

# Lincoln Cathedral

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



## Epiphany Carol Service



Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2025  
3.45 pm

## Welcome to Lincoln Cathedral

We are delighted to welcome you to this Epiphany Carol Service. The season of Epiphany follows Advent and Christmas and forms the second half of Christmastide.

In the Christian churches of the East, Epiphany is the major festival at this time of year, eclipsing Christmas. This is because Epiphany (meaning 'revelation', or 'manifestation') celebrates the occasion on which Jesus was recognised by the magi. The magi had 'travelled from afar', and are representative of us and of all people everywhere recognising the universal nature of God's love and coming to worship Jesus, the manifestation of that love.

Epiphany resonates with our recognition of Jesus as our Saviour, and this season gives us an opportunity to reflect on what it means to us for the Son of God to have revealed himself as Jesus of Nazareth.

During the season of Epiphany, we remember again the visit of the magi from the east, Christ's baptism in the Jordan, and the turning of the water into wine at the wedding feast in Cana. These are all revelations of God's glory in Christ and his identification with his people in every time and place.

A collection to support the life and ministry of the cathedral will be taken during the course of this service.

Maintaining the cathedral as a place of prayer, and continuing its daily round of prayer and worship is only possible through the generosity of those who support its work financially.

**Your generosity will enable God's praises to continue to be sung,  
and the cathedral to continue to be a place of peace  
and sanctuary in time to come.**

You can donate via the QR code or by cash or card as you leave the cathedral after the service.



# The Service

## ORGAN MUSIC BEFORE THE SERVICE

Prélude sur l'Introit de l'Épiphanie, Op. 13 *Maurice Duruflé*

## INTROIT

*From the crossing the choir sings* **What cheer!** *by William Walton.*

*Stand*

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN

As with gladness men of old  
Did the guiding star behold,  
As with joy they hailed its light,  
Leading onward, beaming bright,  
So, most gracious God, may we  
Evermore be led to thee.

As with joyful steps they sped,  
To that lowly manger-bed,  
There to bend the knee before  
Him whom earth and heaven adore,  
So may we with willing feet  
Ever seek thy mercy-seat.

As they offered gifts most rare  
At that manger rude and bare,  
So may we with holy joy,  
Pure, and free from sin's alloy,  
All our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ, to thee our heavenly King.

Holy Jesu, every day  
Keep us in the narrow way;  
And, when earthly things are past,  
Bring our ransomed souls at last  
Where they need no star to guide,  
Where no clouds thy glory hide.

**In the heavenly country bright  
Need they no created light;  
Thou its Light, its Joy, its Crown,  
Thou its Sun which goes not down:  
There for ever may we sing  
Alleluyas to our King.**

*Words: W. Chatterton Dix (1837-98)*

*Music: C. Kocher (1786-1872), abridged by W. H. Monk (1823-89),  
descant by Aric Prentice*

*Remain standing*

## **WELCOME AND BIDDING PRAYER**

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

In the name of Christ, who called us out of darkness into his own marvellous light, to be a kingdom of priests to our God, we welcome you. Grace to you and peace.

As we rejoice in the Word made flesh, who comes among us to reveal God's glory, so we pray that his kingly reign may be acknowledged throughout the world.

And so we pray for the unity and mission of Christ's Church, for the ministers of the gospel of Christ, and for all for whom we bear witness.

We pray for this world, which is already Christ's, that we may have reverence for the natural order and respect for every person, made in the image and likeness of God.

And we pray for those who stand in need, for the lonely, the fearful, and the anxious, for the sick and the bereaved, and for all who have no one to pray for them.

May God our Father take us and use us for his service; may he open our eyes to see his glory, and equip us to bless his people, now and at all times.

*All*            **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.**

*Sit*

FIRST LESSON

Matthew 1.18–23

*Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus.*

CAROL

*The choir sings **When Jesus our Lord** by Felix Mendelssohn.*

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 2.1–12

*The visit of the Wise Men.*

CAROL

*The choir sings **In the bleak midwinter** by Herold Darke.*

*Stand*

## HYMN

*During which a collection is taken.*

**Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,  
Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;  
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,  
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.**

**Cold on his cradle the dew-drops are shining,  
Low lies his head with the beasts of the stall:  
Angels adore him in slumber reclining,  
Maker and Monarch and Saviour of all.**

**Say, shall we yield him, in costly devotion,  
Odours of Edom and offerings divine?  
Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,  
Myrrh from the forest or gold from the mine?**

**Vainly we offer each ample oblation,  
Vainly with gifts would his favour secure;  
Richer by far is the heart's adoration,  
Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.**

**Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,  
Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;  
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,  
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.**

*Words: Reginald Heber (1783-1826)*

*Music: J.F. Thrupp (1827-67)*

*Sit*

THIRD LESSON

Luke 2.21-32

*Jesus is presented in the temple.*

CAROL

*The choir sings a setting of the **Nunc dimittis** (in the key of in A flat) by Edmund Rubbra.*

FOURTH LESSON

Matthew 3.13-17

*The baptism of Jesus.*

CAROL

*The choir sings **No small wonder** by Paul Edwards.*

FIFTH LESSON

John 2.1-12

*The wedding at Cana.*

*Stand*

HYMN

*During which the choir, clergy and congregation process to the crib at the west end of the nave.*

**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.***

**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.***

**This is he, whom seer and sibyl  
Sang in ages long gone by;  
This is he of old revealèd  
In the page of prophecy;  
Lo! he comes, the promised Saviour;  
Let the world his praises cry!  
*Evermore and evermore.***

**Let the storm and summer sunshine,  
Gliding stream and sounding shore,  
Sea and forest, frost and zephyr,  
Day and night their Lord adore;  
Let creation join to laud thee  
Through the ages evermore,  
*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: Latin, Prudentius (348-413), tr. R.F. Davis (1866-1937) and others  
Music: Melody from Piaae Cantiones Theoderici Petri Nylandensis 1582*



## PRAYERS AT THE CRIB

*The Dean and clergy gather in front of the crib, and the dean leads the congregation in prayer.*

*As we remember the gift of gold*

*Dean* Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe:  
to you be praise and glory for ever.

As gold in the furnace is tried  
and purified seven times in the fire,  
so purify our hearts and minds  
that we may be a royal priesthood  
acceptable in the service of your kingdom.

*All* **Blessed be God for ever.**

*As we remember the gift of incense*

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe:  
to you be praise and glory for ever.

As our prayer rises up before you as incense,  
so may we be presented before you  
with penitent hearts and uplifted hands  
to offer ourselves in your priestly service.

*All* **Blessed be God for ever.**

*As we remember the gift of myrrh*

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe:  
to you be praise and glory for ever.

As you give medicine to heal our sickness  
and the leaves of the tree of life  
for the healing of the nations,  
so anoint us with your healing power  
that we may be the first-fruits of your new creation.

*All* **Blessed be God for ever.**

## HYMN

*During which the crib is censed.*

**O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!  
Bow down before him, his glory proclaim;  
With gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,  
Kneel and adore him: the Lord is his Name!**

**Low at his feet lay thy burden of carefulness,  
High on his heart he will bear it for thee,  
Comfort thy sorrows, and answer thy prayerfulness,  
Guiding thy steps as may best for thee be.**

**Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness  
Of the poor wealth thou wouldst reckon as thine:  
Truth in its beauty, and love in its tenderness,  
These are the offerings to lay on his shrine.**

**These, though we bring them in trembling and  
fearfulness,**

**He will accept for the name that is dear;  
Mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness,  
Trust for our trembling and hope for our fear.**

**O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!  
Bow down before him, his glory proclaim;  
With gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,  
Kneel and adore him: the Lord is his Name!**

*Words: John Samuel Bewley Monsell (1811–1875)*

*Music: Melody from the Rheinhardt MS 1754*

## THE BLESSING

*The Dean gives the blessing, to which all respond*

**Amen.**

## CONCLUDING VOLUNTARY

Dieu Parmi Nous (from La Nativité du Seigneur) *Olivier Messiaen*

*Please remain standing as the choir and ministers process out of St Hugh's Choir.*

## **2<sup>nd</sup> February: The Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)**

The commemoration of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple marks the end of the Christmas cycle of feasts and reminds us that Christ is a light to all people.

The following services take place on the day:

- 7 45am **The Litany (BCP)**
- 8am **Holy Communion (BCP)**
- 9 30am **Morning Prayer**
- 10 30am **Sung Eucharist**
- 12 30pm **Holy Communion (BCP)**
- 3 45pm **Festal Evensong**

## **5<sup>th</sup> March 2025: Services for Ash Wednesday**

As we begin our Lenten period of prayer, fasting and almsgiving in preparation for the commemorations of Holy Week and the great celebration of Easter, there are several opportunities for prayer and preparation on this day – one of the Principal Holy Days that punctuate the Christian Year:

- 8am **Morning Prayer**
- 8 30am **Holy Communion** with Imposition of Ashes
- 12 30pm **Holy Communion** with Imposition of Ashes
- 5 30pm **Solemn Evensong**
- 7 30pm **Sung Eucharist** with Imposition of Ashes

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