



Westminster Abbey



HRH The Duchess of Cambridge hosts
Together At Christmas

Wednesday 8th December 2021
5 p.m.



Members of the congregation are kindly requested to refrain from using private cameras, video, or sound recording equipment. Please ensure that mobile telephones and other electronic devices are switched off. The church is served by a hearing loop. Users should turn their hearing aid to the setting marked T.

The service is conducted by The Very Reverend Dr David Hoyle, Dean of Westminster.

The service is sung by the Choir of Westminster Abbey, conducted by James O'Donnell, Organist and Master of the Choristers.

The organ is played by Peter Holder, Sub-Organist.

Music before the service:

Matthew Jorysz, Assistant Organist, plays

Prelude and Fugue in C BWV 547 *Johann Sebastian Bach*
(1685–1750)

Prelude on The Holly and the Ivy *Herbert Sumson (1899–1995)*

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme BWV 645 *Johann Sebastian Bach*

La Nativité *Jean Langlais (1907–91)*

In dulci jubilo BWV 729 *Johann Sebastian Bach*

The Holy Boy *John Ireland (1879–1962)*

Evening Bells *from Christmas Tree Suite* *Franz Liszt (1811–86)*

Andante in F K 616 *Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756–91)*

Es ist ein Ros entsprungen *Johannes Brahms (1833–97)*

Peter Holder, Sub-Organist, plays

Noël sur les Flûtes *Louis-Claude Daquin (1694–1772)*



Welcome to ‘Together at Christmas’ – a very special Carol Service at the end of what has been another extraordinary year. Thank you all so much for travelling the length and breadth of the country to gather today.

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented us all with countless and previously unimaginable challenges. We have lost loved ones, seen our frontline workers placed under immeasurable pressure, and we have experienced heart-wrenching isolation from those we hold most dear.

Alongside this, we have seen how communities have come together to support those most in need. And through our separation from others, we have been reminded just how powerful human connection is to us all. Just how much we need one another. And how loving and feeling a sense of belonging to one another can provide comfort in tough times. The importance of simply being together.

In our roles, William and I are so fortunate to meet and spend time with phenomenal people across the country who day-in day-out support individuals and families. And over the past two years, we have been truly inspired by countless people who have brought their communities together through simple acts of love and kindness. This Carol Service is our small way of recognising the inspiring contribution so many of you have made. Thank you.

Christmas is a time when we can reflect on the past, listen to one another, focus on the relationships that nurture us and build our resilience, so we can look forward to a brighter shared future. My hope is that this Service creates a moment for us to do this together.

Over the next hour we will celebrate the power of this time of year. And I wish you all the very best for the year ahead.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Catherine." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a period at the end.

Guests have been invited to today's service from across the UK in recognition of their inspirational work during the COVID-19 pandemic despite incredibly challenging circumstances.

Unsung community heroes from across the nation have been put forward by their local Lieutenancies and other community networks for their tireless efforts and selfless acts of kindness.

Nominations have also been drawn from The Royal Foundation, and a number of charitable organisations and patronages of Her Majesty The Queen, The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall, and The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge.

We are also delighted to welcome armed forces personnel who were involved in Operation Pitting, faith leaders, and individuals who The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge have met and spent time with during their recent engagements and project work.



With thanks to Her Majesty The Queen for donating Christmas trees from Windsor Great Park and to the Royal Horticultural Society for supplying wreaths to decorate Westminster Abbey. After the service, they will be donated to local schools and hospices.

ORDER OF SERVICE

All stand for the Procession of Their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge.

All remain standing for the Hymn, and raise candles.

A soloist sings

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.

The choristers sing

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.

All sing

For he is our childhood's pattern,
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.

And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love,
for that child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.

Henry Gauntlett (1805–76)

Cecil Alexander (1818–95)

*All sit. The Very Reverend Dr David Hoyle, Dean of Westminster,
welcomes the congregation.*

From the Nave, Leona Lewis sings

O holy night

Adolphe Adam (1803–56)

From the Great Pulpit, Luke 2: 1–7 is read

IN those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Thanks be to God.

The choir sings the Anthem

ON Christmas night all Christians sing,
To hear the news the angels bring,
News of great joy, news of great mirth,
News of our merciful King's birth.

Then why should men on earth be so sad,
Since our Redeemer made us glad,
When from our sin he set us free,
All for to gain our liberty?

When sin departs before his grace,
Then life and health come in its place;
Angels and men with joy may sing
All for to see the new-born King.

All out of darkness we have light,
Which made the angels sing this night:
'Glory to God and peace to men,
Now and for evermore. Amen'.

Sussex Carol

*traditional
traditional English melody
arranged by David Willcocks (1919–2015)*

From the Sacrarium steps, Lemn Sissay reads his own composition, commissioned for this service.

From the Grave of the Unknown Warrior, The Queen's Piper plays.

