



# THE FIRST EUCHARIST OF CHRISTMAS

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2023 11.30pm

Broadcast live on BBC Radio Wales



# CROESO | WELCOME

We are delighted to welcome you to this service at your cathedral, which has been a site of Christian worship for over 1,500 years.

Everything you need to follow the service is in this booklet. Please join in the singing of the hymns, as well as the text printed in **Bold**.

This Choral Eucharist, at which we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, will be broadcast live on BBC Radio Wales, and will be available to listen to on BBC Sounds after the broadcast.

The rubrics in this service indicating when to *stand* and *sit* are suggestions only.

Please follow them as you are able.

If you are more comfortable remaining seated throughout the service, please do so.

Please be seated by 11.15pm, and wait quietly for the beginning of the service.

#### DONATE

A collection is taken during this service. You can also donate by using the contactless giving devices located around the building, or via Text as follows:

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Communion will be distributed at stations around the Cathedral.

Please follow the direction of the Stewards.

Members of all Christian denominations are welcome to take communion.

You may also come forward to receive a blessing.

**Gluten-free wafers** are available at the Communion. If you wish to receive one, please ask a steward in advance.







The Cathedral is served by a hearing loop. Users should turn their hearing aid to the setting marked T.

# Large print versions of this booklet are available.

Please ask a steward for a copy.

Please ensure that all electronic devices are turned off.

We kindly request that you do not take photographs, or video or sound recording in the cathedral at any time during this service.

# ORDER OF SERVICE

## THE GATHERING

Words of welcome are offered from the Lectern at 11.30pm.

Please stand as the Procession enters. All sing:

#### THE ENTRANCE HYMN



All 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 to-night.

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.

#### THE BLESSING OF THE CRIB

Dear friends, as we meet to celebrate the birth of Christ, let us pray that God will bless this crib, that all who worship his Son, born of the Virgin Mary, may come to share his life in glory.

The crib is blessed.

God our Father, on this night your Son Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary for us and for our salvation: bless this crib, which we have prepared to celebrate that holy birth; may all who see it be strengthened in faith and receive the fullness of life he came to bring, who is alive and reigns for ever.

We continue to sing:



All 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!

Words: Text by Phillips Brooks (1835-93)

Music: FOREST GREEN English Traditional Melody; harmony by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Christ the Light of the World has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts. In his light let us examine ourselves and call to mind our sins.

Heavenly Father, we have sinned in thought, word and deed, and have failed to do what we ought to have done. We are sorry and truly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ who died for us, forgive us all that is past and lead us in his way to walk as children of light. Amen.

May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw you to himself, and cleanse you from all your sins, that you may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Choir

Gloria in excelsis Deo, et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis.

Laudamus te, benedicimus te, adoramus te, glorificamus te. Gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam.

Domine Deus, Rex caelestis, Deus Pater omnipotens, Domine Fili unigenite, Iesu Christe: Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris. Qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis. Qui tollis peccata mundi, suscipe deprecationem nostram. Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris, miserere nobis.

Quoniam tu solus Sanctus. Tu solus Dominus. Tu solus Altissimus, Iesu Christe Cum Sancto Spiritu, in gloria Dei Patris. Amen. Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will towards men.

We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great glory.

O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty, O Lord, the onlybegotten Son, Jesus Christ: O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.

For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord; thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Music: Missa Brevis John Rutter (b. 1945)

THE COLLECT

Priest Eternal God,

who made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of your one true light, bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth, to see the radiance of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

# THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please sit.

THE FIRST READING

Reader A reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah.

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.' Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Isaiah 52. 7 - 10

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

THE SECOND READING

Reader A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews.

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Hebrews 1. 1 - 4

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Please stand and repeat the Gospel acclamation after the choir:



Choir Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Choir The Word became flesh and lived among us,

and we have seen his glory.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to Saint John.

All Glory to you, O Lord.

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. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

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. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

John 1. 1 - 14

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

The organ is played as the Gospel procession returns to the High Altar.

THE SERMON
The Bishop of Llandaff

Please sit.

Please stand.

We believe in one God,

All 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; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from 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.

#### Please sit or kneel.

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Father, on this holy night your Son our Saviour was born in human flesh. Renew your Church as the Body of Christ.

Lord in your mercy

## All hear our prayer.

On this holy night there was no room for your Son in the inn. Protect with your love those who have no home and all who live in poverty. Lord in your mercy

## All hear our prayer.

On this holy night Mary, in the pain of labour, brought your Son to birth. Hold in your hand all who are in pain or distress today. Lord in your mercy

## All hear our prayer.

On this holy night your Christ came as a light shining in the darkness. Bring comfort to all who suffer in the sadness of our world. Lord in your mercy

## All hear our prayer.

On this holy night the angels sang, 'Peace to God's people on earth.' Strengthen those who work for peace and justice in all the world. Lord in your mercy

#### All hear our prayer.

On this holy night shepherds in the field heard good tidings of joy. Give us grace to preach the gospel of Christ's redemption. Lord in your mercy

#### All hear our prayer.

On this holy night strangers found the Holy Family, and saw the baby lying in the manger. Bless our homes and all whom we love. Lord in your mercy

#### All hear our prayer.

On this holy night heaven is come down to earth, and earth is raised to heaven. Hold in your hand all those who have passed through death in the hope of your coming kingdom.

