

**CHORAL EUCHARIST**  
**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2021**  
**11.00am**  
**The Fourth Sunday of Advent**

*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:** \_\_\_\_\_



## **INSTRUCTIONS FOR RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION**

Baptised members of Christian churches are welcome to join in this Eucharist.

It is the Lord's table and this invitation is given in his name.

The Eucharist will be celebrated and distributed in accordance with the Covid precautions as laid down by the Church of Ireland. As a result, Communion will be in **one kind only** today.

If you wish to receive communion, please move to the Quire Steps when directed by the cathedral wardens. Those seated on the North (left) side of the Nave will move first, then those seated on the South (right) side afterwards.

Please keep 1m social distance at all times and continue wearing your face covering until you return to your seat. Only then remove your face covering to take the wafer bread.

Please indicate if you require a Gluten-free wafer.

If you wish to receive a blessing only, please keep your hands by your side or cross your arms.

*Please do not make video recordings or take photographs during the service*

**Organ Prelude: Prélambule (24 Pièces en Style Libre) Louis Vierne (1870-1937)**



**THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE**



Please stand to sing **HYMN 135:**



**All**

**O come, O come, Emmanuel!**  
**redeem thy captive Israel,**  
**that into exile drear is gone**  
**far from the face of God's dear son.**  
***Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel***  
***Shall come to thee, O Israel.***

*Choir only*

O come, thou Wisdom from on high!  
who madest all in earth and sky  
Creating man from dust and clay:  
To us reveal salvation's way.  
*Rejoice! Rejoice! [...]*

**All**

**O come, O come, Adonai,**  
**who in thy glorious majesty**  
**From Sinai's mountain, clothed in awe**  
**Gavest thy folk the ancient law.**  
***Rejoice! Rejoice! [...]***

*Choir only*

O come, O come, thou Dayspring bright!  
Pour on our souls thy healing light;  
Dispel the long night's lingering gloom,  
And pierce the shadows of the tomb.  
*Rejoice! Rejoice! [...]*



**All**                    **O come, Desire of Nations! show  
Thy kingly reign on earth below;  
Thou Corner-stone, uniting all,  
Restore the ruin of our fall.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! [...]**

*Words: 18<sup>th</sup> century Latin, based on The Advent Antiphons from 9<sup>th</sup> century, tr. John M. Neale (1818-66)  
Tune: VENI EMMANUEL Melody from a 15<sup>th</sup> century French Franciscan processional pub. by Thomas Helmore  
(1811-90) in Hymnal Noted (1856), arranged by Sir David Willcocks (1919-2015)*

## **LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH**

God our Father, the angel Gabriel told the Virgin Mary that she was to be the mother of your Son. Though Mary was afraid, she responded to your call with joy. Help us, whom you call to serve you, to share like her in your great work bringing our world your love and healing.

**Bless your Church preparing for Christmas; and bless us who long for your coming. Amen.**

## **THE GREETING**

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

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. *Matthew 3:2*

## **THE COLLECT FOR PURITY**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **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.

Please kneel or sit whilst the choir sings the **KYRIE:**

Kyrie eleison.

Lord, have mercy.

Christe eleison.

Christ, have mercy.

Kyrie eleison.

Lord, have mercy.

*Setting: Messe Solennelle, Op. 16, Louis Vierne (1870-1937)*

Almighty God, **our heavenly Father, we have sinned in thought and word and deed, and in what we have left undone. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may walk in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy on you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

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 and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **THE ADVENT COLLECT**

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 and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**



### **PROCLAIMING AND RECEIVING THE WORD**



Please sit for the **EPISTLE READING:** Hebrews 10: 5-10

When Christ came into the world, he said,  
'Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,  
but a body you have prepared for me;  
in burnt-offerings and sin-offerings  
you have taken no pleasure.

Then I said, "See, God, I have come to do your will, O God"  
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).'

When he said above, 'You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt-offerings and sin-offerings' (these are offered according to the law), then he added, 'See, I have come to do your will.'

