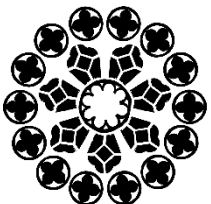


# Midnight Mass

## Tuesday 24th December 2024

### 11pm

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Truro  
Cathedral

## 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: 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 bread is 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 bread into the wine 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. Please view these as 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](http://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](http://www.justgiving.com/trurocathedral)



## The Gathering

*Please remain seated while the choir sing the Introit, Silent Night (arranged by Philip Ledger (1937-2012) and the servers and clergy move to the crib.*

## The 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.*

## Congregational Carol

*Please stand*

**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.**

## 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,  
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 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

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### 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.

*Music: English traditional melody words: Edmund sears (1810-76)*



*Please remain standing*

## **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.**

*The prayers finish with these words*

Merciful Father,  
**Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son  
our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

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## 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.

### Congregational Carol

*During which a collection will be taken*

**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*

## 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.

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.**

## **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. Please note that the wine contains alcohol. 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 sings:*

In dulci jubilo arranged by Robert Pearsall 1795 –1856)

Sing Lullaby arranged by Edgar Pettman (1866-1943)

The Shepherd's Pipe Carol by John Rutter (born in 1945)

## **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 18<sup>th</sup> C Translation F. Oakley (1802-1880)*

## **The Dismissal**

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*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)

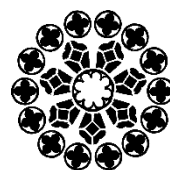
*Please remain standing as the choir and clergy depart.*

*We hope you enjoyed the service. There is an opportunity to contribute to the collection as you leave. Thank you for supporting your cathedral, and please come again soon*



*If you would like to speak to someone about the Christian faith, please email [info@trurocathedral.org.uk](mailto: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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