



**BLACKBURN  
CATHEDRAL**

The Cathedral  
Eucharist  
on  
First Sunday of Christmas

*Sunday, 29 December, 2024*

*10.30am*

*Welcome*  
to this morning's  
service

The President and Preacher

**Canon Jenny Gaffin**

*Precentor*

The Subdeacon is

**Ayodele Adebayo**

The service is sung by

**St Paul's Voices**

Directed by

**John Hosking**

*Organist in Residence*

The Organist is

**John Robinson**

*Director of Music*

The setting for the service is

**Festive Eucharist – Rawsthorne**

Children and young people are welcome at all our services, but if you feel your child needs a more informal space, the Temple Gallery and the Cloister Garth are available as 'breakout' areas. Please note that they are unattended, and so you will need to stay with your child at all times. The wardens and stewards can give directions. *Before the service, the congregation is welcomed by Canon Jenny*

# The Gathering

*Please stand as the ministers enter*

## Processional



Angels, from the realms of glory,  
wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
ye who sang creation's story,  
now proclaim Messiah's birth:

*Come and worship  
Christ, the new-born King.  
Come and worship,  
worship Christ, the new-born King.*

Shepherds in the field abiding,  
watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing,  
yonder shines the infant Light:  
*Refrain*

Sages, leave your contemplations;  
brighter visions beam afar;  
seek the great Desire of nations;  
ye have seen his natal star:  
*Refrain*

Though an infant now we view him,  
he shall fill his Father's throne,  
gather all the nations to him;  
every knee shall then bow down:  
*Refrain*

*from Iris (1816) and The Christmas Box (1825), vv 1-4, James  
Montgomery (1771 – 1854)*

## 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.**

*The president introduces the celebration*

### The Prayer of Preparation

**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;  
through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### The Prayers of Penitence

The sun of righteousness has dawned  
with healing in his wings.  
Let us come to the light of Christ,  
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

**Most merciful God,**  
**Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,**  
we confess that we have sinned  
in thought, word and deed.  
**We have not loved you with our whole heart.**  
**We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.**  
In your mercy forgive what we have been,  
help us to amend what we are,  
and direct what we shall be;  
that we may do justly, love mercy,  
and walk humbly with you, our God. **Amen.**

May God who loved the world so much  
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour  
forgive you your sins  
and make you holy to serve him in the world,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## The Gloria

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

Let us pray.

*Silence is kept – please remain standing*

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.**

*Please sit*

# The Liturgy of the Word

## Old Testament Reading

*Read by Barbara Robb*

*(1 Samuel 2.18-20, 26)*

A reading from the Book of Samuel.

Samuel was ministering before the Lord, a boy wearing a linen ephod. His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, 'May the Lord repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the Lord'; and then they would return to their home. Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favour with the Lord and with the people.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The choir sings*

**Psalm**  
*(148)*

O praise the Lord from the heavens: praise him in the heights.  
Praise him, all ye angels of his: praise him, all his host.  
Praise him, sun and moon: praise him, all ye stars and light.  
Praise him, all ye heavens, and ye waters that are above the heavens.  
Let them praise the name of the Lord:  
for he spake the word, and they were made; he commanded,  
and they were created.  
He hath made them fast for ever and ever:  
he hath given them a law which shall not be broken.  
Praise the LORD from the earth, ye dragons and all deeps;  
Fire and hail, snow and vapours, wind and storm, fulfilling his word;  
Mountains and all hills; fruitful trees and all cedars;  
Beasts and all cattle; creeping things and flying fowls;  
Kings of the earth, and all peoples; princes, and all judges of the world;  
Young men and maidens, old men and children, praise the Name of the LORD:  
for his name only is excellent, and his praise above heaven and earth.  
He shall exalt the horn of his people: all his saints shall praise him;  
even the children of Israel, even the people that serveth him.

