

The Eucharist of Christmas Morning



Truro
Cathedral

December 25th 2020
10.00am

ABOUT THIS SERVICE

Welcome to Truro Cathedral. It is with great rejoicing that we are able to hold public worship this Christmas. Nevertheless please note that certain precautions will still have to be observed:

- Unless you live in the same household please ensure that you observe the social distancing regulations at all times, especially when choosing a seat or queueing for communion.
- In keeping with current regulations please wear a face mask while in the cathedral.
- In order to minimise movement around the cathedral the service will be conducted from a nave altar which will be situated in the Crossing.
- Communion can only be received in one kind (the consecrated bread).
- Please follow the guidance of the stewards and vergers when going to receive Holy Communion. Please also ensure the 2 metre distancing when queueing to receive communion.
- It is currently unclear whether singing is a cause of transmission of the COVID-19 virus. Until the scientific evidence indicates otherwise and permission is given, regrettably the service will be unable to contain congregational hymns.
- To minimise physical contact, the Peace will not be shared.
- Please make every effort to support the cathedral at this financially difficult time. A collection plate will be available at the back of the cathedral and a contactless donation point can be found in the north aisle.
- Although printed orders of service are available in the cathedral, you are invited to download the order of service onto your mobile phone, ipad or other electronic device.

Gluten free hosts are available for those who need them. Please have a word with a verger before the service if you require gluten free.

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.

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

THE EUCHARIST OF CHRISTMAS MORNING

The Gathering

During the hymn, sung by the choir, the ministers enter and reverence the altar

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,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

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!

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born this happy morning;
Jesu, to thee be glory given:
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing:
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

The president says

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

All **Amen.**

The Greeting

The president greets the people

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you

All **and also with you.**

The Christmas Candle Ceremony

The president introduces the Christmas Candle Ceremony

We have this Ring of Light to remind us of the coming of Jesus,
the Light of the world.

The central candle is lit and the president says

We light this candle to celebrate the birth of Christ,
for his light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness will never overcome it.

People of God: shout and sing!
Tell the good news of peace on earth.
Lord, bring us today into Christ's peace.
All God's people shout:

All **Amen!**

Angels dance
and the bright star shines.
All creation bows to the Lord of all.
Lord, bring us today into Christ's light.
All God's people shout:

All **Amen!**

One with us,
yet born to save,
he will show us the way to God.
Lord, bring us today into Christ's love.
All God's people shout:

All **Amen!**

People of God: shout and sing:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen!

All

The choir sings the Gloria in excelsis from the 'Missa Brevis' by Jonathan Dove

Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Et in terra pax
hominibus bonae voluntatis.

Glory be to God on high,
and in earth peace,
good will towards men.

Laudamus te,
benedicimus te,
adoramus te,
glorificamus te.
Gratias agimus tibi propter
magnam gloriam tuam,
Domine Deus,
Rex caelestis,
Deus Pater omnipotens.

We praise thee,
we bless thee,
we worship thee,
we glorify thee,
we give thanks to thee
for thy great glory,
O Lord God,
heavenly King,
God the Father Almighty.

Domine Fili unigenite,
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.

O Lord, the only begotten Son
Jesu Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God,
Son of the Father,
that takest away
the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away
the sins of the world,
receive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right
hand of God the Father,
have mercy upon us.

Quoniam tu solus Sanctus,
tu solus Dominus,
tu solus Altissimus,
Jesu Christe,
cum Sancto Spiritu:
in gloria Dei Patris.

Amen.

For thou only art holy;
thou only art the Lord;
thou only, O Christ,
with the Holy Ghost,
art most high
in the glory of God the Father.

Amen.

The Collect

The president says

Let us pray

and all remain standing for a period of silent prayer.

The president says the Collect.

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.

All **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

Sit

First Reading
Isaiah 52.7-20

A reading from the prophecy of 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.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Please remain seated while the choir sings the Carol

See amid the winter's snow,
Born for us on earth below;
See the tender Lamb appears,
Promised from eternal years:
Hail, thou ever blessed morn:
Hail, redemption's happy dawn;
Sing through all Jerusalem,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.

Lo, within a manger lies
He who built the starry skies;
He who, throned in height sublime,
Sits amid the cherubim:
Hail, thou ever blessed morn...

Say, ye holy shepherds, say,
What your joyful news today;
Wherefore have ye left your sheep
On the lonely mountain steep?
Hail, thou ever blessed morn...

As we watched at dead of night,
Lo, we saw a wondrous light;
Angels, singing 'Peace on earth.'
Told us of the Saviour's birth:
Hail, thou ever blessed morn...

