



LICHFIELD
CATHEDRAL
RE▶SOURCE
Recovering together

Festival of Lessons and Carols Christmas 2022

**Friday 23 December
& Saturday 24 December
at 18:00**

Lichfield Cathedral is called to live and proclaim the transforming love of God. Through the fullness of its life in the Spirit, it seeks to be a sign of the friendship and freedom that God in Jesus Christ has given the whole world to enjoy.

GENERAL INFORMATION



Welcome to Lichfield Cathedral. It is wonderful to have so many people in the Cathedral today, but for everyone's comfort and safety, please read and take note of the following information.

SAFETY

In the unlikely event of an emergency, please remain quiet and respond calmly and promptly to the directions of the stewards.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Occasionally the Cathedral photographers take photographs (without flash) during services, for use on the Cathedral website or on social media. They make every effort to do so as discreetly and quietly as possible. If you, or any one in your party, prefer not to be in any photograph, please speak to the photographer directly.

RECORDINGS AND MOBILE 'PHONES

You are kindly requested not to take photographs during the service or to make sound or video recordings in the Cathedral.

Please ensure that mobile 'phones are switched off.

Lavatories can be found in the Old Stables. Please ask a steward for directions.

COLLECTION/DONATIONS

giftaid it It currently costs £5,000 per day to keep Lichfield Cathedral open and running, offering free entry and open-door hospitality to the city, region, and beyond. English cathedrals do not receive any financial support from the State towards daily running costs and depend entirely on donations. Please do give as generously as you can to the collection during this service in order to maintain the work of this Cathedral in our own day and to help ensure that it survives and thrives for future generations. If you are a UK tax-payer, please place your contribution in the gift-aid envelope, completing and signing it as directed. This will increase the value of your gift by 25%, at no extra cost to yourself. It will be helpful if you prepare your envelope before the service begins, in time for the collection. Thank you.

Please join in with whatever is printed in **bold** type. The order of service suggests (preceded by this symbol ¶) which is the appropriate posture (standing or sitting), but please feel free to stand or sit as you are able. Large-print versions of this booklet are available: please ask a steward.

WELCOME TO THIS FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

This year the opening verses of John's Gospel, known as the prologue, provide the inspiration for our music and readings. In these verses, Christ is proclaimed as the eternal Word of God, in whom is light and life, and through whom all things were made. Verses from the prologue introduce each of the scriptural readings as the service moves forward.

This is a time to reflect on and prepare for the coming of the Christ Child, the word made flesh, which we celebrate at Christmas.

We hope that this service will help you to hear again the good news announced to humankind and to join with the angels in praising God for the gift of his Son.

You may wish to use the following prayer of preparation before the service begins:

Lord Jesus Christ,
your birth at Bethlehem
draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth:
accept our praise as we worship you,
our Saviour and our God. Amen.

ORGAN MUSIC BEFORE THE SERVICE

played by Martyn Rawles, Organist & Assistant Director of Music

Von Himmel hoch, da komm' ich her BWV 700
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Canonic Variations on "Von Himmel hoch, da komm' ich her" BWV 769
Johann Sebastian Bach

Variationes super Cantilenam "Laßt uns das Kindelein wiegen"
Franz Xaver Anton Murschhauser (1663-1738)

*At 17:50, there will be a welcome from the Dean of Lichfield,
the Very Revd Adrian Dorber*

Chorale Prelude on "Silent Night" (from Die Natali Op. 37)
Samuel Barber (1910-1981) arr. by the composer

ORDER OF SERVICE

¶ *Remain seated as the clergy procession approaches the West End.*

¶ *The congregation is asked to be very still and silent.*

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Solo:

1. 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:

2. 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.

¶ *Stand to sing*

All:

3. **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.**

4. **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.**

5. **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: Cecil Frances Alexander 1818-1895

Tune: 'Irby' by H.J. Gauntlett, Descant: Benjamin Lamb

¶ *Remain Standing*

CHRISTMAS POEM

On the Morning of Christ's Nativity *by John Milton*

This is the month, and this the happy morn,
Wherein the Son of Heav'n's eternal King,
Of wedded Maid, and Virgin Mother born,
Our great redemption from above did bring;
For so the holy sages once did sing,
That he our deadly forfeit should release,
And with his Father work us a perpetual peace.

