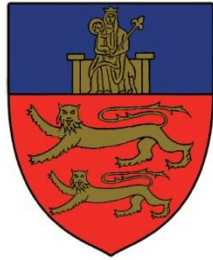


Lincoln Cathedral

Yesterday, Today, Forever
Enduring faith, inspiring stories, living history



A Service of Lessons and Carols



23rd and 24th December 2024
4pm

A Christmas Message

*from The Right Worshipful the Mayor of Lincoln,
Councillor Alan Briggs*

As we gather here for this annual Cathedral Carol Service, I want to extend my warmest Christmas and New Year wishes to the wonderful people of Lincoln. This time of year, is a perfect opportunity to reflect on the year gone by, challenges we have faced, to celebrate achievements, and look forward to new beginnings.

Lincoln and the stunning Cathedral illuminated against the winter sky, truly come alive during Christmas time. The cobbled streets and historic charm remind us of the magic of the season, bringing friends, families, and visitors together in a shared spirit of joy. In my role as Mayor, I am invited to visit a broad range of organisations throughout my year and one theme that stands out wherever I go is the sense of community in the city. This is something we should cherish, and it is heartwarming to see the city come together to share kindness, generosity, and goodwill.

To families gathering around the table, friends reconnecting, and neighbours supporting each other, may your celebrations be full of laughter, love, and treasured moments. To those working tirelessly through the season, in hospitals, emergency services, and all essential roles, we are grateful for your dedication and sacrifice.

As we step into 2025, let us carry forward the sense of togetherness that makes Lincoln so special. May the new year bring prosperity, health, and happiness to everyone. Let us continue to support one another, celebrate our heritage, and look to the future with hope, determination, and optimism.

I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and my best wishes for a season of warmth, joy, and a bright start to the year ahead.

Welcome to Lincoln Cathedral

We are delighted to welcome you to Lincoln Cathedral to this service of readings and carols.

If you need any help or directions about the service, the facilities or anything else, please ask one of the stewards (wearing a blue sash). They will be pleased to help you.

Please allow the stewards to guide and direct you while you are in the building. At the end of the service, they will also show you how best you should leave the building depending on where you are sitting.

Cameras, mobile phones and recording devices of any kind may not be used before or during the service.

This order of service is available in larger print.
Please ask a steward if you would like a copy.

Retiring Collection

A collection will be taken as you leave the service. This will support the ministry of the Cathedral (we receive no public funding). If you are a taxpayer, you can enhance the value of your contribution substantially by taking a few moments to complete the Gift Aid Envelope which you should have found on your seat and sealing your contribution inside. This will enable us to reclaim 25% of your gift from HMRC. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Donations can also be made online
by using the QR code:



The Company of Ringers of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Lincoln

ring the Cathedral bells before and after the service on Christmas Eve.

Organ Music before the service will be played by

Thomas Bailey and Frederick Harvey, Organ Scholars

Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England *and* Common Worship:
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The Service

On 24th December only: At 3.55pm please stand as the civic dignitaries are escorted to their places. Please sit again after they have taken their seats.

Please stand as the choir and clergy enter. The lights dim and a chorister sings

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.

The choir 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.

*All stand
and sing* **For he is our childhood's pattern,
day by day like us he grew,
he was little, weak, and helpless,
tears and smiles like us he knew:
and he feeleth for our sadness,
and he shareth in our gladness.**

**And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love,
for that child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.**

**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;
when like stars his children crowned
all in white shall stand around.**

Words: Cecil Francis Alexander (1818-95)

Music: H. J. Gauntlett, harmonised by A. H. Mann, descant by D. Wilcocks

WELCOME

Dean Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord
Jesus Christ be with you

All **and also with you.**

*The Dean welcomes the people and leads the Bidding Prayer, which concludes
with all joining in the Lord's Prayer*

**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 sit

FIRST READING

Genesis 3.8-15

God tells Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise.

CHOIR CAROL

*The choir sings **Ding Dong! Merrily on High** arranged by Sir David Willcocks*

Stand

CAROL 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.**

**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: Phillips Brooks

Music: Thomas Armstrong, arranged by Ralph Vaughan Williams

Sit

SECOND READING

Isaiah 9.2b-7

The prophet foretells the coming of the Saviour.

