



# *A Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols*

Sunday  
14th December 2025

6:30 pm

*St. Thomas' Cathedral*

Fort, Mumbai - 1

## Welcome to St. Thomas' Cathedral for this service

A warm welcome to St. Thomas's Cathedral for this service of lessons and carols. We hear once again in verse and song the story of the nativity of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. May the '*tidings of great joy*' heralded by the heavenly host of angels so long ago continue to strengthen us and lead us in '*heart and mind*' to the manger.

This beautiful service (as we know it in its present form) was first instituted by Archbishop Edward Benson in Truro Cathedral (when he was Bishop of Truro) in England. It is based on a medieval vigil liturgy.

The story of the Nativity is read from the Bible by representatives of the Cathedral community here at St Thomas's. Carols and hymns are sung by the choir and congregation. The scriptures and hymns all combine to express the fulfilment of God's promise in the good news of great joy for all people, which is the birth of Jesus, who is the Messiah, the Lord.



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

Please take this **booklet away with you.**  
*Do not leave it behind.*

This service is being livestreamed.

# THE ORDER *of* SERVICE

## Music before the service

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

Meditation on 'Veni Emmanuel'	Philip Moore (b. 1943)
Chorale prelude "Sleepers wake", BWV 645	Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 - 1750)
Nun komm der Heiden Heiland, BWV 661	Johann Sebastian Bach
God rest ye merry gentlemen	Rebecca Groom Te Velde (b. 1956)
Cradle Song	Malcolm Archer (b. 1952)

## Welcome

The Revd Avinash Rangayya, *Cathedral Presbyter*

*The choir sings*

## Introit

Star of the midnight gleaming  
Over the shadowed plain,  
Waken the world to music,  
Joining the sweet refrain,  
Sung by the angel chorus,  
Thronging the radiant sky;  
Echoing through the ages,  
"Glory to God on high!"

Star of the midnight bring us  
Where lies the Prince of peace,  
Where from our every torment  
Find we a sweet release,  
Then through the realms of glory  
Shall come an answering cry,  
Echoing through the ages,  
"Glory to God on high!"

Words: Charles Austin Miles (1868 - 1946)

Music: F. Campana

## The Opening Sentences

*Verses from Genesis I are read*

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

And God saw everything he had made, and, behold it was very good.

## The Processional Carol

*All stand and join in singing from the third verse onwards*

*Solo*

ONCE in royal David's city  
stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby  
in a manger for His bed:  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little Child.

*Choir*

<sup>2</sup> He came down to earth from heaven  
who is God and Lord of all,  
and His shelter was a stable,  
and His cradle was a stall:  
With the poor and mean and lowly  
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

*All*

<sup>3</sup> **And through all His wondrous childhood  
He would honour and obey,  
love and watch the lowly maiden,  
in whose gentle arms He lay:  
Christian children all must be  
mild, obedient, good as He.**

*All*

<sup>4</sup> **For He is our childhood's pattern,  
day by day like us He grew,  
He was little, weak, and helpless,  
tears and smiles like us He knew;  
and He feeleth for our sadness,  
and He shareth in our gladness.**

*All*

<sup>5</sup> **And our eyes at last shall see Him,  
through His own redeeming love,  
for that child so dear and gentle  
is our Lord in heaven above;  
and He leads His children on  
to the place where He is gone.**

*All*

<sup>6</sup> **Not in that poor lowly stable,  
with the oxen standing by,  
we shall see Him; but in heaven,  
set at God's right hand on high;  
when like stars His children crowned  
all in white shall wait around.**

Words: Mrs. C. F. Alexander (1818 - 1895)

Tune: IRBY

Henry John Gauntlet (1805 - 1876)

Verse 6 arrangement & descant: David Willcocks (1919 - 2015)

*All remain **STANDING***

## The Bidding Prayer

*Read by the Cathedral Presbyter*

BELOVED IN CHRIST, be it this Christmas time our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels; in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger. Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by this Holy Child. Yet first, because this of all things would rejoice Jesus' heart, let us pray to him for the needs of the whole world, and of all people; for peace upon the earth he came to save; for love and unity within the Church he did build; for goodwill among all the nations of the earth. And particularly at this time let us remember the poor, the cold, the hungry, the oppressed; the sick and those who mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and little children; and all who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly, let us remember all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we forevermore are one.