## New Testament Reading

(Col. 3. 12-17)

*Read by Diane Warner*

A reading from the letter to the Colossians

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand*

## Gradual hymn

Irby 34



Once in royal David's city  
stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby  
in a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven  
who is God and Lord of all,  
and his shelter was a stable,  
and his cradle was a stall;  
with the poor and mean and lowly  
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

And through all his wondrous childhood,  
he would honour and obey,  
love, and watch the lowly maiden,  
in whose gentle arms he lay;  
Christian children all must be  
mild, obedient, good as he.

Not in that poor lowly stable,  
with the oxen standing by,  
we shall see him; but in heaven,  
set at God's right hand on high;  
where like stars his children crowned  
all in white shall wait around.

*Mrs C.F. Alexander (1818-95).*

*Music by H. J. Gauntlett (1805-1920)*



## The Gospel

(Luke 2.41-end)

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, 'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.' He said to them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

*There is a period of silence after the sermon for reflection*

*Please stand with the president*

## The Creed

**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.**

*Please sit or kneel*

Led by Mihaela Mladin

## The Prayers of Intercession

*This response is used*

Lord in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

*We pray today for those who are sick at home or in hospital:*

Stephen Birch, Arthur Blundell, Chris Drewe, Graham Jordan, Margaret Young,  
Sue Penfold, Irfan Masih, Harry Searles, Liam Johnson, Lorraine,  
Ray Hutchings,

Brian and Ruth Whittle, Jenni Bellamy

*for those who mourn, and remember those who have recently died,*  
Joan Banks

*and those whose anniversaries fall this week*

Charles Henry Sykes, Karen Carr (29), Jack Monk (2),

Elise Pemberton (3), Dorothy Green (4)

(Dates are in brackets)

*And at the end*

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

*Please stand*

## The Liturgy of the Sacrament

### The Peace

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,  
and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace  
The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

### Preparation of the Table

Please give what you prayerfully can. You may prefer to use the collection point or card reader on the way out. If you are a UK tax payer please use and sign the blue gift aid form provided on your chair. Alternatively, The Parish Giving Scheme is the easy way to give regularly to support the ongoing ministry of Blackburn Cathedral and you can find out more and sign up by using the QR code provided here. Blackburn Cathedral's Parish Giving Scheme Code is: 03060300



# Offertory Hymn

Cranham



In the bleak mid-winter  
frosty wind made moan,  
earth stood hard as iron,  
water like a stone:  
snow had fallen, snow on snow,  
snow on snow,  
in the bleak mid-winter,  
long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him  
nor earth sustain;  
heaven and earth shall flee away  
when he comes to reign:  
in the bleak mid-winter  
a stable-place sufficed  
the Lord God almighty,  
Jesus Christ.

Enough for him, whom cherubim  
worship night and day,  
a breast full of milk,  
and a manger full of hay:  
enough for him, whom angels  
bow down before,  
the ox and ass and camel  
which adore.

Angels and archangels  
may have gathered there,  
cherubim and seraphim,  
thronged the air;  
but only his mother  
in her maiden bliss  
worshipped the beloved  
with a kiss.

What can I give him,  
poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd  
I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a wise man  
I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give him - give my heart.

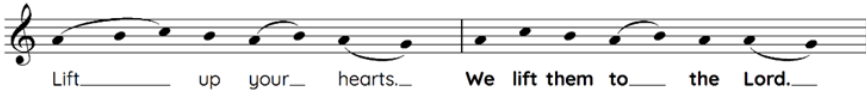
*Words: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894) Music: Gustav Hol*

Please stand

## Taking of the Bread and Wine

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



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  
and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

*The choir 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.

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 now 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.

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**

As we join our prayers with those of the Church Universal, so  
we pray with confidence, each in our own language, as our  
Saviour taught us,

Notre père, qui es aux cieux ... Missierna, li inti fis-smewwiet...  
Vater unser im Himmel ... Padre nosso, que estais nos céus...  
Padre nostro che sei nei cieli ... Ojczce nasz, któryś jest w niebie...  
Otče náš, jenž jsi na nebesích ... الذي في السموات،  
Têve Mûsu, kuris esi danguje! ... Ein Tad, yr hwn wyt yn y nefoedd...  
Tatal nostru care esti in ceruri ...

