



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 Fourth Sunday of Advent

with carols at the crib



*My soul doth magnify the Lord :
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
For he hath regarded : the lowliness of his handmaiden.*
Luke I: 47, 48

Sunday 21st December 2025 • 8.45 am

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.

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*



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

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

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

The Gathering

Voluntary

Gabriel's message - Michael Bedford (b. 1949)

'Cradle Song': Lullaby - Malcolm Archer (b. 1952)

Welcome

Before the service commences, we gather at the crib to sing carols.

*The congregation is invited to join in the text indicated in **bold**.*



Prayers at the Crib

Leader

As we place the manger, and call to mind the stable,
let us remember how a place never meant to be an infant's bed
became the home of our Lord.

All

**Let us pray that our homes will be places of hospitality
for all who enter them.**

All sing

**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.**

**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: ST. LOUIS
Lewis Redner (1831 - 1908)

Leader

As Mary opened herself to the miraculous working of God
through her,

**May we be instruments of God's love in whatever humble
way God summons us.**

As Joseph wondered, then obeyed,
where he could not understand,

**May we be obedient—even in the face of our own lack of
understanding.**

All join in singing

**To us a Child of royal birth,
heir of the promises, is given;
the invisible appears on earth,
the Son of Man, the God of heaven.**

Words: Charles Wesley (1707 - 88)

Tune: PUER NOBIS NASCITUR (# 309)

Music: M. Praetorius (1571 - 1621)

Leader

As the shepherds were the most common of old and yet the only
ones to be summoned by angels,

All

**May we never forget that God calls the simplest
among us to tasks of great glory.**

All join in singing

**While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
an angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.**

**"Fear not," said he for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind;
"glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and all mankind.**

The Presbyter says the following prayer

We pray to you, Lord Christ, to purify our hearts,
that they may be worthy to become your dwelling place.
Let us never fail to find room for you,
but come and abide in us,
that we also may abide in you,
for as at this time you were born into the world for us,
and live and reign,
King of kings and Lord of lords, now and forever.
Amen.

All sing **"All glory be to God on high,
 and to the earth be peace;
good will henceforth from heaven to men
begin and never cease."**

All **To you, O Jesus,
the kings brought gold, frankincense and myrrh.
We have nothing of our own to bring;
we bring you what you have given:
our lives for your life.
Amen.**

All process into the Cathedral, singing the following hymn

Entry Hymn| # 30

Hark the glad sound! the Saviour come

Tune: BRISTOL

Please be seated

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The Presbyter says **May the grace and peace of God be with you.**
All **And also with you.**

As the candle is lit, the choir sings

A great and mighty wonder,
a full and holy cure!
the Virgin bears the Infant
with virgin-honour pure :
Repeat the hymn again
‘To God on high be glory
And peace on earth to men.’

German carol
Harmonised Michael Praetorius (1571 - 1621)

Reader

The fourth burning candle recalls the angel Gabriel’s visit to Mary and the promise of the incarnation of the Son of God.

Lord Jesus, light of the world,
blessed is Gabriel, who brought good news;
blessed is Mary, your mother and ours.

All

**Bless your Church preparing for Christmas;
and bless us your children,
who long for your coming.
Amen.**

All say together

The Collect for Purity | **page 260**

During the Advent Season we sing the Kyrie instead of the Summary of the Law

Lord, have mercy. ///

Christ have mercy. ///

Lord have mercy. ///

Charles Velu (1920 - 2004)

The Liturgy of the Word

The Collect for the Fourth Sunday of Advent | **page 305**

Read by the Presbyter

The Collect for the First Sunday of Advent | **page 296**

Read by the Presbyter

Old Testament Reading | **page 305**

Isaiah 40. 1 - 9

A reading from the prophesy of Isaiah.

At the conclusion of the reading the reader says

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Remain seated as the choir sings

Psalm | page 43

Verba mea auribus 5:1-5, 7, 13

After the last verse, all stand for the Gloria Patri

Please be seated

The Epistle | **page 306**

Philippians 4. 4 - 7

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians

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

Gradual Hymn | # 360

For Mary, Mother of our Lord omit * v.v. 3, 4

Tune: ST. BOTOLPH

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

The Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,

and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

cf Isaiah 40.3-5

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Gospel of Christ | **page 306**

St John 1. 19 - 28

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

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

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

At the conclusion of the reading

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

Remain standing for the Creed and all recite together

The Nicene Creed | **page 265**

All sit

Sermon

The Reverend Avinash Rangayya, *Cathedral Presbyter*

Announcements

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

All stand

The Peace

The Celebrant offers a greeting of peace

May the God of peace make you completely holy,
ready for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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 share a sign of peace.

