

# **The Cathedral Eucharist**

## **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January**

### **The Feast of The Epiphany**



*The President today is the Very Reverend John Witcombe, Dean of Coventry. The Deacon is John Lloyd, Cathedral Lay Reader. The Reverend Nitano Muller, Canon for Worship and Welcome, is sub-deacon and preacher.*

*The Lay Clerks are directed by Joe Watson, Acting Director of Music. The setting today is the Plainsong Mass for a Mean by John Sheppard (1515-1558).*

## **Opening Hymn**

*We STAND to sing the first three verses as the ministers and choir process to the crib.*

**As with gladness men of old  
did the guiding star behold,  
as with joy they hailed its light,  
leading onward, beaming bright;  
so, most gracious Lord, may we  
evermore be led to thee.**

**As with joyful steps they sped,  
Saviour, to thy lowly bed,  
there to bend the knee before  
thee whom heaven and earth adore;  
so may we with willing feet  
ever seek thy mercy-seat.**

**As they offered gifts most rare  
at thy cradle rude and bare,  
so may we with holy joy,  
pure and free from sin's alloy,  
all our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ, to thee our heavenly King.**

## **The Presentation of the Gifts**

*The traditional gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh are now offered at the Crib.*

*At the offering of Gold, the President says,*

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the Universe:  
to you be praise and glory for ever!

As gold in the furnace is tried  
and purified seven times in the fire,  
so purify our hearts and minds  
that we may be a royal priesthood  
acceptable in the service of your kingdom.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

*At the offering of Incense,*

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the Universe:  
to you be praise and glory for ever!

As our prayer rises up before you as incense,  
so may we be presented before you  
with penitent hearts and uplifted hands  
to offer ourselves in your priestly service.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

*At the offering of Myrrh,*

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the Universe:  
to you be praise and glory for ever!

As you give medicine to heal our sickness  
and the leaves of the tree of life  
for the healing of the nations,  
so anoint us with your healing power  
that we may be the first-fruits of your new creation.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

*The hymn continues and the procession moves to the Chancel.*

**Holy Jesus, every day  
keep us in the narrow way,  
and, when earthly things are past,  
bring our ransomed souls at last  
where they need no star to guide,  
where no clouds thy glory hide.**

**In the heavenly country bright  
need they no created light;  
thou its light, its joy, its crown,  
thou its sun which goes not down;  
there for ever may we sing  
alleluias to our King.**

*Words by W. Chatterton Dix (1837-1898)  
Tune CP 83 Dix from a chorale by C. Kocher (1786-1772)  
abridged by W.H. Monk (1823-1889)*

## **The Collect**

O God,  
who by the leading of a star manifested your only Son to the peoples of  
the earth: mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith,  
may at last behold your glory face to face; 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 First Reading**

*Read by Tim Burnett, representing the Cathedral Vergers.*

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah.

<sup>7</sup> For thus says the LORD:  
Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,  
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;  
proclaim, give praise, and say,  
'Save, O LORD, your people,  
the remnant of Israel.'

<sup>8</sup> See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,  
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,  
among them the blind and the lame,  
those with child and those in labour, together;  
a great company, they shall return here.

<sup>9</sup> With weeping they shall come,  
and with consolations\* I will lead them back,  
I will let them walk by brooks of water,  
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;  
for I have become a father to Israel,  
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

<sup>10</sup> Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,  
and declare it in the coastlands far away;  
say, 'He who scattered Israel will gather him,  
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock.'

<sup>11</sup> For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,  
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

<sup>12</sup> They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,  
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,  
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,  
and over the young of the flock and the herd;  
their life shall become like a watered garden,  
and they shall never languish again.

<sup>13</sup> Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,  
and the young men and the old shall be merry.  
I will turn their mourning into joy,  
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.

<sup>14</sup> I will give the priests their fill of fatness,  
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,

says the LORD.

*Jeremiah 31:7-14*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

We have seen his star at its rising,  
and have come to pay him homage.

*Matthew 2:2*

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

## **The Gospel Reading**

<sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup>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.

<sup>15</sup>(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup>From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

*John 1:10-18*

## **Offertory Hymn**

**O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;  
bow down before him, his glory proclaim;  
with gold of obedience and incense of lowliness,  
kneel and adore him: the Lord is his name.**

**Low at his feet lay thy burden of carefulness:  
high on his heart he will bear it for thee,  
comfort thy sorrows, and answer thy prayerfulness,  
guiding thy steps as may best for thee be.**

**Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness  
of the poor wealth thou wouldst reckon as thine:  
truth in its beauty, and love in its tenderness,  
these are the offerings to lay on his shrine.**

**These, though we bring them in trembling and fearfulness,  
he will accept for the name that is dear;  
mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness,  
trust for our trembling and hope for our fear.**

**O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;  
bow down before him, his glory proclaim;  
with gold of obedience and incense of lowliness,  
kneel and adore him: the Lord is his name.**

*Words by J. S. B. Monsell (1811-1875)*

*Tune CP 89 Was Lebet Melody from Theinhardt MS (1754)*

## **Anthem**

Ecce advenit dominator Dominus: in manu eius, et regnum et potestas,  
et imperium.

*Behold, the Lord and Master has come, with kingdom, power and dominion in  
his hand.*

*Music by William Byrd (1543-1623)*

## **Communion Hymn**

**Let all mortal flesh keep silence  
and with fear and trembling stand;  
ponder nothing earthly-minded,  
for with blessing in his hand  
Christ our God to earth descendeth,  
our full homage to demand.**

**King of kings, yet born of Mary,  
as of old on earth he stood,  
Lord of lords, in human vesture -  
in the body and the blood -  
he will give to all the faithful  
his own self for heavenly food.**

**Rank on rank the host of heaven  
spreads its vanguard on the way,  
as the Light of light descendeth  
from the realms of endless day,  
that the powers of hell may vanish  
as the darkness clears away.**

**At his feet the six-winged seraph;  
cherubim with sleepless eye  
veil their faces to the Presence,  
as with ceaseless voice they cry,  
Alleluia, Alleluia,  
Alleluia, Lord most high.**

*Words from the Liturgy of St James, translated by G. Moultrie (1829-1885)  
Tune CP 309 Picardy harmonised by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)*

## **Closing Hymn**

**We three kings of Orient are,  
bearing gifts we traverse afar  
field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
following yonder star:**

*O star of wonder, star of night,  
star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light.*

**Born a king on Bethlehem plain,  
gold I bring to crown him again,  
king for ever, ceasing never  
over us all to reign:**

**Frankincense to offer have I,  
incense owns a deity nigh;  
prayer and praising, voices raising,  
worship him, God most high:**

**Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume  
breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
sealed in the stone-cold tomb:**

**Glorious now behold him arise,  
king and God and sacrifice.  
Heaven sings: 'Alleluia';  
'Alleluia' the earth replies:**

*Words and Tune CP 91 Three Kings of Orient J.H. Hopkins (1820-1891)*

## **Voluntary**

*Please do stay for the organ voluntary, performed today by Joe Watson, Acting  
Director of Music.*

*Praise the Lord with Drums and Cymbals by Sigfrid Karg-Elert (1877 –1933)*

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*We invite those joining us for worship to contribute to the costs  
of mission at the Cathedral. Please use the cash or contactless  
donation points, or the QR code below. This will take you to the  
Cathedral's page for the Parish giving Scheme which will enable  
you to make a one off donation, or set up a regular gift should  
you wish. Thank you so much for your support and generosity.*



*If you would like to revisit this morning's sermon, please visit this page:  
<https://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/worship-music/services/sermons>*

*We serve refreshments at the back of the Nave after this service, so please  
feel free to stay for a chat over a cup of tea or coffee!*

## **Daily Services at the Cathedral:**

Regular services at the Cathedral follow this pattern. For special services and up-to-date information about one-off cancellations of the services below, please check the calendar on the Cathedral website:  
<https://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/full-calendar>

### **Monday - Friday**

8:30 – 9:00am: *Morning Prayer & Holy Communion*

12 – 12:10pm: *The Litany of Reconciliation*

*(followed on Thursdays by BCP Holy Communion)*

4 – 4:30pm: *Evening Prayer*

*(or Wednesday and Thursday during school terms: Choral Evensong, 5:15 - 6pm)*

### **Saturday**

12 – 12:10pm: *The Litany of Reconciliation*

### **Sunday**

10:30 – 11:45am: *The Cathedral Eucharist*

4 – 5pm: *Choral Evensong*

## **JOINING OUR CHOIRS**

Boys and girls between the ages of 7 and 11 are welcome to audition for our Cathedral Choir. Do you know a child who loves to sing? There are many benefits to joining the choir – new friends, a free, world-class music education, choir pay, singing services and at special events in amazing places, choir tours, broadcasts, recordings and social events too. If you or someone you know might be interested in joining the choir, please be in touch with the Acting Director of Music to arrange a meeting.

[luke.fitzgerald@coventrycathedral.org.uk](mailto:luke.fitzgerald@coventrycathedral.org.uk)

## **Safeguarding at Coventry Cathedral**

We are committed to the safeguarding of all people. For details, please visit [www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/about-us/safeguarding](http://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/about-us/safeguarding)

You can report a concern using the same link or by contacting Jane Williams, Cathedral Safeguarding Officer, calling 024 7650 2349 or by emailing [JaneMLWill@aol.com](mailto:JaneMLWill@aol.com)

Alternatively, you can contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Team led by Sarah Price: 024 7652 1345 or [safeguarding@coventry.anglican.org](mailto:safeguarding@coventry.anglican.org)

## **COMING SOON**

### **Reconciliation Pathway.**

The Cathedral will be hosting the Reconciliation Pathway, an opportunity to engage with stories of history, faith, art and lived experience. The course starts on *Tuesday, 14 January at 7pm*. The cost is £25 for the course. All are welcome to participate. If you have any questions, please contact [Pathways@Coventry.Anglican.org](mailto:Pathways@Coventry.Anglican.org) or speak to Canon Kate or Dean John for further information.

### **Four Choirs Festival at Derby Cathedral.**

*Saturday, 17 January at 5.30pm*

Derby Cathedral will host the Four Choirs Festival, bringing together the choirs from Derby, Coventry, Leicester and Southwell Cathedral for a service of Choral Evensong. Please speak to Joe or Liam if you wish to support the choir.

### **Epiphany Carols.**

*Sunday, 18 January at 4pm*

Epiphany Carols is a service of thoughtful readings and exciting music for the season of Epiphany. The service celebrates the revelation of Christ to the nations and all welcome.