

# A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols



Wednesday 22 December 2021  
7.30pm

## **Welcome to Manchester Cathedral**

Welcome to the Cathedral and Collegiate Church of St Mary, St Denys and St George in the heart of the City of Manchester. The building is the old mediaeval parish Church of Manchester. King Henry V first granted it Collegiate status in 1421 and it became Manchester's Cathedral on the creation of the Diocese of Manchester in 1847. It is believed that there has been a church on or near this site for over a thousand years.

### **Celebrating 600 years**

2021 is a special year for Manchester Cathedral as it marks the 600th anniversary of the granting of our first Royal charter establishing a collegiate church. Even in these uncertain times, an exciting programme of events for the whole family is planned and we hope to be able to share more details in due course.

### **Safeguarding**

Manchester Cathedral works hard to create safe environments where children and young people are protected and where all people, especially those who may be vulnerable for any reason, are able to worship and pursue their faith journey with encouragement and in safety. We follow the policies and procedures detailed within the Cathedral Safeguarding Handbook. We act promptly on any complaints made, and work in partnership with Manchester Diocese, the police and social care services whenever appropriate to do so. Details of our policy and how to voice a concern can be found on a dedicated page of our website and on the noticeboard at the south porch.

### **Live streaming**

Please note that most acts of worship in Manchester Cathedral are now live streamed. Although cameras are focused on those leading worship, please be aware that your image may be inadvertently captured and streamed. If you would like further information on the position of the camera at a particular act of worship, please ask Cathedral Staff upon arrival.

### **Gift Aid**

During the service there will be a collection for the work and mission of the Cathedral. If you would like the Cathedral to reclaim the tax that you have paid on the donation, at no cost to yourself, please use the Gift Aid envelope that is with this order of service.



### **Hearing-loop**

The Cathedral has a hearing-loop.  
Please set your hearing aid to setting T.

## **Visiting Manchester Cathedral from 10 December 2021**

Following the Government's recent announcement, as from Friday 10 December, the use of face masks is compulsory in places of worship. For your personal safety, the Dean and Chapter strongly encourage you to use the hand sanitisers provided when visiting the Cathedral. Please continue to access and make use the free NHS lateral flow test.

### **Have you turned off your mobile phone?**

Please make sure that you have turned off your mobile phone and any other electronic equipment that might interrupt the service.

### **Photography**

Please do not use cameras, photo-imaging devices or recording equipment during the service.

### **Musicians**

The Cathedral Choir is conducted by Christopher Stokes,  
*Organist and Master of the Choristers.*

The organ is played by Geoffrey Woollatt, *Sub-Organist.*  
Organ music before the Service is played by Alexander Wilton, *Sydney  
Nicholson Organ Scholar*

**Large-print copies of this booklet are also  
available.**

### ***Choristers at Manchester Cathedral***

If you have a son or daughter in Years 3 or 4 at school who likes singing and is enthusiastic about music, we encourage you to get in touch with Christopher Stokes (Organist and Master of the Choristers), who can tell you about the benefits that come with being a chorister, and answer your questions about life in the Cathedral Choir and Chetham's School of Music.

Please email him at [christopher.stokes@manchestercathedral.org](mailto:christopher.stokes@manchestercathedral.org) or telephone 0161 833 2220 (ext. 225).  
Manchester Cathedral, Victoria Street, Manchester, M3 1SX.

Auditions are held throughout the year.

### **The Cathedral's Voluntary Choir**

Manchester Cathedral Voluntary Choir is seeking to recruit adult singers in all voices. This auditioned choir sings evensong on Sundays during term time and rehearses on Friday evenings.