Sacred Infant, all divine,
What a tender love was thine,
Thus to come from highest bliss
Down to such a world as this:
Hail, thou ever blessed morn...

Teach, O teach us, Holy child,
by thy face so meek and mild,
Teach us to resemble thee,
In thy sweet humility:
Hail, thou ever blessed morn...

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.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

Sung by the choir

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

The president says

The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

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,

All genuflect or bow for a moment of silence

and we have seen his glory,
the glory as of a father's only son,
full of grace and truth.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Rt Revd Philip Mounstephen, Bishop of Truro

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

At the end of the sermon all remain seated, standing when the president stands.

The Creed

**All 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 president introduces the prayers of intercession with these or other suitable words

Let us pray to the Father
through Christ who is our Light and Life.

Sit

Father, on this day your Son our Saviour
was born in human flesh.
Renew your Church as the body of Christ and give us grace to preach
the gospel of Christ's redemption.

All Holy God
hear our prayer.

On this holy day Mary, in the pain of labour,
brought your Son to birth.
Hold in your hand all who are in pain or distress and bring comfort
to all who suffer in the sadness of our world.

All Holy God
hear our prayer.

On this holy day the angels sang 'Peace to God's people on earth'.
Strengthen those who work for peace and justice
in all the world and protect with your love those who have no home
and all who live in poverty.

All Holy God
hear our prayer.

On this holy day strangers found the Holy Family,
and saw the baby lying in the manger.
Bless our homes and all whom we love this Christmas time.
and hold in your hand all those we have known who have passed
through death, in the hope of your coming kingdom.

All Holy God
hear our prayer.

On this holy day angels and shepherds worshipped
at the manger throne.
Receive the worship we offer this day
in fellowship with Mary, Joseph and the saints.

All Holy God
hear our prayer.

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

Heavenly Father,
you have promised through your Son Jesus Christ,
that when we meet in his name,
and pray according to his mind,
he will be among us and hear our prayer:
in your love and mercy fulfil our desires,
and give us your greatest gift,
which is to know you, the only true God,
and your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Stand

The Peace

The president introduces the Peace with this sentence

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

All **The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.**

The choir sing the following carol while the altar is prepared, please be seated.

**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my bedside till morning is nigh.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
Close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.**

Music: William J. Kirkpatrick, arranged by Gary Cole
Words: anonymous

Stand

The president takes the bread and wine and says

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

All **Amen.**

The president says

The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All 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

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.

Please remain standing as the president continues

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit,

that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.

He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross.
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

All Great is the mystery of faith:
Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again

Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.
Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

The president introduces the Lord's Prayer in these or other suitable words

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

All **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

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

We break the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.
All **God here among us,
light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.**

Giving of Communion

The president says the following invitation to communion

God's holy gifts
for God's holy people.
All **Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

All sit. Please follow the direction of the Lay Assistants during the distribution of communion.

At the distribution the minister says

The body of Christ.

The communicant replies each Amen, and then receives.

During the distribution the following may be sung

**Agnus Dei,
qui tollis
peccata mundi:
miserere nobis.**

**O Lamb of God,
that takest away the sins of
the world,
have mercy upon us.**

**Agnus Dei,
qui tollis
peccata mundi:
miserere nobis.**

**O Lamb of God,
that takest away the sins of
the world,
have mercy upon us.**

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

**O Lamb of God,
that takest away the sins of
the world,
grant us thy peace.**

Followed by these carols

I saw three ships come sailing in

Music: English traditional, arranged by Philip Marshall

Words: anonymous

**A babe is born all of a may, To bring salvation unto us. To him we
sing both night and day.**

Veni Creator Spiritus. (Come, Creator Spirit.)

**At Bethlehem, that blessed place, The child of bliss now born he was;
And him to serve God give us grace,
O lux beata Trinitas. (O Trinity of blessed light.)**

There came three kings out of the East, To worship the King that is so
free, With gold and myrrh and frankincense,
A solis ortus cardine. (From the rising of the sun.)

The angels came down with one cry, A fair song that night sung they
In worship of that child:
Gloria tibi Domine. (Glory to thee, O Lord.)
Noel!

Music: William Mathias
Words: anonymous

Prayer after Communion

At the end of the distribution the president returns to the altar and says

Let us pray

Stand

The president 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.

All **Amen.**

The following prayer is said

All **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.**

The president says

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

The president uses this or another suitable blessing

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

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

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

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

The president says

All **Proclaiming the Word made flesh, go in the peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.**

The choir sing the final hymn

**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.

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.

The ministers and people depart.

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Truro
Cathedral

Please take this order of service away with you.