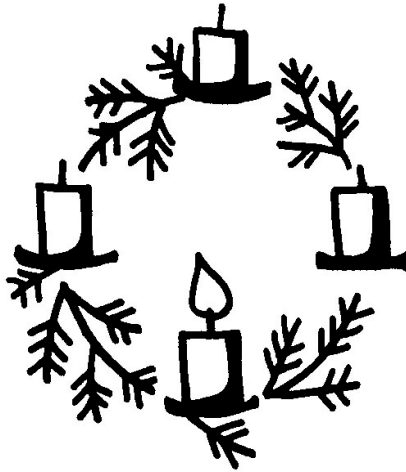




**LICHFIELD**  
CATHEDRAL



**Choral Eucharist**  
**1<sup>st</sup> December 2024 – 10.30**  
**First Sunday of Advent**

**President**

The Rt Revd Jan McFarlane - *Dean*

**Preacher**

The Revd Canon Dr Gregory Platten - *Canon Chancellor*

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.

## **ALL ARE WELCOME ... THIS IS YOUR CATHEDRAL....**



*Welcome to this service whether you are worshipping in the Cathedral or via YouTube at home during this Advent season.*



*Welcome to your Cathedral. If you're here with small children, we're very glad to see you! It's good to have you with us and joining in the worship. If you'd like one, there are activity bags with simple activities for children and a sheet with activities that follow the readings you'll hear in the service today - please ask the stewards who welcomed you for one. If you, or your child, needs some time out, you can use St Stephen's Chapel - straight ahead and to the left of the large hanging cross, near the large font. It has green walls and two entrances. There you'll find there some stories, and simple craft activities. But please come back when you want! Jesus said, 'Let the children come to me.'*

*To our worshippers here without children: children are a sign that the Body of Christ is growing, and a reminder that God is always doing a new thing. Please greet parents, carers and children with a smile.*

### **Safety**

Please always follow any directions given in how we need to move around the Cathedral. In the unlikely event of an emergency, please remain quiet and respond calmly and promptly to the directions of the Vergers.

### **Spiritual Communion**

While some cannot, for a number of reasons, come to Church to receive their communion in person we will continue to incorporate the Spiritual Communion within our worship at the point of the distribution.

### **Receiving Communion**

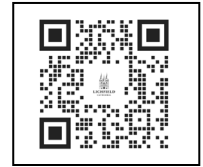
People will be able to choose whether they wish or not to receive their Holy Communion in the form of wine as well as bread. If you take the chalice, please help the person giving the chalice by guiding the cup to your lips. People are also reminded that we do not allow intinction (dipping the bread into the wine) at the Cathedral. Please follow the instructions given by the Stewards who will direct you to a communion station. Gluten-free bread will be available at each station.

### **Posture**

The order of service indicates whether to sit or stand, however please feel free to adopt the posture that you feel most comfortable with.

## Offerings

Your gifts are vital in sustaining our mission and worship. A collection will be taken by the Stewards during the offertory hymn. Please do Gift Aid your donation if you are a UK taxpayer by completing the required details on the envelopes provided. There are electronic giving points where you can tap a debit or credit card; if you need assistance with these devices, please do ask steward or verger. You can also scan this QR code or visit [www.lichfield-cathedral.org/donate](http://www.lichfield-cathedral.org/donate) to donate online.



## Refreshments

At the end of the service refreshments are available in the North Transept. We do hope that you will join us for a time of fellowship together.

## Photography and Livestreaming

Whilst we ask that members of the congregation do not take photographs or video of our worship, please note that at some of our services our Cathedral volunteer photographers will be taking photographs. We are also livestreaming to Facebook or YouTube many of our services. Whilst we do our best to not film the congregation for the livestream, please do let us know if this is a particular issue for you and we will assist by letting you know where you can sit so that you do not appear on screen.

## Music

Our service is sung today by the Lay Vicars Choral conducted by the Director of Music, Ben Lamb. The organ is played by the Assistant Director of Music, Martyn Rawles. The setting for the Eucharist is the Mass for Three Voices by Antonio Lotti (1667 – 1740).

