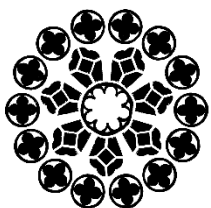


Festal Eucharist on
Christmas Day
Monday 25th December 2023
at 10am



Truro
Cathedral

President and Preacher:
The Bishop of St Germans

ABOUT THIS SERVICE

Welcome to Truro Cathedral and to this Eucharist. In it we recall the last meal of Christ with his friends in the Upper Room, and we recognise him in the breaking of the bread. Although our faith is grounded in history, this service is not a nostalgic looking back to the events of the past: it is a celebration that in the Eucharist Christ is truly present to us now, and a promise of the glory that will be ours when the whole universe is made complete in him.

The season of Christmas is a time of great joy, as we hear again the message of the angels, and go in heart and mind to Bethlehem to see the babe lying in a manger.

Holy Communion will be distributed at various places within the Cathedral. Please follow the directions of the Lay Assistants. All who usually receive Holy Communion in their own church are warmly invited to do so today. If you would prefer to receive a blessing, please bow your head as a signal to the minister. Please note that Intinction (the dipping of the consecrated host into the chalice) is not permitted.

Gluten free hosts are available. Please have a word with a vergers before the service if you require gluten free.

All of us at the Cathedral wish you a joyful and peaceful Christmas and pray that you will know the presence of the incarnate Christ in your hearts and lives.

Offerings

The collection supports the cathedral to offer sacred space and common ground to all in Cornwall, and to cherish our common life.

To give regularly by Direct Debit, visit www.parishgiving.org.uk
or call 0333 002 1271.

Single gifts can be made within the cathedral or online:
www.justgiving.com/trurocathedral.

If you would like to speak to someone about the Christian faith, please email info@trurocathedral.org.uk or phone the cathedral office 01872 276782 and leave a message.

A member of the clergy team will then be in touch with you.

Introit Carol

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.

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.

Music: Elizabeth Poston (1905-1987)

Text: Anonymous

Please stand

The Gathering

**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...***

**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...***

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born this happy morning,
Jesu to thee be glory giv'n;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing:
*O come, let us adore him...***

Music: JF Wade (1711-86)

Words: Latin 18th C Translation F. Oakley (1802-1880)

*The congregation are invited to join in the parts of the service written in **bold type**. Directions on posture are given for guidance and the congregation are free to sit or kneel when required.*

The Greeting

Bishop Hugh Greets the people

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Words of welcome may be said.

Prayers of Penitence

The deacon invites all to confess their sins

Christ the Light of the World was born to dispel the darkness of our hearts. In his light, let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

**Almighty God,
our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen.**

The Bishop gives the absolution

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Please remain standing

The mass setting this morning is the 'Truro Eucharist' by David Briggs (b. 1962)

Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Et in terra pax
hominibus bonae voluntatis.
Laudamus te, benedicimus te,
adoramus te, glorificamus te.
Gratias agimus tibi propter
magnam gloriam tuam,
Domine Deus, Rex caelestis,
Deus Pater omnipotens.
Domine Fili unigenite,

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace
to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
Almighty God and Father,
we worship you,
we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ,
only Son of the Father,

Jesu Christe, Domine Deus, Agnus
Dei, Filius Patris,
qui tollis
peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.
Qui tollis peccata mundi,
suscipe deprecationem nostram.
Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris,
miserere nobis.
Quoniam tu solus Sanctus,
tu solus Dominus,
tu solus Altissimus,
Jesu Christe,
cum Sancto Spiritu:
in gloria Dei Patris. Amen.

Lord God,
Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated
at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone
are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

The Collect

The Bishop says the Collect, the special prayer of Christmas Day.

Let us pray:

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.

Please sit

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Isaiah 52: 7 - 10

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.' Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Hebrews 1: 1 - 4

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand

Congregational Carol

God rest you merry, gentlemen,
let nothing you dismay,
for Jesus Christ our Saviour
was born upon this day,
to save us all from Satan's power
when we were gone astray:
O tidings of comfort and joy.

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.

The Shepherds at those tidings
rejoicèd much in mind,
and left their flocks a-feeding
in tempest, storm and wind,
and went to Bethlehem straightway
this blessèd Babe to find.
O tidings of comfort and joy.

But when to Bethlehem they came
whereat this infant lay,
they found him in a manger,
where oxen feed on hay;
his mother Mary kneeling
unto the Lord did pray:
O tidings of comfort and joy.

