



**BLACKBURN
CATHEDRAL**

A Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

Monday 23 December 2024

7.30pm

The service is led by
The Very Revd Peter Howell-Jones
The Dean

The service is sung by
The Cathedral Choir

Directed by
John Robinson
Organist and Director of Music

Organist
John Hosking
Organist in Residence

This service is live streamed

*You can watch again later on the
Cathedral YouTube channel*

Please remain seated when the choir enters.

Please stand when the ministers enter.

Carol

Solo *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.*

Choir *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.*



All *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), harmonised by A.H. Mann,
last verse arr. by David Willcocks (1919-2015).*

Welcome and Bidding Prayer

The Dean, the Very Revd Peter Howell-Jones.

We have come together as the family of God, in our Father's presence, to celebrate the great festival of Christmas. In this service we hear and receive the good news of the birth of Christ and we offer to God our thanksgiving in the joyful singing of carols. As we gather together in the name of Christ, we pray for the world he came to save: for the Church, that it may be enabled in our generation to surrender anew to God's holy Wisdom, and bear the good news of God's love to a needy world; for the world, which is already Christ's, that all its peoples may recognize their responsibility for its future, and may be inspired by the message of Christmas to work together for the establishment of justice, freedom and peace everywhere; for all in special need, the sick, the anxious, the lonely, the fearful and the bereaved, that the peace and light of the Christ-child may bring hope and healing to all who sit in darkness.

We commend all whom we love, or who have asked for our prayers, to the unfailing mercy of our heavenly Father, and say together, as Christ himself 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.**

Please sit

Carol

The choir sings

Adam lay ybounden,
Bounden in a bond;
Four thousand winter
Thought he not too long.
And all was for an apple,
An apple that he took,
As clerkes finden written
In their book.

Ne had the apple taken been
The apple taken been;
Ne had never our lady
A-been heavene queen.
Blessed be the time
That apple taken was,
Therefore we moun singen: Deo
gratias!

Adam Lay Ybounden. Music: Skempton

First Reading

(Genesis 3.8-14)

The Fall

Read by a Chorister

Carol

The choir sings

When Jesus Christ was yet a child,
He had a garden small and wild,
Wherein He cherished roses fair,
And wove them into garlands there.
Now once, as summer time drew nigh,
There came a troop of children by,
And seeing roses on the tree,
With shouts they pluck'd them merrily.
“Do you bind roses in your hair?”
They cried, in scorn, to Jesus there.
The Boy said humbly: “Take, I pray,
All but the naked thorns away.”
Then of the thorns they made a crown,
And with rough fingers press'd it down,
Till on his forehead fair and young,
Red drops of blood, like roses sprung.

Legend. Words by Richard Stoddart, music by Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)

Second Reading

(Genesis 22.15-18)

The promise to Abraham

Read by Councillor Brian Taylor

Mayor of Blackburn with Darwen

Carol

The choir sings

Alone in the night
On a dark hill
With pines around me
Spicy and still

And a heaven full of stars
Over my head
White and topaz
And misty red;

Myriads with beating
Hearts of fire
The aeons
Cannot vex or tire;

Up the dome of heaven
Like a great hill
I watch them marching
Stately and still

And I know that I
Am honored to be
Witness
Of so much majesty

*Stars. Music by Eriks Esenvalds (b.1977)
Text by Sara Teasdale*

Third Reading

(Isaiah 9.2, 6-7)

The prophecy of the Messiah's birth

*Read by Mrs Amanda Parker JP
HP Lord-Lieutenant of Lancashire*

Carol

The choir sings

Virga Jesse floruit:
Virgo Deum et hominem genuit:
pacem Deus reddidit,
in se reconcilians ima summis.
Alleluja.

*The rod of Jesse hath blossomed:
a Virgin bore God and man:
God has restored peace,
reconciling in himself the lowest
with the highest. Alleluia.*

Virga Jesse Flourit. Music by Anton Bruckner (1824-96)

Fourth Reading

(Micah 5.2-5a)

The Messiah will be born in Bethlehem

*Read by Jenny Gaffin
Canon Precentor*

Please stand to sing

Carol
FOREST GREEN



○ 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 to-night.

○ morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to all the 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.

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

Text Phillips Brooks (1835-1893) alt.

*Music R. Vaughan Williams (1872-1958), v.4
Thomas Armstrong (b.1898-1994).*

Please sit

The Annunciation to Mary
Read by Mihaela Mladin
Authorised Local Minister

Fifth Reading
(Luke 1.26-38)

Carol

The choir sings

There is no rose of such virtue
As is the rose that bare Jesu;
Alleluia.