**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.**

## **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 choir sings*

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, redeemer of the world, give us peace.

## The Giving of Communion

*The president says*

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

*Communion is available in both kinds, and the minister distributing bread will say*

The body of Christ. **Amen.**

*After receiving the bread, if you wish to receive wine please move to the station near the central aisle, and return to your place by the central aisle of the Nave.*

*The minister distributing wine will say*

The blood of Christ. **Amen.**

*If you do not wish to receive communion wine, please walk past that second distribution point, and return to your place by the central aisle of the Nave.*

*While you are waiting to go for communion you may wish to sit down.*

## During communion

*The choir sings*

Ding dong, merrily on high!  
In heav'n the bells are ringing;  
ding dong, verily the sky  
is riv'n with angel singing.  
Gloria, Hosannah in excelsis!

*Music: Jory*

*Silence is kept*

E'en so here below, below,  
let steeple bells be swungen,  
And io, io, io,  
by priest and people sungen.  
Gloria, Hosannah in excelsis!

## Prayer after Communion

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.**



**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.**

*Please stand*

**Final Hymn**  
 Divinum Mysterium



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 blessed!  
 when the Virgin, full of grace,  
 by the Spirit's power conceiving,  
 bore the Saviour of our race,  
 and the Babe, the world's Redeemer,  
 first revealed his sacred face,  
*evermore and evermore.*

All the 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.*

Christ, to thee, with God the Father,  
 and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,  
 hymn and chant and high thanksgiving  
 and unwearied praises be.  
 honour, glory, and dominion,  
 and eternal victory,  
*evermore and evermore.*

*Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348-c.410), translate  
 John Mason Neale (1818-1866), Henry Williams  
 Baker (1821-1877)*

## The Dismissal

May Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one  
things earthly and heavenly,  
fill you with joy and peace.  
And the blessing of Almighty God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit rest upon you now  
and remain with you always. **Amen.**

*The deacon says*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

## The Organ Voluntary

Dieu Parmi Nous

*Olivier Messiaen (1908-1992)*

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## Notices for the Week Commencing 29 December

**Today** – Evensong, 4pm with the St Paul's Voices

### **Next Sunday – Christmas 2**

**Morning readings** – Ecc 2.1-12, Eph 1.3-14, John 1.1-18

**9am** – Parish Eucharist

**10.30am** – Cathedral Eucharist

**4pm** – Epiphany Carols led by the Youth Choir

**Huge thank you** to all our volunteers and our choristers for making this such an amazing Christmas.

### **Blackburn Foodbank in January**

We are collecting tea and coffee. If you can afford to give, please add it to your weekly or monthly shopping list and donate.

### **Safeguarding – for Safeguarding concerns please contact:**

Cathedral Safeguarding Officer – Jenny Price – 07800740001

safeguardingadviser@blackburncathedral.co.uk

Under 18s Safeguarding Coordinator – Denise Sanderson – 01772335903

Vulnerable adults Safeguarding Coordinator – Stewart Hopkinson – 07515 652776

### **Forthcoming Lunchtime Concerts, Wednesdays 12.15**

8<sup>th</sup> Jan - Shanna Hart Organ Concert

15<sup>th</sup> Jan - Peter Dyke Organ Concert

22<sup>nd</sup> Jan - Laurence John Organ Concert

29<sup>th</sup> Jan - Oliver Waterer Organ Concert

5<sup>th</sup> Feb - Damian O'Keeffe Concert

12<sup>th</sup> Feb - Benjy Bloor Organ Concert

**Interested in being confirmed?** We will be publishing details of the next confirmation service soon. If you are interested in exploring being confirmed please talk to a member of the clergy.



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