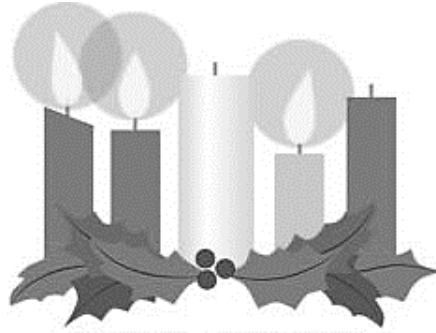




BELFAST  
CATHEDRAL

**CHORAL EVENSONG**  
**The Third Sunday of Advent**  
**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2021**



**Welcome to the Cathedral Church of St Anne, Belfast**

Face coverings **must be worn** when entering and exiting the building, and when singing the hymns. We request members of the congregation to wear face coverings throughout the service. Please follow the instructions from the Churchwardens. Under government guidance for the purposes of keeping Contact Tracing Records it is essential that you complete the following information. These will be retained for 21 days, after which they will be destroyed. Thank you.

PLEASE PLACE THIS PAGE OF THE ORDER OF SERVICE IN THE BOX AT THE WEST END OF THE CATHEDRAL AS YOU LEAVE

**Name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone contact:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Organ Prelude:** Wachet auf, ruft uns die stimme Max Reger (1873-1916)

Please stand to sing **HYMN 501\***:



**Christ is the world's true light,  
its captain of salvation,  
the day-star shining bright,  
to all in every nation:  
new life, new hope awakes  
when we accept his way;  
freedom her bondage breaks  
and night is turned to day.**

**One Lord, in one great name  
unite us all who own you;  
cast out our pride and shame  
that hinder to enthrone you:  
the world has waited long,  
has laboured long in pain;  
to heal its ancient wrong,  
come, Prince of Peace, and reign.**

*Words: George W. Briggs (1875-1959)*

*Tune: DARMSTADT (O GOTT, DU FROMMER GOTT) Melody by Ahasuerus Fritsch (1629-1701) adpt. and harm.*

*J.S. Bach (1685-1750)*

Please stand for the **OPENING RESPONSES:**

*Priest:* O Lord, open thou our lips.

*Choir:* And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

*Priest:* O God, make speed to save us.

*Choir:* O Lord, make haste to help us.

*Priest:* Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Ghost.

*Choir:* As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world  
without end. Amen.

*Priest:* Praise ye the Lord.

*Choir:* The Lord's name be praised.

*Setting: Richard Ayleward (1626-69)*

*Please sit while the choir sings* **PSALM 66:**

O be joyful in God, all ye lands:

    sing praises unto the honour of his Name, make his praise to be glorious.

Say unto God, O how wonderful art thou in thy works:

    through the greatness of thy power shall thine enemies be found liars unto  
    thee.

For all the world shall worship thee:

    sing of thee, and praise thy Name.

O come hither, and behold the works of God:

    how wonderful he is in his doing toward the children of men.

He turned the sea into dry land:

    so that they went through the water on foot; there did we rejoice thereof.

He ruleth with his power for ever; his eyes behold the people:

    and such as will not believe shall not be able to exalt themselves.

O praise our God, ye people:

    and make the voice of his praise to be heard;

Who holdeth our soul in life:

    and suffereth not our feet to slip.

For thou, O God, hast proved us:

    thou also hast tried us, like as silver is tried.

Thou broughtest us into the snare:

    and laidest trouble upon our loins.

Thou sufferedst men to ride over our heads:

    we went through fire and water, and thou broughtest us out into a  
    wealthy place.

I will go into thine house with burnt-offerings:

    and will pay thee my vows, which I promised with my lips, and spake with  
    my mouth, when I was in trouble.

I will offer unto thee fat burnt-sacrifices, with the incense of rams:

    I will offer bullocks and goats.

O come hither, and hearken, all ye that fear God:

    and I will tell you what he hath done for my soul.

I called unto him with my mouth:

    and gave him praises with my tongue.

If I incline unto wickedness with mine heart:  
the Lord will not hear me.  
But God hath heard me:  
and considered the voice of my prayer.  
Praised be God who hath not cast out my prayer:  
nor turned his mercy from me.

*Please stand for the **GLORIA:***

Glory be to the Father:  
and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:  
world without end. Amen.

*Chant: Havergal*

*Please sit for the **FIRST LESSON:** Isaiah 35:1-10*

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,  
and rejoice with joy and singing.  
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.  
They shall see the glory of the Lord,  
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,  
and make firm the feeble knees.  
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,  
'Be strong, do not fear!  
Here is your God.  
He will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense.  
He will come and save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.  
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;  
the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there,  
and it shall be called the Holy Way;  
the unclean shall not travel on it,  
but it shall be for God's people;  
no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.  
No lion shall be there,  
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
they shall not be found there,  
but the redeemed shall walk there.  
And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,  
and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain joy and gladness,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

*Please remain seated as the choir sings the **MAGNIFICAT:***

My soul doth magnify the Lord:  
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.  
For he hath regarded:  
the lowliness of his handmaiden.  
For behold, from henceforth:  
all generations shall call me blessed.  
For he that is mighty hath magnified me:  
and holy is his Name.  
And his mercy is on them that fear him:  
throughout all generations.  
He hath shewed strength with his arm:  
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.  
He hath put down the mighty from their seat:  
and hath exalted the humble and meek.  
He hath filled the hungry with good things:  
and the rich he hath sent empty away.  
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel:  
as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.

