



# RIPON CATHEDRAL

## Christmas Day Festal Eucharist



25<sup>th</sup> December 2020  
10.30am

## Welcome to the Cathedral

Welcome to Ripon Cathedral for this act of worship. Christian worship has taken place on this site since St Wilfrid founded the Cathedral in 672 AD. The Cathedral Crypt is the oldest part of any English Cathedral and regular prayer has taken place there for almost 1350 years.

Built on the firm foundation of that heritage, the Cathedral today continues to proclaim the Christian faith, with daily prayer and active service in Jesus' name.

If you would like to find out more about how the cathedral community is seeking to grow God's Kingdom in this 21<sup>st</sup> century, please visit our website. Regular updates of all that we are involved in and our worship are posted on our Facebook page and we tweet regularly using "@riponcathedral".

## Sitting, kneeling, standing

As human beings, we worship with our bodies as well as through our music and prayers. This Order of Service invites you to sit, kneel or stand as appropriate. Please see these as merely invitations and adopt the posture you find most comfortable.

**Coronavirus** Ripon Cathedral continues to follow the guidance issued by the national church, which is regularly updated to take account of the most recent government advice. Consequently, it has been decided to continue to suspend the common cup (the chalice) at the administration of holy communion.

**Following the Government's advice, the wearing of masks is compulsory unless you fall into an exempt category.**

Large print versions of the Order of Service are available. Please ask those who welcomed you if you would like one.

An induction loop system is also in operation for hearing aid users.



Please switch off your mobile phone before the service begins.

Photography and video/audio recording by members of the congregation is not permitted during the service.

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## Welcome to this Service

This Christmas Eucharist, on this festal morning recalls us, amid a multitude of joyful customs and celebrations, to this central truth of the Word made flesh for our salvation. The Creator becomes a creature in the world he made. God becomes poor so we human beings can be rich; he enters time so we can enter eternity; he becomes little so we can become great; he humbles himself so we can be lifted up. God becomes fully human and shares our earthly life so we humans can share his heavenly life forever.

For forty days, from Christmas up to Candlemas on 2nd February, we celebrate, with the greatest joy the wonderful news that God is with us in the flesh; the light of God's love is shining in the darkness, bringing in his new day and new life. It is the feast of new birth; God is born and we humans are reborn. In the Northern hemisphere, we find the days get longer now, as the earth turns again to the sun. We pray that the light of the new born King will scatter the darkness and fill our lives, our homes, our Cathedral, city and Diocese and the world.

This Eucharist is one way in which that message has been proclaimed and interpreted down the ages. It speaks of God's love, his being with us and not against us. It speaks to us all both individually as well as here in this great city of Ripon and in the wider world.

May both the simplicity and joy of the story of God's dealings with us then and now be yours this Christmastide.

## About This Service

The President and Preacher is the Rt Rev'd Nick Baines, the Bishop of Leeds.

The service is sung by the Lay Clerks and Choristers. The Mass setting is Missa Sancti Nicolai by Franz Josef Haydn (1732-1809).

*The bells are rung by the Ripon Cathedral guild of bell ringers.*

*The flower displays are kindly provided by the Ripon Cathedral flower guild.*

## Singing at Ripon Cathedral

We are delighted that the Lay Clerks and Choristers will sing on our behalf. However, sadly, congregational singing is not permitted.

## Giving to support the work of the Cathedral

No collection is taken in this service, but a plate is left by the door as you leave for any offering. Taxpayers are encouraged to use a gift aid envelope. If you would prefer to give by card, there is a terminal by the West door. If you would prefer to set up a bank transfer, please use these details.

