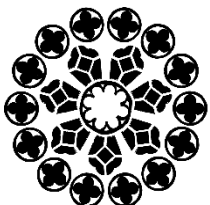


Midnight Mass
Sunday 24th December 2023
at 11pm



Truro
Cathedral

President: Canon Alan Bashforth
Preacher: The Dean

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 and gluten free hosts are also available. 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 the dipping of the consecrated host into the chalice is not permitted.

All are invited to join in the words written in **bold type**. This order of service invites worshippers to sit, kneel or stand but these are invitations and worshippers may sit or kneel at other times.

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 using the card machines near the entrance
or online: www.justgiving.com/trurocathedral.

The Gathering

Please remain seated while the choir sing the Introit and the servers and clergy move to the crib.

Gloria in Excelsis Deo by John Taverner (1490 – 1545)

Gloria in excelsis Deo

Glory to God in the highest.

Blessing of the Crib

The figure of the Christ-child is placed in the crib as the President says

Dear friends, as we meet to celebrate the birth of Christ, let us pray that God will bless this crib, that all who worship his Son, born of the Blessed Virgin Mary, may come to share his life in glory.

God our Father, on this night 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; through Christ who is alive and reigns now and for ever. **Amen.**

The crib is then sprinkled with Holy Water and censed.

Please stand

Congregational Carol

**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.**

**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.**

**O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in,
be born in us to-day.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel.**

Music: English traditional melody

Words: Phillips Brooks (1835-93)

The Greeting

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

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ 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 president says

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 for tonight is the Missa Brevis by Jonathan Dove (b. 1959)

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

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace
to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
Almighty God and Father,

adoramus te, glorificamus te.
Gratias agimus tibi propter
magnam gloriam tuam,
Domine Deus,
Rex caelestis,
Deus Pater omnipotens.
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.
Quoniam tu solus Sanctus,
tu solus Dominus,
tu solus Altissimus,
Jesu Christe,
cum Sancto Spiritu:
in gloria Dei Patris. Amen.

we worship you,
we give you thanks,
we praise you
for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ,
only Son of the Father,
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 president says the Collect, the special prayer of the day.

Let us pray

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. **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Isaiah 52: 7-10

Please sit

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

It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
'Peace on the earth, good-will to men,
From heaven's all gracious King!'
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come,
With peaceful wings unfurled;
And still their heavenly music floats
O'er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hovering wing;
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife
The world has suffered long;
Beneath the angel-strain have rolled
Two thousand years of wrong;
And man, at war with man, hears not
The love-song which they bring:
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,
And hear the angels sing!

For lo! The days are hastening on,
By prophet bards foretold,
When, with the ever-circling years,
Comes round the age of gold;
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendours fling,
And the whole world give back the song
Which now the angels sing.

Gospel Reading

John 1: 1 - 14

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 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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

The preacher 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

Please sit or kneel

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

These responses may be used:

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

Merciful Father,

accept these prayers for the sake of your Son

our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

Please stand

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

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Deacon: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Hymn

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

***Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.***

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

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

Then entered in those Wise men three
Full reverently upon their knee
And offered there in His presence
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense.

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

Music: English traditional

Words: Traditional

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

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt coeli et terra
gloria tua.
Hosanna in excelsis.
Benedictus qui venit
in nomine Domini.
Hosanna in excelsis.

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

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

The president says the following invitation to 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.**

Please sit. 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 carry this service paper as a signal to the minister. If you would prefer not to receive the chalice, please receive in one kind (the bread) only. Gluten free wafers are available.

At the Distribution the minister says

The Body of Christ.
The Blood of Christ.

*The communicant replies each time **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:

'The Sans Day Carol'

Now the holly bears a berry as white as the milk,
and Mary bore Jesus, who was wrapped up in silk:

*and Mary bore Jesus our Saviour for to be,
and the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly.
Holly! Holly! And the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly!*

Now the holly bears a berry as green as the grass,
and Mary bore Jesus, who died on the cross:

Now the holly bears a berry as black as the coal,
and Mary bore Jesus, who died for us all:

Now the holly bears a berry, as blood is it red,
then trust we our Saviour, who rose from the dead:

Music: traditional, arr John Rutter (b 1945)

Words: Cornish, 19th century

'Silent night'

Silent night, holy night,
All is dark, save the light
Shining where the mother mild
Watches over the holy child.
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,
Shepherds first saw the sight,
Heard the angel song, alleluia,
Loud proclaiming near and far:
Christ our saviour is here, Christ our saviour is here.

Silent night, holy night,
God's own son,
Oh how bright
Shines the love in thy holy face,
Shines the light of redemption and grace,
Christ the incarnate God, Christ the incarnate God.

'Tomorrow shall be my dancing day'

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day;
I would my true love did so chance
To see the legend of my play,
To call my true love to my dance;
*Sing, oh! my love, oh! my love, my love, my love,
This have I done for my true love*

Then was I born of a virgin pure,
Of her I took fleshly substance
Thus was I knit to man's nature
To call my true love to my dance.

In a manger laid, and wrapped I was
So very poor, this was my chance
Betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass
To call my true love to my dance.

Then afterwards baptized I was;
The Holy Ghost on me did glance,
My Father's voice heard from above,
To call my true love to my dance.

Music: John Gardner (1917-2011)

Words: Traditional

After Communion

Please stand

Let us pray:

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. **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

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 president 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.

Deacon: Go in the peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God

Organ Voluntary

'Dieu parmi nous' by Olivier Messiaen (1908 – 1992)

Please remain standing as the choir and clergy depart.

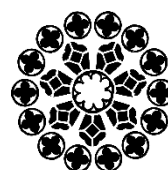
If you would like to speak to someone about the Christian faith, please email

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.

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**Truro
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