



Members of the congregation are requested kindly to refrain from using private cameras, film, 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 KCVO MBE, Dean of Westminster.

The service is sung by the Choir of Westminster Abbey, conducted by Andrew Nethsingha, Organist and Master of the Choristers.

The organ is played by Matthew Jorysz, Sub-Organist.

Brass accompaniment is provided by musicians of the Band of the Royal Air Force Regiment and percussion by the Royal Marines Band Service.

String accompaniment is provided by The Duchess of Edinburgh's String Orchestra.

The harp is played by Gabriella Jones.

The piano is played by Paul Gladstone Reid MBE.

Music before the service:

Paul Greally, Assistant Organist, plays

Prelude and Fugue

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

in E-flat BWV 552

Vom Himmel kam der Engel schar BWV 607

Johann Sebastian Bach

Vom Himmel hoch da komm ich her BWV 606

Johann Sebastian Bach

The pianist plays a selection of Christmas carols and songs.

Matthew Jorysz, Sub-Organist, plays

Prelude on The Holly and the Ivy

Herbert Sumsion (1899–1995)

Their Royal Highnesses The Prince and Princess of Wales are received by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster. All remain seated while presentations are made and they are conducted to their seats.

The congregation's candles are lit.

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3

ORDER OF SERVICE

All stand. During the Hymn the choir and clergy process to places in Quire and the Sacrarium

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 choir sings

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

And through all his wondrous childhood 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.

Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by, we shall see him; but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high; Where like stars his children crowned all in white shall wait around.

Henry Gauntlett (1805–76) harmonised by Arthur Henry Mann (1850–1929) arranged by David Willcocks (1919–2015) Cecil Alexander (1818–95)

All remain standing. The Very Reverend Dr David Hoyle KCVO MBE, Dean of Westminster, welcomes the congregation, concluding with the Prayer

TERNAL God, in the stillness of this night you sent your almighty Word to pierce the world's darkness with the light of salvation: give to the earth the peace that we long for and fill our hearts with the joy of heaven; through our Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

All sit and extinguish candles. Hannah Waddingham sings

In the Bleak Midwinter

Christina Rossetti (1830–94) Harold Darke (1888–1976) arranged by Simon Haw (b 1965)

Chiwetel Ejiofor CBE reads A Visit from St Nicholas, by Clement Clarke Moore (1779 - 1863)

The choir sings the Carol

N 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, angels and men with joy may sing all for to see the new-born King.

All out of darkness we have light, then life and health come in its place; which made the angels sing this night: 'Glory to God and peace to men, now and for evermore. Amen'.

Sussex Carol traditional English melody arranged by Philip Ledger (1937–2012) traditional

Babatunde Aléshé reads the first Reading

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.

Luke 2: 1-7

Thanks be to God.

Dan Smith singsO Holy Night

Adolphe Adam (1803–56) arranged by Simon Haw

All stand to sing the Hymn

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 to-day.

We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell:

O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

traditional English melody arranged by Thomas Armstrong (1898–1994) Phillips Brooks (1835-93)

All sit. Kate Winslet CBE gives a reflection on love and connection

A film is played: Connecting at Christmas

Fisherman's Friends sing I Saw Three Ships

traditional

All stand to sing the Hymn

OD 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,
comfort and joy!
O tidings of comfort and joy!

From God our heavenly Father a blessèd angel came, and unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same, how that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name: 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:

Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place, and with true love and fellowship each other now embrace; this holy tide of Christmas all other doth efface:

God rest you merry 25 NEH London Carol Melody harmonised by John Stainer (1840–1901) arranged by David Willcocks anonymous, British 18th century

All sit. His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales reads the second Reading

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.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

Luke 2: 8-16

Thanks be to God.

A film is played: Creativity at Christmas

Platinum Performing Arts, together with Daniela Morain, perform

Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas

Hugh Martin (1914–2011) Ralph Blane (1914–95) arranged by Simon Haw

Joe Locke reads The Christmas Life, by Wendy Cope (b 1945) as Paul Gladstone Reid MBE plays

The Christmas Life

Simon Haw

Katie Melua sings

White Christmas

Irving Berlin (1888–1989) arranged by Simon Haw

The choir sings the Carol

HAT sweeter music can we bring than a carol, for to sing the birth of this our heav'nly King? Awake the voice! Awake the string! Dark and dull night, fly hence away, and give the honour to this day that sees December turn'd to May.

Why does the chilling winter's morn smile, like a field beset with corn? Or smell like a meadow newly shorn thus on the sudden? Come and see the cause, why things thus fragrant be: 'tis he is born, whose quickening birth gives life and lustre, public mirth, to heaven and the under earth.

We see him come, and know him ours, who, with his sunshine and his show'rs, turns all the patient ground to flowers, the darling of the world is come, and fit it is, we find a room to welcome him. The nobler part of all the house here, is the heart, which we will give him; and bequeath this holly, and this ivy wreath, to do him honour, who's our King, and Lord of all this revelling.

John Rutter (b 1945)

Robert Herrick (1591-1674)

The Dean gives a Reflection

The Dean leads the prayers, during which candles are lit around the crib. At the conclusion of the prayers, all say

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 congregation's candles are lit

Griff sings

O Come All Ye Faithful

attributed to John Wade (1711–86) orchestrated by Simon Haw

All stand. The Dean pronounces the Blessing

AY 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.**

All sing the Hymn

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 th'angelic host proclaim, Christ is born in Bethlehem: Hark! the herald angels sing Glory to the new-born King.

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 th'incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel:

Felix Mendelssohn (1809–47) arranged by David Willcocks

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:

Charles Wesley (1707–88)

The clergy and choir, together with Members of The Royal Family, depart

Music after the service

Final from Symphony no 1 Op 14

Louis Vierne (1870-1937)

The congregation's candles are extinguished

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

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OF THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES

The Royal Foundation of The Prince and Princess of Wales is proud to support and deliver the fifth 'Together at Christmas' Carol Service. Alongside this service at Westminster Abbey, fifteen 'Together at Christmas' Community Carol Services are taking place around the UK, hosted by Lord-Lieutenants, and supported by The Royal Foundation.

The Prince and Princess of Wales and The Royal Foundation lead with the belief that change is always possible and are committed to building innovative, collaborative and optimistic solutions that deliver positive impact where it matters most. Together, Their Royal Highnesses and The Royal Foundation have an unparalleled ability to take a long-term view and unite people, ideas and resources; inspiring action to deliver meaningful change for a better future for individuals, communities, society and our planet.

With grateful thanks to His Majesty The King for donating Christmas trees from Windsor Great Park to decorate Westminster Abbey. After the service, these trees will be donated to the local community.

Order of service printed by: Barnard & Westwood Limited 23 Pakenham Street WCIX OLB By Appointment to HM The King & HM The Queen Printers and Bookbinders

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