CHOIR CAROL

*The choir sings **The Holly and the Ivy** by June Nixon*

THIRD READING

Luke 1.26-38

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

CHOIR CAROL

*The choir sings **Tomorrow shall be my Dancing Day** by Carl Rütli
Stand*

CAROL **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.
sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night,
shepherds first saw the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia:
Christ the Saviour is born.
Christ the Saviour is born.**

**Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, Love's pure light,
radiance beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

*Words: Joseph Mohr, tr. J.F. Young
Music: Franz Gruber*

Sit

FOURTH READING

Luke 2.1-16

St Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

CHOIR CAROL

*The choir sings **O Little One Sweet** harmonised by J. S. Bach*

Stand

CAROL **While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.**

**“Fear not,” said he, for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind;
“Glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and all mankind.”**

**“To you, in David’s town this day,
is born of David’s line
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord,
and this shall be the sign:**

**The heav’nly Babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swaddling-bands,
and in a manger laid.”**

**Thus spake the seraph, and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song:**

**“All glory be to God on high
and to the earth be peace.
goodwill henceforth from heav’n to earth
begin and never cease.”**

Words: Nahum Tate (1652-1715)

Music: Este’s Psalter

Sit

FIFTH READING

Matthew 2.1-11

The wise men are led by a star to Jesus.

CHOIR CAROL

*The choir sings **O Holy Night** by Adolphe Adam.*

Stand

**CAROL 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 bedside till morning is nigh.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
close by me for ever, 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
Music: W. J. Kilpatrick*

Sit

SIXTH READING *Lullaby of the Beasts* Mary Clark (b.1995)

Tomorrow is a working day,
In milk and wool and strength to pay
With cart and yoke on road and field
For master, market, crop, and yield.
But tonight
The bit and plough
Are put away
So by starlight
Safe with us now
Lullay lullay lullay.

As fresh as eggs, as warm as hay,
As hungry as a lamb in May,
Beside our tiredness and our fear
This hatchling God takes shelter here.
And tonight
The bit and plough
Are put away
So by starlight
Safe with us now
Lullay lullay lullay.

For all who know the rider's goad;
For all who feel the heavy load:
He came to us – *magnificat* –
He came to us – remember that.
So tonight
The bit and plough
Are put away
And by starlight
Safe with us now
Lullay lullay lullay.

CHOIR CAROL

*The choir sings **O Magnum Mysterium** by Morten Lauridsen.
Stand*

SEVENTH READING

John 1.1-14

St John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

CAROL **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:
 *O come, let us adore him . . .***

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God in the highest.
 *O come, let us adore him . . .***

*Words: Latin, 18th century tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-80) and others
Music: unknown, arr. David Wilcocks*

COLLECT

*A time of silent prayer is followed by the Collect of the day, to which all respond
Amen.*

BLESSING

God's blessing is pronounced, and all respond

Amen.

CAROL 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 th'angelic host proclaim,
Christ is born in Bethlehem:
*Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.*

Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come
offspring of a Virgin's womb!
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
hail th'incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel:
Hark! the herald angels ...

Hail the heav'n-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 us from the earth,
born to give us second birth:
Hark! the herald angels ...

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788) and others

Music: Felix Mendelssohn

CONCLUDING VOLUNTARIES

Choral Prelude, 'In dulci jubilo', BWV 729 J.S. Bach

Prelude and Fugue in B major Marcel Dupre

Services on Christmas Day 2024

Rejoicing at Christ's birth: love dwelling among us.

- 7 45am LITANY
8am HOLY COMMUNION
9 30am MATTINS (*said*)
10 30am FESTAL EUCHARIST WITH CAROLS
*sung by the Cathedral Choir with the
Lincolnshire Chamber Orchestra*
12 30pm Holy Communion (*a quiet, said service*)
3 45pm FESTAL EVENSONG

Services for Epiphany-tide 2025

*Remembering the visit of the Magi, and the gifts that
symbolise Christ as God, King and Saviour*

Saturday 4th January: The Eve of Epiphany

- 5 30pm CHORAL EVENSONG
7pm ORGAN RECITAL: Olivier Messiaen's 'La
Nativité', performed by Jeffrey Makinson

Sunday 5th January: The Feast of the Epiphany

- 10 30am SUNG EUCHARIST
3 45pm FESTAL EVENSONG

Sunday 19th January: The Second Sunday of Epiphany

- 3 45pm EPIPHANY CAROL SERVICE

Sunday 2nd February: The Feast of the Presentation (Candlemas)

*Celebrating Christ as a light for all peoples and marking the end of the
Christmas season!*

- 10 30am SUNG EUCHARIST
3 45pm FESTAL EVESNONG

**We wish you all a joyful and blessed Christmas
and a happy New Year.**