For in this rose contained was
Heaven and earth in little space;
Res miranda.

By that rose we may well see
That He is God in persons three,
Pari forma.

Now leave we all this worldly mirth
And follow we this joyful birth;
Transeamus.

There is No Rose, J. Jubert (1927-2019)

Sixth Reading

(Matthew 1.18-23)

The birth of Emmanuel
Read by James Lawrence
Canon Missioner

Carol

The choir sings

Softly a light is stealing,
Sweetly a maiden sings,
Ever wakeful, ever wistful,
Watching faithfully, thankfully,
Tenderly her King of kings.

My soul doth magnify,
Doth magnify the Lord:
And my spirit hath rejoiced,
Rejoiced in God my Saviour.

Mary her song to Jesus
Softly serenely sings:
“I will love you, I will serve you,
May my lullaby glorify,
Magnify my King of kings”.

Lullaby, lullaby.

Mary's Magnificat. Text and Music by Andrew Carter (1874-1946)

Seventh Reading

(Luke 2.8-16)

The shepherds go to the manger
Read by John Robinson
Director of Music

Please stand to sing

Carol
HUMILITY



See amid the winter's snow,
born for us on earth below;
see the tender Lamb appears,
promised from eternal years:

*Hail, thou ever-blessed morn!
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.*

Say, ye holy shepherds, say
what your joyful news today;
wherefore have ye left your sheep
on the lonely mountain steep?

Hail, thou ever ...

"As we watched at dead of night,
lo, we saw a wondrous light;
angels singing 'Peace on earth'
told us of the Saviour's birth."

Hail, thou ever ...

Edward Caswall (1814-1878)

Please sit

Carol

The choir sings

All they from Saba shall come,
bringing gold and frankincense:
and shewing forth praise to the Lord. Alleluia
Omnes de Saba, Jacob Handl (1550-1591)

Eighth Reading

(Matthew 2.1-11)

The Magi are led by the star to Jesus

Read by Barbara Robb
a member of the congregation

Carol

I saw three ships come sailing in
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day,
And what was in those ships all three?
Our Saviour Christ and his lady.
Pray, whither sailed those ships all three?
O they sailed into Bethlehem.
And all the bells on earth shall ring
And all the angels in heaven shall sing.
And all the souls on earth shall sing.
Then let us all rejoice again!
Christmas Carols Ancient and Modern (1833)
Arr. Philip Marshall (1921-2005)

Please stand

Ninth Reading

(John 1. 1-14)

The Incarnation of the Word of God
Read by The Very Revd Peter Howell-Jones
The Dean

Please remain standing to sing

Carol

ADESTE FIDELES



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 (x3)
Christ the Lord!

See how the shepherds
summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
we too will thither
bend our joyful footsteps:

Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing all ye citizens of
heaven above:
"Glory to God in the highest:"

*Adeste, fideles (Latin, 18th century) tr.
Frederick Oakeley (1802-80) and others
Melody probably by John Francis Wade
(1711-86)
arr. by David Willcocks (1919-2015)*

The Christmas Eve Collect

The Dean prays

Almighty God,
you make us glad with the yearly remembrance
of the birth of your Son Jesus Christ:
grant that, as we joyfully receive him as our redeemer,
so we may with sure confidence behold him
when he shall come to be our judge;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**



Hark! the herald-angels sing
glory to the new-born King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.

Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'

*Hark! the herald-angels sing
glory to the new-born King.*

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail, the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.

*Hark! the herald-angels sing
glory to the new-born King.*

Hail, the heaven-born Prince of peace!

Hail, the sun of righteousness!

Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.

Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise those of the earth,
born to give us second birth.

*Hark! the herald-angels sing
glory to the new-born King.*

Charles Wesley (1707-88#) et al.

Music by Felix Mendelssohn (1809-47) v. 3 arr. David Willcocks (1919-2015)

The Blessing

*The Rt Reverend Philip North
The Bishop of Blackburn*

The Organ Voluntary

Final (Symphonie no. 6)

Ch. M. Widor (1844 – 1937)

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Christmas services

Carols Around The Crib

Tuesday 24th December at 4pm

Midnight Mass

Tuesday 24th December at 11.30pm

Parish Eucharist on Christmas Day

Wednesday 25th December at 9am

Cathedral Eucharist on Christmas Day

Wednesday 25th December at 10.30am



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**BLACKBURN
CATHEDRAL**

We wish you a
happy and blessed Christmas