

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols



Friday 22nd December 2023
7.30 pm

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.

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.

Photography

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

Gift Aid

During the service there will be a collection for the mission and aims 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.



Alternatively, please donate using this QR Code:

Hearing-loop

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



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.

Musicians

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

The organ is played by Geoffrey Woollatt, Sub-Organist.

Music before the service

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 599	<i>J S Bach (1685-1750)</i>
Gott, durch deine Güte <i>oder</i> Gottes Sohn ist kommen BWV 600	<i>J S Bach</i>
Herr, Christ, der ein-ge Gottessohn <i>oder</i>	<i>J S Bach</i>
Herr Gott, nun sei gepreiset, BWV 601	
Der Tag, der ist so freudenreich, BWV 605	<i>J S Bach</i>
Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her, BWV 606	<i>J S Bach</i>
The Holy Boy	<i>John Ireland (1879-1962)</i>
Andante tranquillo, Capriol Suite	<i>Peter Warlock (1894-1930)</i>
Interlude on the Coventry Carol	<i>W S Lloyd-Webber (1914-82)</i>
Die Hirten an der Krippe	<i>Franz Liszt (1811-86)</i>

Large-print copies of this booklet are also available

Please stand as the lights are dimmed.

O Rex gentium (Plainsong procession)

sung by the Choir

O 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 (1919-2015)

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, who art in heaven,
 hallowed be thy Name;
 thy kingdom come;
 thy will be done,
 in 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.
 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

All and some

sung by the Choir

Nowell sing we now all and some,
For Rex *pacificus* is come. *King of peace*

In Bethlehem, in that fair city,
A child was born of a maiden free,
That shall a lord and prince be,
A solis ortus cardine. *From the pivot of the rising sun*

Children were slain in full great plenty,
Jesu, for the love of thee;
Wherefore their souls saved be,
Hostis Herodis impie. *Herod, the wicked enemy*

As the sun shineth through the glass,
So Jesu in his mother was;
Thee to serve now grant us grace,
O lux beata Trinitas. *Blessed light of the Trinity*

Now God is come to worship us;
Now of Mary is born Jesus;
Make we merry amongst us;
Exultet caelum laudibus. *Let heaven praise him*

Nowell sing we now all and some,
For Rex *pacificus* is come.

John Joubert (1927-2019)

15th century

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.***

Adam lay ybounden

sung by the Choir

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 clerkès finden
Written in their book.

Nè had the apple taken been,
The apple taken been,
Ne had never our lady
Abeen heavenè queen.

Blessèd be the time
That apple taken was,
Therefore we moun singen,
Deo gracias!

*Boris Ord (1897-1961)
arr Barry Rose (b 1934)*

15th century

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.

Higher
Voices 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.

Lower
Voices 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.

Higher
Voices 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.

Higher
Voices 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 Piae Contiones 1582
Last verse arr David Willcocks

Prudentius (348-413)
trans R F Davis (1866-1937)

Please sit

Third Lesson

Isaiah 9. 2, 6 & 7
read by a Bellringer

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.

Troc-a-tron

sung by the Choir

Troc-a-tron.

I'm a ridin' to Bethlehem,
Going to see Jesus in Bethlehem.
Little horse, trot quickly,
'Long the high road to Bethlehem.

Troc-a-tron.

'Long the high road to Bethlehem,
Ridin' to see him in Bethlehem.
Little horse, trot quickly,
Soon I'll see him in Bethlehem.

Troc-a-tron.

Czech tune
arr Petr Eben (1929-2007)

English words James Woodhouse (1735-1820)

In dulci jubilo

sung by the Choir

In dulci jubilo!
nun singet und seid froh!
Unser's Herzens Wonne
leigt in praesepio,
und leuchtet als die Sonne,
matris in gremio.
Alpha es et O.