**Account Name:** Ripon Cathedral PCC Fund

**Sort Code:** 05 07 17

**Account Number:**

35697334

# The Gathering

*Please stand.*

## Processional Hymn

Choir

*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,*

*Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
Born this happy morning,  
Jesu, to thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father,  
Now in flesh appearing:  
O come, let us adore him,*

*NEH 30*

*Words: Latin 18<sup>th</sup> Century translated Frederick Oakeley (1802-80)*

*Music: ADESTE FIDELES J. F. Wade (1711-86) arr. David Willcocks (1919-2015)*

*At the end of the hymn, the Altar is censed while the organist improvises.*

## The Greeting

President Welcome all wonders in one sight!  
Eternity shut in a span.  
Summer in winter, day in night,  
heaven in earth and God in man.  
Great little one whose all-embracing birth  
brings earth to heaven, stoops heaven to earth.

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

**All and also with you.**

*Words of welcome and introduction to the service.*

## Prayers of Penitence

*Please remain standing.*

President The sun of righteousness has dawned  
with healing in his wings.  
Let us come to the light of Christ,  
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

*Silence is kept.*

President God our Father, you sent your Son full of grace and truth:  
forgive our failure to receive him.  
Lord, have mercy.

**All Lord have mercy.**

President Jesus our Saviour, you were born in poverty and laid in a  
manger: forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.  
Christ, have mercy.

**All Christ have mercy.**

President Spirit of love, your servant Mary responded joyfully to your call:  
forgive the hardness of our hearts.  
Lord, have mercy.

**All Lord have mercy.**

## The Absolution

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

All              **Amen.**

## Gloria in Excelsis

*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  
coelestis, Deus Pater omnipotens.  
Domine Fili unigenite Jesu Christe.*

*Domine Deus, Agnus Dei,  
Qui tollis peccata mundi,  
Miserere nobis.  
Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris, Suscipe  
deprecationem nostram.*

*Quoniam tu solus Sanctus, tu solus  
Dominus, tu solus Altissimus, Jesu  
Christe.  
Cum sancto spiritu  
in Gloria Dei Patris.  
Amen.*

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the  
Father,

Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us.  
You are seated at the right hand of  
the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord. You alone are  
the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.

## The Collect

President            Let us pray in the peace of this Christmas celebration  
that our joy in the birth of Christ will last for ever.

Almighty God,  
you have given us your only-begotten Son  
to take our nature upon him  
and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin:  
grant that we, who have been born again  
and made your children by adoption and grace,  
may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit;  
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.

**All                    Amen.**

*Please sit.*

## The Liturgy of the Word

### Old Testament Reading

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

*[Isaiah 9:2,6-7]*

Reader            This is the word of the Lord.

**All                    Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*

## Gradual

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;  
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 for evermore. Amen'.*

*Words: English traditional after Luke Wadding (d. 1686)  
Music: English traditional melody arr. Philip Ledger(1937-2012)*

## The Gospel

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

**All** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child



wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!’

*[Luke 2:1-14]*

Gospel Reader This is the Gospel of our Lord.

**All Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please sit after the short organ fanfare.*

## **Sermon**

*After the sermon, please stand.*

## **Affirmation of Faith**

President Let us declare our faith in God:

**All We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us  
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

## Prayers of Intercession

President            In peace let us pray to the Lord.

*Please or sit or kneel.*

Intercessor        Father, today your Son our Saviour was born in human flesh.  
Renew your Church as the Body of Christ.  
Holy God

**All                hear our prayer.**

Today the angels sang, 'Peace to God's people on earth.'  
Strengthen those who work for peace and justice in all the  
world.

Holy God

**All                hear our prayer.**

Today your Christ came as a light shining in the darkness.  
Bring comfort to all who suffer in the sadness of our world.

Holy God

**All                hear our prayer.**

Today heaven is come 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.

Holy God

**All                hear our prayer.**

Today Christians the world over celebrate Christ's birth.  
Open our hearts that he may be born in us today.

