



BELFAST
CATHEDRAL
CRIB SERVICE

with Belfast Cathedral Children's Choir
and Belfast Cathedral Songbirds

Sunday 19th December 2021
3.30pm



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: _____



Please do not make video recordings or take photographs during the service.
**Due to Child Safeguarding Regulations no photographing or videoing
of the children is permitted.**

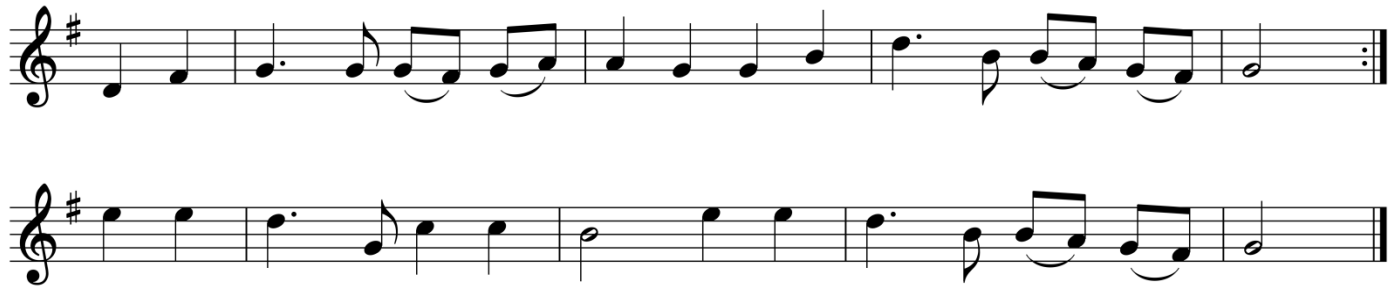
Please join in with all the text printed in bold.



THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE



Please stand to sing the congregational carol:



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.

***All* 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.**

**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: Mrs Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-95)

*Tune: IRBY Melody by Henry J. Gauntlett (1805-76), harmonised by A. M. Mann (1850-1929);
last verse organ part by Sir David Willcocks (1919-2015)*

Please sit

WELCOME – THE DEAN

INTRODUCTION

Christ has brought us out of darkness:
to live in his marvellous light.

Today we have come together in the presence of God our Father to rejoice in the gift of Jesus to us as the light of the world, to hear and receive the story and message of the coming of Christ, and to offer to God our thanksgiving in prayer and song.

The glory of the Lord has been revealed
and all people shall see it together.

As four children light the candles of the Advent Wreath we say:

First Candle:

Jesus Christ is the light of the world:
a light no darkness can quench.

Second Candle:

The shepherds kept watch by night,
and your glory shone round about them.

Third Candle:

The darkness is not dark to you,
the night is as bright as the day.

Fourth Candle:

Let your light scatter the darkness
and fill your Church with your glory.

PRAYERS

As we kneel with the shepherds before the newborn Christ-child, we open our hearts in penitence and faith, saying:

Father God, we are sorry for the things we do and say and think which make you sad, and for not thinking of others before ourselves. Please forgive us, and help us to love you and other people more and more. Amen.

May God who loved the world so much that he sent his Son to be our Saviour forgive us our sins and make us holy to serve him in the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A READING: Luke I, vv 26-38 The Angel Gabriel visits Mary in Nazareth

Please remain seated as the Belfast Cathedral Songbirds sing:

Little donkey, little donkey on a dusty road,
Got to keep on plodding onwards with the precious load.
Been a long time, little donkey, through the winter's night,
Don't give up now, little donkey, Bethlehem's in sight.

*Ring out those bells tonight Bethlehem, Bethlehem.
Follow that star tonight, Bethlehem, Bethlehem.*

Little donkey, little donkey, journey's end is near,
There are wise men waiting for a sign to bring them here.
Do not falter, little donkey, there's a star ahead,
It will guide you little donkey, to a cattle shed.

*Ring out those bells tonight Bethlehem, Bethlehem.
Follow that star tonight, Bethlehem, Bethlehem.*

Little donkey, little donkey, had a heavy day,
Little donkey, carry Mary safely on her way.

Words and music: Eric Boswell (1921-2009)

A PRAYER

Lord, by the song of the angels you disclosed your birth to your own people, and by the leading of a star you revealed your glory to strangers. Teach us to know you now, and to make you known to people everywhere. **Amen.**



MINISTRY OF THE WORD



The Christmas Story – Part 1

Told with the figures of Joseph and Mary with the donkey and the calf

Please remain seated as the Belfast Cathedral Children's Choir sings:

Torches, torches, run with torches
All the way to Bethlehem!
Christ is born and now lies sleeping;
Come and sing your song to Him!

Ah, Roro, Roro, my baby
Ah, Roro, my love, Roro;
Sleep you well, my heart's own darling
While we sing you our Rorro.

Sing, my friends, and make you merry
Joy and mirth and joy again;
Lo, He lives, the King of heaven
Now and evermore. Amen.

