



DURHAM CATHEDRAL

THE SHRINE OF ST CUTHBERT

Eucharist
on
The First Sunday of Christmas

Sunday 31 December 2023
10.00 a.m.

Welcome to Durham Cathedral

If you are visiting, we are delighted that you join us today. Please ask a member of staff for directions if you require assistance. If you are a regular worshipper here, welcome back.

Junior Church

There is no Junior Church today or next week because of the Christmas school holidays. Junior Church resumes on Sunday 14 January apart from a special service and party on Friday 5 January at 5.30 p.m. (see back pages of this order of service for more details).

Refreshments after the Service

Refreshments are served after this service in the Galilee Chapel at the back of the Cathedral where we are joined by worshippers arriving to attend Matins at 11.30 a.m. Do join us there.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

The care and protection of children, young people and adults involved in Church activities is the responsibility of everyone who participates in the life of the Church. If you are concerned that someone you know is at risk, or is being abused, or presents a risk to others, please seek advice from the Cathedral Safeguarding Officer. If a child or adult is in immediate danger or requires medical attention, call the emergency services without delay. The Cathedral Safeguarding Officer can be contacted on 07951 624103 or via email safeguarding@durhamcathedral.co.uk

The Gathering

Please stand at the entrance of the ministers

The Greeting

The Reverend Canon Professor Simon Oliver

President In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

President The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

The President welcomes the people and introduces the service

Prayers of Penitence

Deacon Hear the words of the angel to Joseph:
‘You shall call his name Jesus,
for he will save his people from their sins.’
Therefore let us seek the forgiveness of God
through Jesus the Saviour of the world.

Silence is kept

All **Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.**

President May the God of all healing and forgiveness
draw you to himself and cleanse you from all your sins,
that you may behold the glory of his Son,
the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Gloria in excelsis

President Glory to God in the highest,
All and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
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 Collect

President Let us pray.

Silence is kept

President Almighty God,
who wonderfully created us in your own image
and yet more wonderfully restored us
through your Son Jesus Christ:
grant that, as he came to share in our humanity,
so we may share the life of his divinity;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All Amen.

Please sit

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Galatians 4: 4-7

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Galatians.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

**All For the word of the Lord
 thanks be to God.**

Please stand and turn to face the Book of the Gospels as it is processed into the Nave

The Gospel

Luke 2: 15-21

Deacon Alleluia, alleluia.
The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
and we have seen his glory.

All Alleluia.

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to St Luke.
All Glory to you, O Lord.

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. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
All Praise to you, O Christ.

Please sit after the Preacher's prayer

Sermon

The Reverend Canon Charlie Allen

Please stand as the President approaches the Altar to say the Creed

The Creed

All

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 from the Holy Spirit and 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.

Prayers of Intercession

President Let us pray to Jesus our Saviour.

Please kneel or sit

After each petition:

All Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

At the end:

President Father,
 angels and shepherds worshipped at the manger throne.
 Receive the worship we offer in fellowship with
 Mary, Joseph and the saints
 through him who is your Word made flesh,
 our Saviour Jesus Christ.

All **Amen.**

Please stand

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

The Peace

President Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,
 and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.
 The peace of the Lord be always with you

All **and also with you.**

If you wish, please exchange a sign of peace with those near to you

Taking of the Bread and Wine

President Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
 through your goodness
 we have this bread to set before you,
 which earth has given and human hands have made.
 It will become for us the bread of life.

All Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
through your goodness we have this wine to set before you,
fruit of the vine and work of human hands.
It will become for us the cup of salvation.

All Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed be God,
By whose grace creation is renewed,
By whose love heaven is opened,
By whose mercy we offer our sacrifice of praise.

All Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer A

President The Lord be with you
All and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All It is right to give thanks and praise.

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,
mighty creator, ever-living God.
We give you thanks and praise for your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who for love of our fallen race humbled himself,
and on this night was born of the Virgin Mary
by the power of your Spirit, and lived as one of us.

In this mystery of the Word made flesh
you have caused his light to shine in our hearts,
to give knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.
In him we see our God made visible
and so are caught up in the love of the God we cannot see.