That glorious Form, that Light unsufferable,
And that far-beaming blaze of Majesty,
Wherewith he wont at Heav'n's high council-table,
To sit the midst of Trinal Unity,
He laid aside, and here with us to be,
Forsook the courts of everlasting day,
And chose with us a darksome house of mortal clay.

THE BIDDING

¶ *Remain standing as the Dean, from the pulpit, bids us pray*

Beloved in Christ, be it this Christmastide our care and delight to hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger.

Therefore let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by this Holy Child.

But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace, justice and goodwill among all his people; for unity and courtesy within the Church he came to build, and especially in this City and Diocese of Lichfield.

And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us remember, in his name, the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry, the refugee and the oppressed; the sick and them that mourn, the lonely and the unloved, the aged and the little children; all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore, and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom in the Lord Jesus we are for ever one.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the Throne of Heaven, in the words which Christ himself has taught us:

**Our Father,
which 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 them that 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.**

¶ *Sit*

CHOIR ANTHEM

Hodie Christus Natus Est
Music — Francis Poulenc (1899-1963)

*Today Christ was born.
Today our Saviour appeared.
Today the angels sang on earth
and the archangels rejoiced.
Today the righteous celebrated, saying:
'Glory to God in the highest places; alleluia.'*

Antiphon to the Magnificat, Christmas Day

¶ *Remain seated*

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.

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 1.1-5, 26-27; 2.1-2
read by a Cathedral volunteer

¶ *Stand to sing*

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

**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 wondering 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.

**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.**

Phillips Brooks 1835-1893
Tune: 'Forest Green' Traditional English Melody
Descant by Sir Thomas Armstrong

¶ *Sit*

CHOIR CAROL

Adam Lay Ybounden
Music — Boris Ord (1897-1961)

*Adam lay ybounden, bounden in a bond;
Four thousand winter, thought he not too long.
And all was for an apple, an apple that he took.
As clerkes finden, written in their book.
Ne had the apple taken been, the apple taken been,
Ne had never our lady, abeen heavene queen.
Blessed be the time that apple taken was;
Therefore we moun singen: Deo gracias.*

Anon. English c.1400

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.
He was in the world, and the world came into being through him;
yet the world did not know him.

SECOND LESSON

Isaiah 53.1-3
read by a member of the Choral Foundation

CHOIR CAROL

Jesus Christ the Apple Tree
Music — Elizabeth Poston (1905-87)

*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 from Divine Hymns or Spiritual Songs
compiled by Joshua Smith

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.

THIRD LESSON

John 1.29-34
read by a member of the Cathedral School

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

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 send back the song
which now the angels sing.

¶ Sit

CHOIR ANTHEM

How Beautiful Upon The Mountains
Music – Sir John Stainer (1840-1901)

*How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him
that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that
publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, thy God
reigneth!*

Isaiah 52.7

And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us,
full of grace and truth.

FOURTH LESSON

Luke 2.1, 4-16

read by a member of the Cathedral Worshipping Community

CHOIR ANTHEM

For unto us a Child is Born
Music — George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

*For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given,
and the government shall be upon His shoulder;
and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor,
the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of
Peace.*

Isaiah 9.6

He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.

FIFTH LESSON

Matthew 2.1-12

read by a member of the Cathedral Council

CHOIR CAROL

Come! See the Infant King
Words and music – Disraeli Brown (b.1974)

*We travel along this dusty track,
just a star ahead and no looking back
on the way we've come;
we've no guarantee of what we'll find,
but our countries and loved ones
we've left behind out of faith for one
who's been promised: a King, robed in majesty,
who can unlock every door and open heav'n to me.*

*Come! See the infant King,
sleeping gently in a manger full of hay;
gold, incense, myrrh we bring,
in homage to our Saviour,
born this Christmas Day.*

*Watching over the flock in the cold by night,
every angel in heaven appeared,
so bright over Bethlehem.
All the shepherds gathered, amazed,
confused by the message and wanted
to bear out the news, so I went with them
to a stable, a new-born babe to see
that would unlock every door and open heav'n to me.*

Come! See the infant King.....

*No vision of angels has come to me;
no star in the sky, no fulfilled prophecy
to prove all this is true.
No vision I need to see the way,
and the star of the story's the light of my day:
let it 'lighten you: faith is the guide and hope the key
that will unlock every door and open heav'n to me:*

Come! See the infant King.....