Lord in your mercy

## All hear our prayer.

On this holy night Christians the world over celebrate Christ's birth. Open our hearts that he may be born in us today. Lord in your mercy

All hear our prayer.

Father, on this holy night angels and shepherds worshipped at the manger throne. Receive the worship we offer in fellowship with Mary, Joseph and the saints through him who is your Word made flesh, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

All Amen.

## THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

Please stand.

THE PEACE

This holy night the angels sang, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to all in whom he delights.'

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

The congregation share a sign of peace with one another.

During the singing of the hymn, a collection will be taken for the ministry and mission of the Cathedral.



All Of the Father's heart begotten, Ere the world from chaos rose, He is Alpha: from that Fountain All that is and hath been flows; He is Omega, of all things Yet to come the mystic Close, Evermore and evermore.

By his word was all created;
He commanded and 'twas done;
Earth and sky and boundless ocean,
Universe of three in one,
All that sees the moon's soft radiance,
All that breathes beneath the sun,
Evermore and evermore.

Low He assumed this mortal body,
Voices Frail and feeble, doomed to die,
That the race from dust created
Might not perish utterly,
Which the dreadful Law had sentenced
In the depths of hell to lie,
Evermore and evermore.

O how blest that wondrous birthday, When the Maid the curse retrieved, Brought to birth mankind's salvation, By the Holy Ghost conceived; And the Babe, the world's Redeemer, In her loving arms received, Evermore and evermore.



High
Voices Sang in ages long gone by;
This is he of old revealed
In the page of prophecy;
Lo! he comes, the promised Saviour;
Let the world his praises cry!
Evermore and evermore.

Sing, ye heights of heaven, his praises; Angels and Archangels, sing! Wheresoe'er ye be, ye faithful, Let your joyous anthems ring, Every tongue his name confessing, Countless voices answering, Evermore and evermore.

Words: Corde natus ex parentis Aurelius Clemens Prudentis (348-c.410) translated by John Mason Neale (1818-66) and John Furley Davis (1866-1937) Music: DIVINIUM MYSTERIUM Piae Cantiones (1582)

Priest Word made flesh, life of the world, in your incarnation you embraced our poverty:

by your Spirit may we share in your riches.

All Amen.

We celebrate together the gifts and grace of God.

We take this bread, we take this wine to follow Christ's example and obey his command.

Priest The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

Priest Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Priest All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,

mighty creator, ever-living God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son,

our Saviour Jesus Christ,

who for love of our fallen race humbled himself,

and on this night was born of the Virgin Mary

by the power of your Spirit, and lived as one of us.

In this mystery of the Word made flesh

you have caused his light to shine in our hearts,

to give knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

In him we see our God made visible

and so are caught up in the love of the God we cannot see.

Therefore with all the angels of heaven

we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name

and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

Choir Sanctus, Sanctus, Holy, holy, holy
Dominus Deus Sabaoth. Holy, holy, holy
Lord, God of Hosts.

Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua; Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in excelsis. Hosanna, in the highest.

Benedictus qui venit
in nomine Domini.

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

Hosanna in the highest

Please sit or kneel.

Priest

Hear us, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. Through him accept our sacrifice of praise, and grant that, by the power of your Spirit, these gifts of bread and wine may be for 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 from 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.

Deacon

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

All

Christ has died. Christ is risen.

Christ will come in glory.

Priest

Therefore, Father, remembering the saving death and resurrection of your Son, we offer to you in thanksgiving this bread and this cup, your gifts to us, and we thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send your Holy Spirit upon all of us who share this bread and this cup. Strengthen our faith, make us one and welcome us and all your people into the glorious kingdom of your Son.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honour and glory are yours, Almighty Father, for ever and ever.

Priest Let us pray with confidence to the Father:

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 COMMUNION

The priest breaks the bread:

Priest We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

All God here among us, light in the midst of us, bring us to light and life.

Choir Agnus Dei, O Lamb of God,

qui tollis peccata mundi: that takest away the sins of the world:

miserere nobis. have mercy on us.

Agnus Dei, O Lamb of God,

qui tollis peccata mundi: that takest away the sins of the world:

dona nobis pacem. grant us peace.

Priest Christ is the true bread which has come down from heaven.

All Lord, give us this bread always.

Those who wish to may come forward to receive communion or a blessing when invited to by the stewards. The sacrament is administered with these words:

The blood of Christ. **Amen.**The blood of Christ. **Amen.** 

#### During communion, the following Motets are sung:

Choir Born in a stable so bare,
Born so long ago;
Born neath light of star
He who loved us so.
Far away, silent He lay,
Born today, your homage pay,
Christ is born for aye,
Born on Christmas Day.

Cradled by mother so fair, Tender her lullaby; Over her son so dear Angel hosts fill the sky. Far away, silent He lay, Born today, your homage pay, Christ is born for aye, Born on Christmas Day.

