p.m.

*Choral Eucharist*

Worship with us  
on New Year's eve.  
Spend time in  
prayer and reflection,  
hear words of  
assurance from the  
Holy Bible  
and sing hymns.



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



## Pray with us

† **THE WORLD** In the words of the psalmist, "My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth." (Psalm 121). Our fervent prayers continue for a de-escalation of the long-drawn out war between Russia and Ukraine • For peace in the Holy Land.

† **OUR COUNTRY** We give thanksgiving for the visionary leadership of our former Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh and thank God for the many years of service he gave to the Nation. Pray for his bereaved family.

† **THE WORLDWIDE CHURCH** We give thanksgiving for St. Stephen the first martyr (26<sup>th</sup> December) and his faithful witness to Jesus • St. John the Evangelist is commemorated on 27<sup>th</sup> December. St. John the Evangelist put Christmas in one verse: "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (*John 1:14*). Not martyred but still a witness, John was exiled to Patmos and died an old man, according to tradition. He bore witness "to the Word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw." (*Revelation 1:2*) • Yesterday (28<sup>th</sup> December) was the Feast of the Holy Innocents, when the church remembers the massacre of innocent children recounted in Matthew's gospel (2:16–18) when King Herod ordered the execution of all male children who are two years old and under in the vicinity of Bethlehem, in an attempt to remove any threat to his rule from what he believed to be a new King (Jesus) born in Bethlehem. This day has become associated with remembering innocent people who have lost their lives in times of violence, in our own time, and a chance to pray for children and for an end to injustice • In the Anglican Communion, for The Episcopal Church of the United States of America and the Presiding Bishop the Most Reverend Sean W. Rowe.

† **THE CHURCH IN INDIA** The Diocese of Barrackpore (West Bengal) and the Right Reverend Subrata Chakrabarty • The Diocese of Medak (Telengana).

† **THE DIOCESE OF BOMBAY** The Church of the Holy Nativity, Matunga and the Reverend Samson Balid.

† **OUR CATHEDRAL** Pray for all senior citizens and their care providers • For the many visitors who visit the Cathedral especially this time of the year. Pray that they may experience the peace that passes all understanding in this House of Prayer.

### ST. THOMAS' CATHEDRAL

3 Veer Nariman Road, Fort, Mumbai – 400 001

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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