*Texts reproduced from Common Worship are copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2006  
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## Preparation before the Service

The time before the service you are invited to keep as a period of quiet preparation for worship. You might find the following prayer useful:

*Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns,  
turn us from the darkness of sin  
to the light of holiness,  
that we may be ready to meet you  
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen*

*Please join in whatever is printed in **bold type**.*

## THE GATHERING

*Stand as the choir and sacred ministers assemble in the Crossing around the Advent Candles.*

### ADVENT PROSE

*The refrain is first sung by the Choir, then repeated by the people:*



Drop down, ye hea - vens from\_ a - bove,  
and let the skies pour\_ down right - eous - ness.

Be not wroth very sore, O Lord, neither remember iniquity for ever:  
Thy holy cities are a wilderness,  
Sion is a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation:  
our holy and beautiful house, where our fathers praised thee.

***Drop down...***

*Please sit as the President offers words of welcome*

### THE LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

O come, O come, Emmanuel: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

*The President invites a member of the congregation to light the first Advent candle*

We dare to light a light of hope,  
Despite the darkness of our world.  
In the face of cruelty and suffering,  
of oppression and inequality, we dare to hope!

In a world that sometimes seems hopeless,

**We dare to hope!**

With the patriarchs of old,

**We dare to hope!**

We light a candle in the darkness,

**We dare to hope!**

O come, O come, Emmanuel, **Come, Lord Jesus.**

*Stand*

INTROIT HYMN 26 *Merton*



1. Hark, a thrilling voice is sounding;  
'Christ is nigh,' it seems to say;  
'cast away the works of darkness,  
O ye children of the day.'

2. Wakened by the solemn warning,  
let the earth-bound soul arise;  
Christ, her Sun, all ill dispelling,  
shines upon the morning skies.

3. Lo, the Lamb, so long expected,  
comes with pardon down from heaven;  
let us haste, with tears of sorrow,  
one and all to be forgiven;

4. That when next he comes with glory,  
and the world is wrapped in fear,  
with his mercy he may shield us,  
and with words of love draw near.

5. Honour, glory, might, and blessing  
to the Father and the Son,  
with the everlasting Spirit,  
while eternal ages run.

Latin tr. Edward Caswall 1814-1878

*Remain standing*

#### THE GREETING

In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The light and peace of Jesus Christ be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

God calls, his call is to each one of us, it is personal and universal,  
an invitation to all humanity to meet him here.

God calls us to meet him here in the feast prepared by his Son.

God calls, his call is to each one of us.

His call is personal and universal.

*A moment of silence is kept.*

#### RITE OF PENITENCE

'The axe is laid at the root of the trees;  
every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down.'

But confident in God's mercy we confess our sins. *cf Matthew 3.10*

Most merciful God, **Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,**  
**we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed.**  
**We have not loved you with our whole heart.**  
**We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.**  
**In your mercy forgive what we have been,**  
**help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be;**  
**that we may do justly, love mercy,**  
**and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

**KYRIE ELEISON** (*choir*)

*Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.*

**ABSOLUTION**

The almighty and merciful Lord  
grant you pardon  
and forgiveness of all your sins,  
time for amendment of life,  
and the grace and strength of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*Stand*

**THE COLLECT**

Let us pray:

Almighty God,  
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness  
and to put on the armour of light,  
now in the time of this mortal life,  
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;  
that on the last day,  
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty  
to judge the living and the dead,  
we may rise to the life immortal;  
through him who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*Sit*

# THE LITURGY OF THE WORD



## OLD TESTAMENT READING Jeremiah 33.14-16

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'

This is the Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

*A short period of silence is kept*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Stand as the choir sings Alleluia which all repeat*

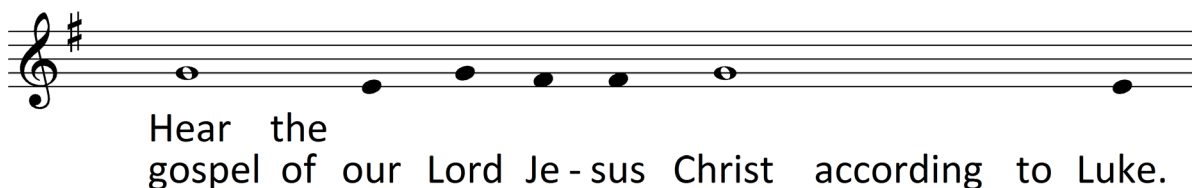


Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,  
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God. *cf Isaiah 40.3-5*