For further information and to book an audition please contact  
[Geoffrey.Woollatt@manchestercathedral.org](mailto:Geoffrey.Woollatt@manchestercathedral.org)

### **Music before the service**

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, BWV 645  
Nun komm der Heiden Heiland, BWV 599  
Puer natus in Bethlehem, BuxWV 217  
In dulci jubilo  
The Holy Boy  
Finale, Sonata No 6

*J S Bach (1685-1750)*  
*Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)*  
*J M Bach (1648-94)*  
*John Ireland (1914-92)*  
*Felix Mendelssohn (1809-47)*

*Please stand as the lights are dimmed*

**○ Rex gentium (Plainsong procession)**

sung by the Choir

○ Rex gentium,  
et desideratus earum,  
lapisque angularis, qui facis utraque  
unum:  
veni, et salva hominem,  
quem de limo formasti.

*O King of the gentiles  
and their desired One,  
the cornerstone that makes  
both one:  
come, and deliver man,  
whom you formed out of the  
dust of the earth.*

*Antiphon to the Magnificat*

**Carol      Please note that the Choir sings the first three verses.**

Choir  
only      *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.*

All      **For he is our childhood's pattern,  
Day by day like us he grew,  
He was little, weak and helpless,  
Tears and smiles like us he knew:  
And he feeleth for our sadness,  
And he shareth in our gladness.**

**And our eyes at last shall see him,  
Through his own redeeming love,  
For that child so dear and gentle  
Is our Lord in heaven above:  
And he leads his children on  
To the place where he is gone.**

**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,  
When like stars his children crowned,  
All in white shall wait around.**

*Henry John Gauntlett (1805-76)  
Revised by A H Mann and Editors  
Descant by David Willcocks*

*Mrs C F Alexander (1818-95)*

*Please remain standing*

## **The Bidding Prayer**

The Dean

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 recognise 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:

### **The Lord's Prayer**

All            **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 Dean

The Almighty God bless us with his grace:  
Christ give us the joys of everlasting life:  
and unto the fellowship of the citizens above  
may the King of angels bring us all.

All            **Amen.**

*Please sit*

**Novo profusi gaudio**

sung by the Choir

Novo profusi gaudio,  
Benedicamus Domino.

*News of great joy.  
Let us bless the Lord.*

Omnes gentes, plaudite,  
Car notre Saviour est né,  
Over all blessed he be,  
Rex Alpha et O.

*All people, clap your hands,  
For our Saviour is born,  
King first and last.*

A solis ortus cardine,  
Comme le monde est long et lé  
All mankind maketh glee,  
Angeli canunt Deo.

*From the rising of the sun,  
As the world is long and wide,  
The angels sing to God.*

Enixa est puerpera,  
Que Saint Esprit en engrossa,  
Blessed be time that she said Ya,  
Gabrielle nuncio.

*She brings forth a son,  
Whom the Holy Spirit enlarged,  
Gabriel the messenger.*

Ex illibata virgine  
Est nascu le Roi de Majesté,  
The hirds see him in low degree  
lacentem in praesepio.

*From the undefiled virgin,  
Born is the King of Majesty,  
Lying in a manger.*

Gloria tibi, Domine,  
Fontaine de grâce et de pitie  
Of all thy goodness we thank thee  
Benedicamus Domino.

*Glory to you, Lord,  
Fount of grace and mercy,  
Let us bless the Lord.*

*Matthew Martin (b 1976)**15th century English***First Lesson**

Genesis 3. 8-15  
read by a Chorister

***God announces in the Garden of Eden that the seed  
of woman shall bruise the serpent's head.***

**O Thou the central orb**

sung by the Choir

O Thou, the central orb of righteous love,  
Pure beam of the most High, eternal Light  
Of this our wintry world, Thy radiance bright  
Awakes new joy in faith, hope soars above.

Come, quickly come, and let thy glory shine,  
Gilding our darksome heaven with rays Divine.

Thy saints with holy lustre round Thee move,  
As stars about thy throne, set in the height  
Of God's ordaining counsel, as Thy sight  
Gives measured grace to each, Thy power to prove.

Let Thy bright beams disperse the gloom of sin,  
Our nature all shall feel eternal day  
In fellowship with thee, transforming day  
To souls erewhile unclean, now pure within. Amen.

*Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625)*

*Henry Ramsden Bramley (1833-1917)*

**Second Lesson**

Genesis 22.15-18  
read by a Lay Clerk

***God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed  
shall the nations of the earth be blessed.***

*Please stand*

**Carol**

sung by the Congregation and Choir

All Of the Father's heart begotten,  
Ere the world from chaos rose,  
He is Alpha: from that Fountain  
All that is and hath been flows;  
He is Omega, of all things  
Yet to come the mystic Close,  
*Evermore and evermore.*

Women By his word was all created;  
He commanded and 'twas done;  
Earth and sky and boundless ocean,  
Universe of three in one,  
All that sees the moon's soft radiance,  
All that breathes beneath the sun,  
*Evermore and evermore.*

Men            He assumed this mortal body,  
Frail and feeble, doomed to die,  
That the race from dust created  
Might not perish utterly,  
Which the dreadful Law had sentenced  
In the depths of hell to lie,  
*Evermore and evermore.*

Women        O how blest that wondrous birthday,  
When the Maid the curse retrieved,  
Brought to birth mankind's salvation,  
By the Holy Ghost conceived;  
And the Babe, the world's Redeemer,  
In her loving arms received,  
*Evermore and evermore.*

Men            This is he, whom seer and sybil  
Sang in ages long gone by;  
This is he of old revealèd  
In the page of prophecy;  
Lo! he comes, the promised Saviour;  
Let the world his praises cry!  
*Evermore and evermore.*

All             Sing, ye heights of heaven, his praises;  
Angels and Archangels, sing!  
Wheresoe'er ye be, ye faithful,  
Let your joyous anthems ring,  
Every tongue his name confessing,  
Countless voices answering,  
*Evermore and evermore.*

*Melody from Piaæ Contiones, 1582*  
*Last verse arr David Willcocks*

*Prudentius, trans. R F Davis*

*Please sit*

### **Third Lesson**

Isaiah 9. 2, 6 & 7  
read by Mungo Stacy, Bellringer

***Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.***

**In dulci jubilo**

sung by the Choir

In dulci jubilo  
Let us our homage shew;  
Our heart's joy reclineth  
In præsepio  
And like a bright star shineth  
Matris in gremio.  
Alpha es et O!

*In quiet joy*

*In a manger*

*in the mother's lap,  
Thou art Alpha and Omega.*

O Jesu parvule!  
I yearn for thee always!  
Hear me, I beseech thee,  
O Puer optime!  
My prayer let it reach thee,  
O Princeps gloriæ!  
Trahe me post te!

*O tiny Jesus!*

*O best of boys!*

*O Prince of glory!  
Draw me unto thee!*

O Patris caritas,  
O Nati lenitas!  
Deeply were we stained  
Per nostra crimina;  
But thou hast for us gained  
Coelorum gaudia.  
O that we were there!

*O love of the Father,  
O gentleness of the Son!*

*Through our sins;*

*Heavenly joy.*

Ubi sunt gaudia,  
If that they be not there?  
There are angels singing  
Nova cantica,  
There the bells are ringing  
In Regis curia.  
O that we were there!

*Where be joys,*

*New songs,*

*At the King's court.*

*Old German carol  
arr by R L Pearsall (1795-1856)*

*Heinrich Seuse (1295-1366)*

**Fourth Lesson**

Isaiah 11.1-9

read by Laura Hull, member of the congregation

***The peace that Christ will bring is foretold.***

## A tender shoot

sung by the Choir

A tender shoot has started up from a root of grace,  
as ancient seers imparted from Jesse's holy race:  
It blooms without a blight, blooms in the cold bleak winter,  
turning our darkness into light.

This shoot Isaiah taught us, from Jesse's root should spring;  
The Virgin Mary brought us the branch of which we sing;  
Our God of endless might gave her this child to save us,  
Thus turning darkness into light.

