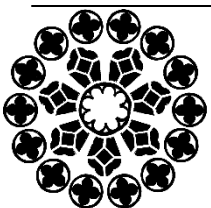


The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols



Truro
Cathedral

23rd December 2023
at 7.00 pm

ABOUT THIS SERVICE

Welcome to this service as we complete our spiritual preparation for the celebration of Christmas, and sing our carols of praise to welcome the God who comes among us as a child in a manger. This is the 143rd year since the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was instituted by Bishop Benson, the first Bishop of Truro. At the heart of tonight's liturgy Bishop Hugh will dedicate the Christmas Crib ready to receive the figure of the Christ-Child at the Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve.

The lessons are read by representatives of various aspects of the life of the diocese and cathedral, and partners within the wider community.

One innovation this year is a set of mini-poems placed within the service book as an aid to reflection upon the readings. In adding these we remember the short benedictions which punctuated Bishop Benson's original service in 1880:

"Unto the fellowship of the citizens above
may the King of Angels bring us all" .

Truro Cathedral is open all year round. There is no charge for entry and a warm welcome for all, a feat that is only possible thanks to donations, grants, gifts in Wills and an amazing band of cathedral volunteers. You are invited to make a Christmas donation to help care for this beautiful building and pass it on to future generations. A collection will be taken after the third lesson and contactless machines are available on your way out. Please use or fill-in a gift aid envelope. Thank you.

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Please make sure that all mobile phones are set to silent or flight mode.

The congregation are invited to join in the text of prayers and carols marked in **bold type**. This order of service invites worshippers to sit, kneel or stand but these are suggestions and worshippers may sit or kneel at other times.

The congregation stands when the Cathedral lights are extinguished

Opening Carol

The choir sings the opening verses

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.

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 join in singing the remaining verses as the choir and clergy process to their places in the Quire.

**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.**

**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.**

**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.**

**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;
Where like stars his children crowned
All in white shall wait around.**

Music: Henry Gauntlett (1805-1876)

Words: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818 – 1895)

Please remain standing

The Bidding Prayer
read by Canon Elly Sheard

Beloved in Christ, be it this Christmastide our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels, and 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.

Therefore 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: and let us make this Cathedral Church, dedicated to his most pure and lowly mother, glad with our carols of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace on earth; for love and unity within the Church he came to build; and especially in this city and diocese of Truro, and this county of Cornwall.

And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us remember, in his name, the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry, and the oppressed; the sick and them that mourn, the lonely and the unloved, the aged and the little children; all those 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 before God 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 for evermore are one.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the Throne of Heaven, in the words which Christ himself has 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.**

Please Sit

Carol
sung by the choir

Nowell.

Who is there that singeth so, *Nowell?*

I am here, Sir Christemas.

Welcome, my Lord Sir Christemas!

Welcome to all, both more and less, come near. *Nowell.*

Dieu vous garde, beaux sieurs, tidings I you bring:

A maid hath borne a child full young,

which causeth you to sing: *Nowell.*

Christ is now born of a pure maid;

In an ox stall he is laid,

Wherefore sing we at a brayed: *Nowell.*

Buvez bien, buvez bien par toute la compagnie.

Make good cheer and be right merry,

And sing with us now joyfully: *Nowell.*

Nowell!

Music: William Mathias (1934–92)

Words Anon (c1500)

First Lesson

Genesis 2:15-16, 3:6-7, 17-19

Disobedience and Death enter the world

read by A boy chorister

The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. And the Lord God commanded the man, 'You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.'

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realised that they were naked...

Then the Lord God said...'Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.' Thanks be to God.

*Hard labour in birth and work, sweat on our brow,
dirt on our hands. Thorns and thistles to prick and sting,
like death from a serpent's tongue,
till we return to the ground,
ashes to dust and dust to ashes.*

The Reverend Jonathan Evens

Choir Carol

Adam lay ybounden,
Bounden in a bond,
Four thousand winter
Thought he not too long

And all was for an apple,
An apple that he took,
As clerkes finden
Written in their book.

Music: Boris Ord (1897 – 1961)

Ne had the apple taken been,
The apple taken been,
Ne had never our Lady
A-been heavene Queen.

