

Chelmsford Cathedral

Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols



*Thursday 21, Friday 22, &
Saturday 23 December 2017
at 6.30 pm*



The Dean writes:

“A very warm welcome to this great traditional celebration as we prepare for Christmas Day. In beautiful choral music, in great popular congregational carols, and in wonderful readings from the Bible we celebrate together the birth of Christ at Bethlehem, and invite him to come into our lives today. As we listen in awe and wonder, and as we sing with joyful voices of praise, let your heart be open to the message that Christ is born in us today as light and hope for the world.”

*The Very Reverend Nicholas Henshall
The Dean of Chelmsford.*

Everything you need for this celebration is in this booklet, including the hymns and details of all the music. Welcome stewards are on duty. If you are a visitor, or have any questions about the life of the church in this place, please make yourself known to them.

*Please ensure that your mobile phone is switched off. There is a loop system installed throughout the church. If you are a hearing aid user, please turn it to **T**. There are toilet facilities with full disabled access in the Cathedral. Please ask a steward to direct you.*

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If you would like to know more about the Christian faith and the life of the Christian community in this place please speak to one of our priests, ring 01245 294492 or visit us at chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk

Organ recital

5.45pm

Played by Christopher Strange, the Graham Rogers Organ Scholar

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Rhapsodie sur des Airs Catalans | Eugène Gigout (1844 - 1925) |
| Christmas Cradle Song | Alfred Hollins (1865 - 1942) |
| Andante sostenuto <i>from</i> Symphonie Gothique | Charles-Marie Widor (1844 - 1937) |
| Canonic variations on <i>Vom Himmel hoch da komm' ich her</i> | J S Bach (1685 - 1750) |
| La Nativité <i>from</i> <i>Poèmes Évangéliques</i> | Jean Langlais (1907 - 1991) |
| Es ist ein' Ros' entsprungen | Johannes Brahms (1833 - 1897) |

Please stand as the procession enters the Cathedral from the West end and remain standing as the choir sings the introit carol from St Cedd's chapel

Choir Carol

Silent night

Silent night, holy night,
All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon virgin mother and child;
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night.
Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glory streams from heaven afar,
Heav'nly hosts sing 'Alleluia':
Christ, the Saviour is born.'

Silent night, holy night.
Son of God, love's pure light,
Radiant beams thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace:
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

*Joseph Mohr (1792 -1848) tr. John Freeman Young (1820 – 1885)
Music: Franz Gruber (1787 – 1863) arr. Barry Rose (b. 1934)*

Please sit

The First Lesson

Micah 5: 2-4 A ruler shall come from Bethlehem
Read by (December 21) (December 22) (December 23)

Please stand

Congregational Carol

IRBY

H. J. Gaunt 1805-1879 Revised by
A. H. Mann 1850-1929 and Editors



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.

**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.**

**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;
where like stars his children crowned
all in white shall wait around.**

Words: C. F. Alexander (1818-95)

Music: H J Gauntlett (1805-76) arr. Sir David Willcocks (1919-2015)

Please remain standing

The Bidding Prayer

concluding with

The Lord's Prayer

All 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

Choir Carol

A new work is come on hand

Alleluya.

A new work is come on hand
through might and grace of Godde's Son
to save the lost of every land.

Alleluya.

For now is free that erst was bound
we may well sing.

Alleluya.

Now is fulfilled the prophecy
of David and Jeremy and also of Isaiah
Alleluya.

Sing we therefore both loud and high.

Alleluya.

Alleluya. This sweeté song
out of a green branch it sprung
God send us the life that lasteth long.
Alleluya.

Now joy and bliss be him among
that thus can sing. Alleluya.