O Jesu parvule,
Nach dir ist mir so weh!
Tröst' mir mein Gemüte
O puer optime.
Durch alle deine Güte
O Princeps Glorïae.
Trahe me post te!

*In sweet jubilation,
Now sing and be joyous!
Our heart's bliss
rests in a manger,
and shines like the sun
in his mother's lap.
[He is] Alpha and Omega.*

*O tiny Jesus,
my heart aches for you!
Console me in heart and soul,
O best of boys.
Through all your good,
O Prince of Glory,
draw me after you.*

O Patris caritas!
O Nati lenitas!
Wir wärn all verloren
Per nostra crimina
So hat er uns erworben
Coelorum gaudia.
Eia, wärn wir da!

Ubi sunt gaudia?
Nirgend mehr denn da!
Da die Engel singen
Nova cantica,
Und die Schellen klingen
In regis curia.
Eia, wärn wir da!

*Oh love of the Father!
Oh gentleness of the Son!
We would all be lost
through our crimes,
But you for us have gained
the joys of heaven.
Oh, that we were there!*

*Where are joys?
Nowhere more than there!
Where the angels sing
new songs,
and the bells ring
in the courts of the King.
Oh, were we only there!*

Hieronymus Praetorius (1560-1629)

Heinrich Seuse (1295-1366)

Fourth Lesson

Isaiah 11.1-9

read by a member of the congregation

The peace that Christ will bring is foretold.

Wexford Carol

sung by the Choir

Good people all, this Christmas time,
Consider well and bear in mind
What our good God for us is done
In sending his beloved son.
With Mary holy we should pray,
To God with love this Christmas Day
In Bethlehem upon that morn,
There was a blessed Messiah born.

The night before that happy tide
The noble Virgin and her guide
Were long time seeking up and down
To find a lodging in the town.
But mark right well what came to pass;
From every door repelled, alas!
As was foretold, their refuge all
Was but a humble oxen's stall.

Near Bethlehem did Shepherds keep
Their flocks of lambs and feeding sheep;
To whom God's angels did appear,
Which put the shepherds in great fear.
'Arise and go' the angels said
'To Bethlehem, be not afraid
For there you'll find, this happy morn
A princely babe, sweet Jesus born.'

With thankful heart and joyful mind,
The shepherds went the babe to find,
And as God's angel has foretold,
They did our Saviour Christ behold.
Within a manger he was laid,
And by his side a Virgin maid,
Attending on the Lord of Life,
Who came on earth to end all strife.

Ben Kelly

Traditional Irish Christmas Carol

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 fellowship
Each other now embrace;
And let this Christmas festival
All bitterness displace.
*O tidings of comfort and joy,
comfort and joy!
O tidings of comfort and joy!*

*London Carol melody
Harmonised by John Stainer (1840-1901)
Last verse arr by David Willcocks*

Traditional

Please sit

Fifth Lesson

Luke I. 26-38
read by a Warden

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessèd Virgin Mary.

Of a rose

sung by the Choir

Listen, lordynges, old and yonge,
How this rose began to sprynge;
Such a rose to mine lykyng
In all this word ne knowe I non.
Alleluia.

The aungel came fro heaven tour
To greet Marye with gret honour,
Seyde she should bere the flour
That should breke the fiends bond.
Alleluia.

The flower sprong in heye Bethlem,
That is both bryht and schen:
The rose is Marye, hevene qwene,
Out of here the blosme sprong.
Alleluia.

The feste braunche is ful of myth,
That sprong on Chrystemesse nyht,
The sterre schon over Bethlem bryht
That is bothe brod and long.
Alleluia.

The secunde braunche sprong to helle,
The fiendes power doun to felle:
There in myth non soule dwelle;
Blyss'd be the time the rose sprong!
Alleluia.

The thredde braunch is good and swote,
It sprang to hevene, crop and rote,
There to dwell and ben our bote;
Ev'ry day it schewit in prystes hond.
Alleluia.