**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
all other doth deface:
O tidings of comfort and joy.**

Music: London carol arranged by David Willcocks (b 1919)

Text: Anonymous

Gospel Reading

Luke 2: 1 - 14

The deacon says

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

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. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and 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 heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!' When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

The Bishop says an opening invocation or prayer, and then all sit.

The Creed

Please stand

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge
the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

The intercessor introduces the prayers with these or other suitable words

Let us pray to the Father through Christ who was born to redeem us.

Please sit

These responses may be used

Holy God,
Hear our prayer.

At the end of the prayers silence is kept and then the president says the following collect

Father, angels and shepherds worshipped at the manger throne.
Receive the prayers and worship we offer in fellowship with Mary,
Joseph and the saints through him who is your Word made flesh,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Please stand

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,
and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All And also with you.

The deacon says

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Congregational Carol

**While shepherds watched
their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
the 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.**

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

**The heavenly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
and in a manger laid.'**

**Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song:**

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

Tune: Lyngham A&M 742ii.

Text: Nahum Tate (1652-1715)

The Prayer over the Gifts

Word made flesh, life of the world,
in your incarnation you embraced our poverty:
by your Spirit may we share in your riches. **Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer A

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,
mighty creator, ever-living God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who for love of our fallen race humbled himself,
was born of the Virgin Mary by the power of your Spirit,
and lived as one of us.

In this mystery of the Word made flesh
you have caused his light to shine in our hearts,
to give knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.
In him we see our God made visible
and so are caught up in the love of the God we cannot see.
Therefore with all the angels of heaven
we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name
and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

The choir sings the Sanctus and Benedictus

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt coeli et terra
gloria tua.
Hosanna in excelsis.

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full
of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

Benedictus qui venit
in nomine Domini.
Hosanna in excelsis.

Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and as we follow his example and obey his command,
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us his body and his blood;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.

Therefore, heavenly Father,
we remember his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross;
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;
we look for the coming of your kingdom,
and with this bread and this cup
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Deacon: Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts
in the presence of your divine majesty,
renew us by your Spirit,
inspire us with your love
and unite us in the body of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty,
in songs of everlasting praise:
**Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

Please remain standing

The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour 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.**

Breaking of the Bread

We break the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.

**God here among us,
light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.**

Giving of Communion

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

At the Distribution the minister says

The Body of Christ.
The Blood of Christ.

*The worshipper replies **Amen**, and then receives.*

The choir sings the Agnus Dei

Agnus Dei, qui tollis
peccata mundi:
miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis
peccata mundi:
dona nobis pacem.

Lamb of God, you take away the
sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.

Lamb of God, you take away the
sin of the world,
grant us peace.

During the Distribution the choir sing the following carols

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*.

Music: William Mathias (1934–92)

Text: Anonymous (c1500)

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

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

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

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

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

Music: Bob Chilcott Words: Anon (possibly by
Charles Causley, the Cornish poet)

Ding dong! merrily on high
in heaven the bells are ringing:
Ding dong! verily the sky
is riven with angel singing.
Gloria, hosanna in excelsis!

E'en so here below, below,
let steeple bells be swungen,
and io, io, io,
by priest and people sungen.

Pray you, dutifully prime
your matin chime, ye ringers;
may you beautifully rime
your evetime song, ye singers.

Music: 16th century French melody
arranged by Mack Wilberg (1955-)

Text: George Ratcliffe Woodward (1848-1934)

After Communion

Please stand

The Bishop says the Post Communion prayer.

God our Father, whose Word has come among us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem: may the light of faith illumine our hearts and shine in our words and deeds; through him who is Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

**Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood
of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you
our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work
to your praise and glory.
Amen.**

Final 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 th'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 (1809–47)

Words: Charles Wesley and others (1707–88)

The Dismissal

The Bishop says

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

May God the Father, who has loved the eternal Son from before the foundation of the world, shed that love upon you his children.

Amen.

May Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with joy and peace.

Amen.

May the Holy Spirit, by whose overshadowing Mary became the God-bearer, give you grace to carry the good news of Christ.

Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

The deacon says

Go in the peace of Christ.

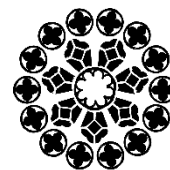
Thanks be to God.

Organ Voluntary
Carillon-Sortie by Henri Mulet (1878 - 1967)

Please remain standing as the choir and clergy depart.

Please take this order of service away with you.

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**Truro
Cathedral**