

THE TEMPLE CHURCH
LONDON

CHORAL COMMUNION

THE NIGHT OF
CHRISTMAS EVE

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
Lifts earth to Heaven, stoops Heaven to earth!

Richard Crashaw

Wednesday 24 December 2025
11.15 p.m.

Coronation Mass – Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
The Temple Singers

THE ORGAN PRELUDE

In dulci jubilo BWV 608

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

HYMN

1.

It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
‘Peace on the earth, good will to men,
From heaven’s all-gracious King.’
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

2.

Still through the cloven skies they come,
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats
O’er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hovering wing,
And ever o’er its Babel-sounds
The blessed angels sing.

3.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife
The world has suffered long;
Beneath the angel-strain have rolled
Two thousand years of wrong;
And man, at war with man, hears not
The love song which they bring:
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,
And hear the angels sing.

4.

For lo! the days are hastening on,
By prophet bards foretold,
When, with the ever-circling years
Comes round the age of gold;
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendours fling,
And the whole world send back the song
Which now the angels sing.

Music: ‘Noël’, Traditional Air, arranged by Sir Arthur Sullivan (1842-1900)

Words: Edmund Hamilton Sears (1810-1876), Boston 1849

¶*The priest says privately:*

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us. And
lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil. Amen.

¶*All kneel or sit, as the priest says:*

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts be open, all desires known, and from whom
no secrets are hid; Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy
Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy
Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

¶*The priest then reads:*

THE SUMMARY OF THE LAW

Matthew 22. 37-40

Our Lord Jesus Christ said: Hear, O Israel, The Lord our God is one Lord; and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength. This is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this: Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

Kyrie, eleison.

Lord, have mercy.

Christe, eleison.

Christ, have mercy.

Kyrie, eleison.

Lord, have mercy.

¶*The priest says:*

Let us pray.

THE COLLECT FOR THE KING

Almighty God, whose kingdom is everlasting, and power infinite; Have mercy upon the whole church; and so rule the heart of thy chosen Servant CHARLES, our King and Governor, that he (knowing whose minister he is) may above all things seek thy honour and glory: and that we, and all his subjects (duly considering whose authority he hath) may faithfully serve, honour, and humbly obey him, in thee, and for thee, according to thy blessed Word and ordinance; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with thee and the Holy Ghost liveth and reigneth, ever one God, world without end. **Amen.**

THE COLLECT FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

O God, who makest us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of thy only son, Jesus Christ: Grant that as we joyfully receive him for our redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him, when he shall come to be our judge; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God world without end. Amen.

¶*All sit*

FOR THE EPISTLE

Isaiah 52. 7-10

¶ *All remain seated for*

THE GRADUAL

Born in a stable so bare,
Born so long ago,
Born 'neath light of star,
He who loved us so.

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.
For Christ is born for aye,
Born on Christmas Day.

Far away, silent he lay,
Born today, your homage pay.
For 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.

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.
For Christ is born for aye,
Born on Christmas Day.

Far away, silent he lay,
Born today, your homage pay.
For Christ is born for aye,
Born on Christmas Day.

Music and Words: John Rutter (b. 1945)

All stand for

THE GOSPEL

John 1. 1-18

¶ *The priest introduces the Gospel. The congregation answers:*

Cong. 

¶ *At the end of the gospel the congregation sings:*

Cong. 

¶

*The CREED is sung by choir and congregation to the setting by John Merbecke (1510-1585).
All remain standing, and (in the tradition of the Temple Church) all face East.*

Priest: **All:**

*I be-lieve in one God the Fa-ther Al-migh-ty, Ma-ker of heaven and earth,
and of all things vis-i-ble and in-vis-i-ble: And in one Lord Je-sus Christ,
the on-ly be-got-ten Son of God, Be-got-ten of His Fa-ther be-fore all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light, Ve-ry God of Ve-ry God, Be-got-ten not made,
Be-ing of one sub-stance with the Fa-ther, By whom all things were made:
Who for us men, and for our sal-va-tion, came down from heaven,
And was in-car-nate by the Ho-ly Ghost of the Vir-gin Ma-ry,
And was made man, And was cru-ci-fied al-so for us un-der Pon-tius Pi-late.
He suff-ered and was bur-ied, And the third day he rose*

a - gain ac - cor - ding to the Scrip-tures, And asc - en - ded in - to heaven,
And sit - teth on the right hand of the Fa-ther. And he shall come a -
gain with glo - ry to judge both the quick and the dead;
Whose king - dom shall have no end. And I be - lieve in the Ho - ly Ghost,
The Lord and gi - ver of life, Who pro - cee - deth from the Fa - ther and the Son,
Who with the Fa - ther and the Son to - ge - ther is wor - shipped and glo - ri - fied,
Who spake by the pro - phets. And I be - lieve One Cath - o - lick and Ap - o - stol - ick Church.
I ac - know - ledge one Bap - tism for the re - miss - ion of sins.
And I look for the Re-sur-rec-tion of the dead, And the life of the world to come. A - men.

CAROL

O little town of Bethlehem

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.

