



GUILDFORD
CATHEDRAL

6pm
4 January 2026

SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS EVENING PRAYER WITH HYMNS



WELCOME

CHRISTMAS

The celebration of Christ's incarnation at Christmas continues as we recall, amid all the joyful customs and celebrations of Christmas, the central truth of the Word made flesh for our salvation. As we enter 2026 and consider the year that lies ahead we know that, whatever it may bring, God is with us: in Christ, God dwelt amongst us in the fullness of humanity, as Emmanuel – foretold by the prophets and born of Mary. We wish you all a peaceful Christmastide and a happy and healthy New Year.

COLLECTION

Your support makes a real difference to the ministry and mission of Guildford Cathedral. If you would like to support this work on a regular basis it's very simple to set up a direct debit via the Parish Giving Scheme. The phone number is 0333 002 1271, and the Cathedral reference code is 170617001. One-off donations can be made using the Gift Aid envelopes or a contactless donation by using the contactless collection plates on your way out, or the contactless box (by the west doors of the Cathedral) or our QR code. If you use the contactless plates or box and you are a taxpayer, please complete a green gift aid envelope and write 'contactless donation' on the front; please put the envelope in the plate or the cash box at the west end. We also welcome the donation of foreign coins and notes; please see the notice at the back of this booklet. On behalf of all at Guildford Cathedral, thank you.



PARTICIPATION IN THE SERVICE

The Cathedral Choir is on holiday so the service this evening has the same form as Evensong, with congregational hymns inserted at appropriate points. We sing the hymns and say together the words in **bold** type. Although posture is suggested please do whatever is most comfortable for you.

OFFICIANT AND PREACHER

The officiant this evening is The Reverend Canon Chris Hollingshurst and Honorary Canon Peter Shaw, a Licensed Lay Minister in Guildford Diocese, is the preacher.

Please stand as the clergy enter to organ music.

OPENING VERSICLES AND RESPONSES

○ Lord, open thou our lips
and our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

○ God, make speed to save us.
○ Lord, make haste to help us.

**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.**

Praise ye the Lord.
The Lord's name be praised.

WELCOME Canon Chris Hollingshurst

HYMN



Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Saviour reigns!
let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

*Music: CP 57 Antioch, George Frideric Handel (1685-1759) arranged by
Lowell Mason (1792-1872)*

Sit

PSALM 135.1-14

We say together the psalm appointed for this evening.

Please join in with the even-numbered verses.

1.O praise the Lord, laud ye the Name of the Lord :
praise it, O ye servants of the Lord;

**2.Ye that stand in the house of the Lord :
in the courts of the house of our God.**

3.O praise the Lord, for the Lord is gracious :
O sing praises unto his Name, for it is lovely.

**4.For why? the Lord hath chosen Jacob unto himself :
and Israel for his own possession.**

5.For I know that the Lord is great :
and that our Lord is above all gods.

**6.Whatsoever the Lord pleased, that did he
in heaven and in earth :
and in the sea, and in all deep places.**

7.He bringeth forth the clouds from the ends of the world :
and sendeth forth lightnings with the rain,
bringing the winds out of his treasures.

**8.He smote the first-born of Egypt :
both of man and beast.**

9.He hath sent tokens and wonders into the midst of thee,
O thou land of Egypt :
upon Pharaoh, and all his servants.

**10.He smote divers nations :
and slew mighty kings;**

11.Sehon king of the Amorites, and Og the king of Basan :
and all the kingdoms of Canaan;

**12.And gave their land to be an heritage :
even an heritage unto Israel his people.**

13.Thy Name, O Lord, endureth for ever :
so doth thy memorial, O Lord, from one generation to another.

**14.For the Lord will avenge his people :
and be gracious unto his servants.**

Stand **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.**

Sit **OLD TESTAMENT** Isaiah 41.21 - 42.4

The first lesson is written in the forty-first chapter of the prophecy of Isaiah, beginning at the twenty-first verse.

Set forth your case, says the Lord;
bring your proofs, says the King of Jacob.

Let them bring them, and tell us
what is to happen.

Tell us the former things, what they are,
so that we may consider them,
and that we may know their outcome;
or declare to us the things to come.

Tell us what is to come hereafter,
that we may know that you are gods;

do good, or do harm,
that we may be afraid and terrified.
You, indeed, are nothing
and your work is nothing at all;
whoever chooses you is an abomination.
I stirred up one from the north, and he has come,
from the rising of the sun he was summoned by name.
He shall trample on rulers as on mortar,
as the potter treads clay.
Who declared it from the beginning, so that we might know,
and beforehand, so that we might say, 'He is right'?
There was no one who declared it, none who proclaimed,
none who heard your words.
I first have declared it to Zion,
and I give to Jerusalem a herald of good tidings.
But when I look there is no one;
among these there is no counsellor
who, when I ask, gives an answer.
No, they are all a delusion;
their works are nothing;
their images are empty wind.
Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.
He will not cry or lift up his voice,
or make it heard in the street;
a bruised reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.
He will not grow faint or be crushed
until he has established justice in the earth;
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

Here ends the first lesson.