*Please stand for the **GLORIA:***

Glory be to the Father:  
and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:  
world without end. Amen.

*Setting: Evening Service in G, Sir Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)*

Please sit for the **SECOND LESSON:** Luke 1:57-66

The time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. Her neighbours and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.

On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. But his mother said, 'No; he is to be called John.' They said to her, 'None of your relatives has this name.' Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. He asked for a writing-tablet and wrote, 'His name is John.' And all of them were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. Fear came over all their neighbours, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. All who heard them pondered them and said, 'What then will this child become?' For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.

Please remain seated as the choir sings the **NUNC DIMITTIS:**

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace:  
according to thy word.

For mine eyes have seen:  
thy salvation.

Which thou hast prepared:  
before the face of all people.

To be a light to lighten the Gentiles:  
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Please stand for the **GLORIA:**

Glory be to the Father:  
and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:  
world without end. Amen.

*Setting: Evening Service in G, Sir Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)*

Standing, we face east to recite the **APOSTLES' CREED:**

I believe in God **the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty. From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*Priest:* The Lord be with you.

*Choir:* And with thy spirit.

*Priest:* Let us pray.

*Please kneel or sit.*

*Priest:* Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Choir:* Christ, have mercy upon us.

*Priest:* Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Choir:*

Our Father, which 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 them that trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation;

But deliver us from evil. Amen.

*Priest:* O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

*Choir:* And grant us thy salvation.

*Priest:* O Lord, save the Queen.

*Choir:* And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

*Priest:* Endue thy ministers with righteousness.

*Choir:* And make thy chosen people joyful.

*Priest:* O Lord, save thy people.

*Choir:* And bless thine inheritance.

*Priest:* Give peace in our time, O Lord.

*Choir:* Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O  
God.

*Priest:* O God, make clean our hearts within us.

*Choir:* And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

### **THE COLLECT OF THE DAY:**

O Lord Jesu Christ, who at thy first coming didst send thy messenger to prepare thy way before thee; Grant that the ministers and stewards of thy mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready thy way, by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at thy second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in thy sight, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end.

*Choir: Amen.*

### **THE ADVENT COLLECT:**

Almighty God, Give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious Majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, now and ever.

*Choir: Amen.*

### **COLLECT FOR PEACE:**

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels and all just works do proceed; Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that both, our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

*Choir: Amen.*

### **COLLECT FOR AID AGAINST ALL PERILS:**

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord: and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

*Choir: Amen.*

### *The choir sings the* **ANTHEM:**

O Thou, the central orb of righteous love,  
Pure beam of the most High, eternal Light  
Of this our wintry world, Thy radiance bright  
Awakes new joy in faith, hope soars above.



Come, quickly come, and let thy glory shine,  
Gilding our darksome heaven with rays Divine.

Thy saints with holy lustre round Thee move,  
As stars about thy throne, set in the height  
Of God's ordaining counsel, as Thy sight  
Gives measured grace to each, Thy power to prove.

Let Thy bright beams disperse the gloom of sin,  
Our nature all shall feel eternal day  
In fellowship with thee, transforming day  
To souls erewhile unclean, now pure within. Amen.

*Words: Henry Ramsden Bramley (1833-1917)*

*Setting: Charles Wood (1866-1926)*

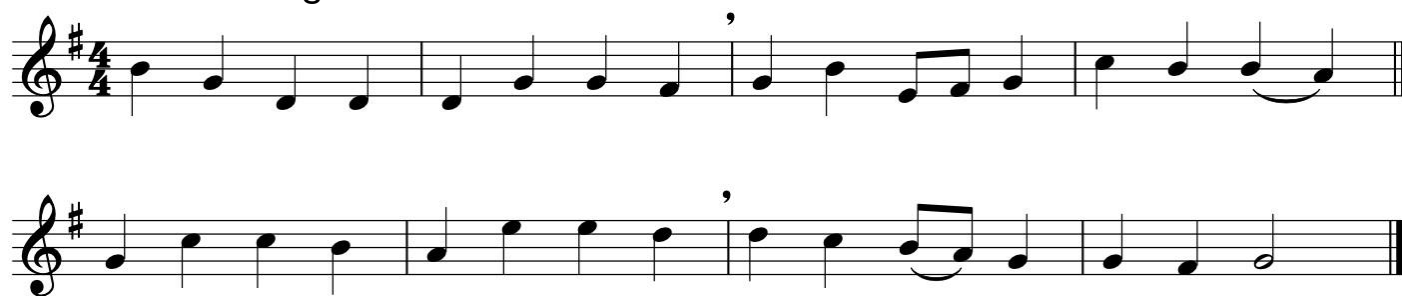
*Please kneel or sit for the PRAYERS, which conclude with* **A PRAYER OF ST JOHN CHRYSOSTOM:**

Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications unto thee; and dost promise that when two or three are gathered together in thy Name thou wilt grant their requests: Fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting.