Holy God

**All                hear our prayer.**

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

**All                Amen.**

*Please stand.*

# The Liturgy of the Sacrament

## The Peace

President           Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,  
                          and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

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

President           Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

## Offertory

*As the Junior Choristers sing, bread and wine are presented at the Altar.  
The Altar, clergy and people are censed.*

Choir               *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.*

*NEH 22*

*Words: Anonymous, Philadelphia (1883)*

*Music: CRADLE SONG Melody by W. J. Kirkpatrick (1838-1921)*

## Preparation of the Altar

### Taking of the Bread and Wine

President           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.**

## The Eucharistic Prayer

President      The Lord be with you.  
**All**            **and also with you.**

President      Lift up your hearts.  
**All**            **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

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 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:

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

Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might.  
Heaven and earth are full of your  
glory. Hosanna in the highest.

We praise and bless you, loving Father,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
and as we obey his command,  
send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured  
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.  
On the night before he died he had supper with his friends  
and, taking bread, he praised you.  
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:  
Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.  
Again he praised you,  
gave it to them and said:  
Drink this, all of you;  
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.

So Father, we remember all that Jesus did,  
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice  
made once for all upon the cross.  
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,  
we proclaim his death and resurrection  
until he comes in glory.  
Christ is here among us. With joyful hearts we say:

**All**                    **Christ has died,  
Christ is risen  
Christ will come again.**

President            Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day  
when your kingdom comes  
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,  
gather us in your loving arms  
and bring us with the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Joseph, St. Peter,  
St. Wilfrid and all the saints  
to feast at your table in heaven.  
Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever.

**All**                    **Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

*Please sit or kneel.*

President Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,  
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**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.**

## Breaking of the Bread

*The President breaks the consecrated bread.*

President We break the bread of life,  
and that life is the light of the world.

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

## Giving of Communion

President Draw near with faith.  
Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ  
which he gave for you,  
  
Eat in remembrance that he died for you,  
and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

**All The Body of Christ keep you in eternal life  
Amen.**

*We welcome communicants of all denominations to receive Holy Communion. If you are not a communicant and would like to receive God's Blessing, please come with this service sheet in your hand. Please move as directed. If you require a gluten-free wafer, please indicate this to the minister when receiving Communion.*

*During communion, the Choir sings the Agnus Dei and a Motet.*

## **Agnus Dei**

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi.*

*Miserere nobis.*

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi.*

*Dona nobis pacem.*

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, Grant us peace.

## **Motet**

*In the bleak midwinter  
frosty wind made moan,  
earth stood hard as iron,  
water like a stone:  
snow had fallen, snow on snow,  
snow on snow,  
in the bleak mid-winter, long ago.*

*Our God, heaven cannot hold him  
nor earth sustain;  
heaven and earth shall flee away  
when he comes to reign:  
in the bleak mid-winter  
a stable-place sufficed  
the Lord God Almighty Jesus Christ.*

*Enough for him, whom Cherubim  
worship night and day,  
a breastful of milk,  
and a mangerful of hay;  
enough for him, whom Angels  
fall down before.  
the ox and ass and camel which adore.*

*What can I give him,  
poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd  
I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a wise man  
I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give him—  
give my heart.*

*Text: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)  
Music: Harold Darke (1888-1976)*

## Prayer after Communion

President God our Father, whose Word has come among us  
in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:  
may the light of faith illumine our hearts  
and shine in our words and deeds;  
through him who is Christ the Lord.

**All Amen.**

*The organist plays as the choristers are presented with their Christmas gift from the Cathedral.*

## The Dismissal

### The Blessing

President May the Father, who has loved the eternal Son  
from before the foundation of the world,  
shed that love upon you his children.

**All Amen.**

President May Christ, who by his incarnation  
gathered into one things earthly and heavenly,  
fill you with joy and peace.

**All Amen.**

President May the Holy Spirit, by whose overshadowing  
Mary became the God-bearer,  
give you grace to carry the good news of Christ.

**All Amen.**

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

**All Amen.**

President Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.

**All Glory, thanks and praise to God.**

### Organ Voluntary

Toccata (Symphonie No. 5)

*Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937)*