Music: English traditional melody, 'The Ploughboy's Dream',
arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)
Words: Bishop Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)

THE CONFESSION

¶*The congregation kneels or sits. The priest says:*

Ye that do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbours, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways; Draw near with faith, and take this holy Sacrament to your comfort; and make your humble confession to Almighty God, meekly kneeling upon your knees.

¶*All say:*

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all men: We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, Which we, from time to time, most grievously have committed, By thought, word, and deed, Against thy Divine Majesty, Provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, And are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; The remembrance of them is grievous unto us; The burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; For thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, Forgive us all that is past; And grant that we may ever hereafter Serve and please thee In newness of life, To the honour and glory of thy Name; Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

¶*The priest pronounces:*

THE ABSOLUTION

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all them that with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him; Have mercy upon you; pardon and deliver you from all your sins; confirm and strengthen you in all goodness; and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

¶*The priest says:*

Hear what comfortable words our Saviour Christ saith unto all that truly turn to him:

Come unto me all that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you.

St Matthew 11.28

So God loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

St John 3.16

Hear also what Saint Paul saith:

This is a true saying, and worthy of all men to be received, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. *1 Timothy 1.15*

Hear also what Saint John saith:

If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the propitiation for our sins. *1 John 2.1*

SURSUM CORDA

¶ *The priest, choir and congregation stand to sing:*

Priest:	All:
The Lord be with you:	And with thy Spi - rit
Priest:	All:
Lift up your hearts:	We lift them up un - to the Lord.
Priest:	All:
Let us give thanks un - to our Lord	God: <i>It is meet and right so to do.</i>

¶ *The priest says:*

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God.

Because thou didst give Jesus Christ thine only Son to be born as at this time for us; who, by the operation of the Holy Ghost, was made very man of the substance of the Virgin Mary his mother; and that without spot of sin, to make us clean from all sin.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

¶*The choir sings:*

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt cæli et terra gloria tua.
Hosanna in excelsis.
Benedictus qui venit in nomine
Domini. Hosanna in excelsis.

*Holy, holy, holy,
Lord God of Hosts,
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.*

¶*The priest says:*

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy table. But thou art the same Lord, whose property is always to have mercy: Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

THE PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of thy tender mercy didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the Cross for our redemption; who made there (by his one oblation of himself once offered) a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death, until his coming again; Hear us, O merciful Father, we most humbly beseech thee; and grant that we receiving these thy creatures of bread and wine, according to thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood: who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took Bread; and, when he had given thanks, he brake 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. Likewise after supper he took the Cup; and, when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you and for many for the remission of sins: Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me.
Amen.

¶While the congregation receives Communion, the choir sings:

AGNUS DEI

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
dona nobis pacem.

*Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
grant us thy peace.*

ANTHEM

O magnum mysterium, et admirabile sacramentum, ut animalia viderent
Dominum natum jacentem in praesepio. Beata virgo cujus viscera meruerunt
portare Dominum christum. Alleluia!

*How great and wonderful a mystical sign it was when beasts of the field saw the Lord as a babe
lying in a manger. Blessed is the Virgin whose womb was worthy to bear the Lord Christ.
Alleluia!*

Music: Clemens non Papa (1510-1556)

Words: Christmas Responsary

¶After all have received Communion, all kneel or sit and say together:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom
come. Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our
daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that
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 priest says:*

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee, for that thou dost vouchsafe to feed us, who have duly received these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favour and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, which is the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs through hope of thy everlasting kingdom, by the merits of the most precious death and passion of thy dear Son. And we most humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end. **Amen.**

¶ *All stand. The Gloria is sung by the choir.*

GLORIA

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, Jesu 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,
Jesu Christe, cum Sancto Spiritu: in gloria Dei Patris. Amen.

*Glory be to God on high, and in 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 only begotten Son Jesu 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, 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.*

All stand.

¶ *The priest then gives:*

THE BLESSING

May he who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with the sweetness of inward peace and good will; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

CAROL

O come all ye faithful

**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:**

**Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God in the highest:**

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

*Words: 'Adeste fideles', first recorded by John Francis Wade, c. 1743,
tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1841, and W. T. Brooke, 1884
Music: 'Adeste fideles', in the manuscripts of J. F. Wade, ascribed to John
Reading (died 1692), organist of Winchester Cathedral, 1675-1681; of
Winchester College, 1681-1692*

It is customary for the congregation to leave the church after the organ voluntary has finished.

THE ORGAN VOLUNTARY

In dulci jubilo, BWV729

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

GIVING TO THE TEMPLE CHURCH

There will be a retiring collection. Contactless collection points will be available at the door. It will be of great advantage to the Church if you would kindly fill in a Gift Aid envelope which you will find at the end of your pew and drop it into a collection-basket as you leave, stating the amount of your cash or contactless gift. If you would prefer to donate online the Church has a Just Giving page. For donations this way, kindly use scan the QR code below.

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The full Safeguarding Policy is available on the Temple Church website at <https://www.templechurch.com/safeguarding-policy>

We wish you a very
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The Master and all at the Temple Church

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