



Manchester
Cathedral

Midnight Mass

24th December
2023
11.30 pm

Missa Brevis
Sancti Joannis de Deo
Franz Joseph Haydn

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.

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.

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.

Receiving Holy Communion

We offer a very warm welcome to any who are visiting us today. If you would normally receive communion in your own church you are very welcome to do so here. If you do not receive communion please feel free to come up for a blessing instead - simply bow your head when you come up so the Eucharistic Minister will know.

If you require a gluten free communion wafer please inform a steward before the service. Please note that the wine may contain traces of gluten.

Communicants are asked not to dip communion wafers into the wine.

Musicians

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

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

President

The Right Revd Mark Davies
Bishop of Middleton

Preacher

The Very Revd Rogers Govender
Dean

Large-print copies of this booklet are also available

Music Before the Service

Prelude on 'This endris nyght'

Healey Willan (1880-1968)

Gathering

Christmas Acclamation

Sung by the Choir

Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy
which shall be to all people:
for unto you is born in the city of David,
a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. Alleluia.

Christopher Stokes

Luke 2.10, 11

Please stand

The Processional Carol

A great and mighty wonder,
a full and holy cure!
The Virgin bears the Infant
with virgin-honour pure:
Repeat the hymn again!
*"To God on high be glory,
and peace on earth to men."*

The Word becomes incarnate,
and yet remains on high;
and cherubim sing anthems
to shepherds from the sky;
Repeat the hymn again...

While thus they sing your Monarch,
those bright angelic bands,
rejoice, ye vales and mountains,
ye oceans, clap your hands:
Repeat the hymn again...

Since all he comes to ransom,
by all be he adored,
the Infant born in Bethlehem,
the Saviour and the Lord:
Repeat the hymn again...

And idol forms shall perish,
and error shall decay,
and Christ shall wield the sceptre,
our Lord and God for ay.

Repeat the hymn again...

Es ist ein' Ros' Entspringen NEH 21

German Carol Melody

Harmonised by Michael Praetorius (1751-1621)

Greek, St Germanus (634-734)

tr J M Neale (1818-1866)

and others

The Greeting

Bishop In the name of the Father and of the Son
 and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

Bishop ‘Do I not fill heaven and earth?’ says the Lord.

All **Now the Word is made flesh
 and laid in a narrow manger.**

Bishop From eternity you are God,

All **and now we see you as a new born child.**

Bishop The Lord be with you,

All **and also with you.**

Words of welcome are said.

Prayers of Penitence

Deacon Christ the light of the world has come

 to dispel the darkness of our hearts.

 In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

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

 Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Deacon Jesus our Saviour,
 you were born in poverty and laid in a manger:
 forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.

 Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

Deacon Spirit of love,
your servant Mary responded joyfully to your call:
forgive the hardness of our hearts.
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Bishop May the God of all healing and forgiveness
draw you to himself,
that you may behold the glory of his Son,
the Word made flesh,
and be cleansed from all your sins,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Gloria in Excelsis

sung by the Choir

Gloria in excelsis Deo,
et in terra pax hominibus
bonae voluntatis.
Laudamus te, benedicimus te,
adoramus te, glorificamus te,
gratias agimus tibi
propter magnam gloriam tuam,
Domine Deus, Rex caelestis,
Deus Pater omnipotens.

Domine Fili unigenite,
Jesu Christe. Domine Deus,
Agnus Dei, Filius Patris,
qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis;
qui tollis peccata mundi,
suscipe deprecationem nostram.
qui sedes
ad dexteram Patris,
miserere nobis.

Quoniam tu solus Sanctus,
tu solus Dominus,
tu solus Altissimus,
Jesu Christe,
cum Sancto Spiritu
in gloria Dei Patris.
Amen.

*Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to people
of good will.*

*We praise you, we bless you,
we adore you, we glorify you,
we give you thanks
for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.*

*Lord, only-begotten Son,
Jesus Christ; Lord God,
Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the
world, have mercy upon us;
you take away the sins of the
world, receive our prayer;
you are seated
at the right hand of the Father
have mercy upon us.*

*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.*

Please remain standing

The Collect

The president leads the people in prayer and says the Collect

Eternal God,
who made this most holy night
to shine with the brightness of your one true light:
bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth,
to see the radiance of your heavenly glory;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

Please sit

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Isaiah 52.7-10

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.'

Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

At the end the reader says

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual Carol

Silent night, holy night,
all is calm, all is bright;
round the virgin mother and child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,
shepherds first saw the sight:
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia:
Christ the Saviour is born,
Christ the Saviour is born!

Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light;
radiance beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Stille Nacht NEH 35
Franz Gruber (1787-1863)

G B Timms (1910-1997)
based on J Mohr (1792-1848)

Gospel Reading

Luke 2.1-14

All turn to face the Gospel book. An acclamation heralds the Gospel reading

Choir 

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

All **Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Deacon Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

All 

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

At the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All 
(Choir: Praise to you) All: Praise to you O Christ.

Please sit

The Sermon

The Very Revd Rogers Govender
Dean

The sermon is followed by a time of silence for reflection. Please stand for the Creed.