Blessed be the time
That apple taken was,
Therefore we moun singen
Deo Gracias! (Thanks be to God)

Words: Anonymous 15th century

Second Lesson

Isaiah 9.2, 6-7

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah
read by Mr James Anderson-Besant, the Director of Music

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined. For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice. From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this. Thanks be to God.

*Light in darkness promised
through the hard labour of the birth of a child.
A child bearing peace and goodwill,
bringing justice and righteousness
without end and without measure.*

The Reverend Jonathan Evens

Carol
sung by the choir

This is the truth sent from above,
The truth of God, the God of love.
Therefore don't turn me from your door,
But hearken all both rich and poor.

The first thing which I do relate
Is that God did man create.
The next thing which to you I'll tell,
Woman was made with man to dwell.

And we were heirs to endless woes,
Till God the Lord did interpose.
And so a promise soon did run,
That he would redeem us by his Son.

And at that season of the year,
Our blest redeemer did appear.
He here did live, and here did preach,
And many thousands he did teach.

Thus he in love to us behaved
To show us how we must be saved,
And if you want to know the way,
Be pleased to hear what he did say.

Words and Music: English traditional arranged by Vaughan Williams (1872 – 1958)

Third Lesson

Isaiah 11: 1-9

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown
read by Canon Daphne Skinnard, Lay Chapter Canon

And there shall come forth a rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: 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; His delight is in the fear of the Lord; and he shall not judge by the sight of his eyes, Nor decide by the hearing of His ears; But with righteousness He shall judge the poor; But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth. The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat; the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. the cow and the bear shall graze; their young ones will lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the nursing child shall play on the cobra's hole, and the weaned child shall put his hand in the vipers 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. Thanks be to God.

*A little child leading us to reconciliation.
From nature red in tooth and claw -
survival of the fittest - to peaceful co-existence.
Carnivores to herbivores, the drawing of the sting
from the serpent's tongue.*

The Reverend Jonathan Evens

Please Stand

Congregational Carol

**Of the Father's heart begotten,
Ere the world from chaos rose,
He is Alpha: from that Fountain
All that is and hath been flows;
He is Omega, of all things
Yet to come the mystic Close,
Evermore and evermore.**

**By his word was all created;
He commanded and 'twas done;
Earth and sky and boundless ocean,
Universe of three in one,
All that sees the moon's soft radiance,
All that breathes beneath the sun,
Evermore and evermore.**

**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.**

**This is he, whom seer and sibyl
Sang in ages long gone by;
This is he of old revealed
In the page of prophecy;
Lo! he comes, the promised Saviour;
Let the world his praises cry!
Evermore and evermore.**

**Sing, ye heights of heaven, his praises.
Angels and Archangels, sing!
Wheresoe'er ye be, ye faithful,
Let your joyous anthems ring,
Every tongue his name confessing,
Countless voices answering,
Evermore and evermore.**

Music: from 'Piae Cantiones' arranged by Willcocks

Words: Prudentius, Trans. by Robert Davis (1866-1937)

Please Sit

Fourth Lesson

Luke 1: 26-35, 38

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary
read by Mr Lionel Knight, the town cryer

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be,

since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her. Thanks be to God.

*Highly favoured as the Spirit overshadows.
A virgin birth of a son who will not marry or have blood offspring.
The saying of 'yes' to God opening
the way of the family of God to one and all.*

The Reverend Jonathan Evens

Choir Carol

I sing of a maiden that is makeles
king of all kings to her son she chose.
He came also stille. There his mother was
As dew in April that falleth on the grass.

He came also still to his mother bower
As dew in April that falleth on the flower.
He came also still where his mother lay
As dew in April that falleth on the spray.

Mother & maiden was never none but she
Well may such a lady God's mother be.

Music: Patrick Hadley (1899 -1973)

Words: Traditional medieval

Fifth Lesson

Luke 1: 39-45

The Blessed Virgin Mary visits her cousin Elizabeth
read by Mrs Annabel Gregory, Drama-coordinator of Truro School

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child

leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

Thanks be to God.