He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please remain seated as the choir sings* **PSALM 80, vv 1-8:**

Hear, O thou Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep:  
shew thyself also, thou that sittest upon the cherubims.

Before Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasses:

stir up thy strength, and come, and help us.

Turn us again, O God:

shew the light of thy countenance, and we shall be whole.

O Lord God of hosts:

how long wilt thou be angry with thy people that prayeth?

Thou feedest them with the bread of tears:

and givest them plenteousness of tears to drink.

Thou hast made us a very strife unto our neighbours:

and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

Turn us again, thou God of hosts:

shew the light of thy countenance, and we shall be whole.

Thou hast brought a vine out of Egypt:

thou hast cast out the heathen, and planted it.

*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.

*Tone IV*

*Please remain standing to sing the* **ALLELUIA:**



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Here I am, the servant of the Lord: let it be with me according to your word.

*Luke 1:38*

*Please remain standing*

**THE GOSPEL READING:** Luke 1:39-55

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke.



In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

And Mary said,  
'My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,  
for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.  
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.  
His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.  
He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.  
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;  
he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.  
He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



**SERMON** by the Reverend Janice Elsdon

Please stand and face east to say the **NICENE CREED**:

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 by the Holy Spirit of 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.**



## **THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**



*Please kneel or sit*

Joyful in the presence of the Lord, let us pray for the Church and for the world:

Prepare the Church to receive with joy and thanksgiving the coming of the Lord as his Nativity. May all Christian people join with Mary his Mother to proclaim his greatness.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Raise up the lowly ones of the world and give them fullness of life. In your mercy turn the hearts of those who are deceived by power and wealth. Do not send the rich empty away.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As we prepare again to celebrate this Christmas time, bless us, our families, friends and neighbours, with purity of spirit and holiness of desire. Shield us from selfish pleasure, make us mindful of the need of many in our community.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**



We pray for all who are hungry, whether for food to sustain their bodies or faith to nourish their souls. Comfort and heal those who through sickness or poverty can feel little joy at this time. We pray for all those in our cathedral community who are struggling with ill health, anxiety for family members and living with bereavement, asking your blessing upon each one.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We ask that you stand with all whose lives have been touched by personal experience of Covid-19, especially those suffering at present and those who have lost loved ones. Bless all who work in healthcare, the fields of research and vaccination, and those with leadership responsibilities in these challenging times.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We remember with thanks the departed who have magnified their Lord on earth and now praise him in his heavenly Kingdom.

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

#### **THE PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS**

**We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord, whose nature is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him and he in us. Amen.**

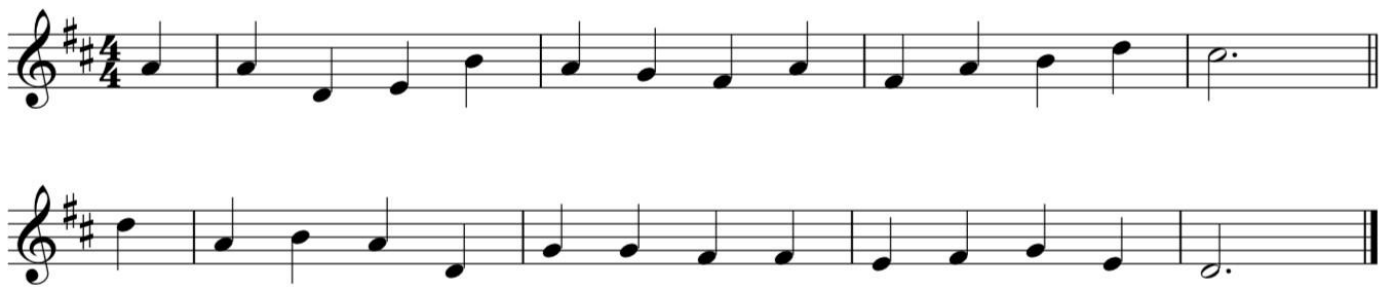
*Please stand*

#### **THE PEACE**

May the God of peace make you completely holy, ready for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**