**All: Amen.**

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ Himself hath taught us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be Thy name;  
Thy kingdom come;  
Thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who 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.**

*The Presbyter says*

The Almighty God bless us with His grace:  
Christ give us the joys of everlasting life:  
and unto the fellowship of the citizens above  
may the King of Angels bring us all.

*All: Amen.*

*Please be **seated***

## Homily

The Reverend Avinash Rangayya

*Cathedral Presbyter*

Like silver lamps in a distant shrine,	Never fell melodies half so sweet
The stars are sparkling clear and bright ;	As those which are filling the skies ;
The bells of the City of God ring out,	And never a palace shone half so fair,
For the Son of Mary was born tonight:	As the manger bed where our
The gloom is past, and the morn at last	Saviour lies ;
Is coming with orient light!	No night in the year is half so dear
	As this, which has ended our sighs.

Now a new Power has come on the earth,  
A match for the armies of hell:  
A Child is born who shall conquer the foe,  
And all the spirits of wickedness quell;  
For Mary's Son is the Mighty One  
Whom the prophets of God foretell.

Words: William Chatterton Dix (1837 - 98)

Music: Charles Steggall (1826 - 1905)

*Read by a Chorister*

**The First Lesson**

*Genesis 3. 8 - 15, 17 - 19*

*Adam and Eve rebel against God and are cast out of the Garden of Eden*

AND they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden. And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?

And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?

And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. And the Lord God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat. And the Lord God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: and I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



Adam lay ybounden (*bound*),  
Bounden (*bound*) in a bond;  
Four thousand winter  
Thought he not too long.

And all was for an apple,  
An apple that he took,  
As clerkës (clerics) finden (now find)  
Written in their book.

Ne had the apple taken been,  
The apple taken been,  
Ne had never Our Lady  
A-been heavené queen.

Blessed be the time  
That apple taken was,  
Therefore we moun (may) singen  
*Deo gratias!* (*God is gracious*)

Words: anonymous 15<sup>th</sup> century

Music: Boris Ord (1897 - 1961)

*Read by a gentleman of the choir*

## The Second Lesson

*Genesis 22*

*God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed  
shall the nations of the earth be blessed*

AND the angel of the Lord called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time, and said, By myself have I sworn, saith the Lord, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: that in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.

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

**Come, thou Redeemer of the earth,  
And manifest thy virgin-birth:  
Let every age adoring fall;  
Such birth befits the God of all.**

<sup>2</sup> **Begotten of no human will,  
But of the Spirit, thou art still  
The Word of God, in flesh arrayed,  
The promised fruit to man displayed.**

<sup>3</sup> **Thy cradle here shall glitter bright,  
And darkness breathe a newer light,  
Where endless faith shall shine serene,  
And twilight never intervene.**

<sup>4</sup> **All laud to God the Father be,  
All praise, eternal Son, to thee:  
All glory, as is ever meet,  
To God the Holy Paraclete. Amen.**

Words: St. Ambrose (340 - 397)

Tune: PUER NOBIS  
Michael Praetorius (1571 - 1621)

Please be **seated**

*The prophet foretells the coming of the Saviour*

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. 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.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The choir sings*

Gesù Bambino  
(The Infant Jesus)

**Anthem**

When blossoms flowered 'mid the snows  
Upon a winter night  
Was born the Child the Christmas Rose,  
The King of love and light.

The angels sang, the shepherds sang,  
The grateful earth rejoiced,  
And at His blessed birth the stars  
Their exultation voiced.

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

Again the heart with rapture glows  
To greet the holy night  
That gave the world its Christmas Rose.  
Its King of love and light.

Let every voice acclaim His name,  
The grateful chorus swell,  
From paradise to earth He came  
That we with Him might dwell.

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

**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.**

<sup>2</sup> **From God our Heavenly Father  
A blessed Angel came;  
And unto certain shepherds  
Brought tidings of the same,  
How that in Bethlehem was born  
The Son of God by Name.  
O tidings of comfort and joy,  
Comfort and joy  
O tidings of comfort and joy.**

<sup>3</sup> **Now to the Lord sing praises,  
All you within this place,  
And with true love and brotherhood  
Each other now embrace;  
This holy tide of Christmas  
Is drawing on a pace  
O tidings of comfort and joy,  
Comfort and joy  
O tidings of comfort and joy.**

English traditional carol, possibly 18<sup>th</sup> century

*Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold*

AND there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots: and the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord; and shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord.

With righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth.

The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*A soprano sings*

**Aria**

How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace,  
and bring glad tidings of good things.