*The Spirit comes, the priest falls silent,
Elizabeth cries out in joy, the first to recognise
The barely showing baby in this belly before her
Is the Long-awaited Lord
The promise now takes flesh.*

S.M. Wallace

Choir Carol

In dulci jubilo (In sweet rejoicing)
Let us our homage shew:
Our heart's joy reclineth
In praesepio; (In the crib)
And like a bright star shineth
Matris in gremio, (On his mothers lap)
Alpha es et O! (You are Alpha and
Omega)

O Jesu parvule, (Little Jesus)
I yearn for thee alway!
Hear me, I beseech Thee,
O puer optime; (holy boy)
My prayer let it reach Thee,
O Princeps Gloriam. (Prince of glory)
Trahe me post te. (Bring me after you)

O patris caritas! (Father of charity)
O Nati lenitas! (Born of gentleness)
Deeply were we stained.
Per nostra crimina: (for our crimes)
But Thou for us hast gained
Coelorum gaudia, (the joy of heaven)
Qualis gloria! (What glory!)

Ubi sunt gaudia, (Where are joys?)
If that they be not there?
There are Angels singing
Nova cantica; (New songs)
And there the bells are ringing
In Regis curia. (in the King's court)
O that we were there!

Words and Music: old German, Arranged by Robert Pearsall

Sixth Lesson

Luke 2: 1-7

St Luke tells of the birth of Jesus

read by Canon Sue Wallace

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. Thanks be to God.

*No room for the Lord of life, Prince of peace.
Space shared with animals kept for sustenance;
the sacrifices of existence and forgiveness.
Born into poverty; the struggle for survival
that this child will one day redeem.*

The Reverend Jonathan Evens

Please Stand

Congregational Carol

sung by all

during which the servers escort the Bishop of St Germans to the Crib

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

**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.**

The Bishop blesses the Crib in which the figure of the Christ-Child will be placed on Christmas Eve.

Let us pray:

God our Father, at this holy season
your Son Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary for us and for our
salvation. Bless this crib, which we have prepared to celebrate that
holy birth; may all who see it be strengthened in faith
and receive the fullness of life he came to bring,
who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Bishop sprinkles the Crib with Holy Water while the choir sings the following verse

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.

The Bishop continues

We pray you, Lord, 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 for ever. **Amen.**

May the grace of Christ our Saviour be with us all. **Amen.**

All sing the final verse as the Bishop returns to his seat

**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.**

Music: Traditional arranged by Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Words: Bishop Phillip Brooks

Please sit

Seventh Lesson

Luke 2: 8-16

The shepherds go to the manger
read by the High Sheriff

Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, 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, goodwill toward men!" So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us." And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. Thanks be to God.

*The outsiders and ignored,
Receive a shining invitation
to the heart of heavens home.
The feeding trough becomes the place
Where dream-starved hearts are fed.*

S.M. Wallace

Carol

sung by the choir

We stood on the hills, Lady
Our day's work done
Watching the frosted
meadows
That winter had won.

The evening was calm, Lady
The air so still
Silence more lovely than
music
Folded the hill.

There was a star, Lady
Shone in the night
Larger than Venus it was
And bright, so bright.

Oh, a voice from the sky, Lady
It seemed to us then
Telling of God being born
In the world of men.

And so we have come, Lady
Our day's work done
Our love, our hopes, ourselves
We give to your son.

Words and Music: Bob Chilcott (b.1956)

Eighth Lesson

Matthew 2: 1-11

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus
read by Canon Alan Bashforth, Canon Chancellor

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written: "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."'

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' They set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Thanks be to God.

*Star following Magi look for the Prince of Peace
in the heart of power and opulence
only to find him in obscurity and humility.
Gifts given prefigure his divinity and sacrifice, the servant King
who, in birth and death, gives his life for others.*

The Reverend Jonathan Evens

Choir Carol

Night has come to Bethlehem,
The family is asleep
Exhausted by the wonders seen,
The news outrageous, deep
'That I may come and worship him.'

Ox, and ass have closed their eyes,
Their ears now hear no sound
Shepherds have gone back to their flocks,
The mouse still noses around.
'That I may come and worship him.'

Kings have left for their distant lands,
Fractious camels moan.
At a desert spring they make their farewells.
'It's a mighty way to home!'
'That I may come and worship him.'

Later that night their heads are filled
with a dream-drenched holy ray.
'Do not return to Herod the king,
Go back another way.'
'That I may come and worship him.'

And so our Christ is saved from death
His mission to complete
To change the world by selfless love
Satan's legions to beat.

Music: James Whitbourn (b.1963)

Words: Robert Tear

Please Stand.

Ninth Lesson

John 1.1-14

St John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation
read by the Bishop of St Germans

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Thanks be to God.