*Please stand to sing* **HYMN 374:**



**When all thy mercies, O my God,  
my rising soul surveys,  
transported with the view, I'm lost  
in wonder, love, and praise.**

**When worn with sickness, oft hast thou  
with health renewed my face;  
and when in sins and sorrows sunk,  
revived my soul with grace.**

**Through every period of my life  
thy goodness I'll pursue;  
and after death, in distant worlds,  
the glorious theme renew.**

**Through all eternity to Thee  
a joyful song I'll raise;  
for O eternity's too short  
to utter all Thy praise!**

*Words: attrib. Joseph Addison (1672-1719)  
Tune: ST FULBERT Henry J. Gauntlett (1805-76)*



## **CELEBRATING AT THE LORD'S TABLE**



*Please remain standing*

Look upon us in mercy not judgement; draw us from hatred to love; make the frailty of our praise a dwelling place for your glory. **Amen.**

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

Christ our passover has been sacrificed for us  
**therefore let us celebrate the feast.**

The Lord is here. His spirit is with us.

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

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

Father, almighty and everliving God, at all times and in all places it is right to give you thanks and praise:

Salvation is your gift through the coming of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, and by him you will make all things new when he returns in glory to judge the world:

And so with all your people, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and saying:

*The choir sings the* **SANCTUS:**

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus  
 Dominus Deus Sabaoth.  
 Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua.  
 Hosanna in excelsis.

*Holy, Holy, Holy  
 Lord God of Hosts.  
 Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
 Hosanna in the highest.*

*Setting: Messe Solennelle, Op. 16, Louis Vierne (1870-1937)*

Blessed are you, Father, the creator and sustainer of all things; you made us in your own image, male and female you created us; even when we turned away from you, you never ceased to care for us, but in your love and mercy you freed us from the slavery of sin, giving your only begotten Son to become man and suffer death on the cross to redeem us; he made there the one complete and all-sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world:

he instituted, and in his holy Gospel commanded us to continue, a perpetual memory of his precious death until he comes again:

On the night that he was betrayed he took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, 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 when he had given thanks to you, he gave it to them, saying, Drink this, all of you, for 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, Father, with this bread and this cup we do as Christ your Son commanded: **we remember his passion and death, we celebrate his resurrection and ascension, and we look for the coming of his kingdom.**

**Accept through him, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; and as we eat and drink these holy gifts, grant by the power of the life-giving Spirit that we may be made one in your holy Church and partakers of the body and blood of your Son, that he may dwell in us and we in him:**

**Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, Almighty Father, for ever and ever. Amen.**

*Please kneel or sit*

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

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

**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.**

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

The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

**We being many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.**

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you and, by intention, his blood which he shed for you. Remember that he dies for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

*Please sit whilst the choir sings the **AGNUS DEI**:*

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata  
mundi, miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata  
mundi, miserere nobis.

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

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

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

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

*Setting: Messe Solennelle, Op. 16, Louis Vierne (1870-1937)*

### **THE COMMUNION**

*Please observe the guidance of the Church Wardens and follow the directions as printed at the beginning of this order of service*

**Organ music: Complainte (24 Pièces en Style Libre) Louis Vierne (1870-1937)**

*During communion the choir sings the **ANTHEM:***

Ave Maria, gratia plena,  
Dominus tecum.  
Benedicta tu in mulieribus,  
et benedictus fructus ventris tui,  
Iesus.  
Sancta Maria, Mater Dei,  
ora pro nobis peccatoribus,  
nunc et in hora mortis nostrae.  
Amen.