*Otto Goldschmidt (1829-1907)*

*Otto Goldschmidt  
tr William Bartholomew (1793-1867)*

*Please stand*

## Carol

sung by the Congregation and Choir

God rest you merry, gentlemen,  
Let nothing you dismay,  
Remember 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,  
comfort and joy!  
O tidings of comfort and joy!*

From God our heavenly Father  
A blessèd 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...*

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...*

Quieter

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 ...*

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 efface:  
*O tidings of comfort and joy,  
comfort and joy!  
O tidings of comfort and joy!*

*London Carol melody*

*Traditional*

*Harmonised by John Stainer (1840-1901)*

*Last verse arr by David Willcocks*

*Please sit*

### **Fifth Lesson**

Luke I. 26-38

read by Sylvester During, Warden

### ***The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessèd Virgin Mary.***

### **Es ist ein Ros entsprungen**

sung by the Choir

Es ist ein Ros entsprungen	<i>Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming</i>
Aus einer Wurzel zart.	From tender stem hath sprung!
Wie uns die Alten sungen,	Of Jesse's lineage coming,
Aus Jesse kam die Art	As men of old have sung.
Und hat ein Blümlein bracht,	It came, a flow'ret bright,
Mitten im kalten Winter,	Amid the cold of winter,
Wohl zu der halben Nacht.	When half-spent was the night.

Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen, Op 122, No 8

*Johannes Brahms (1833-97)*

Das Röslein das ich meine,	<i>Isaiah 'twas foretold it,</i>
Davon Jesaia sagt:	<i>The rose I have in mind,</i>
Hat uns gebracht alleine Marie,	<i>With Mary we behold it.</i>
Die reine Magd.	<i>The Virgin mother kind.</i>
Aus Gottes ew'gem Rat	<i>To show God's love aright,</i>
Hat sie ein Kindlein geboren	<i>She bore to men a Saviour,</i>
Wohl zu der halben Nacht.	<i>When half spent was the night.</i>

*Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)*

*Anon*

*Tr Theodore Baker (1851-1934)*

*Please stand*

**Carol**

sung by the Congregation and Choir

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 wond'ring love.

**Choir  
 Only**

*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.*

All           Where children pure and happy  
Pray to the blessed Child,  
Where misery cries out to thee,  
Son of the mother mild;  
Where charity stands watching  
And faith holds wide the door,  
The dark night wakes, the glory breaks,  
And Christmas comes once more.

O 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:  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Emmanuel.

*English traditional melody*

*Harmonised by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1938)*

*Verse 3 by Henry Walford Davies*

*Descant by Thomas Armstrong (1898-1994)*

*Phillips Brooks (1835-93)*

*Please sit*

## **Sixth Lesson**

Luke 2. 1 & 3-7

read by Gareth Screeton, Head Verger

### ***Saint Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.***

## **The holly and the ivy**

sung by the Choir

The holly and the ivy  
When they are both full grown;  
Of all the trees that are in the wood,  
The holly bears the crown.  
*O the rising of the sun  
And the running of the deer,  
The playing of the merry organ,  
Sweet singing in the choir.*

The holly bears a blossom  
As white as any flower;  
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ,  
To be our sweet Saviour.  
*O the rising of the sun...*

The holly bears a berry  
As red as any blood;  
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ  
To do poor sinners good.  
*O the rising of the sun...*

The holly bears a prickle  
As sharp as any thorn;  
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ  
On Christmas Day in the morn.  
*O the rising of the sun...*

The holly bears a bark  
As bitter as any gall;  
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ  
For to redeem us all.  
*O the rising of the sun  
And the running of the deer,  
The playing of the merry organ,  
Sweet singing in the choir.*

*English traditional carol*

*Arr Henry Walford Davies (1869-1941)*

### **The little road to Bethlehem**

sung by the Choir

As I walked down the road at set of sun,  
The lambs were coming homeward one by one.  
I heard a sheepbell softly calling them,  
Along the little road to Bethlehem.

Beside an open door as I drew nigh,  
I heard sweet Mary sing a lullaby.  
She sang about the lambs at close of day,  
And rocked her tiny King among the hay.

Across the air the silver sheepbell rang.  
"The lambs are coming home," sweet Mary sang.  
"Your star of gold, your star of gold is shining in the sky.  
So sleep, my little King, go lullaby."