The Nicene Creed

All **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

Prayers of Intercession

Prayers of intercession are said

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Father, in this holy night your Son our Saviour
was born in human flesh.

Renew your Church as the Body of Christ.

Holy God,

All hear our prayer.

In this holy night there was no room for your Son in the inn.
Protect with your love those who have no home
and all who live in poverty.

Holy God,

All hear our prayer.

In this holy night Mary, in the pain of labour,
brought your Son to birth.
Hold in your hand all who are in pain or distress.
Holy God,

All **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night your Christ came as a light
shining in the darkness.
Bring comfort to all who suffer in the sadness of our world.
Holy God,

All **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night the angels sang,
'Peace to God's people on earth.'
Strengthen those who work for peace and justice
in all the world.
Holy God,

All **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night shepherds in the field
heard good tidings of joy.
Give us grace to preach the gospel of Christ's redemption.
Holy God,

All **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night strangers found the Holy Family,
and saw the baby lying in the manger.
Bless our homes and all whom we love.
Holy God,

All **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night heaven is come down to earth,
and earth is raised to heaven.
Hold in your hand all those who have passed through death
in the hope of your coming kingdom.
Holy God,

All **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night Christians the world over
celebrate Christ's birth.
Open our hearts that he may be born in us today.
Holy God,

All **hear our prayer.**

Father,
in this holy night angels and shepherds
worshipped at the manger throne.
Receive the worship we offer
in fellowship with Mary, Joseph and the saints
through him who is your Word made flesh,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

All **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Please stand

The Peace

Bishop Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,
and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

All The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Deacon Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

Preparation of the Table Taking of the Bread and Wine

The Offertory Carol

During the carol, a collection for the Cathedral will be taken. Please use the Gift Aid envelope or, alternatively, please donate using the QR Code found on page 2.

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.

Noel NEH 29

Traditional English melody

Adapted by Arthur Sullivan (1842-1900)

Edmund Shears (1810-1876)

The president takes the bread and wine.

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

All **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

Bishop The Lord be with you,
All **and also with you.**

Bishop Lift up your hearts.
All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Bishop Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

President 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,
 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:

Choir	Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus, Dominus Deus Sabaoth. Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua. Osanna in excelsis. Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini. Osanna in excelsis.	<i>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.</i>
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Bishop Lord, you are holy indeed,
 the source of all holiness;
 grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
 and according to your holy will,
 these gifts of bread and wine
 may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;
 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.

Deacon Great is the mystery of faith:
All **Christ has died:**
 Christ is risen:
 Christ will come again.

Bishop And so, Father,
 calling to mind his death on the cross,
 his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;
 rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
 and looking for his coming in glory,
 we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.
 As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
 we bring before you this bread and this cup
 and we thank you for counting us worthy
 to stand in your presence and serve you.
 Send the Holy Spirit on your people
 and gather into one in your kingdom
 all who share this one bread and one cup, so that we,
 in the company of all the saints,
 may praise and glorify you forever,
 through Jesus Christ our Lord;
 by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 all honour and glory be yours,
 almighty Father, forever and ever.

All **Amen.**

Please be seated

The Lord's Prayer

Please say the Lord's Prayer in the language of your choice

President As our Saviour taught us, so we pray.
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 Breaking of the Bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread and says

Bishop We break the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.
All **God here among us,
light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.**

Communion

The invitation to Communion is said

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

The president and people receive communion. Authorized words of distribution are used and the communicant replies

Amen.

Members of all Christian Churches are welcome to receive Holy Communion. If you wish to receive a blessing instead, please keep your hands down.

Holy Communion will be offered in both kinds (that is in both elements of bread and wine). If you prefer, continuing to receive only bread is also permitted. Consecrated bread must not be intincted (dipped) in the wine.

Gluten-free wafers are available at the administration points by the nave platform.

Please follow the directions of the stewards.

Agnus Dei

sung by the Choir

Agnus Dei,
qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.

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

Agnus Dei,
qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.

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

Agnus Dei,
qui tollis peccata mundi,
dona nobis pacem.

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

Carols

sung by the Choir

During the Communion the Choir sings a selection of Christmas anthems.

A period of reflection is held. Please stand if you can as the president approaches the Altar

Prayer after Communion

Bishop God our Father,
 on this night, you have made known to us again
 the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:
 confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him,
 until the day dawns and Christ the Morning Star
 rises in our hearts.

To him be glory, both now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

All **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.**

The Dismissal

Carol

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 man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Hark!...

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!...

Mendelssohn NEH 26
from a chorus by Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

The Blessing

Bishop May the Father,
 who has loved the eternal Son
 from before the foundation of the world,
 shed that love upon you his children.

All **Amen.**

 May Christ,
 who by his incarnation gathered into one
 things earthly and heavenly,
 fill you with joy and peace.

All **Amen.**

 May the Holy Spirit,
 by whose overshadowing Mary became the God-bearer,
 give you grace to carry the good news of Christ.

All **Amen.**

 And the blessing of God almighty,
 the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
 be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

The Sending Out

Deacon Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.

All **Glory, thanks and praise to God!**

Music after the Service

Toccata from Symphony No 5

Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937)

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

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