Wise men from distant far land, Shepherds from starry hills Worship this babe so rare, Hearts with His warmth He fills. Far away, silent He lay, Born today, your homage pay, Christ is born for aye, Born on Christmas Day.

Love in that stable was born Into our hearts to flow; Innocent dreaming babe, Make me Thy love to know. Far away, silent he lay, Born today, your homage pay, Christ is born for aye, Born on Christmas Day.

Words and Music: Nativity Carol John Rutter (b.1945)

Choir On Christmas night all Christians sing
To hear the news the angels bring.
News of great joy news of great mirth,
News of our merciful King's birth

Then why should men on earth be so sad Since our Redeemer made us glad? When from our sin he set us free All for to gain our liberty?

When sin departs before his grace
Then life and health come in its place
When in its place, angels and men with joy may sing
All for to see the new born King.

All out of darkness we have light Which made the angels sing this night Glory to God and peace to men Now and forever more, Amen.

Words: English Traditional

Music: Sussex Carol English Traditional arr. Philip Ledger (1937-2012) ΑII

#### COMMUNION HYMN



Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright, round yon virgin mother and child; holy infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night.
Shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing 'alleluia:
Christ, the Saviour is born'.

Silent night, holy night. Son of God, love's pure light: radiant beams your holy face, with the dawn of saving grace: Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

Words: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848) translated anon.

Music: STILLE NACHT Franz Grüber (1787-1863) harmonised by Arthur Hutchings (1906-89)

## THE DISMISSAL

Please remain standing.

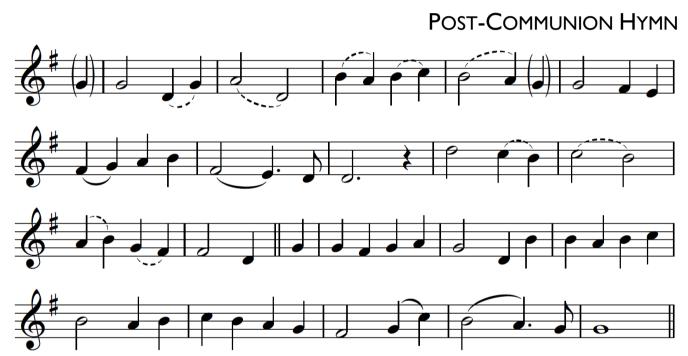
Priest Give thanks to the Lord for he is gracious:

All His love is everlasting.

Generous God, you have fed us at your heavenly table. Kindle us with the fire of your Spirit that when the Lord comes again we may shine as lights before him, who is alive and reigns in glory for ever. Amen.

God our Father, in this night you have made known to us again the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: confirm our faith and fix our eyes on himuntil the day dawns and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts.

All To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.



All 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,

O come, let us adore him,

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:

Refrain



See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle, leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear; we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps:

Refrain

Sing, choirs of Angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God
In the Highest
Refrain

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this happy morning, Jesu, to thee be glory given; Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing Refrain

Words: Latin 18th Century *tr.* Frederick Oakley (1802–80)

Music: ADESTE FIDELES attributed to J.F. Wade (1711-86) arranged by Sir David Willcocks (1919-2015 Priest The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

Priest Christ, who by taking our flesh,

gathered into one all things earthly and heavenly,

fill you with his joy and peace;

And the 

blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

*Priest* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ. Amen.

The congregation remains standing as the Procession leaves the Cathedral.

## THE CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Final from Symphonie I Louis Vierne (1870-1937)

The Organ Voluntary will be broadcast as part of the service. Please listen silently until it is finished. Then please stand as the choir and clergy process out of the cathedral.

#### **SERVICES THIS WEEK**

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December – The Nativity of our Lord 7.30am Morning Prayer 8.00am Holy Eucharist [1984] 9.00am Holy Eucharist 11.00am Choral Eucharist

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> December –** Stephen, Deacon and First Martyr 9.30am Holy Eucharist

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> December –** *John, Apostle and Evangelist* 9.30am Holy Eucharist

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> December –** The Innocents 9.30am Cymun Bendigaid

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> December 12.00noon Ecumenical Rosary Group

Sunday 31st December – First Sunday of Christmas 8.00am Holy Eucharist 10.00am Sung Eucharist











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The Dean: The Very Reverend Richard Peers thedean@llandaffcathedral.org.uk | 07724 030620

Sub-Dean & Canon Precentor: The Rev'd Canon Mark Preece precentor@llandaffcathedral.org.uk | 029 2056 8842

Canon Chancellor: The Rev'd Canon Dr Jan van der Lely chancellor@llandaffcathedral.org.uk | 029 2115 6258

Canon Theologian: The Rev'd Canon Dr Ryan Green

ryangreen@cinw.org.uk | 07908 354242

Church Warden: Siân Roberts sianroberts1@icloud.com

Church Warden: Ian Macdonald irmacdonald52@hotmail.co.uk

Safeguarding Officer: Kathryn Bates kathrynbates@talktalk.net

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admin@llandaffcathedral.org.uk Tel: 029 2056 4554

> Administration Office Prebendal House Llandaff Cardiff CF5 2LA