As I walked down the road at set of sun,  
The lambs were coming homeward one by one.  
I heard a sheepbell softly calling them,  
Along the little road to Bethlehem.

*Michael Head (1900-76)*

*Margaret Rose*

*Please stand*

**Carol**

sung by the Congregation and Choir

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.

*Traditional English melody  
adapted by Arthur Sullivan (1842-1900)*

*Edmund Sears (1810-1876)*

*Please sit*

## **Seventh Lesson**

Luke 2. 8-16

read by Christopher Stokes, Organist and Master of the Choristers

### ***The Shepherds go to the manger.***

#### **In the bleak midwinter**

sung by the Choir

In the bleak midwinter  
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 midwinter,  
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 midwinter  
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  
Fall down before,  
The ox and ass and camel  
which adore.

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.

*Harold Darke (1888-1976)*

*Christina Rossetti (1830-94)*

**I saw three ships**

sung by the Choir

I saw three ships come sailing in  
On Christmas day, on Christmas day;  
I saw three ships come sailing in  
On Christmas day in the morning.

And what was in those ships all three,  
On Christmas day, on Christmas day?  
And what was in those ships all three,  
On Christmas day in the morning?

Our Saviour Christ and his lady,  
On Christmas day, on Christmas day;  
Our Saviour Christ and his lady,  
On Christmas day in the morning.

Pray whither sailed those ships all three,  
On Christmas day, on Christmas day?  
Pray whither sailed those ships all three,  
On Christmas day in the morning?

O they sailed into Bethlehem,  
On Christmas day, on Christmas day;  
O they sailed into Bethlehem,  
On Christmas day in the morning.

And all the bells on earth shall ring,  
On Christmas day, on Christmas day;  
And all the bells on earth shall ring,  
On Christmas day in the morning.

And all the Angels in Heaven shall sing,  
On Christmas day, on Christmas day;  
And all the Angels in Heaven shall sing,  
On Christmas day in the morning.

And all the Souls on Earth shall sing,  
On Christmas day, on Christmas day;  
And all the Souls on Earth shall sing,  
On Christmas day in the morning.

Then let us all rejoice amain,  
On Christmas day, on Christmas day;  
Then let us all rejoice amain,  
On Christmas day in the morning.

*English carol*

*Arr Simon Preston (b 1938)*

*Traditional*

*Please stand*

## **Carol**

sung by the Congregation and Choir

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,  
All seated on the ground,  
The angel of the Lord came down,  
And glory shone around.

'Fear not,' said he (for mighty dread  
Had seized their troubled mind);  
'Glad tidings of great joy I bring  
To you and all mankind.

'To you in David's town this day  
Is born of David's line  
A Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;  
And this shall be the sign:

'The heavenly Babe you there shall find  
To human view displayed,  
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands,  
And in a manger laid.'

Thus spake the Seraph; and forthwith  
Appeared a shining throng  
Of angels praising God, who thus  
Addressed their joyful song:

'All glory be to God on high,  
And to the earth be peace;  
Good-will henceforth from heav'n to men  
Begin and never cease.'

*Este's Psalter*  
*Harmony by David Willcocks*  
*Descant by Christopher Stokes*

*Nahum Tate (1652-1715)*

*Please sit*

### **Eighth Lesson**

Matthew 2. 1-11

read by Addy Lazz-Onyenobi, lay member of the Cathedral Chapter

### ***The Wise Men are led to Jesus by the star.***

### **Venite Gaudete!**

sung by the Choir

Veni Emmanuel.

*O come Emmanuel*

O, venite adoremus.

*O come let us adore.*

Puer natus est nobis.

*A boy is born for us.*

Alleluia.

Hodie Christus natus est.

*Today Christ is born.*

Laetantur archangeli.

*The angels rejoice.*

Gaudete, Christus est natus.

*Rejoice, Christ is born.*

Alleluia.