*Words: Anonymous 15th Century
Music: Peter Wishart (1921-1984)*

Please stand

Congregational Carol

ADESTE FIDELES

Melody probably by J. F. Wade 1711-1786



**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

**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 heav'n above;
Glory to God
in the Highest:**

Refrain

*Words: Latin 18th century, trans. Frederick Oakeley (1802 – 1880) and others
Music: Melody probably by J F Wade (1711 – 1786) arr. Sir David Willcocks*

Please sit

Choir Carol

Nöel nouvelet

Nöel nouvelet, Nöel chantons ici.
Dévotes gens, crions à Dieu merci!
Chantons Nöel pour le roi nouvelet.
Nöel nouvelet, Nöel chantons ici.

*Nowelling anew, this carol let us sing
To all who pray may God His Mercy bring!
Sing we Nowel for our King newly-born.
Nowelling anew, this carol let us sing.*

L'ange disait: 'Pasteurs, partez d'ici,
L'âme en repos et le coeur réjouï;
En Bethléem trouverez l'agnelet.'
Nöel nouvelet, Nöel chantons ici.

*God's angel spoke: 'You shepherds, go and sing,
In joy and peace your heart and soul to bring
To Bethlehem, where God's own Lamb is born.'
Nowelling anew, this carol let us sing.*

En Bethléem, étant tous réunis,
Trouvent l'enfant, Joseph, Marie aussi.
La crèche était au lieu d'un bercelet,
Nöel nouvelet, Nöel chantons ici.

*At Bethlehem, where all were gathering,
They stood around his manger worshipping,
And found the Babe of God and Mary born.
Nowelling anew, this carol let us sing.*

Bientôt les rois, par l'étoile éclaircis,
De l'Orient dont ils étaient sortis,
A Bethléem vinrent un matinet.
Nöel nouvelet, Nöel chantons ici.

*Right soon the Kings, by starlight entering,
Came from the East to make their offering,
Reached Bethlehem one early winter's morn.
Nowelling anew, this carol let us sing.*

Voici mon Dieu,
mon Sauveur Jésus Christ,
Par qui sera le prodige accompli
De nous sauver par son sang vermeillet!
Nöel nouvelet, Nöel chantons ici.

*Here lies my Lord,
my Saviour Christ the King,
His promise now to us accomplishing,
With his red blood to save us he was born!
Nowelling anew, this carol let us sing.*

*Words: French Traditional
Music: French trad. arr. Stephen Jackson (b. 1951)*

The Second Lesson

Isaiah 35 The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad

Read by (December 21) (December 22) (December 23)

Choir Carols

The Sussex Carol

On Christmas night all Christians sing
to hear the news the angels bring.
News of great joy, news of great mirth,
news of our merciful King's birth.

Then why should men on earth be so sad,
since our Redeemer made us glad,
when from our sin he set us free,
all for to gain our liberty?

When sin departs before His grace,
then life and health come in its place.
Angels and men with joy may sing
all for to see the new-born King.

All out of darkness we have light,
which made the angels sing this night:
"Glory to God and peace to men,
now and for evermore, Amen!"

Words: English Traditional

Music: English trad. arr. Sir Philip Ledger (1937 – 2012)

Jesus Christ the Apple Tree

The tree of life my soul hath seen,
laden with fruit and always green:
the trees of nature fruitless be
compared with Christ the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel:
by faith I know, but ne'er can tell
the glory which I now can see
in Jesus Christ the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought,
and pleasure dearly I have bought:
I missed of all; but now I see
'tis found in Christ the apple tree.

I'm weary with my former toil,
here I will sit and rest awhile:
under the shadow I will be,
of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,
it keeps my dying faith alive;
which makes my soul in haste to be
with Jesus Christ the apple tree.

*Words: Anon, Collection of Joshua Smith, New Hampshire, 1784
Music: Elizabeth Poston (1905 – 1987)*

The Third Lesson

Jeremiah 22: 13-16; 23: 5,6 Your Father judged the cause of the poor
Read by (December 21) (December 22) (December 23)

Choir Carol

I wonder as I wander

I wonder as I wander out under the sky,
How Jesus the Saviour 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.