Creative word now created, enfleshed, incarnated.

Divine life flowing in and through this child.

*Light in darkness, revealing our passion
for power, position and personal gain.*

In poverty, a counterpoint is born - compassion.

The Reverend Jonathan Evens

Choir Carols

The tree of life my soul hath seen,
Laden with fruit, and always green:
The trees of nature fruitless be
Compared with Christ the apple
tree.

His beauty doth all things excel:
By faith I know, but ne'er can tell
The glory which I now can see
In Jesus Christ the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought
And pleasure dearly I have bought:
I missed of all; but now I see
'Tis found in Christ the apple tree.

Music by Elizabeth Poston (1905-1987)

I'm weary with my former toil,
Here I will sit and rest awhile:
Under the shadow I will be
Of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,
It keeps my dying faith alive;
Which makes my soul in haste to be
With Jesus Christ the apple tree.

Words: Joshua Smith (1760-1795)

Ding dong! merrily on high
in heav'n the bells are ringing
Ding dong! verily the sky
is riv'n with angel-singing.
Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis!

E'en so here below, below,
let steeple bells be swungen,
and i-o, i-o, i-o,
by priest and people sungen.
Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis!

Music: 16th century French Carol arr Mack Wilberg (b 1955).

Pray you, dutifully prime
your matin chime, ye ringers;
may you beautifully rhyme
your evetime song, ye singers.
Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis!

Words George Woodward (1848-1934)

*All remain standing to sing the following hymn
during which a collection is taken*

**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.***

**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:***

**See how the shepherds
Summoned to his cradle,
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
We too will thither
Bend our joyful footsteps:
*O come, let us adore him:***

**Lo, star-led chieftains,
Magi, Christ adoring,
Offer him incense, gold and myrrh;
We to the Christ-Child
Bring our hearts' oblations:
*O come, let us adore him:***

**Child, for us sinners
Poor and in the manger,
Fain we embrace thee with love and awe;
Who would not love thee,
Loving us so dearly?
*O come, let us adore him:***

**Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:
'Glory to God
In the highest:'
*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.***

Music: attr. John Francis Wade (1711-86) arr David Willcocks

Words: Frederick Oakeley (1802-80) and others

Please remain standing

The Collect of Christmas Eve *The Bishop of St Germans*

Almighty God,
you have given us your only-begotten Son
to take our nature upon him
and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin:
grant that we, who have been born again
and made your children by adoption and grace,
may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Blessing

Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one
things earthly and heavenly,
fill you with peace and goodwill
and make you partakers of the divine nature;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

All sing the final hymn during which the procession departs

Congregational 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 th'angelic host proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'
Hark, the herald-angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.**

**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.**

**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.**

Music: Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-88) and others

Organ Voluntary

Toccatà on "Vom Himmel Hoch" by Garth Edmundson

*The Bishop, Dean, Chapter, and all at Truro Cathedral wish you a very
blessed Christmas and peaceful New Year.*

Christmas Services at Truro Cathedral

Christmas Eve

Carol Service 7 pm

Midnight Mass – Sunday 24th December at 11.00 pm.

Christmas Day

BCP Holy Communion – 8 am

Morning Prayer – 9 am (in the Old Cathedral School)

Sung Eucharist – 10 am

Mid-Day Prayer – 12.15 pm

Saturday 30th December

Children and Pets Carol Service – 2.30 pm

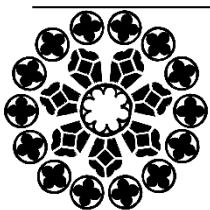
Thank you for joining us for this special service today. We would love you to stay in touch. Truro Cathedral is first and foremost a church, a living community working and worshipping in surroundings of great beauty. Set on an ancient holy site, it is accessible to all. Our primary purpose continues to be the daily round of prayer and worship, including Choral Evensong almost every evening at 5.30. This is a peaceful way to end the day, surrounded by beautiful music and a time to recharge in a stressful world.

There are many ways you can support the life and work of Truro Cathedral, whatever your beliefs: From worshipping and volunteering, to attending events, visiting or making a donation. You can discover more about all of these elements on our website, or you can like and follow us on our cathedral Facebook or Twitter accounts to stay up to date with all that is taking place here at Truro Cathedral.

Please take this order of service away

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**Truro
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