

# The Midnight Mass of Christmas

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Truro  
Cathedral

December 24<sup>th</sup> 2020  
11.00pm

## 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 MIDNIGHT MASS OF CHRISTMAS

## The Gathering

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*During the hymn, sung by the choir, the ministers enter, the president carrying the figure of the Christ child.*

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!

*As the procession reaches the Crib, the president places the figure of the Christ child in the manger and then says*

Dear friends, as we meet to celebrate the birth of Christ,  
let us pray that God will fill our hearts with love,  
so that we and all who worship his Son, born of the Virgin Mary,  
may come to share his life in glory.

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.

*All* **Amen.**

*The choir sings the following verse*

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

### **Prayers of Penitence**

*A minister invites the people to confess their sins using these words*

**Christ the Light of the World**  
has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts.  
Let us turn to the light and confess our sins.

*Silence is kept.*

**God our Father,**  
you sent your Son full of grace and truth:  
forgive our failure to receive him.  
Lord, have mercy.

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

**Jesus our Saviour,**  
you were born in poverty and laid in a manger:  
forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.  
Christ, have mercy.

*All* **Christ, have mercy.**

**Spirit of love,**  
your servant Mary responded joyfully to your call:  
forgive the hardness of our hearts.  
Lord, have mercy.

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

*The president says*

May the God of all healing and forgiveness  
draw you to himself,  
that you may behold the glory of his Son,  
the Word made flesh,  
and be cleansed from all your sins,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

*The procession returns to the nave and the altar is revered as the choir  
sing the following verses*

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  
**and also with you.**

*All*

Welcome all wonders in one sight!  
Eternity shut in a span.  
Summer in winter, day in night,  
heaven in earth and God in man.  
Great little one whose all-embracing birth  
brings earth to heaven, stoops heaven to earth.  
**Glory to God in the highest.**

*All*

*The choir sings the Gloria in excelsis from the 'Missa Brevis' by Grayston Ives*

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

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

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.

the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer.

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

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.*

**Eternal God,**  
who made this most holy night  
to shine with the brightness of your one true light:  
bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth,  
to see the radiance of your heavenly glory;  
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.**

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## The Liturgy of the Word

***Sit***

**First Reading**  
Isaiah 9.2-7

A reading from the prophecy of Isaiah

The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness -  
on them light has shined.  
You have multiplied the nation,  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.

For the yoke of their burden,  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.  
For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

His authority shall grow continually,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onwards and for evermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

This is the word of the Lord.

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

*Please remain seated while the choir sings the hymn.*

Silent night, holy night,  
All is calm, all is bright,  
Round yon virgin mother and child;  
Holy infant, so tender and mild:  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.



Silent night, holy night.  
Shepherds quake at the sight,  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heavenly hosts sing 'alleluia';  
Christ, the Saviour is born,  
Christ, the Saviour in born.

Silent night, holy night.  
Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiance beams from thy holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace:  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

**Second Reading**  
*Titus 2.11-14*

A reading from the letter of Paul to Titus.

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all,  
training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions,  
and in the present age to live lives  
that are self-controlled, upright, and godly,  
while we wait for the blessed hope  
and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour,  
Jesus Christ.

He it is who gave himself for us  
that he might redeem us from all iniquity  
and purify for himself a people of his own  
who are zealous for good deeds.

This is the word of the Lord.

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

***Stand***

**Gospel Reading**  
**Luke 2.1-14**

*The choir sings the following Gospel acclamation.*

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

*A minister says*

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

*All* Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to 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!'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

*All* **Praise to you, O Christ**

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

### **Sermon**

The Very Revd Roger Bush, Dean of Truro

*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, in this holy night 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.**

**In this holy night 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.**

**In this holy night 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.**

In this holy night 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.**

In this holy night angels and shepherds worshipped  
at the manger throne.  
Receive the worship we offer this night  
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.**

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## The Liturgy of the Sacrament

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### *Stand*

### **The Peace**

*The president introduces the Peace with this sentence*

This holy night the angels sang,  
'Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace to all in whom he delights.'