Words: Isaiah 52:7

Music: From 'Messiah'  
George Frideric Handel (1685 - 1759)

*The choir sings*

**Anthem**

Prepare the way of the Lord!  
Make straight his path.  
And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,  
and all mankind shall see it together.

Words: Isaiah 40: 4, 5

Music: William Rowan (b. 1951)

*The Archangel Gabriel visits the Blessed Virgin Mary*

AND in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His father David: and He shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of His kingdom there shall be no end. Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*A la nanita nana, nanita ea.\**

My little Jesus sleeps so sweetly,  
the holy infant sleeps so sweetly.

Rushing streams, tumbling waters,  
sheep on the midnight hills,  
rustling leaves, gentle zephyrs,  
sweet singing nightingales,  
still be these sounds of nature,  
all silence keeping,  
safe in the simple manger, Jesus is sleeping.

*A la nanita nana, nanita ea.*

Jesus sleeps so sweetly,  
The holy infant sleeps so sweetly.

Flowing brooks, playing fountains,  
wind in the olive trees,  
simple beasts of the pasture,  
birds of the forests,  
still, be these sounds of nature,  
all their silence keeping,  
safe in the simple manger,  
Jesus is sleeping.

*A la nanita nana, nanita ea.*

Spanish carol tune (arr. by Walter Ehret)

(\* Spanish lullaby sounds)

**O little town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by:  
Yet in the dark streets shineth  
The everlasting Light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee to-night.**

**2 O morning stars, together  
Proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the King,  
And peace to men on earth;  
For Christ is born of Mary;  
And, gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
Their watch of wondering love.**

*Choir*

<sup>3</sup> *How silently, how silently,  
The wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming;  
But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive him still,  
The dear Christ enters in.*

*Continued*



<sup>4</sup> **O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in:  
Be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell:  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Emmanuel.**

Words: Bishop Phillips Brooks (1835 - 1893)

Tune: FOREST GREEN  
English traditional tune,  
arr. Vaughan Williams  
Descant: Thomas Armstrong

*Please be **seated***

*Read by a Cathedral Trustee*

## The Sixth Lesson

*St Luke 2*

*St Luke tells of the birth of Jesus*

AND it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Cæsar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judæa, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

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

Sing this night, for a boy is born in Bethlehem,  
Christ our Lord in a lowly manger lies;  
Bring your gifts, come and worship at his cradle,  
Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!

*See his star shining bright  
In the sky this Christmas Night!  
Follow me joyfully;  
Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!*

Angels bright, come from heaven's highest glory,  
Bear the news with its message of good cheer:  
"Sing, rejoice, for a King is come to save us,  
Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!"

See, he lies in his mother's tender keeping;  
Jesus Christ in her loving arms asleep.  
Shepherds poor, come to worship and adore him,  
Offer their humble gifts before the son of Mary.

Let us all pay our homage at the manger,  
Sing his praise on this joyful Christmas Night;  
Christ is come, bringing promise of salvation;  
Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!

Sir John Rutter, CBE (b. 1945)

**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. //**

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

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

French Carol

*Please be **seated***

*Read by the Organist & Choirmaster*

## **The Seventh Lesson**

*St Luke 2*

### *The shepherds go to the manger*

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

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

*The choir sings*

## Recitative & Chorus

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying:  
“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.”

Words: Luke 2:13–14

Music: from ‘Messiah’  
G. F. Handel

*Read by a member of the  
Cathedral congregation*

## The Eighth Lesson *St Matthew 2*

*The wise men are led by a star to Jesus*

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judæa in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, Where is He that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen His star in the east, and are come to worship Him. When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judæa: for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel. Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, inquired of them diligently what time the star appeared.

And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.

When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary His mother, and fell down, and worshipped Him:  
and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto Him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh. And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

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

Remain **seated** and sing the  
refrain and the last verse

Carol

*Trio (choir)*      We three kings of Orient are  
                                Bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
                                Field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
                                Following yonder star.