Words: Galician, tr. J. B. Trend (1887-1958)

Music: John Joubert (1927-2019)

The Christmas Story – Part 2

Told with the figures of the shepherds and the Magi

PRAYER AT THE CRIB

O God the Son, highest and holiest, who humbled yourself to share our birth and our death: bring us with the shepherds and the wise men to kneel before your holy cradle, that we may come to sing with your angels your glorious praises in heaven; where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, God, world without end. **Amen.**

Please remain seated as the Belfast Cathedral Songbirds and the Belfast Cathedral Children's Choir sing:

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

*Words: Anonymous, Philadelphia, 1883
Music: Melody by W.J. Kirkpatrick (1838-1921)*

OUR THANKSGIVING

Glory to Christ, Son of Mary; born a child, you are one with us.

Glory to God in the highest.

Glory to Christ, Son of David; born to rule, you reign in our hearts.

Glory to God in the highest.

Glory to Christ, Son of man; born to save, you are the light of the world.

Glory to God in the highest.



PRAYERS FOR OUR WORLD



Jesus, whose mother was Mary: we pray for our families.

Lord Jesus, **hear our prayer.**

Jesus, cradled in a manger: we pray for the homeless and refugees.

Lord Jesus, **hear our prayer.**

Jesus, sharing the stable with the animals: we pray for the world.

Lord Jesus, **hear our prayer.**

Jesus, worshipped by shepherds and kings: we pray for all the nations of the world.

Lord Jesus, **hear our prayer.**

Jesus, our Emmanuel: we pray for those who are in need this Christmas.

Lord Jesus, **hear our prayer.**

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.

Please remain seated as the Belfast Cathedral Songbirds sing the Caribbean Carol:

Long ago and far away
in Bethlehem, a Mother lay her newborn
Babe upon the hay.
He was the Blessed Jesus Child,
He was Blessed Jesus.

*Noel, Noel, let angels sing Noel! Noel!
Let church bells ring! Noel! Noel!
Let ev'rything sing Alleluia to the Baby Boy!
Baby Boy! Baby Boy!
Alleluia to the Baby!*

Shepherds on the mountain cold
Awoke when angel voices told them
"Go and leave your lambs in fold.
Follow the star to Bethlehem!
Follow the star to Bethlehem!"

*Noel, Noel, let angels sing Noel! Noel!
Let church bells ring! Noel! Noel!
Let ev'rything sing Alleluia to the Baby Boy!
Baby Boy! Baby Boy!
Alleluia to the Baby!*

When they reach'd the open door
And saw the Kings who'd gone before,
They wond'ring knelt on dirty floor,
Worshipping Baby Jesus there,
Worshipping Baby Jesus.

*Noel, Noel, let angels sing Noel! Noel!
Let church bells ring! Noel! Noel!
Let ev'rything sing Alleluia to the Baby Boy!
Baby Boy! Baby Boy!
Alleluia to the Baby!*

Words and music: Pamela M. Verrall (1915-96)

THE BLESSING OF THE CRIB

In the faith of Christ, and in your name, O God most holy, we hallow this crib of Christmas, to set before the eyes of your children the great love and humility of Jesus Christ your only Son; who for us, and for our salvation, came down as at this time from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary his mother, and was made man; to whom with you and the same Spirit be all honour, majesty, glory and worship, now and to the ages of ages. **Amen.**

May the grace of Christ our Saviour be with us all. **Amen.**



GOING OUT AS GOD'S PEOPLE



Please stand to sing the congregational carol:



**Hark! the herald angels sing
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 (1707-88) and others
Music: From a chorus by Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy (1809-47);
last verse organ part by Sir David Willcocks (1919-2015)*

THE BLESSING

Father of all, you have given us your Son to be the Saviour of the world. Welcome us your children into your kingdom to enjoy your presence for ever, and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Amen.

Organ Postlude: Carillon Sortie *Henri Mulet (1878-1967)*

On behalf of the Dean and the Clergy of Belfast Cathedral, we express our thanks to the children of the Belfast Cathedral Songbirds and the Belfast Cathedral Children's Choir, along with India Chapman Webb, Ali Darragh, Tristan Russcher (Associate Organist) and Matthew Owens (Director of Music) for all their hard work and enthusiasm in preparing for this afternoon's service.

We wish each of you, as children, parents, family, and friends all joy and peace for Christmas 2021.



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



BELFAST CATHEDRAL CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2021

Thursday 23 rd	7.30pm A Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols
Friday 24 th , Christmas Eve	7.30pm A Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols 11.00pm First Eucharist of Christmas
Saturday 25 th , Christmas Day	9.03am – <i>On Radio Ulster: Christmas Morning Broadcast recorded from Belfast Cathedral – featuring readers from Belfast Cathedral Children’s Choir</i>
Saturday 25 th , Christmas Day	11.00am Festival Choral Eucharist Preacher: The Right Reverend David McClay, Bishop of Down & Dromore

If you wish to attend either Carol Service on 23 of 24 December or the First Eucharist of Christmas at 11.00pm on Christmas Eve, it is essential to contact Reception in order to book your seats
Call: 028 9032 8332 or email admin@belfastcathedral.org

Sunday 26th December 2021: St Stephen’s Day (The First Sunday of Christmas)

11.00am Service of the Word

Preacher: Reuben Johnston, Student Reader, CITI

No 3.30pm Service

January 2022

Sunday 2 January

Holy Eucharist (said), 11.00am

No 3.30pm service

No Lunchtime Prayers during the Sit Out

The Retiring Collection from this Service is in Support of this year’s Belfast Cathedral Black Santa Appeal.

Thank you for your continuing financial support for Belfast Cathedral

*Bible passages in this service are from the New Revised Standard Version.
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