But to all who received him, who believed in his name,
he gave power to become children of God.

SIXTH LESSON

1 John 2.7-17

read by a member of the Cathedral Chapter

CHOIR CAROL

In the Bleak Midwinter

Music – Harold Darke (1888-1976)

*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 & 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 breastful of milk and a mangerful 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.*

Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

And we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son.

SEVENTH LESSON

Colossians 1.15-20

read by the Dean

¶ *Stand to sing*

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

... during which a collection will be taken to support the mission and ministry of the Cathedral. Please give as generously as you are able and, if you are a UK taxpayer, use the Gift Aid envelopes provided.

**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, Christ the Lord!**

**God of God, Light of Light,
lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
very God, begotten, not created:
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

**See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps:
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

**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?
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;
glory to God in the highest:
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

On Christmas Eve only:

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born that happy morning;
Jesu, to thee be glory given:
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

Words: Latin, 18th century, tr Frederick Oakeley 1802-1880, et al
Tune: 'Adeste Fideles' by J.F. Wade
Descant: Sir David Willcocks

¶ *Sit*

CHOIR ANTHEM

God Is With Us

Music – Sir John Tavener (1944-2013)

God is with us.

Hear ye people,

even to the uttermost end of the earth.

The people that walked in darkness

have seen a great light.

The people that dwell in the shadow of death,

upon them the light has shined.

For unto us a child is born, for unto us a son is given,

And the government shall be upon his shoulder,

And his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor,

The mighty God, the everlasting Father,

the Prince of Peace.

Hear ye people,

even to the uttermost end of the earth:

God is with us, Christ is born.

Words adapted from the Orthodox
Great Compline for Christmas Eve

¶ *Please stand*

FINAL LESSON

John 1.1-14

read by the Bishop of Lichfield

¶ *Remain standing to sing*

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

**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 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.**

Words: Charles Wesley 1707-1788 and others

Tune: 'Mendelssohn' by Felix Mendelssohn

Descant: Benjamin Lamb

¶ *Remain Standing as the Canon Precentor prays either*

THE COLLECT FOR THE SUNDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS (ADVENT 4)

God our redeemer,
who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of your Son:
grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour,
so we may be ready to greet him
when he comes again as our judge;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

¶ *or the following Collect, on Christmas Eve*

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

THE BLESSING BY THE BISHOP OF LICHFIELD

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

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

May the Holy Spirit, by whose working Mary became the Godbearer, give you grace to carry the good news of Christ. **Amen.**

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

¶ *Remain standing as the clergy procession returns via the Nave and North Aisles to the vestibule.*

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Carillon on a Ukrainian Bell Carol

Gerald Near (b. 1942)

played by Martyn Rawles, Organist & Assistant Director of Music

The Bishop, the Dean and the Cathedral Chapter wish you happiness and peace in this holy season of Christmas and assure you of their prayers for every blessing in the coming year.

CAN WE HELP?

We very much hope that you have enjoyed your time in the Cathedral today. Sometimes attending a service like this can spark an interest in finding out more about the Christian faith, and we are always happy to help. If you would value a conversation then please get in touch with Canon Gregory Platten at gregory.platten@lichfield-cathedral.org or via the Chapter Office.

As usual we will be holding a Confirmation service at Easter this year. If you are interested in the possibility of preparing for Confirmation then, again, please contact Canon Gregory.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

CHRISTMAS EVE

- 15:00 Crib and Christingle Service
- 18:00 Festival of Lessons and Carols
- 22:00 First Eucharist of Christmas (Midnight Mass)

CHRISTMAS DAY

- 08:00 Holy Communion (Traditional Language)
- 10:30 Choral Eucharist for Christmas Day
- 15:30 Evening Prayer at the Crib with Carols

You might also be particularly interested in the following services:

Friday 6 January 2023 (Cathedral Choir)

- 17:30 Solemn Eucharist of the Epiphany

Sunday 8 January 2023 (Chamber Choir)

- 18:00 Epiphany Carol Service. This service of words and beautiful music will help us reflect upon the story and the depths of its meaning as we keep the Feast of the Epiphany

Sunday 29 January 2023 (Cathedral Choir)

- 15:30 Candlemas Carol Service. Bringing the Christmas season to a close, through words and through music we celebrate Jesus the Light of the World.

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