Stand **MAGNIFICAT**

We sing a metrical version of Mary's song.



Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!

Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of his word;
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name!

Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;
his holy name, the Lord, the mighty one.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!

Powers and dominions lay their glory by.
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!

Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and for evermore!

Words: Luke 1.46-55, Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926-2024)

Music: CP 362, Woodlands, Walter Greatorrex (1877-1949)

The second lesson is written in the first chapter of Paul's letter to the Colossians, beginning at the first verse.

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, to the saints and faithful brothers and sisters in Christ in Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

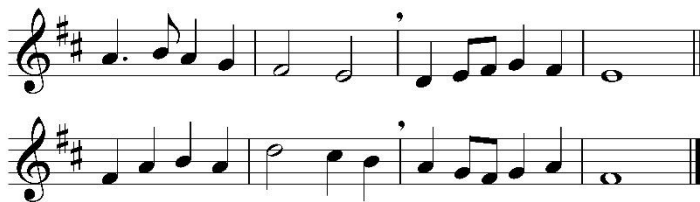
In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. You have heard of this hope before in the word of the truth, the gospel that has come to you. Just as it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world, so it has been bearing fruit among yourselves from the day you heard it and truly comprehended the grace of God. This you learned from Epaphras, our beloved fellow-servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, and he has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Here ends the second lesson.

Stand **NUNC DIMITTIS**

We sing a metrical version of Simeon's prayer.



Faithful vigil ended,
watching, waiting cease;
Master, grant your servant
his discharge in peace.

All the Spirit promised,
all the Father willed,
now these eyes behold it
perfectly fulfilled.

This your great deliverance
sets your people free;
Christ their light uplifted
all the nations see.

Christ, your people's glory!
Watching, doubting cease:
grant to us your servants
our discharge in peace.

Words: Luke 2.29-32 (Nunc Dimittis) Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926-2024)
Music: CP 360, Pastor Pastorum (Gott ein Vater), Philipp Friedrich Silcher
(1789-1860)

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth:
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.
He descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic Church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

THE LESSER LITANY, LORD'S PRAYER AND PRECES

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Let us pray

Sit or kneel

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

**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.**

○ Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

And grant us thy salvation.

○ Lord, save the King.

And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Endue thy Ministers with righteousness.

And make thy chosen people joyful.

○ Lord, save thy people.

And bless thine inheritance.

Give peace in our time, ○ Lord.

**Because there is none other that fighteth for us,
but only thou, O God.**

○ God, make clean our hearts within us.

And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God,
who in the birth of thy Son
hast poured upon us the new light of thine incarnate Word
and revealed to us the fullness of thy love:
help us so to walk in his light and dwell in his love
that we may know the fullness of his joy;
who liveth and reigneth with thee,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

THE COLLECT FOR PEACE

O God, from whom all holy desires,
all good counsels, and all just works do proceed;
give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give;
that both, our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments,
and also that, by thee,
we being defended from the fear of our enemies
may pass our time in rest and quietness;
through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Amen.

THE COLLECT FOR AID AGAINST ALL PERILS

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord;
and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers
of this night; for the love of thy only Son,
our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Stand **HYMN**



A great and mighty wonder,
a full and holy cure!
The Virgin bears the Infant
with virgin-honour pure:
Repeat the hymn again:
'To God on high be glory,
and peace on earth to men.'

The Word becomes incarnate,
and yet remains on high;
and cherubim sing anthems
to shepherds from the sky:

While thus they sing your Monarch,
those bright angelic bands,
rejoice, ye vales and mountains,
ye oceans, clap your hands:

Since all he comes to ransom,
by all be he adored,
the Infant born in Bethl'em,
the Saviour and the Lord:
Repeat the hymn again:
'To God on high be glory,
and peace on earth to men.'

Words: St Germanus (c. 639-c. 734), tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866)
Music: CP41 Es Ist Ein' Ros' Entsprungen, German carol melody
harmonised by Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

Sit **SERMON** Honorary Canon Peter Shaw

Sit or **THE PRAYERS**

kneel

The prayers conclude with

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all evermore. Amen.**

Stand **HYMN**



Of the Father's love begotten
ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega,
he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been,
and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore.

O that birth for ever blessed
when the Virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,
bare the Saviour of our race,
and the babe, the world's Redeemer,
first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore.



O ye heights of heaven, adore him;
angel-hosts, his praises sing;
powers, dominions, bow before him,
and extol our God and King:
let no tongue on earth be silent,
every voice in concert ring,
evermore and evermore.