Therefore with all the angels of heaven
we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name
and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

**All Holy, holy, holy Lord,
 God of power and might,
 Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
 Hosanna in the highest.
 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
 Hosanna in the highest.**

President Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
 through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
 and as we follow his example and obey his command,
 grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit
 these gifts of bread and wine
 may be to us his body and his blood;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.

Therefore, heavenly Father,
we remember his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross;
we proclaim his mighty resurrection
and glorious ascension;
we look for the coming of your kingdom,
and with this bread and this cup
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

All Praise to you, Lord Jesus:
Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life:
Lord Jesus, come in glory.

President Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts
in the presence of your divine majesty,
renew us by your Spirit,
inspire us with your love
and unite us in the body of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
with the Blessed Virgin Mary,
Joseph of Nazareth, Cuthbert, Bede,
and all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty,
in songs of everlasting praise:

All **Blessing and honour and glory and power**
be yours for ever and ever.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

President Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

All 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 Breaking of the Bread

President We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

All Though we are many, we are one body,
 because we all share in one bread.

Agnus Dei

All Lamb of God,
 you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.
 Lamb of God,
 you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.
 Lamb of God,
 you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.

Giving of Communion

President God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

All Jesus Christ is holy,
 Jesus Christ is Lord,
 to the glory of God the Father.

Please sit down and then follow the directions of the vergers to form a line to receive Holy Communion. There is one station at the front of the Nave and one station at the rear. Hold your hands out so that the clergy may place the host into your hand. After you have received the consecrated host, you may receive from the chalice if you wish, or simply return to your seats via the side aisles. Gluten-free wafers are available at both stations.

All those who are members of a Christian church of any denomination are welcome to receive Communion. If this is not part of your tradition or you are not sure, you are nevertheless welcome to receive a blessing at the communion station from the priest there. In this case, you should move forward with the communicants and bow your head as an indication to the priest that you wish to receive a blessing.

After all have received Holy Communion, please stand as the President approaches the Altar

Prayer after Communion

President Let us pray.

Heavenly Father,
whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth
the life of an earthly home:
help your Church to live as one family,
united in love and obedience,
and bring us all at last to our home in heaven;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

All **Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with 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.**

The Dismissal

President The Lord be with you.
All **And also with you.**

May the Father,
who has loved the eternal Son
from before the foundation of the world,
shed that love upon you his children.
All **Amen.**

May Christ,
who by his incarnation
gathered into one things earthly and heavenly,
fill you with joy and peace.
All **Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit
by whose overshadowing
Mary became the God-bearer,
Give you grace to carry the good news of Christ.
and the gifts of your eternal home.
All **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
Come down upon you
and remain with you always.
All **Amen.**

Deacon Go in the peace of Christ.
All **Thanks be to God.**

Please remain standing as the clergy and ministers depart

Please join us for refreshments in the Galilee Chapel after the service: everyone is welcome.

Morning Prayer with Address is said in the Quire at 11.30 a.m., and Evening Prayer is said in the Quire at 3.30 p.m.

Daily services this week

*At 8.30 a.m., **Morning Prayer** (live-streamed) is said in the Feretory from Monday to Saturday, except on Thursday and Friday, when it is said in the Chapel of the Holy Cross.*

*At 12.30 p.m., **Holy Communion** is celebrated each weekday at the High Altar, except on Thursday and Friday when it is celebrated in the Chapel of the Holy Cross. These services are not live-streamed.*

*At 5.30 p.m., **Evening Prayer** is said in the Quire from Monday to Saturday (live-streamed from Monday to Friday).*

***Compline** is said on Monday at 8.45 p.m. (live-streamed only).*

***Next Sunday**— The Baptism of Christ: **Holy Communion** (BCP) is celebrated at 8.00 a.m., the **Eucharist** is said with hymns at 10.00 a.m., **Morning Prayer with Address** is said in the Quire at 11.30 a.m., and **Evening Prayer** is said in the Quire at 3.30 p.m.*

Durham Church Together New Year's Eve Service: Sunday 31 December at 5.30 p.m.

A service to mark the passing of the old year and the beginning of the new is held at Durham Cathedral with a candlelit procession from the Market Place beforehand and a sermon by the Reverend Canon Gavin Wort. Everyone is welcome.

