

THE NATIONAL CATHEDRAL
AND COLLEGIATE CHURCH
OF SAINT PATRICK, DUBLIN



CHORAL EUCHARIST
Sung by the Cathedral Consort

The Nativity of Our Lord
25 December 2020

Little Organ Mass
Franz Joseph Haydn (1732–1809)

ORDER OF SERVICE

The lighting of the CHRISTMAS CANDLE

Almighty God, today the long-expected Saviour is born, and those who live in darkness are seeing a great light: help us to live in this light and to share the good news of your love. Glory to God in the highest! **Glory to God in the highest.**

HYMN



1. 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, Christ the Lord.
 2. God of God, Light of Light,
Lo! He abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God, begotten, not created.
 3. Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;
Glory to God in the highest.
 4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesu, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing:
- Adeste Fideles, Translation, Frederick Oakley (1802-80)
Arrangement, David Willcocks (1918-2015)*

THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

The GREETING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The COLLECT FOR PURITY

Almighty God to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name: through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Celebrant introduces the CONFESSION

After a short pause for self examination, all say

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned in thought and word and deed, and in what we have left undone. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may walk in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.

The Celebrant pronounces the ABSOLUTION

The Choir sings the canticle 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 caelestis, Deus Pater
omnipotens. Domine Filii unigenite Iesu
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, Iesu
Christe cum Sancto Spiritu in gloria Dei
Patris. Amen.

*Glory to God in the highest and on earth
peace to those of good will. We praise you,
we bless you, we worship you, we glorify
you. We give thanks to you for your great
glory. O Lord God, heavenly King, God the
Father Almighty. O Lord the only-begotten
Son, Jesus Christ. O Lord God, Lamb of
God, Son of the Father, you who take away
the sins of the world have mercy on us. You
who take away the sins of the world receive
our prayer. You are seated at the Father's
right hand, have mercy on us. For you
alone are holy, 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 Celebrant says the COLLECT OF THE DAY

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 our Lord. **Amen.**

PROCLAIMING AND RECEIVING THE WORD

The READING Hebrews 1: 1-4

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Choir sings the GRADUAL

Villagers all, this frosty tide, let your doors swing open wide, though wind may follow, and snow beside, yet draw us in by your fire to bide; joy shall be yours in the morning! Here we stand in the cold and the sleet, blowing fingers and stamping feet, come from far away you to greet - you by the fire and we in the street - bidding you joy in the morning! For ere one half of the night was gone, sudden a star has led us on, raining bliss and benison - bliss to-morrow and more anon, joy for every morning! Goodman Joseph toiled through the snow - saw the star o'er a stable low; Mary she might not further go - welcome thatch, and litter below! Joy was hers in the morning! And then they heard the angels tell 'Who were the first to cry NOWELL? Animals all, as it befell, in the stable where they did dwell! Joy shall be theirs in the morning!'

Words, Kenneth Grahame (1859-1932)

Music, Eoghan Desmond (b.1989)

Bass Lay Vicar Choral

Please stand to listen to the GOSPEL READING John 1: 1-14

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ according to Saint John, in the first chapter, beginning at the first verse.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

THE SERMON

Preacher: The Very Reverend W. W. Morton, B.Th., M.A., Ph.D., M.Mus., D. Litt.

Dean and Ordinary

The NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, **the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Leader says Let us pray.

Please kneel or sit according to your custom Each petition ends

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

The prayers may conclude

Merciful Father,
accept these our prayers for the sake of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

The PEACE

The Celebrant introduces the Peace and says

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

THE OFFERTORY HYMN

GOD REST YOU MERRY



CHORUS

— 3 —



1. God rest you merry, gentlemen,
Let nothing you dismay,
Remember Christ our Saviour
Was born on Christmas day,
To save us all from Satan's power
When we were gone astray:
O tidings of comfort and joy.

2. From God our heavenly Father
A blessed angel came,
And unto certain shepherds
Brought tidings of the same,
How that in Bethlehem was born
The Son of God by name:
O tidings of comfort and joy.

3. And when they came to Bethlehem,
Where our dear Saviour lay,
They found him in a manger,
Where oxen feed on hay;
His mother, Mary, kneeling down,
Unto the Lord did pray:
O tidings of comfort and joy.

4. Now to the Lord sing praises,
All you within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood
Each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas
All others doth efface:
O tidings of comfort and joy.

English traditional carol, arr. David Willcocks (1918-2015)

CELEBRATING AT THE LORD'S TABLE

The Lord is here.

His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Celebrant intones the PREFACE, concluding

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and singing:

The Choir sings SANCTUS

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

*Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.*

The EUCHARISTIC PRAYER continues, concluding

... through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom and in whom, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of never-ending praise:

Blessing and honour and glory and power are yours for ever and ever. Amen.

The Celebrant invites the People to pray the LORD'S PRAYER

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 Celebrant breaks the bread and says

The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

We, being many, are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

The Choir sings AGNUS DEI

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

*O Lamb of God who takes away
the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
O Lamb of God who takes away
the sins of the world, give us your peace.*

During the administration the Choir sing the MOTET

In dulci jubilo let us our homage shew: Our heart's joy reclineth *In praesepio*; And like a bright star shineth *Matris in gremio*, *Alpha es et O! O Jesu parvule*, I yearn for Thee alway! Hear me, I beseech Thee, *O puer optime*; My praying let it reach Thee, *O princeps gloriae*. *Trahe me post te*. O patris caritas! O Nati lenitas! Deeply were we stained. *Per nostra crimina*: But Thou for us hast gained *Coelorum gaudia*, *Qualis gloria! Ubi sunt gaudia*, if that they be not there? There are angels singing *Nova cantica*; And there the bells are ringing *In Regis curia*. O that we were there!

*15th century German carol
arranged Robert Lucas de Pearsall (1795-1856)*

GOING OUT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

When all have received Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

The seasonal POST-COMMUNION PRAYER is said, and this prayer

Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

HYMN



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:
*Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.*

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;

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,

Hail, the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel:

Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth:

Charles Wesley (1707–88)
Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809–47)

The Celebrant says the BLESSING

The ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Finale (Symphony no.1 in D minor)
Louis Vierne (1870-1937)