Remain standing to sing the offertory carol.

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.

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

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

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

⁴ **See him in a manger laid,
Whom the choirs of angels praise.
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid
While our hearts in love we raise.**

French Caro

All say

Offertory Prayer | **page 270**

All sit

Advent Prose

Cantor Pour down, O heavens, from above
Refrain (all) **and let the skies rain down righteousness.**

Comfort my people, comfort them; my salvation shall not
be delayed. I have swept your offences away like a cloud;
fear not, for I will save you.
I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your
redeemer.

Edited by Stephen Cleobury (1948 - 2019)

Kneel as able or remain seated

The Prayers of the People

Intercessor

Everlasting God we come today on the last Sunday of our Advent journey towards Christmas and we give thanks as we remember those journeys that were being taken on that first Christmas: Mary and Joseph - travelling by foot to enrol in the Roman census; the Wise Men following the signs in the heavens; the unsuspecting shepherds moving from pasture to pasture with their flocks; all moving through history towards a world changing event.

Lord, in your mercy:

All

hear our prayer.

Merciful God, we pray for all who, like Mary and Joseph, are making long and difficult journeys by foot, especially those fleeing from war and terror. Lord, in your mercy:

hear our prayer.

We pray for lasting peace in the Holy Land and in all areas of conflict. We pray that you will restore hope to the hopeless. For all those who are suffering, starving and mourning, we ask that help would reach them quickly – and that you would be their comfort, their healer and their safe refuge. Lord, in your mercy:

hear our prayer.

Faithful God we pray for the sick and the suffering especially when having to travel to hospital for treatment or surgery and for those who love them and care for them. Lord, in your mercy:

hear our prayer.

Loving God, give us ears to hear and minds to understand the message and gift of Christmas so that we may look forward with patience and confidence to that time when we will join you in the peace of eternity. And we especially pray for any we know who recently died and are on that journey to you.

Lord, in your mercy:

hear our prayer.

Gracious God, who chose Mary to be the mother of the promised Saviour: fill us with your grace, that like Mary we might rejoice in your salvation; send us out to finish our Advent journey filled with love and joy and peace ready to receive that promise afresh into our lives.

Merciful father:

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

Amen.

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

The Consecration | *page 277*

The Communion | *page 284*

Proceed to the High Altar for receiving Communion.

During the administration of Communion, while seated we sing.

Hymn at the Communion | **# 41**

It came upon the midnight clear

Tune: NOEL

All stand and say

Post Communion Prayer

**O Lord our God,
make us watchful and keep us faithful
as we await the coming of your Son our Lord;
that, when he shall appear,
he may not find us sleeping in sin
but active in his service
and joyful in his praise;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

All sing

**Lord the light of your love is shining.
In the midst of the darkness shining.
Jesus light of the world, shine upon us.
Set us free by the truth you now bring us.
Shine on me. Shine on me.**

**Shine Jesus shine,
Fill this land with the Father's Glory
Blaze Spirit blaze, set our hearts on fire.
Flow river flow
Flood the nation with grace and mercy.
Send forth your word.
Lord and let there be light.**

Graham Kendrick (b. 1950)

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,
scatter the darkness from before your path,
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;
and the blessing of God almighty, † the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

Carol at the Closing

**The first nowell the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.**

*Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,
born is the King of Israel.*

² **They lookèd up and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.**

³ **And by the light of that same star
Three wise men came from country far;
To seek for a king was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went.**

⁴ **Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord
That hath made Heaven and earth of nought
And with his blood mankind has bought.**

Traditional English carol

From the West Door, the Presbyter says:

The Dismissal

As we await our coming Saviour,
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

Postlude

'Der Tag, der ist so freudenreich', BWV 605 - Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 - 1750)
(The day of gladness now appears)

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

"Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever!"

Psalm 107. 1

Bishop Prakash Patole (24), Ms. Gayatri Long (25), Ms. Viveka Truman (27)

Wedding Anniversary this week

"I have found the one whom my soul loves." Song of Solomon 3:4

Mr. Jeffry & Mrs. Susan Fraser (27)

Services during Advent, Christmastide & New Year are listed on
the notice board in the porch.



Free reuse Vintage Christmas coloring at <https://holisticville.blogspot.com/>

Come to the stable....