*Hail Mary, full of grace,  
the Lord is with you.  
Blessed are you among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of your womb,  
Jesus.  
Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners,  
now and at the hour of our death.  
Amen.*

*Words: Antiphon for the Blessed Virgin Mary  
Setting: Louis Vierne (1870-1937)*

**THE GREAT SILENCE**

*When all have received communion, the presiding minister, other ministers and people keep silence for reflection.*



**GOING OUT AS GOD'S PEOPLE**



**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Heavenly Father, you have given us a pledge of eternal redemption. Grant that we may always eagerly celebrate the saving mystery of the incarnation of your Son. We ask this through him whose coming is certain, whose day draws near, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of 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.**

*Please remain standing to sing **HYMN 132:***



**Lo! he comes with clouds descending,  
once for favoured sinners slain;  
thousand thousand saints attending  
swell the triumph of his train:  
Alleluia!  
God appears, on earth to reign.**

**Every eye shall now behold him  
robed in dreadful majesty,  
we who set at nought and sold him,  
pierced, and nailed him to the tree:  
Deeply wailing,  
Shall the true Messiah see.**

**Yea, amen! let all adore thee,  
high on thine eternal throne;  
Saviour, take the power and glory;  
claim the kingdom for thine own:  
O come quickly,  
Alleluia! Come, Lord, come!**

*Words: John Cennick (1718-55) and Charles Wesley (1707-88) based on Revelation 1:7  
Tune: HELMSLEY Later form of a melody in John Wesley's Select Hymns with Tunes Annex (1765)*

## **THE BLESSING**

Christ the sun of righteousness shine upon you, gladden your hearts and scatter the darkness from before you: and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**

## THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

**Organ Postlude: Allegro Maestoso (3e Symphonie) Louis Vierne (1870-1937)**

*Please remain in your place until the Churchwardens direct you to move  
Thank you*



**Belfast Cathedral Choir's debut disc with Resonus Classics is now available. It is available after this service, at a special discount price.**

*"The choir's tonal purity and impeccable tuning are a pleasure"  
(BBC Music Magazine, five stars)*

*"The clarity of the choir's singing is exceptional"  
(from Choir and Organ, 'pick of the festive fair')*

*"Matthew Owens, late of Wells Cathedral, has re-established the choir at St Anne's Cathedral as a professional adult ensemble and it could well be the finest all-adult standing choir of its kind anywhere, with near-perfect vowel harmony, blend, enunciation, nuanced awareness of phrase and an exceptional, bright and pure soprano group."  
(Gramophone)*



## NOTICES



**Please join us today at 3.30pm for the Crib Service**  
 A special service for children and their families,  
 with Belfast Cathedral Children's Choir and Belfast Cathedral Songbirds

**No Lunchtime Prayer during the Sit Out**

### **BELFAST CATHEDRAL CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2021**

Thursday 23 December	<b>7.30pm</b> - A Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols.
Friday 24, Christmas Eve	<b>7.30pm</b> - A Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols. <b>11.00pm</b> - First Eucharist of Christmas.
Saturday 25, Christmas Day	9.03am – <i>On Radio Ulster: Christmas Morning Broadcast recorded from Belfast Cathedral – Featuring Readers from the Cathedral Children's Choir.</i>
Saturday 25, Christmas Day	<b>11.00am</b> – Festival Choral Eucharist Christmas Preacher – Rt Revd David McClay, Bishop of Down & Dromore.

**If you wish to attend either Carol Service on 23<sup>rd</sup> of 24<sup>th</sup> or the First Eucharist of Christmas at 11.00pm on Christmas Eve IT IS ESSENTIAL to contact Reception in order to book your seats**  
 028 9032 8332 or [admin@belfastcathedral.org](mailto:admin@belfastcathedral.org)

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> December 2021: St Stephen's Day  
 (The First Sunday of Christmas)**

**11.00am Service of the Word**

*Preacher: Reuben Johnston, Student Reader, CITI*

**3.30pm No Service**

	<b>January 2022</b>
Sunday 2 January	Holy Eucharist (said), 11.00am <b>No 3.30pm service</b>

**Please remember to make your  
 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*