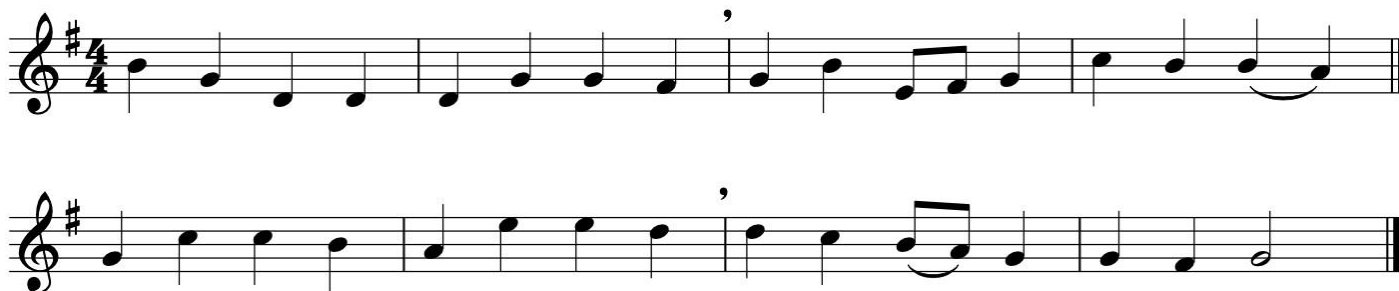
*All respond:* **Amen.**

*All:* **The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.**

*Please stand to sing* **HYMN 119\*:**



**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.**



**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.**

*Words: Charles Wesley (1707-88)*

*Tune: CROSS OF JESUS John Stainer (1840-1901) from 'The Crucifixion'*

## **THE BLESSING**

The peace of God which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord: And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always.

*Response:* **Amen.**

*Please remain standing as the choir and clergy depart*

**Organ Postlude:** Toccata-Prelude on 'Wachet Auf' Francis Jackson CBE (b.1917)

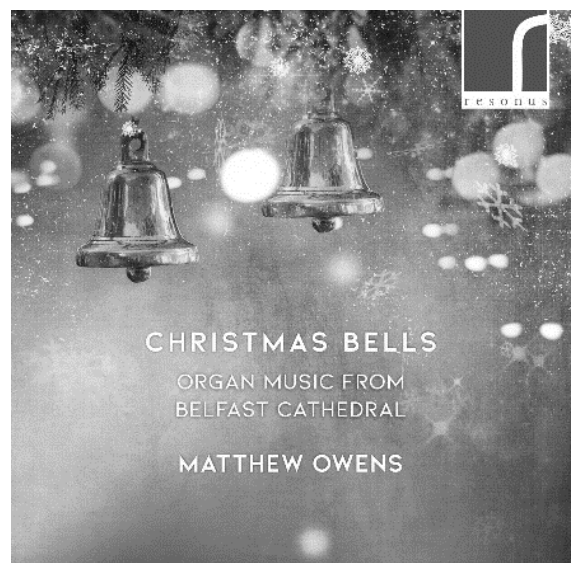
*Please exit as directed by the Cathedral Wardens  
There is a Retiring Collection at this service*

## **Musical Purchases for Christmas 2021!**

Belfast Cathedral Choir has released their CD **A Belfast Christmas**, a varied programme of familiar seasonal carols and fresh festive offerings from composers including John Rutter, Philip Stopford, Philip Wilby, Philip Ledger and Bob Chilcott.

A second CD is **Christmas Bells**, featuring Organ Music from Belfast Cathedral, with Matthew Owens.

Both CDs will be available to purchase following this service.





## NOTICES



**No Lunchtime Prayer during the Sit Out**  
**Friday 1.00-2.00pm** The Church's Ministry of Healing Service

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2021: The Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
**11.00am Choral Eucharist**  
*Preacher: The Reverend Janice Elsdon*

**3.30pm Crib Service for Children**  
with an Invitation to All,  
**featuring Belfast Cathedral Children's Choir & Songbirds**

### **Belfast Cathedral Christmas Services 2021**

Thursday 23 December	7.30pm - Lessons & Carols of Christmas.
Friday, Christmas Eve	7.30pm - Lessons & Carols of Christmas 11.00pm - First Eucharist of Christmas.
Saturday, Christmas Day	Festival Choral Eucharist, 11.00am
Sunday 26 December	Service of the Word (said), 11.00am NO 3.30pm service

*If you wish to attend the Carol Services or First Eucharist of Christmas  
it is essential to contact Reception in order to confirm capacity*  
**028 9032 8332 or [admin@belfastcathedral.org](mailto:admin@belfastcathedral.org)**

**Please remember to make your  
FWO (Free Will Offering) contribution to the Cathedral  
as you leave the cathedral this morning or via Online Banking**

*Thank you for your continuing financial support for Belfast Cathedral*