*All sing Alleluia again*

*Turn towards the reading of the Gospel in the middle of the Nave.*

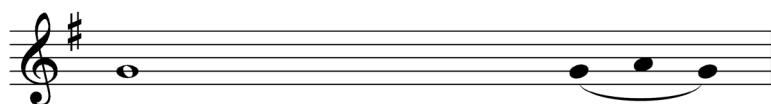
## GOSPEL READING Luke 21.25-36



Jesus said to his disciples: ‘There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in a cloud” with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.’

Then he told them a parable: ‘Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

‘Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.’



This is the Gospel of the Lord. \_\_\_\_



Praise to you, O Christ. \_\_\_\_\_

*A fanfare is sounded to honour the reading of the Gospel.*

*Sit*

**SERMON**

*Stand*



**NICENE CREED** *sung in the arrangement of John Merbecke*



We believe in one God, **the Father almighty,**  
**maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible:**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,**  
**begotten of his Father before all worlds,**  
**God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,**  
**begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father,**  
**by whom all things were made;**  
**who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven,**  
**and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary,**  
**and was made man, and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.**  
**He suffered and was buried,**  
**and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,**  
**and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father.**  
**And he shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead:**  
**whose kingdom shall have no end.**

**And we believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord, the giver of life,**  
**who proceedeth from the Father and the Son,**  
**who with the Father and the Son**  
**together is worshipped and glorified, who spake by the prophets.**  
**And we believe one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**  
**We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins.**  
**And we look for the resurrection of the dead,**  
**and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*Sit*

Let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

*The prayers conclude*

Merciful Father,  
**accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,**  
**our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**



## THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

### THE PEACE

*Stand*

In the tender mercy of our God,  
the dayspring from on high shall break upon us,  
to give light to those who dwell in darkness  
and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

*The Deacon of the Gospel says*

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*All may exchange a sign of peace with their neighbour*

### PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

*Bread and wine are carried through the congregation and presented at the altar, together with prayer slips that have been left at the Shrine of St Chad during the week.*

*A **collection** is 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*

### OFFERTORY HYMN 32 *Veni Emmanuel*

1. **O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here,  
until the Son of God appear:  
*Rejoice! rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel***



2. **O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free  
thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
from depths of hell thy people save,  
and give them victory over the grave:  
*Rejoice! ...***

3. **O come, thou Dayspring, come & cheer  
our spirits by thine advent here;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadows put to flight:  
*Rejoice! ...***

4. **O come, thou Key of David, come,  
and open wide our heavenly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery:  
*Rejoice! ...***

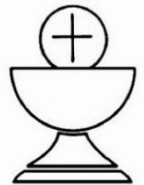
5. **O come, O come, thou Lord of Might,  
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height,  
in ancient times didst give the law  
in cloud and majesty and awe:  
*Rejoice!***

Latin Advent Antiphons *tr.* J M Neale 1818-1866

*Remain standing*

#### **TAKING OF THE BREAD AND WINE**

As this bread was scattered and then gathered and made one,  
so may your Church be gathered into your Kingdom.  
**Glory to you, O God, for ever.**



Wisdom has built her a house;  
she has mixed her wine; she has set her table.  
**Glory to you, O God, for ever**

#### **THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

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

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

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,  
almighty God and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son.  
For when he humbled himself to come among us in human flesh,  
he fulfilled the plan you formed before the foundation of the world  
to open for us the way of salvation.

Confident that your promise will be fulfilled,  
we now watch for the day  
when Christ our Lord will come again in glory.