*Refrain ALL*      **O star of wonder, star of light,  
                                Star with royal beauty bright,  
                                Westward leading, still proceeding,  
                                Guide us to thy perfect light.**

*Trio (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*      **O star of wonder, star of light,  
                                Star with royal beauty bright,  
                                Westward leading, still proceeding,  
                                Guide us to thy perfect light.**

*Trio (choir)*      <sup>3</sup> Frankincense to offer have I;  
                                Incense owns a Deity nigh;  
                                Prayer and praising, all men raising,  
                                Worship Him God on high:

*Refrain ALL*      **O star of wonder, star of light,  
Star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect light.**

*Trio (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 ALL*      **O star of wonder, star of light,  
Star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect light.**

*All STAND and sing*

<sup>5</sup> **Glorious now, behold Him arise;  
King, and God, and sacrifice!  
Heaven sings alleluya,  
Alleluya the earth replies:**

*Refrain ALL*      **O star of wonder, star of light,  
Star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect light.**

John H. Hopkins Jr (1820 - 1891)  
arr. Martin Neary, LVO (1940 - 2024)

*Remain **standing***

*St. John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation*

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: who 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, the glory as of the only-begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please be seated*

<sup>1</sup>. What's the true meaning of Christmas?  
I have often wondered myself is it only the birth of Christ,  
or is it something else?  
"I came down at Christmas but more than that, my dear, you see,  
love came down at Christmas."

*Refrain*

Love, unselfish love, pure divine from above  
love forgiving, love for a foe,  
such love came down at Christmas.

<sup>2</sup>. When God looked down from heaven  
He saw men steeped in sin.  
He sent down His Son to die on the cross,  
our sins to be forgiven.  
O what great love that was 'cause a man may die for a friend  
laying His life for a sinner like me,  
such love came down at Christmas.

<sup>3</sup>. Let us examine our lives this Christmas time,  
have we forgiven a neighbour or foe,  
shared with them love sublime.  
Jesus will help us with this,  
The Holy Spirit is with us,  
To lead us and guide us to practise this love,  
'cause such love came down at Christmas.

Words & Music by Mary (Shoba) Abraham  
Shoba is a member of the Cathedral choir  
arranged by David Hamilton (b. 1955)



**O come, all ye faithful,  
Joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold Him,  
Born the King of Angels:**

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

<sup>2</sup> **God of God,  
Light of light,  
Lo, He abhors not the Virgin"s womb;  
Very God,  
Begotten not created:**

<sup>3</sup> **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?**

<sup>4</sup> **Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:  
"Glory to God  
in the highest."**

Words: Latin, translated F. Oakley (1802 - 80)  
Tune: ADESTE FIDELES, by F. J. Wade (c. 1711 - 86)  
Organ arrangement and descant: Sir David Willcocks, CBE

## The Collect and Blessing

*The Presbyter* The Lord be with you.

*All* **And also with you.**

*The Presbyter* Let us pray.

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

*All* **Amen.**

*The Presbyter*

CHRIST who by His incarnation gathered into one all things in heaven and on earth, fill you with His 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.**

*As a fanfare is sounded, all **STAND** and sing*

Carol

**HARK!** the herald angels sing  
Glory to the new born King;  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled:  
Joyful all ye nations rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies,  
With the angelic host proclaim,  
'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'

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

*Continued*

<sup>2</sup> **Christ, by highest Heav'n adored,  
Christ, the Everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold Him come  
Offspring of a Virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the God-head 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.*

<sup>3</sup> **Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings,  
Risen with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by,  
Born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth,  
Born to give them second birth.**

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

Words: Charles Wesley (1707- 88)  
& G. Whitefield (1714 - 70)

Tune: MENDELSSOHN  
Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809 - 1847)  
Organ arrangement & descant: David Willcocks

*Remain standing as the choir and clergy make their way to the West Door.*  
:

## Postlude

Fantasia on, 'In Dulci Jubilo', BWV 729 - Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 - 1750)

## THE CHOIR

### *Soprano*

Shoba Abraham  
Supriya Daniel  
Arina Magar  
Leona Michyari  
Kusum Parker  
Laxmi Santhanam

### *Treble*

Aditya Rathod  
Nathanael Suganth

### *Alto*

Saara D'Souza  
Srishti Jain  
Mitali Rao  
Sarah Solomon

### *Tenor*

Melech Bansode  
Abhishek Kharat  
Amos Rangayya  
Giridaran Subramanian



### *Bass*

Benoy Abraham  
Jehaan Dhalla  
Roydon Gonsalves  
Kingston Singh

*The organist & choirmaster*

Ravi Paul Joshua

*The Cathedral Presbyter*

The Reverend Avinash Theophilus Rangayya

## **CHRISTMAS EVE**

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2025

10 pm

*Singing of carols by choir & congregation*

10:30 pm

*Festival Choral Eucharist*

*With lighting of the Christ Candle  
and Blessing of the Crib*

