

The Temple Church

Thursday 25 December 2025

Christmas Day

CHORAL MATTINS, 11.15 a.m.

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

It is a delight to see you here this morning. The words of the service can be found in the white service booklet pp17-29. If you wear a hearing aid, kindly turn the setting to T.

ORGAN PRELUDE

The holy boy

John Ireland (1879-1962)

All stand.

INTROIT

I saw three ships come sailing in,
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day,
I saw three ships come sailing in,
On Christmas Day in the morning.

And what was in those ships all three?
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day,
And what was in those ships all three?
On Christmas Day in the morning.

Our Saviour Christ and his Lady,
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day,
Our Saviour Christ and his Lady,
On Christmas Day in the morning.

Pray whither sailed those ships all three?
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day,
Pray whither sailed those ships all three?
On Christmas Day in the morning.

Oh, they sailed into Bethlehem,
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day,
Oh, they sailed into Bethlehem,
On Christmas Day in the morning.

And all the bells on earth shall ring,
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day,
And all the bells on earth shall ring,
On Christmas Day in the morning

And all the angels in heav'n shall sing,
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day,
And all the angels in heav'n shall sing,
On Christmas Day in the morning

And all the souls on earth shall sing,
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;
And all the souls on earth shall sing,
On Christmas Day in the morning.

Then let us all rejoice amain,
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;
Then let us all rejoice amain,
On Christmas Day in the morning.

Music: arr. Richard Lloyd (1933-2021)
Words: English traditional carol

HYMN

**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;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing:**

Music: 'Adeste fideles', in the manuscripts of J. F. Wade,

Descant: Sir David Willcocks (1919-2015)

Words: 'Adeste fideles', trans. Frederick Oakeley, 1841, and by W. T. Brooke, 1884

All sit or kneel for the confession.

CONFESSION (page 17 of white booklet)

ABSOLUTION

All stand at "Glory be....." RESPONSES (*Rose*)

All remain standing and sing: VENITE (PSALM 95. 1-7)



The first two verses and the Gloria are sung in unison.

- 1 O come let us | sing un-to the | Lord:
let us heartily rejoice in the | strength of | our sal- | vation.
- 2 Let us come before his | presence · with | thanksgiving:
and shew ourselves | glad in | him with | psalms.
- 3 For the Lord is a | great | God:
and a | great King · a- | bove all | gods.
- 4 In his hand are all the | corners · of the | earth:
and the | strength of · the | hills is · his | also.
- 5 The sea is | his and · he | made it:
and his | hands pre- | pared the · dry | land.
- 6 O come let us worship and | fall | down:
and | kneel be-fore the | Lord our | Maker.

2nd Part

- 7 For he is the | Lord our | God:
and we are the people of his | pasture · and the | sheep of · his | hand.
Glory be to the Father and | to the | Son:
And | to the | Ho-ly | Ghost;
As it was in the beginning is now and | ev-er | shall be:
World without | end. A- | — | men.

Music: Edward John Hopkins (1818-1901)

The Choir sings:

PSALM 117

O praise the Lord, all ye heathen: praise him, all ye nations.
For his merciful kindness is ever more and more towards us:
and the truth of the Lord endureth for ever. Praise the Lord.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen

All sit.

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 9. 2, 6-7

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

All stand.

TE DEUM (*Stanford in B flat*)

All sit.

THE SECOND LESSON

Matthew 1. 18-end

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily. But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name Jesus.

All stand.

JUBILATE (*Britten in C*)

In the tradition of the Temple Church, we face east to say together:

THE CREED (*page 24 of white booklet*)

All sit or kneel at 'Let us pray...'

THE RESPONSES (*Rose*)

THE COLLECTS

Almighty God, who hast given us thy only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and as at this time to be born of a pure Virgin; Grant that we being regenerate, and made thy children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by thy Holy Spirit; through the same our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit, ever one God, world without end. *Amen.*

All sit.

CAROL

The holly and the ivy,
When they are both full grown,
Of all the trees that are in the wood,
The holly bears the crown.

*The rising of the sun
And the running of the deer,
The playing of the merry organ,
Sweet singing in the choir.*

The holly bears a blossom
As white as the lily flower,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
To be our sweet saviour.

The holly bears a prickle
As sharp as any thorn,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
On Christmas Day in the morn.

The holly bears a bark
As bitter as any gall,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
For to redeem us all.

*Music: Trad., arr. Charles Andrews
Words: English traditional carol*

PRAYERS

All stand.

HYMN

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| <p>1.
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,
<i>Evermore and evermore.</i></p> | <p>2.
This is he, whom seer and sybil
Sang in ages long gone by;
This is he of old revealed
In the page of prophecy;
Lo! He comes, the promised saviour;
Let the world his praises cry!
<i>Evermore and evermore.</i></p> |
| <p>3.
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,
<i>Evermore and evermore.</i></p> | |

Music: 'Divinum mysterium', 13th century melody adapted in
Piae Cantiones Theodorici Petri Nylandensis, 1582;
descant by Sir David Willcocks (1919-2015)

Words: 'Corde natus ex parentis', Prudentius (348-413), from *Hymnus omnis Horae*,
translated by R F Davis (1866-1937)

All sit.

THE SERMON The Master

All stand.

CAROL

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1.
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 the angelic host proclaim:
'Christ is born in Bethlehem!'
<i>Hark! The herald angels sing:
'Glory to the new-born King!'</i></p> | <p>2.
Christ by highest heaven adored
Christ the everlasting Lord:
Late in time behold him come,
Offspring of a Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail the Incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with man to dwell:
Jesus, our Emmanuel!
<i>Hark! The herald angels sing:
'Glory to the new-born King!'</i></p> |
|---|--|

**3.
Hail! The heaven-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 the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.
*Hark! The herald angels sing:
'Glory to the new-born King!'***

Music: J. L. F. Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, adapted from 'Festgesang' (Op. 68, 1840)
by W. H. Cummings and others; *Descant:* Sir David Willcocks (1919-2015)
Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788) and George Whitefield (1714-1770)

All sit.

FAREWELL

Today we bid farewell to two of our choristers with our thanks and our prayers
for their future.

Shaowen Chen
Freddie Freeman-Kerr

The choir sing:

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 until 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.

Music: 'Normandy' arr. Reginald Jacques (1894-1969)
Words: Verses 1-2 in a Lutheran compilation, Philadelphia, 1885; verse 3 added, 1892

All stand.

THE BLESSING

All are invited to sit after the departure of the Choir and Clergy for

THE ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Radetzky March

Johann Strauss I (1804-1849)

There will be a retiring collection. 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. If you would prefer to donate online the Church has a Just Giving page. www.templechurch.com

Thank you for your support of the Church!



We wish you a very

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The Master and all at the Temple Church

SAFEGUARDING

If you have any concerns about safeguarding, the Safeguarding Officer can be contacted confidentially at safeguarding@templechurch.com or via 020 7427 5650.

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