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

*Please sit while the altar is prepared but stand when the organ stops playing*

*The president takes the bread and wine and says*

*All*    **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 E

*The president says*

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

*All*    **Lift up your hearts.  
We lift them to the Lord.**

*All*    **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*

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.

Great is the mystery of faith:  
**All 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*

*All* **God's holy gifts  
for God's holy people.  
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 time 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*

Deep in the cold of winter,  
Darkness and silence were everywhere;  
Softly and clearly, there came through the stillness  
A wonderful sound to hear:  
All bells in paradise I heard them ring,  
Sounding in majesty the news that they bring;  
All bells in paradise I heard them ring,  
Welcoming our Saviour, born on earth a heavenly King.  
All bells in paradise I heard them ring:  
'Glory to God on high' the angel voices sing.

Lost in awe and wonder,  
Doubting I asked what this sign might be:  
Christ our Messiah revealed in a stable,  
A marvellous sight to see.  
All bells in paradise I heard them ring,  
Sounding in majesty the news that they bring;  
All bells in paradise I heard them ring,  
Welcoming our Saviour, born on earth a heavenly King.

He comes down in peace, a child in humility,  
The keys to his kingdom belong to the poor;  
Before him shall kneel the kings with their treasures,  
Gold incense and myrrh.  
All bells in paradise I heard them ring,  
Sounding in majesty the news that they bring;  
All bells in paradise I heard them ring,  
Welcoming our Saviour, born on earth a heavenly King.  
All bells in paradise I heard them ring:  
'Glory to God on high' the angel voices sweetly sing.

Text and Music: John Rutter  
Words: inspired by the fifteenth-century *Corpus Christi Carol*.

O leave your sheep, your lambs that follow after,  
O leave the brook, the pasture and the crook,  
No longer weep, turn weeping into laughter,  
O shepherds, seek your goal,  
Your Lord, your Lord, who cometh to console.

You'll find him laid within a simple stable,  
A babe new born, in poverty forlorn,  
In love array'd, a love so deep 'tis able  
To search the night for you.  
'Tis he! 'Tis he! 'Tis he! the Shepherd true!

O kings so great! a light is streaming o'er you  
More radiant far than diadem or star;  
Forego your state! a baby lies before you  
Whose wonder shall be told:  
Bring myrrh! Bring myrrh! Bring frankincense and gold!

Music: Kenneth Leighton  
Words: French traditional, translated Alice Raleigh

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!*

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

Music: 16<sup>th</sup> century French Carol, arranged Mack Wilberg  
Words: G R Woodward

## 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,  
in this night you have made known to us again  
the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:  
confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him  
until the day dawns  
and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts.  
To him be glory both now and for ever.

*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.**

### **Acclamation**

*The president leads the people in the following acclamation*

*All* The people who walked in darkness  
**have seen a great light.**

*All* For to us a child is born  
**to us a Son is given.**

His name will be called  
Wonderful counsellor, mighty God,

*All* **the everlasting Father,  
the Prince of Peace.**

*All* **Glory to God in the highest  
and peace to his people on earth.**

## Blessing

*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.*

Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of  
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Truro  
Cathedral

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1758*

***Please take this order of service away with you.***

Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
though Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

*A prayer of preparation before receiving communion*

We do not presume  
to come to this your table, merciful Lord,  
trusting in our own righteousness,  
but in your manifold and great mercies.  
We are not worthy  
so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.  
But you are the same Lord  
whose nature is always to have mercy.  
Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord,  
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ  
and to drink his blood,  
that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body  
and our souls washed through his most precious blood,  
and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us.  
Amen.

*A prayer for use at the Crib*

O God the Son, highest and holiest,  
who humbled yourself to share our birth and our death:  
bring us with the shepherds and the wise men  
to kneel before your holy cradle,  
that we may come to sing with your angels  
your glorious praises in heaven;  
where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign,  
God, world without end.  
Amen.