*Words: collected from an Appalachian source by John Jacob Niles (1892 – 1980)
Music: John Jacob Niles, arr. Andrew Carter (b. 1939)*

The Fourth Lesson

Isaiah 11: 1-9 There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse
Read by (December 21) (December 22) (December 23)

Choir Carol

A tender shoot

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.

Words: William Bartholemew (1793 – 1867)
Music: Otto Goldschmidt (1829 – 1907)

Please stand

Congregational Carol

NOEL

Traditional English Melody adapted
by Arthur Sullivan 1842- 1900



**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.**

Words: Edmund Hamilton Sears (1810-1876)

Music: English Melody arr. Sir Arthur Sullivan, descant: Sir David Willcocks

Please sit

The Fifth Lesson

Isaiah 40: 1-11 A voice cries in the wilderness

Read by (December 21) (December 22) (December 23)

Choir Carols

This is the truth sent from above

This is the truth sent from above,
The truth of God, the God of love:
Therefore don't turn me from your door,
But hearken all, both rich and poor.

The first thing which I do relate
Is that God did man create,
The next thing which to you I'll tell,
Woman was made with man to dwell.

Then, after this, 'twas God's own choice
To place them both in Paradise,
There to remain, from evil free,
Except they ate of such a tree.

And they did eat, which was a sin,
And thus their ruin did begin.
Ruined themselves, both you and me,
And all of their posterity.

Thus we were heirs to endless woes,
Till God the Lord did interpose,
And so a promise soon did run,
That he would redeem us by his Son.

*Words: English traditional
Music: English traditional arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872 – 1958)*

Epiphany

Deep midwinter, the dark centre of the year,
Wake, O earth, awake,
Out on the hills a star appears,
Here lies the way for pilgrim kings,
Three magi on an ancient path,
Black hours begin their journeyings.

Their star has risen in our hearts,
Empty thrones, abandoned fears,
Out on the hills their journey starts,
In dazzling darkness God appears.

Words & music: Judith Bingham (b. 1952)

The Sixth Lesson

Philippians 2: 5-11 Jesus took the form of a servant
Read by (December 21) (December 22) (December 23)

Choir Carol

The blessed son of God

The blessed son of God only
In a crib full poor did lie;
With our poor flesh and our poor blood
Was clothed that everlasting good.
Kyrie eleison.

Lord have mercy

The Lord Christ Jesu, God's son dear,
Was a guest and a stranger here;
Us for to bring from misery,
That we might live eternally.
Kyrie eleison.

All this did he for us freely,
For to declare his great mercy;
All Christendom be merry therefore,
And give him thanks for evermore.
Kyrie eleison.

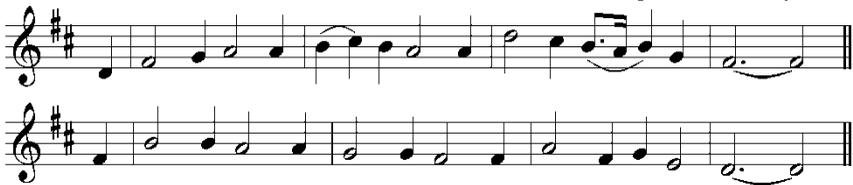
*Words: Miles Coverdale, after Martin Luther
Music: (from 'Hodie') Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872 – 1958)*

Please stand

Congregational Carol

THIS ENDRIS NIGHT

English 15th century Carol



Choir Behold, the great Creator makes
himself a house of clay,
a robe of virgin flesh he takes
which he will wear for ay.

All **Hark, hark! the wise eternal Word
like a weak infant cries;
in form of servant is the Lord,
and God in cradle lies.**

**This wonder struck the world amazed,
it shook the starry frame;
squadrons of spirits stood and gazed,
then down in troops they came.**

**Glad shepherds ran to view this sight;
a choir of angels sings,
and eastern sages with delight
adore this King of kings.**

**Join then, all hearts that are not stone,
and all our voices prove,
to celebrate this Holy One,
the God of peace and love.**

Words: Thomas Pestel (d. c.1569)

Tune: This endris night, arr. James Davy (b.1980)

Please sit

The Seventh Lesson

S. Luke I: 26-38 Mary will conceive and bear a Son
Read by (December 21) (December 22) (December 23)

There is no rose of such virtue

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

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

Praise the Lord.