NATIVITY PLAY

By the children of the Sunday School

This morning

10:45 am

In the church garden

With visit of Santa Claus!

All are warmly welcome

Sharing the Joy of Christmas

Give generously to share Christmas joy with clergy, missionaries and their families of churches in the various CNI dioceses in Maharashtra (Bombay, Pune, Kolhapur, Marathwada, Nagpur and Nasik.)

You can contribute Rs. 4,000/- for a box of provisions to a family.
Cheques in favour of *Bombay Diocesan Council Clergy Fund*. Make your donation before 8th December 2025.

Bank name - Bank of Baroda, Ballard Estate

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The Magnificat: A Prayer

(based on Luke 1: 47-55)

O God, whose word is fruitless
when the mighty are not put down,
the humble remain humiliated,
the hungry are not filled,
and the rich are;
make good your word,
and begin with us.

Open our hearts and unblock our ears
to hear the voices of the poor
and share their struggle;
and send us away empty with longing
for your promise to come true
in Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Janet Morley, in *Tell Out My Soul*,
Christian Aid, 1990

EUCCHARIST SERVICES	CAROL SERVICES, SEASONAL MUSIC & NATIVITY PLAY
Sun 30 th Nov First Sunday of Advent 7 am, 8.45 am	Sat 29 th Nov "From Darkness to Light" 6.30 pm An Advent sequence
Sun 7 th Dec Second Sunday of Advent 7 am, 8.45 am	
Sun 14 th Dec Third Sunday of Advent 7 am, 8.45 am	Sun 14 th Dec A Festival of 6.30 pm Nine Lessons & Carols with the Cathedral choir
	Wed 17 th Dec Carol service of 9 am The Cathedral & John Connon School
	Sat 20 th Dec Christmas music by 7.30 pm the Wild Voices choir
Sun 21 st Dec Fourth Sunday of Advent 7 am, 8.45 am	Sun 21 st Dec Nativity Play 10.45 am by the Sunday school
Christmas Eve Wed 24 th Dec 10 pm Christmas music 10.30 pm Festival Choral Eucharist with blessing of crib and lighting of the Christ candle	
The Nativity of our Lord Christmas Day Thurs 25 th Dec 9 am Festival Choral Eucharist	
The Holy Innocents Sun 28 th Dec • 7 am, 8.45 am	
Watchnight service New Year's Eve Wed 31 st Dec 10.30 pm Choral Eucharist	
The Naming & Circumcision of Jesus Thurs 1 st January 2026 Thanksgiving for a new year 9 am (said Eucharist)	
The Feast of the Epiphany Tues 6 th January Eucharist (sung) 6:30 pm	

Pray with us

† THE WORLD

We pray especially this week for our Jewish brothers and sisters in the wake of the terrible terrorist shootings at Bondi beach this week. We pray for all those who lost loved ones and are grieving for them, for those who were injured and those in hospital because of this senseless act. Be with all who are caring for them, we pray, and may there be an end to antisemitism and all violence. We continue to pray for peace in places of war, conflict and unrest, praying particularly today for the people of Cambodia and Thailand who are suffering because of the border conflict between those two nations. We pray for a quick and sensible response by their leaders and others who are trying to broker peace. As Christmas nears, we uphold before God all Christian people throughout the world who will find the season difficult because of oppression and sadness in their various situations.

† OUR COUNTRY

The air quality is unsafe in many parts of the country. We pray for those with respiratory issues who are adversely affected by the deteriorating air quality. We pray that people would act more responsibly so that pollution levels reduce.

† THE WORLDWIDE CHURCH

Advent marks the beginning of a new liturgical year. Help us, O Lord, to prepare ourselves for the coming of Thy Son • In the *Anglican Communion* - The Anglican Church of Burundi and the Most Reverend Sixbert Macumi.

† THE CHURCH IN INDIA

For the Diocese of Sambalpur and Bishop Immanuel Dani • For the Diocese of Rayalaseema and Bishop P. I. Vara Prasad

† THE DIOCESE OF BOMBAY

This week for the Church of the Holy Nativity, Matunga and the Reverend Samson Balid.

† OUR CATHEDRAL

All senior citizens and those who are unwell. Pray for all care providers • For all the services, programmes and concerts this Christmas • For the congregation and the many who come to this sacred place to pray during the week. For the many tourist groups who visit. May the Christ Child find a place in each of their hearts.

ST. THOMAS' CATHEDRAL

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

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

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