And so we join our voices with angels and archangels  
and with all the company of heaven to proclaim your glory,  
for ever praising you and saying:

## SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS (Choir)

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,*

*heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.*

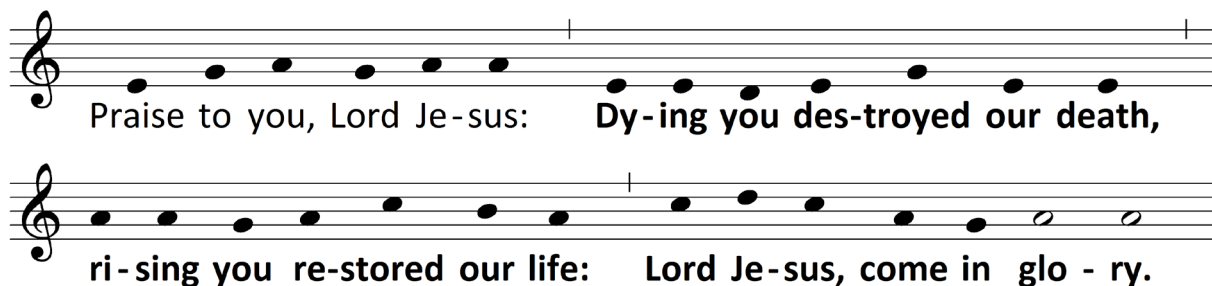
*Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.*

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,  
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
and as we follow his example and obey his command,  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit  
these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us his body and his blood;

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.

Therefore, heavenly Father,  
we remember his offering of himself  
made once for all upon the cross;  
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;  
we look for the coming of your kingdom,  
and with this bread and this cup  
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.



Praise to you, Lord Je-sus: **Dy-ing you des-troyed our death,**  
ri-sing you re-stored our life: **Lord Je-sus, come in glo - ry.**

Accept through him, our great high priest,  
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,  
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts  
in the presence of your divine majesty,  
renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love,  
and unite us in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him and in him,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,  
we worship you, Father Almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power  
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

#### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,  
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

**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.**

#### **BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
**we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

#### **GIVING OF COMMUNION**

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.  
**Jesus Christ is holy,  
Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.**

*The President receives Holy Communion and then leads the Spiritual Communion for those who are prevented from receiving their communion, and worshipping with us from home. We invite those in the Cathedral to pray quietly for them as the President leads them in prayer.*

**SPIRITUAL COMMUNION** *(for those worshipping online)*

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ,  
for all the benefits you have given me,  
for all the pains and insults you have borne for me.  
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,  
I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.  
O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,  
may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly,  
and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.

*Those of any Christian denomination who are accustomed to receiving Holy Communion in their own churches are invited to do so here. Please follow the directions given by the Stewards who will indicate which communion station you should go to. If you do not normally receive communion, please do come forward to receive a prayer of blessing. Gluten free hosts are available at each station for those who require them.*

**AGNUS DEI** *(Choir)*

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us; grant us peace.*

**MOTET** Veni, Domine - William Byrd (1540 – 1623)

O Lord, we await thy coming, that thou comest quickly and dissolvest the  
bonds of our captivity  
Come, O Lord, and tarry not: forgive the misdeeds of thy servants, and deliver  
thy people.

*Remain seated.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray:

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful  
as we await the coming of your Son our Lord;  
that, when he shall appear,  
he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service  
and joyful in his praise;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## NOTICES

*Stand*

### **HYMN 24** *Cross of Jesus*



**Come, thou long-expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us,  
let us find our rest in thee.**

**Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art:  
dear desire of every nation,  
joy of every longing heart.**

**Born thy people to deliver,  
born a child, and yet a king,  
born to reign in us for ever,  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.**

**By thine own eternal Spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all-sufficient merit  
raise us to thy glorious throne.**

Charles Wesley 1707-1788

## THE BLESSING & DISMISSAL

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,  
scatter the darkness from before your path,  
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

*The Deacon of the Gospel says*

Our Lord says, 'I am coming soon.'

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

May the Lord, when he comes,  
find us watching and waiting.

**Amen.**

*Remain standing as the choir and clergy depart*

### ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Toccata on 'Veni Emmanuel'  
*Adolphus Hailstork (b 1941)*

*Please do stay for refreshments, these are served in the North Transept.*



### Later today:

16:30 Evening Prayer

18:00 'From Darkness to Light' Advent Carol Service

**If you would like to be kept informed of services and events  
at Lichfield Cathedral please do get in touch with us.**

**Our general 'phone number is 01543 306100**

**You'll find us on Facebook, Twitter @LichfieldCath  
[www.lichfield-cathedral.org](http://www.lichfield-cathedral.org)**