*Adrian Peacock*

*Please stand*

**Ninth Lesson**

John I. 1-14  
read by the Dean

***Saint John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.***

*Remain standing*

**Verbum caro factum est**

sung by the Choir

Verbum caro factum est  
Alleluia.  
Et habitavit in nobis  
Alleluia.  
Gloria Patri et Filio  
Et Spiritu Sancto.  
Verbum caro factum est  
Alleluia.

*And the Word was made flesh,  
And dwelt among us,  
Glory to the Father and the Son  
And to the Holy Ghost.  
And the Word was made flesh.*

*John I. 14*

**Carol**

sung by the Congregation and Choir

*During the carol a collection is taken for the work and mission of the cathedral.*

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:  
    *Refrain*

See how the shepherds,  
Summoned to his cradle,  
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;  
We too will thither  
Bend our joyful footsteps:

*Refrain*

Lo! star-led chieftains,  
Magi, Christ adoring,  
Offer him incense, gold and myrrh;  
We to the Christ Child  
Bring our hearts' oblations:

*Refrain*

Child, for us sinners  
Poor and in the manger,  
Fain we embrace thee, with awe and love;  
Who would not love thee,  
Loving us so dearly?

*Refrain*

Sing, choirs of Angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
Glory to God  
In the highest:

*Refrain*

*Melody probably by John Francis Wade (1711-86)*

*Descant by Philip Ledger (1937-2012)*

*trans*

*Frederick Oakeley (1852-80)*

*Please remain standing for the final prayer and blessing which will be given by  
The Right Reverend Mark Ashcroft, Bishop of Bolton*

Bishop Let us pray.

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.

All **Amen.**

Bishop Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one  
things earthly and heavenly,  
fill you with peace and goodwill  
and make you partakers of the divine nature;  
and the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be upon you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

**Carol**

sung by the Congregation and Choir

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 th'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 th'incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as man with man 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 man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth,  
Born to give them second birth.

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

*Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809-47)  
Descant by Howard Arman (b 1954)*

*Charles Wesley & others*

**Music after the service**

In dulci jubilo, BWV 729

*J S Bach*

Finale, Symphony No 6

*Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937)*

*Please take this order of service away with you to reflect upon the music, readings and  
prayers  
as a reminder of your visit to us this evening.*

**22 December 2021**  
**Upcoming Special Events and Services**

**Thursday 23 December**

9am Morning Prayer  
1.10pm Holy Communion  
4.30pm Evening Prayer

**Friday 24 December - Christmas Eve**

9am Morning Prayer  
12pm Blessing of the Crib  
1.10pm Holy Communion  
4.30pm Evening Prayer

**Saturday 25 December - Christmas Day**

9am Morning Prayer followed by Holy Communion  
10.30am Christmas Day Sung Eucharist  
12pm Evening Prayer

**Sunday 26 December - Stephen, Deacon and First Martyr**

9am Matins  
10.30am Holy Eucharist  
12.30pm Evening Prayer

**Monday 27 December**

11am Morning Prayer followed by Holy Communion  
4.30pm Evening Prayer

**Tuesday 28 December**

11am Morning Prayer followed by Holy Communion  
4.30pm Evening Prayer

**Wednesday 29 December**

9am Morning Prayer followed by Holy Communion  
4.30pm Evening Prayer

**Thursday 30 December**

9am Morning Prayer followed by Holy Communion  
4.30pm Evening Prayer

**Friday 31 December**

9am Morning Prayer followed by Holy Communion  
4.30pm Evening Prayer

**Saturday 1 January**

11am Morning Prayer followed by Holy Communion  
12.30pm Evening Prayer

**Sunday 2 January - Epiphany**

9am Matins  
10.30am Holy Eucharist  
4.30pm Evening Prayer

*The Dean and Chapter would like to take this opportunity in wishing you a very Peaceful and Joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year.*

**Christmas at Manchester Cathedral**

**Friday 24 December, Christmas Eve**

Blessing of the Crib with Children's Nativity 12 noon

Midnight Mass 11.30pm (Incense will be used at this service)

**Saturday 25 December, Christmas Day**

Sung Eucharist 10.30am

*Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England,  
material from which is included in this service,  
is copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2000, 2005 and 2006.*