Words: Prudentius (348-c.413) tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866)

*Music: CP 64 Divinum Mysterium, melody from 'Piae Cantiones' (1582) harmonised
by editors of New English Hymnal (1986)*

BLESSING

The peace of God,
which passes all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds
in the knowledge and love of God,
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

SERVICES TODAY

7.30am Morning Prayer *in the Lady Chapel*

8am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) *in the Lady Chapel*

9.45am Cathedral Eucharist *with hymns*

6pm Evening Prayer *with hymns*

SERVICES THIS WEEK

Morning Prayer *in the Lady Chapel*

8am Tuesday

8.30am Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

9am Saturday

Holy Communion *in the Lady Chapel*

8.30am Tuesday

9am Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

9.30am Saturday

Evening Prayer

5.30pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday

4pm Saturday

Choral Eucharist for Epiphany 6 January

7pm Tuesday *sung by The Whyte Effect*

Choral Evensong

5.30pm Thursday, Friday

SERVICES NEXT SUNDAY 11 JANUARY

7.30am Morning Prayer *in the Lady Chapel*

8am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) *in the Lady Chapel*

9.45am Cathedral Eucharist

6pm Epiphany Carol Service

A processional service which recalls how Jesus was made known to the world by the visit of the wise men, the miracle at a wedding at Cana and in the baptism of Jesus.

EUCCHARIST ON THE FEAST OF CANDLEMAS (TRANSFERRED)

Sunday 1 February 2026, 9.45am *The Presentation of Christ in the Temple*

TRAINING FOR VOLUNTEER LESSON READERS, INTERCESSORS AND LAY CHALICE ASSISTANTS

We are looking for some more volunteers to help lead worship, in particular those who are willing to compile and lead the intercessions or administer a chalice during Holy Communion. If you are interested and would like an informal chat to find out more, please contact Canon Rachel Young (rachel.young@guildford-cathedral.org). There will be training offered on the following dates, at 11.15am after the Sunday Eucharist, lasting for an hour:

Sunday 1 February Training for intercessors

Sunday 8 March Training for lay chalice assistants (LCAs)

Sunday 10 May Training for lesson readers

INVITATION TO JOIN THE CHAPTER OF GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL, AND /OR THE FINANCE, AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE OF GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL

Guildford Cathedral is seeking new trustees to join its **Chapter**, and is also seeking new members of its **Finance, Audit and Risk Committee**, who report to the Chapter.

We warmly invite indications of interest to **Chapter** from individuals who can bring at least one of the following:

- strong finance skills
- proven knowledge of charity law and governance
- strategic and operational development in a complex organisation setting
- facilities management
- property development

As a trustee, you'll help shape the Cathedral's future, providing strategic guidance and financial insight to support its mission, community life, and ongoing development. If you're passionate about using your professional expertise for the public good and contributing to a place of heritage, worship, and outreach, we'd be delighted to hear from you. Chapter meetings are held on the first Tuesday morning of every month, except August, in the Chapter House.

For the **Finance and Risk Committee**, we are looking for individuals with a strong background and qualifications in those appropriate skills- namely, **risk assessment, financial planning, compliance, or audit**. Meetings are held four times a year on Thursdays in the Chapter House.

Find out more about these roles here:

<https://www.guildford-cathedral.org/about/current-vacancies/trustee> | on the Vacancies page of the website or email communications@guildford-cathedral.org Expressions of interest must be received by 5 January 2026. Thank you.

CANON CHRIS HOLLINGSHURST - UPDATE

Canon Chris will be installed as Team Rector of the Isle of Ely Villages Team Benefice in the Diocese of Ely at a service on Saturday 18 April at 2.30pm. The service will be conducted by the Acting Bishop of Ely, the Right Reverend Dagmar Winter, and will take place at St Andrew's Church, Sutton CB6 2RH. All are welcome. Chris and Kathy's last service at Guildford Cathedral will be the Cathedral Eucharist on Sunday 22 March (Lent 5/Passion Sunday).

FOREIGN CURRENCY SCHEME

Since 2006 this Scheme has been raising funds for the Cathedral - £32,015 to date. If you have any unwanted or out of date UK or foreign coins or notes, UK copper, 5p coins, and **any money of any age from any country** in the world, do please bring it in! We shall turn it into sterling to help Cathedral finances. It can be left with the Office or Sacristy labelled for the "Coins Scheme" or for me, John Mitchell. All donations are most welcome; and thank you.

SAFEGUARDING AT GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL

The Cathedral is committed to Safeguarding as an integral part of its ministry and mission, promoting a safer culture and the welfare of every child, young person and adult. As such, the Cathedral has robust policies, procedures and guidelines in place, to ensure good practice throughout the community. Chapter has overall responsibility for Safeguarding, and the Safeguarding Leadership Group reports to Chapter every month on the progress of our Safeguarding journey and any issues arising. The

members of the Safeguarding Leadership Group are listed below and can be contacted at any time on any Safeguarding concern you may have about yourself or another member of the Cathedral Community.

Mary Morris (Cathedral Safeguarding Officer)

07949 685683

marymorris31@outlook.com

Reverend Canon Chris Hollingshurst

(Chapter Safeguarding Representative)

07534 970127

chris.hollingshurst@guildford-cathedral.org

Katherine Dienes-Williams (Organist and Master of the Choristers)

07716 757984

katherine@guildford-cathedral.org

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