From the Grave of the Unknown Warrior: A letter from a Soldier to his sister at Christmas is read

My dear sister Janet,

IT is 2.00 in the morning and most of our men are asleep in their dugouts—yet I could not sleep myself before writing to you of the wonderful events of Christmas Eve. In truth, what happened seems almost like a fairy tale, and if I hadn't been through it myself, I would scarce believe it. Just imagine: while you and the family sang carols before the fire there in London, I did the same with enemy soldiers here on the battlefields of France! I went to the dugout to rest and lying on my cot, I must have drifted asleep. All at once my friend John was shaking me awake, saying "Come and see! See what the Germans are doing!" And so it was. The Germans had placed Christmas trees in front of their trenches, lit by candle or lantern like beacons of goodwill. And then we heard voices raised in song. *Stille nacht, heilige nacht...* This carol may not yet be familiar to us in Britain, but John knew it and translated: "Silent night, holy night." I've never heard one lovelier – or more meaningful, in that quiet, clear night, its dark softened by a first-quartered moon. "We've agreed there will be no shooting before midnight tomorrow," he announced. "But sentries are to remain on duty and the rest of you stay alert," And so dear sister, tell me, has there ever been such a Christmas Eve in all history? And what does it all mean, this impossible befriending of enemies? For the fighting here, of course, it means regrettably little. Decent fellows those soldiers may be, but they follow orders and we do the same. Besides, we are here to stop their army and send it home and never could we shirk that duty. Still, one cannot help imagine what would happen if the spirit shown here were caught by the nations of the world. Of course, disputes must always arise. But what if our leaders were to offer well wishes in place of warnings? Songs in place of slurs? Presents in place of reprisals? Would not all war end at once? All nations say they want peace. Yet on this Christmas morning, I wonder if we want it quite enough.

Aaron Shepard

Your loving brother, Tom

All raise candles. The Lay Vicars sing

STILLE Nacht, heilige Nacht,
alles schläft; einsam wacht
nur das traute hochheilige Paar.
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!

The choir sings

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.

All stand to sing

Silent night, holy night.
Son of God, love's pure light,
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace:
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Franz Gruber (1787–1863)

George Timms (1910–97)

*after Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht Joseph Mohr (1792–1848)
arranged by James O'Donnell (b 1961)*

All sit. From the Great Pulpit, Love Came Down at Christmas is read

LOVE came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, Love divine;
Love was born at Christmas,
Star and angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead,
Love incarnate, Love divine;
Worship we our Jesus:
But wherewith for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token,
Love be yours and love be mine,
Love to God and all men,
Love for plea and gift and sign.

Christina Rossetti (1830–94)

From the Lantern, Ellie Goulding sings

Have Yourselves a Merry Little Christmas *Hugh Martin (1914–2011)*
Ralph Blane (1914–95)

All stand to sing the Hymn

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 tonight.

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 wond'ring love.

The choir sings How silently, how silently,
 the wondrous gift is giv'n!
 So God imparts to human hearts
 the blessings of his heav'n.
 No ear may hear his coming;
 but in this world of sin,
 where meek souls will receive him, still
 the dear Christ enters in.

All sing 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.

traditional English melody

Phillips Brooks (1835–93)

arranged by Thomas Armstrong (1898–1994)

All sit. From the Nave Pulpit, Luke 2: 8–15 is read.

IN that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!’

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.’

Thanks be to God.

The choir sings the Anthem

AS I walked down the road at set of sun,
the lambs were coming homewards, one by one,
I heard a sheep-bell softly calling them
along the little road to Bethlehem.

Beside an open door, as I drew nigh,
I heard sweet Mary sing a lullaby.
She sang about the lambs at close of day
and rocked her tiny King among the hay.

Across the air the silver sheep-bell rang,
'The lambs are coming home', sweet Mary sang,
'Your star of gold is shining in the sky,
so sleep, my little King, go lullaby.'

Michael Head (1900–76)

Margaret Rose (1888–1958)

*From the Crib, The Venerable Tricia Hillas, Canon Steward and
Archdeacon of Westminster gives a Reflection.*

All stand to sing the Hymn

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 till 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.

William Kirkpatrick (1838–1921)

*American, 19th century
arranged by David Willcocks (1919–2015)*

The Venerable Tricia Hillas leads the Prayers

Let us pray to God, born among us, who promises to be with us always.

All sit or kneel. At the end of each prayer is said

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

The Venerable Tricia S Hilla introduces the Lord's Prayer

Let us pray as our Saviour taught us.

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.

All stand to sing the 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!

The choir sings 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,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

All sing 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,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
'Glory to God in the highest':
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Adeste fideles

attributed to John Wade (1711–86)

The Dean pronounces the Blessing

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, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Music after the service

Carillon-Sortie

Henri Mulet (1878–1967)

**Members of the congregation are kindly requested to remain
in their seats until invited to move by the Honorary Stewards**

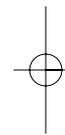
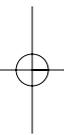


ROYAL FOUNDATION

OF THE DUKE AND DUCHESS
OF CAMBRIDGE

The Royal Foundation is proud to support Her Royal Highness's 'Together At Christmas' Carol Service, to recognise and celebrate the incredible work of individuals and organisations across the nation who have stepped up to support their communities through the pandemic.

Led by The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, The Royal Foundation works to mobilise leaders, businesses and people so that together we can address society's greatest challenges. We are pleased that tonight's service will highlight some of the key themes that Her Royal Highness and The Royal Foundation continue to focus on, including promoting the importance of mental health, supporting families and driving awareness of and action on the extraordinary impact of the early years through The Royal Foundation Centre for Early Childhood.



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