



The Chapel *of*
The Transfiguration

Sung Eucharist *of*
Christmas Night

Wednesday 24th December 2025
11.15 p.m.

About This Service

Welcome to the Chapel of the Transfiguration on this holy night, as we gather to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In the stillness of midnight, we proclaim the great mystery of Christmas: that God comes among us in humility and love, the Word made flesh, born in Bethlehem for the salvation of the world.

As we keep watch in prayer and praise, may the light of Christ's coming dispel all darkness, renew our hope, and draw us into the joy and peace of this most blessed night.

The preacher and celebrant tonight is
The Revd Suren Watson
Assistant Chaplain, S. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia

Please ensure that all mobile phones are on its silent setting

Please refrain from video recording or taking photographs of any parts of the service

Please remain silent before the Service

Music before the Service

In Dulci Jubilo BWV 729	<i>J. S. Bach (1685–1750)</i>
In Dulci Jublio	<i>J. M. Bach (1648–94)</i>
Vom Himmel Hoch BWV 606	<i>J. S. Bach</i>
Meditation on 'Veni, veni, Emmanuel'	<i>Rebecca Groom Te Velde (b.1956)</i>
Away in a Manger (<i>Mueller</i>)	<i>James R. Murray (1841–1905)</i>
The Shepherds' Farewell <i>from</i> L'enfance du Christ	<i>Hector Berlioz (1803–69)</i>

ORDER OF SERVICE

*The congregation is asked to join in all text printed in **bold***

If you are unable to stand at any point during the service, please feel free to remain seated

At 11.05 p.m. the acolytes will begin lighting the candles of the congregation seated nearest the aisles of the nave. Please pass the flame carefully to your neighbour

Please stand as the servers and clergy enter the chapel from the west end of the chapel

The celebrant says

Let us proceed in peace.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Hymn

*during which the procession moves through the nave
and stops at the crib*

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 to-night.

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 wondering love.

Choir only

How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming;
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still
The dear Christ enters in.

**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.**

Words: Bishop Philip Brooks (1835–93)

Tune: FOREST GREEN

Ralph V. Williams (1872–1958)

Vs. 3 arranged by Sir Philip Ledger

Descant by Thomas Armstrong (1898–1994)

All remain standing and face the crib at the west end of the chapel. The celebrant continues

DEAR friends,
As we meet this night to celebrate the birth of Christ,
let us pray that God will bless this crib,
and that all who worship his Son,
born of the Virgin Mary,
may come to share his life in glory.

God our Father,
on this night your Son Jesus Christ
was born of the Virgin Mary for us and for our salvation:
bless this crib, which we have prepared to celebrate that holy birth;
may all who see it be strengthened in faith and receive the fullness of life
he came to bring, who is alive and reigns for ever.

Amen.

The crib is sprinkled with holy water and censed

during which the procession moves to the sanctuary and the altar is censed

It came upon the midnight clear,
 That glorious song of old,
 From angels bending near the earth
 To touch their harps of gold:
 ‘Peace on the earth, good-will to men,
 From heaven’s all-gracious King!’
 The world in solemn stillness lay
 To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come,
 With peaceful wings unfurled;
 And still their heavenly music floats
 O’er all the weary world;
 Above its sad and lowly plains
 They bend on hovering wing;
 And ever o’er its Babel sounds
 The blessèd angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife
 The world has suffered long;
 Beneath the angel-strain have rolled
 Two thousand years of wrong;
 And man, at war with man, hears not
 The love-song which they bring:
 O hush the noise, ye men of strife,
 And hear the angels sing!

For, lo! the days are hastening on,
 By prophet bards foretold,
 When, with the ever-circling years,
 Comes round the age of gold;
 When peace shall over all the earth
 Its ancient splendours fling,
 And the whole world give back the song
 Which now the angels sing.

Words: Edmund Sears (1810–76)

Tune: NOEL

Arthur Sullivan (1842–1900)

Descant by John Scott (1956–2015)

Remain standing. The celebrant continues

The Greeting

IN the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you
and also with you

All kneel

Prayers of Penitence

CHRISt the light of the world has come
to dispel the darkness of our hearts.
In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

Silence is kept

Most merciful God,
**on this holy night you sent your Son, full of grace and truth,
yet we have not received him as we ought.
You gave us a Saviour born in poverty,
yet we have followed the ways of greed.
Your Spirit called Mary in joyful obedience,
yet our hearts have been hard and slow to answer.
Forgive us, Lord,
and let the light of Christ, born this night,
renew our faith and warm our hearts,
that we may welcome him with joy
and walk in his peace.
Amen.**

The choir sings

Kyrie Eleison *Lord, have mercy upon us*
Christe Eleison *Christ, have mercy upon us*
Kyrie Eleison *Lord, have mercy upon us*

The celebrant gives the Absolution

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

Amen.

