



RIPON CATHEDRAL

Midnight Mass of the Nativity

Christmas Eve
24th December 2020
11.00pm

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 21st 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, in the quietness of this holy night, 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 Very Rev'd John Dobson, Dean of Ripon.

The service is sung by the Lay Clerks and the Mass setting is Mass for lower voices by Norman Harper (b.1952).

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

Singing at Ripon Cathedral

We are delighted that the Lay Clerks 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

*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.*

*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
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.*

*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.*

NEH 34

Words: Mrs C. F. Alexander (1818-1895)

Tune: IRBY H. J. Gauntlett (1805-76)

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

Greeting

President In the name of the Father
and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

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

All And also with you.

Prayers of Penitence

President Christ the Light of the world has come
to dispel the darkness of our hearts.
Let us turn to the light and confess our sins.

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.

The Lighting of the Christmas Candle

President Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, King of Peace:
to you be praise and glory for ever!
The new light of your incarnate Word
gives gladness in our sorrow,
and a presence in our isolation.
Fill our lives with your light,
until they overflow with gladness and praise.

All Blessed be God for ever!

The Christmas Candle is lit as a sign of Christ's coming into our world.

**All Lord Jesus, Light of Light,
you have come among us.
Help us who live by your light
to shine as lights in your world.
Glory to God in the highest!
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.*

Please remain standing.

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.

Collect

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

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.

All **Amen.**

Please sit.

The Liturgy of the Word

Reading

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)

Reader This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual

*Hodie Christus natus est:
hodie Salvator apparuit:
hodie in terra canunt Angeli,
laetantur Archangeli:
hodie exsultant justi, dicentes:
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Alleluia!*

Today Christ is born:
today the Saviour has appeared:
today the angels sing on earth:
the archangels rejoice:
today the righteous rejoice, saying:
Glory be to God on high. Alleluia!

*Words: Magnificat Antiphon of Christmas Day
Music: plainsong*

The Gospel

Gospel Reader Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to 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)

Gospel Reader This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Please sit after the organ fanfare.

Sermon

After the sermon, please stand.

Affirmation of faith

President Let us affirm, our common faith in Jesus Christ.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

All We believe and trust in him.

President Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?

All We believe and trust in him.

President Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

All We believe and trust in him.

President This is the faith of the Church.

**All This is our faith.
We believe and trust in one God,
Father. Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

Please sit or kneel.

President In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Intercessor Father, in this holy night
your Son our Saviour was born in human flesh.

All Renew your Church as the Body of Christ.

Intercessor In this holy night the angels sang,
'Peace to God's people on earth.'

All Help us to work for peace and justice in all the world.

Intercessor In this holy night
your Christ came as a light shining in the darkness.

All Bring comfort to all who suffer in the sadness of our world.

Intercessor In this holy night
heaven is come down to earth, and earth is raised to heaven.

**All Hold in your hand all those who have passed through
death in the hope of your coming kingdom.**

Intercessor In this holy night
Christians the world over celebrate Christ's birth.

All Open our hearts that he may be born in us today.

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

All Amen.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

Please stand.

President This holy night the angels sang, 'Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth 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

*Bread and wine are presented at the Altar which is censed along with the
clergy and people.*

Ding! dong! merrily on high in heaven the bells are ringing:
Ding dong! Verily the sky is riven with angels singing.
Gloria, hosanna in excelsis!

E'en so here below, below, let steeple bells be swungen,
And *io, io, io*, by priest and people sungen.
Gloria, hosanna in excelsis!

Pray you dutifully prime your matin chime, ye ringers;
May you beautifully rime, your evetime song, ye singers.
Gloria, hosanna in excelsis!

Words: George Woodward (1848-1934)

Music: 16th Century French melody arr. Charles Wood (1866-1926)

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.**

President 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 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.
Benedictus qui venit
in nomine Domini
Hosanna in excelsis.*

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.
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.

All Great is the mystery of faith:
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.**

Please sit or kneel.

The Lord's Prayer

President Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**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 Breaking of the Bread

President We break this bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.
**All God here among us, light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.**

The Giving of Communion

President Christ is the true bread which has come down from heaven.
All Lord, give us this bread always.

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.

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

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 quake at the sight,
glory 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
radiant beams thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace:
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

*Words: G. B. Timms (1920-1997) based on J. Mohr (1792-1848)
Music: Franz Gruber arr. Barry Rose (b. 1934)*

Prayer after Communion

President Let us pray.
 God our Father,
 in this night you have made known to us again
 the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ,
 and fed us with his body and blood;
 confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him
 until the day dawns
 and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts.
 To him be glory both now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

The Blessing of the Crib

President The Shepherds said
 "Let us go to Bethlehem
 and see this thing that the Lord has made known to us."
 We follow their footsteps
 as we welcome the Christ-child in our midst.

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...*

*See how the Shepherds,
Summoned to his cradle,
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
We too will thither
Bend our joyful footsteps:
 O come, let us adore him...*

Facing the Nave Altar and the Crib set up the podium, the President says:

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.

Let us pray that God will bless this crib,
and that all who worship his Son,
born of the Virgin Mary, may come to share his life in glory.

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 lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All Amen.

The crib is censed during this verse.

*Choir 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,
 O come, let us adore him,
 O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

NEH 30

*Words: Latin 18th Century translated Frederick Oakeley (1802-80)
Music: ADESTE FIDELES J. F. Wade (1711-86) arr. David Willcocks (1919-2015)*

The Dismissal

Acclamation

President Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel,
All he has come to his people and set them free.

President Light has sprung up for the righteous
All and joyful gladness for those who are true-hearted.

President Glory to God in the highest
All and peace to his people on earth.

The Blessing

President May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds,
the perseverance of the wise men,
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,
and the peace of the Christ-child be yours this Christmas;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
surround you and all those you love now and for evermore.
All Amen.

President Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.
All Glory, thanks and praise to God.

Organ Voluntary

Carillon-Sortie

Henri Mulet (1878-1967)