Wonderful thing

By that rose we may well see
There be one God in Persons Three,
Pares forma.

Equal in form

Then leave we all this worldly mirth
And follow we this joyous birth;
Transeamus.

Let us follow

*Words: Anonymous 15th Cent
Music: John Joubert (b. 1927)*

Bethlehem Down

When He is King we will give him the Kings' gifts,
Myrrh for its sweetness, and gold for a crown,
Beautiful robes," said the young girl to Joseph,
Fair with her first-born on Bethlehem Down.

Bethlehem Down is full of the starlight,
Winds for the spices, and stars for the gold,
Mary for sleep, and for lullaby music
Songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem fold.

When he is King they will clothe him in grave-sheets,
Myrrh for embalming and wood for a crown,
He that lies now in the white arms of Mary
Sleeping so lightly on Bethlehem Down.

Here he has peace and a short while for dreaming,
Close-huddled oxen to keep him from cold,
Mary for love, and for lullaby music
Songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem fold.

*Words: Bruce Blunt
Music: Peter Warlock (Philip Heseltine) (1894 – 1930)*

The Eighth Lesson

S. Luke I: 39-56 The visit of Mary to her cousin Elizabeth
Read by (December 21) (December 22) (December 23)

The Shepherd's Carol

We stood on the hills, Lady,
Our day's work done,
Watching the frosted meadows
That winter had won.

The evening was calm, Lady,
The air so still,
Silence more lovely than music
Folded the hill.

There was a star, Lady,
Shone in the night,
Larger than Venus it was
And bright, so bright.

Oh, a voice from the sky, Lady,
It seemed to us then
Telling of God being born
In the world of men.

And so we have come, Lady,
Our day's work done,
Our love, our hopes, ourselves
We give to your son.

Words: Clive Sansom (1910 – 1981)

Music: Bob Chilcott (b. 1955)

Please stand

Congregational Carol

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

Melody from *Piae Cantiones*
Theoderici Petri Nylandensis 1582



**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.**

**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.**

**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.**

**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.**

Words: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (343 – c. 410) tr. Robert Furley Davis (1866 – 1937)

Music: from Piae Cantiones 1582, arr. David Willcocks

The Ninth Lesson

S. John I. 1 -14 St John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation
Read by the Very Reverend Nicholas Henshall, Dean of Chelmsford

Please remain standing

Homily

Given by the Dean of Chelmsford

Congregational Carol

MENDELSSOHN

From a chorus by Felix
Mendelssohn-Bartholdy 1809-1847



**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:**

Refrain

**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:**

Refrain

*Words: Charles Wesley (1707 – 1788) and others
Music: Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809 – 1847), arr. David Hill (b. 1957)*

The Collect for Christmas Eve

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 for our redeemer,
we may with sure confidence behold him
when he shall come to be our judge;
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

Please remain standing

The Blessing

Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one
things earthly and heavenly,
fill you with his grace
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.**

We remain standing as the procession departs

Organ voluntaries

In dulci jubilo BWV 729
Carillon-Sortie

J S Bach (1685-1750)
Henri Mulet

A retiring collection will be taken

Forthcoming services:

Sunday 24 December:

8.00 am **Holy Communion (said)**
10.30 am **Eucharist**
4.00 pm **Crib Service**
11.30 pm **Midnight Mass**

Christmas Day:

8.00 am **Holy Communion (said)**
9.00 am **Family Eucharist with carols**
10.30 am **Choral Eucharist**
celebrated by the Bishop of Chelmsford

New Year's Eve

8.00 am **Holy Communion (said)**
10.30 am **Eucharist *with hymns***
3.30 pm **Evening Prayer *with hymns***



visit us at
chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk