



**The Cathedral Eucharist on  
the First Sunday of Christmas**

*Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December 2025*

# Welcome to Coventry Cathedral

*We are delighted that you have been able to join us this morning.*

*In this service, we say the words in bold together, and invite you to stand and sit as indicated. However, please stay seated if you prefer. If you have brought small children, thank you! Feel free to explore the space with them, and to use the toys and books provided.*

*This Order of Service is produced for today only. Feel free to take it home with you if you would like.*

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*The President today is the Reverend Nitano Muller, Canon for Worship and Welcome. The Deacon is Donald Parr, Cathedral Reader and Sub Deacon is the Reverend Kate Massey, Canon for Arts and Reconciliation, who is also our preacher*

*The organist is Liam Condon, Assistant Director of Music, and Matthew Horspool, Cathedral Choral Clerk, is the cantor. The service setting is Unison Communion by Herbert Sumsion (1899–1995).*

*We encourage our visitors to take photographs of our beautiful cathedral, **but please no photography during the service.** Thank you.*

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# The Gathering

*Before the service begins, the Reverend Nitano Muller, Canon for Worship and Welcome presiding, welcomes the congregation.*

## Hymn

We **STAND** to sing:

**Unto us is born a Son,  
King of quires supernal:  
See on earth his life begun,  
Of Lords the Lord eternal,  
of lords the Lord eternal.**

**Christ, from heav'n descending low,  
Comes on earth a stranger;  
Ox and ass their owner know,  
Becradled in the manger,  
becradled in the manger.**

**This did Herod sore affray,  
And grievously bewilder,  
So he gave the word to slay,  
And slew the little childer,  
and slew the little childer.**

**Of his love and mercy mild  
This the Christmas story;  
And O that Mary's gentle child  
Might lead us up to glory,  
might lead us up to glory!**

**O and A, and A and O,  
*Cum Cantibus in choro,*  
Let out merry organ go,  
*Benedicamus Domino,*  
*benedicamus Domino.***

*Words translated by G. R. Woodward (1848-1934)*

*Tune CP 73 Puer Nobis melody from Piae Cantiones (1582)*

*Arr. David Willcocks (1919-2015)*

## The Greeting

*The president says,*

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

**And also with you.**

## Prayers of Penitence

*Donald Parr, Cathedral Reader, serving as deacon, invites us to confession with these or other suitable words:*

Hear the words of the angel to Joseph:  
'You shall call his name Jesus,  
for he will save his people from their sins.'  
Therefore let us seek the forgiveness of God  
through Jesus the Saviour of the world.

*After a short pause, the deacon leads everyone in saying:*

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

Lord, have mercy.

**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.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Spirit of Love,  
your servant Mary responded joyfully to your call:  
forgive the hardness of our hearts.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

*The president prays:*

May the God of all healing and forgiveness  
draw us to himself,  
and cleanse us from all our sins  
that we may behold the glory of his Son,  
the Word made flesh,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## **Gloria in Excelsis**

*Matthew Horspool, Cantor, sings*

*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,  
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 introduces a time of silent prayer, after which they offer the Collect for the day:*

Almighty God,  
who wonderfully created us in your own image  
and yet more wonderfully restored us  
through your Son Jesus Christ:  
grant that, as he came to share in our humanity,  
so we may share the life of his divinity;  
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

### The First Reading

*We SIT for the first reading, read by Cynthia Kamtchop, representing the Phoenix Club.*

A Reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah.

<sup>7</sup> I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord,  
the praiseworthy acts of the Lord,  
because of all that the Lord has done for us,  
and the great favour to the house of Israel  
that he has shown them according to his mercy,  
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

<sup>8</sup> For he said, 'Surely they are my people,  
children who will not deal falsely';

and he became their saviour

<sup>9</sup> in all their distress.

It was no messenger or angel

but his presence that saved them;

in his love and in his pity he redeemed them;

he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old. *Isaiah 63.7–9*

We *STAND* for the Gospel reading.

## Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

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

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

*John 1.14*

## The Gospel

*The deacon says:*

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

**Glory to you, O Lord. Alleluia!**

<sup>13</sup> Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' <sup>14</sup>Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, <sup>15</sup>and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.'

<sup>16</sup> When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men.

<sup>17</sup>Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: <sup>18</sup> 'A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children;

she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.'

<sup>19</sup> When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, <sup>20</sup> 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead.'

<sup>21</sup> Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel.

<sup>22</sup>But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. <sup>23</sup>There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, 'He will be called a Nazorean.'

*Matthew 2: 13-end*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The Gospel reading is followed by a short organ voluntary.*

## **The Sermon**

*The Reverend Kate Massey, Canon for Arts and Reconciliation, preaching, prays and we SIT for the sermon. After the sermon silence is kept for reflection.*

## **The Creed**

*We STAND and say together:*

**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 intercessions.*

**In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ,  
let us pray to the Father.**

*We SIT. The following responses, or other suitable words, may be used:*

**Lord, in your mercy;  
Hear our prayer.**

*At the end the following may be used:*

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

# *The Liturgy of the Sacrament*

## **The Peace**

*We STAND. The president introduces the peace:*

Our Saviour Christ is the Prince of Peace.  
Of the increase of his government and of peace  
there shall be no end.  
The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**And also with you.**

*The deacon says:*

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*Everyone shares the Peace.*

## **The Offertory Hymn**

*We REMAIN STANDING to sing the hymn, during which the gifts of the people may be presented.*

**Of the Father's love begotten  
ere the worlds began to be,  
he is Alpha and Omega,  
he the source, the ending he,  
of the things that are, that have been,  
and that future years shall see,  
evermore and evermore.**

**O that birth for ever blessèd,  
when the Virgin, full of grace,  
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,  
bare the Saviour of our race,  
and the babe, the world's Redeemer,  
first revealed his sacred face,  
evermore and evermore.**

**O ye heights of heaven, adore him;  
angel hosts, his praises sing;  
powers, dominions, bow before him,  
and extol our God and King:  
let no tongue on earth be silent,  
every voice in concert ring,  
evermore and evermore.**

*Words from Prudentius (348-c.413) translated by J.M. Neale (1818-1866)*

*Tune CP 64 Divinum Mysterium melody from Piae Cantiones (1582)*

## **The Prayer over the Gifts**

*We REMAIN STANDING. The president prays:*

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

## **The Eucharistic Prayer**

*The president says:*

The Lord is here  
**His Spirit is with us.**

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,  
and 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  
saying with joy our hymn of praise:

*The cantor sings:*

*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.*

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.

*The deacon says,*

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 Mary, Michael 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.

**Amen.**

*Silence is kept. We SIT.*

## **The Lord's Prayer**

*We SIT. Please feel free to say the Lord's Prayer in any language or version which is closest to your heart. The president says,*

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

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
Amen.**

## **The Breaking of the Bread**

*The president breaks the consecrated bread, saying:*

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.**

## **The Invitation to Communion**

Christ is the true bread which has come down from heaven.  
**Lord, give us this bread always.**

## **Agnus Dei**

*The cantor sings:*

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
grant us peace*

## **The Giving of Communion**

*Please wait in your seat to be directed by a churchwarden or steward. Those who do not intend to receive Communion, but would prefer to receive a blessing, are asked to carry this booklet as an indication to the ministers. If you wish to receive gluten-free bread, please ask and we will be happy to accommodate you.*

## **Anthem**

How do you capture the wind on the water?  
How do you count all the stars in the sky?  
How can you measure the love of a mother,  
Or how can you write down a baby's first cry?

*Candlelight, angel light, firelight and star-glow  
Shine on his cradle till breaking of dawn.*

*Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*Angels are singing; the Christ child is born.*

Shepherds and wise men will kneel and adore him,  
Seraphim round him their vigil will keep;  
Nations proclaim him their Lord and their Saviour,  
But Mary will hold him and sing him to sleep.

Find him at Bethlehem laid in a manger:  
Christ our Redeemer asleep in the hay.  
Godhead incarnate and hope of salvation:

A child with his mother that first Christmas Day. *John Rutter (b. 1945)*

## Communion Hymn

*During Communion, we REMAIN SEATED as we sing:*

**Born in the night, Mary's child,  
A long way from Your home;  
Coming in need, Mary's child,  
Born in a borrowed room.**

**Clear shining light, Mary's child,  
Your face lights up our way:  
Light of the world, Mary's child,  
Dawn on our darkened day.**

**Truth of our life, Mary's child,  
You tell us God is good:  
Prove it is true, Mary's child,  
Go to Your cross of wood.**

**Hope of the world, Mary's child,  
You're coming soon to reign:  
King of the earth, Mary's child,  
Walk in our streets again.**

*Words and music by Geoffrey Jackson Ainger (1925-2013)*

*Tune HON 65 Mary's Child*

## The Prayers after Communion

*The president prays:*

Heavenly Father,  
whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth  
the life of an earthly home:  
help your Church to live as one family,  
united in love and obedience,  
and bring us all at last to our home in heaven;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**



*The president then introduces:*

**Father of all,  
we give you thanks and praise,  
that when we were still far off  
you met us in your Son and brought us home.  
Dying and living, he declared your love,  
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.  
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;  
we who drink his cup bring life to others;  
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.  
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,  
so we and all your children shall be free,  
and the whole earth live to praise your name;  
through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

## **The Blessing**

*We STAND. The president gives the blessing:*

Christ the Son of God perfect in you the image of his glory and  
gladden your hearts with the good news of his kingdom.  
And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**

## **Final Hymn**

*We REMAIN STANDING to sing:*

**Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,  
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,  
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided,  
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.**

**Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,  
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,  
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us,  
Lord of the word, receive your people's praise.**

**Lord, for our land, in this our generation,  
spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care;  
for young and old, for commonwealth and nation,  
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.**

**Lord, for our world; when we disown and doubt him,  
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain;  
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without him,  
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.**

**Lord, for ourselves; in living power remake us,  
self on the cross and Christ upon the throne;  
past put behind us, for the future take us,  
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.**

*Words by Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926-2024)  
Tune CP 81 Lord of the Years Michael Baughen (b. 1930)*

## **The Dismissal**

*The President says:*

**Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.  
Glory, thanks and praise to God.**

## **Organ voluntary**

*Please do stay for the organ voluntary, performed by Liam Condon.*

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*If you would like to make a one-off donation to the Cathedral via your phone, or set up a recurring donation, please use the QR code below. There are also contactless donation points and collection boxes near the entrance.  
Thank you for your support.*



*If you would like to give regularly (weekly or monthly) to the life of the Cathedral, then please pick up a flyer about the Parish Giving Scheme from the back of the Nave.*

*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!*

Please note that our opening hours until  
Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2025 are 11am – 3pm.

We are closed on Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026.