As the Christmas Candle is lit the lights of the chapel are switched on. Please extinguish your candle carefully. All stand and the choir sings

Gloria

GLORY be to God on high,
and in earth peace, good will towards men,
We praise thee we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee.
We give thanks to thee for thy 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
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.
For thou only art holy, thou only art the Lord: thou only, O Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, art most high in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

Silence is kept

The Collect for the Day

The Lord be with you
and with thy spirit

Let us pray

O ETERNAL God,
who hast made this most holy night
to shine with the brightness of thy one true Light:
bring us, who have known the revelation of that Light upon earth,
to behold the radiance of thy heavenly glory;
through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord,
who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, world without end.

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

Old Testament Reading

THE people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.
You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onwards and for evermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Isaiah 9. 2–7

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

SING to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.

**Sing to the Lord and bless his name;
tell out his salvation from day to day.**

Declare his glory among the nations
and his wonders among all peoples.

**For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised;
he is more to be feared than all gods.**

For all the gods of the nations are but idols;
it is the Lord who made the heavens.

**Honour and majesty are before him;
power and splendour are in his sanctuary.**

Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples;
ascribe to the Lord honour and strength.

**Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name;
bring offerings and come into his courts.**

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
let the whole earth tremble before him.

**Tell it out among the nations that the Lord is king.
He has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity.**

Let the heavens rejoice and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it;

**Let the fields be joyful and all that is in them;
let all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the Lord.**

For he comes, he comes to judge the earth;
with righteousness he will judge the world
and the peoples with his truth.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.**

New Testament Reading

FOR the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Titus 2.11–14

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

All stand to sing

Gradual Hymn

*during which the Lesser Entrance will take place,
where the Book of Gospels is brought up in procession*

WHILE shepherds watched their flocks by night,
All seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around.

‘Fear not,’ said he (for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled mind);
‘Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind.

All lower voices: ‘To you in David’s town this day
Is born of David’s line
A Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
And this shall be the sign:

‘The heavenly Babe you there shall find
To human view displayed,
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
And in a manger laid.’

All upper voices: Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith
Appeared a shining throng
Of angels praising God, who thus
Addressed their joyful song:

**‘All glory be to God on high,
And to the earth be peace;
Goodwill henceforth from heaven to men
Begin and never cease.’**

Words: Nahum Tate (1652–1715)

Tune: WINCHESTER OLD
Thomas Este’s Psalter, 1592

Remain standing and face the Gospel

The Gospel Reading

Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

All repeat:



Choir: The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
and we have seen his glory.

Alleluia.

The Lord be with you
And with thy spirit

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
St. Luke, 2nd Chapter, beginning at the 1st verse

Glory be to thee, O Lord

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. 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!'

St. Luke 2. 1-14

At the end,

This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

Praise be to thee, O Christ

Remain standing until invited to be seated

Sermon

All stand. The celebrant says

Affirmation of Faith

WE believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.

We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.

We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.

All kneel or sit

Prayers of Intercession

during which the following response is used

Holy God

Hear our prayer

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

All stand

The Greeting of Peace

THIS holy night the angels sang,
‘Glory in the highest heaven, and on earth peace
to all in whom he delights.’

The peace of the Lord be always with you

And also with you

Preparation of the Table

Offertory Hymn

during which the Greater Entrance takes place, where the bread, wine and water for the Eucharist are brought up and placed on the altar, and a collection is taken

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.*

**God of God,
Light of Light,
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin’s womb;
Very God,
Begotten, not created:**

**See how the Shepherds,
summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
we too will thither
bend our joyful footsteps:**

**Child, for us sinners
Poor and in a manger,
Fain we embrace thee, with awe and love;
Who would not love thee,
Loving us so dearly?**

**Sing, choirs of Angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God
In the Highest:**

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning,
Jesu, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing:**

*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

Words: Latin, 18th century
trans. Frederick Oakeley (1802–80)

Tune: ADESTE FIDELES
J. F. Wade (1711–86) and others
Descant by Christopher Robinson

Remain standing. The celebrant invites all to say

WORD made flesh, life of the world,
in your incarnation you embraced our poverty:
by your Spirit may we share in your riches.
Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you
And with thy spirit

Lift up your hearts
We lift them up unto the Lord

Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God
It is meet and right so to do

IT is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God.

And now we give thee thanks,
because by the incarnation of thy Word
a new light hath dawned upon the world;
and thou hast vouchsafed to take our nature upon thee,
that we might be made one with thee
in the glory of thy heavenly kingdom.

Therefore with Angels, and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven,
we laud and magnify thy glorious Name, evermore praising thee, and saying:

The choir sings

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts,
heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Glory be to thee,
O Lord most high.

Holy indeed are you Almighty Father eternal Sovereign, who in all your gifts and works manifests your holiness to all humanity. Holy is your Only Begotten Son Jesus Christ, through whom you did order the universe. And Holy is your ever blessed Spirit who reveals all things, even the deep things of you O God. Just as you yourself are holy, so also you created us in your own image that we might live in holy fellowship.

And when we disobeyed your commandments, you did not abandon us but you guided us as a merciful Father; you revealed yourself to us through the Sages, the Law and the Prophets, and through your redeeming acts in history, and when the time was ripe, you came among us through your Son Jesus, whom you sent into the world to share our human nature in order that the Lord Jesus might revive your own image in us.