Durham Cathedral Junior Church

Junior Church will celebrate Epiphany at a special service of Evening Prayer on Friday 5 January 2024 at 5.30 p.m. when we will tell the story of the three kings and their gifts to Jesus and bless chalk for the ancient tradition of chalking the kings' names on the walls at our front doors and then enjoy an Epiphany party for the young ones. Do join us—especially if you haven't experienced Junior Church before (ages from Reception to around Year 6).

The Epiphany: Saturday 6 January at 7.30 p.m.

On Saturday 6 January at 7.30 p.m., we celebrate the visit of the Magi (the three wise men) to the manger, with a Sung Festal Eucharist here in the Cathedral. During the service, chalk which will have been blessed at Evening Prayer the night before (see the note about Junior Church below) will be available to be taken home with prayer cards for the blessing of people's homes. All are welcome to join us for this special occasion, when our celebrations of the Twelve Days of Christmas come to a conclusion!

Epiphany Procession: Sunday 21 January at 3.30 p.m.

You are warmly invited to join us at the Cathedral for a special service to celebrate the season of Epiphany. The service involves beautiful choral music, readings, and prayers, which dramatically draw together the three manifestations of Christ's glory—the visit of the Magi, the revelation of the Holy Trinity at the baptism in the river Jordan, and the turning of water into wine at a wedding in Cana—as the choir, clergy, and congregation process around the Cathedral. This is a truly 'Durham' service, and is not to be missed!

Volunteering at Durham Cathedral

There are a number of exciting ways to volunteer at Durham Cathedral and become part the story of this historic place of worship, pilgrimage, education, and culture: stewarding at special events, services or during visiting hours; giving guided tours; flower-arranging; helping our education department; serving refreshments on Sunday morning; being an altar server; teaching in the Junior Church; and many, many more. If you are interested, please contact our Volunteers' Manager, Belinda Fullelove: volunteers@durhamcathedral.co.uk.

Confirmation at Durham Cathedral

Confirmation is a chance for people who have already been baptised to confirm the promises they or their godparents made on their behalf at their baptism. These promises recognise God's love for us through prayer and the laying on of hands by the Bishop. In declaring our faith, we become members of the local and worldwide Christian family and the Church promises to support and pray for us on our journey of faith. (People who have not been baptised may feel ready to be baptised and confirmed at the same time.) Confirmation takes place at Durham Cathedral on Easter Day (Sunday 31 March 2024) at Dawn (5.00 a.m.). If you would like to explore the possibility of confirmation, here are the different ways you can do so:

- **Adult Confirmation:** In January we will run an 8 week course to prepare adults for confirmation. This is also suitable for already-confirmed regular worshippers who would like a 'refresher' course. Please contact the Cathedral Curate, the Reverend Kathryn Tiernan, for further details:
kathryn.tiernan@durhamcathedral.co.uk
- **Student Confirmation:** We plan to draw together students who have been worshipping with us at Student Evensong on Tuesdays, or on other occasions during the week, to explore faith both as a preparation for confirmation and, for those already confirmed, as a means of diving deeper into matters of faith. Please contact the Minor Canon for Liturgy and Learning, the Reverend Daniel Parkinson, for further details:
daniel.parkinson@durhamcathedral.co.uk
- **Chorister Confirmation:** Year 7 and Year 8 choristers in the Cathedral Choir will be prepared for confirmation by the School Chaplain on the Durham School site during the Easter Term. We will be in touch with chorister parents directly about this.
- **Children who are not choristers in the Cathedral Choir:** their parents or carers should also contact the Cathedral Curate as above.

Make a gift to Durham Cathedral

If you already support the Cathedral, thank you!

Gifts of any size make a difference to our life and work here: advancing our mission as a place of prayer, pilgrimage and proclamation, conserving heritage, and providing welcome.



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- Drop cash into the collecting boxes or baskets
- Contact development@durhamcathedral.co.uk

Thank you!

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The Cathedral Office, The College, Durham DH1 3EH—Tel: (0191) 386 4266
enquiries@durhamcathedral.co.uk www.durhamcathedral.co.uk

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