Cecilia McDowall (b 1951)

Anon 14th century

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 (1869-1941)

Descant by Thomas Armstrong (1898-1994)

All sit

Phillips Brooks (1835-93)

Sixth Lesson

Luke 2. 1 & 3-7
read by a Verger

Saint Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

Quem pastores

sung by the Choir

Quem pastores laudavere,
Quibus angeli dixere,
Absit vobis iam timere,
Natus est rex gloriae,

Ad quem magi ambulabant,
Aurum, thus, myrrham portabant,
Immolabant haec sincere
Nato regi Gloriae.

Christo regi, Deo nato,
Per Mariam nobis dato
Merito resonet vere,
Laus honor et gloriae.

*The One who the shepherds praised,
And about whom the Angels told:
'Abandon you present fears,'
The King of Glory is born.*

*To Him the Kings walked,
Carrying gold, frankincense and myrrh,
Offering them religiously,
Born to the King of Glory.*

*Of Christ the King, God born,
Who was given to us by Mary,
We should sing the merit:
Praise, honour and glory.*

Nigel Short (b 1965)

14th century German words

I wonder as I wander

sung by the Choir

I wonder as I wander out under the sky,
How Jesus the Savior did come for to die.
For poor on'ry people like you and like I...
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.

When Mary birthed Jesus 'twas in a cow's stall,
With wise men and farmers and shepherds and all.
But high from God's heaven a star's light did fall,
And the promise of ages it then did recall.

If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,
A star in the sky, or a bird on the wing,
Or all of God's angels in heav'n for to sing,
He surely could have it, 'cause he was the King.

Carl Rütli (b 1949)

Traditional Appalachian

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 the Organist and Master of the Choristers

The Shepherds go to the manger.

O magnum mysterium

sung by the Choir

O magnum mysterium
et admirabile sacramentum
ut animalia viderent Dominum
natum
jacentem in praeseptio.
Beata Virgo cujus viscera
meruerunt portare
Dominum Christum.

*O great mystery
and wonderful sacrament
that even the animals saw the new
-born Lord
lying in a manger.
Blessed Virgin, whose womb
was worthy to bear
our Lord Christ.*

Francis Poulenc (1899-1963)

5th Responary of Matins on Christmas Day

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)

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 a lay member of the Cathedral Chapter

The Wise Men are led to Jesus by the star.

Coventry Carol

sung by the Choir

*Lully, lulla, thou little tiny child,
By by, lully lullay,
Thou little tiny child,
By by, lully lullay.*

O sisters too, how may we do
For to preserve this day
This poor youngling, for whom we do sing,
By by, lully lullay?

Herod, the king in his raging,
Charged he hath this day
His men of might, in his own sight,
All young children to slay.

That woe is me, poor child for thee!
And ever morn and day,
For thy parting neither say nor sing
By by, lully lullay!

*Lully, lulla, thou little tiny child,
By by, lully lullay,
Thou little tiny child,
By by, lully lullay.*

Kenneth Leighton (1929-88)

*from the Pageant of the Shearmen
and Tailors, 15th century*

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 spiritui sancto.
Verbum caro factum est: Alleluia.

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

Plainsong

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)

transc
Frederick Oakeley (1852-80)

*Please remain standing for the final prayer and blessing which will be given by
The Right Reverend Dr Matthew Porter, 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 (1685-1750)

Finale, Symphony No 1

Louis Vierne (1870-1937)

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.

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
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

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Christmas at Manchester Cathedral

Sunday 24th December, Christmas Eve

Blessing of the Crib with Children's Nativity 1.00 pm.

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

Monday 25th December, Christmas Day

Sung Eucharist 10.15 am (Incense will be used at this service)

Note: This service is to be broadcast live on BBC One. Congregation members are asked to be in their places by 9.30 am. Doors open from 8.45 am for worshippers to be welcomed and to pass through security. Large bags will not be permitted into the Cathedral.