**Generous God, Jesus loves us
and sacrificed himself for us
and heralded the new life
in breaking bread with companions.**

On the very night that he was betrayed to suffer death upon the cross for us, the Lord Jesus took bread and when he had given thanks to you Almighty Father, 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 manner after supper, he took the cup also, and after giving thanks, he gave it to them saying:
Drink, all of you from this,
for this is my blood of the new covenant
which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

The Lord Jesus Christ is Saviour

**Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.**

And so Father, we present this bread and cup in communion with your whole church, in fellowship with Blessed Mary, St. Thomas, and all the saints, and in union with all creation we celebrate your Son's death and victory; giving thanks for all that Christ has done for us; for preparing us for all that lies ahead, we receive the benefits of Christ's life, death, resurrection and session in glory, and we eagerly await the heavenly banquet after Christ's coming again.

And we entreat you most merciful God to hear us and send your All Holy Spirit on us and on these your gifts, that they being blessed and hallowed by that life giving power, may be for us the Body and Blood of your most dearly loved Son, to the end that we receiving the same may be sanctified and filled with your grace and heavenly blessing.

**Accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving;
make us one body in Jesus Christ our Lord,
by whom and with whom and in whom in the unity of
the Holy Spirit all honour and glory be to you Almighty Father,
world without end.
Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

The bread which we break is it not a sharing in the body of Christ?
**We being many are one bread,
one body for we all partake of the one bread.**

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we now pray

All sing

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 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 continues

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

The gifts of God for the people of God

The choir sings

Benedictus

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Deep Silence

The choir sings

Agnus Dei

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world
Have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world
Have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world
Grant us thy peace.

Giving of Communion

The celebrant invites the people to receive the Holy Communion, saying

DRAW near with faith and take this Holy Sacrament to your comfort.
**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

All sit

If you receive communion in your own church, you are welcome to do so here

Please remain seated until invited to move forward by a prefect

During communion the choir sings a selection of carols and hymns

Carol

THERE is no rose of such virtue
As is the rose that bare Jesu:
Alleluia.

For in this rose containèd was
Heav'n and earth in little space:
Res miranda. [Wonderful thing]

By that rose we may well see
There be one God in persons three:
Pares forma. [Equal in form]

Then leave we all this worldly mirth,
And follow we this joyous birth:
Transeamus. [Let us follow]

Words: 15th cent. English

Music: Graham Ellis (b.1939)

Remain seated to sing

IN the bleak mid-winter frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak mid-winter long ago.

**Our God, heaven cannot hold him nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign:
In the bleak mid-winter a stable-place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.**

Choir: Enough for him whom cherubim worship night and day,
A breastful of milk and a mangerful of hay;
Enough for him whom angels fall down before,
The ox and ass and camel which adore.

**Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air,
But only his mother in her maiden bliss
Worshipped the Belovèd with a kiss.**

**What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb,
If I were a wise man I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give him, give my heart.**

Words: Christina Rossetti (1830–94)

Tune: CRANHAM
Gustav Holst (1874–1934)

O HOLY night! the stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of the dear Saviour's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till He appeared, and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope— the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees! Oh hear the angel voices!
O night divine! O night when Christ was born,
O night divine, O night divine.

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming,
With glowing hearts by his cradle we stand;
So, led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,
Here came the wise men from the Orient land.
The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger,
In all our trials born to be our friend;
He knows our need, to our weakness no stranger;
Behold your King! before him lowly bend!
Behold your King; before him bend!

Truly he taught us to love one another;
His law is love and his Gospel is peace.
Chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother,
And in his name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we;
Let all within us praise his holy Name.
Christ is the Lord, then ever, ever praise we,
His power and glory evermore proclaim,
His power and glory evermore proclaim.

Words: Tr. John Sullivan Dwight (1813–1893)

Music: Adolphe Adam (1803–1856)
Arranged by Sir John Rutter (b.1945)

After communion all kneel as the celebrant says

Prayers after Communion

Give thanks to the Lord for God is gracious.
God's mercy endures forever.

“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 Christ, the Lord.”

Luke 2.10,11

ALMIGHTY God,
**we thank you for feeding us
with the Body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through Christ we offer you ourselves
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

All stand to sing

Hymn

during which the procession moves to the west end of the chapel

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.*

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

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:

Words: Charles Wesley (1707–88)

Tune: MENDELSSOHN

Felix Mendelssohn (1809–47)

Descant by Sir Philip Ledger (1937–2012)

All turn to face the Gospel

Hear the good news of the Word made flesh according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

IN the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

St. John 1. 1-14

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The celebrant gives the

Blessing

CHRIST, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with peace and goodwill and make you partakers of the divine nature; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

The choir sings

Amen.

The celebrant says

Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.

Glorify, thank and praise to God.

Music after the Service

Toccata from Symphony No. 5

Charles M. Widor (1869–1924)

The Acting Warden, the Chaplains
and the whole College Community
wish you a happy and a holy Christmas
and every blessing in the New Year

Please take this order of service with you to reflect on the prayers and readings
and as a reminder of your visit