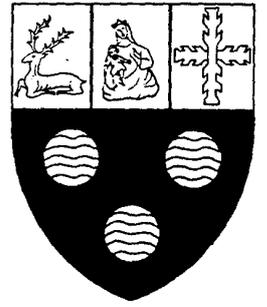


**Southwell  
Minster**

THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF  
THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY



# EVENSONG

**The Third Sunday of Advent**

Sunday 12 December 2021

3.30pm

# Welcome to Southwell Minster



As you prepare for worship, please be sensitive to the needs of those around you who may wish to pray in silence. Please switch off mobile telephones and do not use photographic, video or recording equipment at any time.



A loop system is in operation throughout the Minster. Hearing aids that are equipped to do so should be switched to the 'T' position or the loop setting appropriate to your equipment.



**Large print** orders of service are available. Please ask a Churchwarden, Sidesman or Verger for a copy.



Toilet facilities (including disabled access) are situated in the Archbishop's Palace, opposite the South Door of the Minster.



We are a Fairtrade cathedral, committed to continuing and increasing our use of fairly traded goods wherever possible.

The congregation is invited to join in all texts printed in **bold**.

The Cathedral Choir is directed by Paul Provost, *Rector Chori*.

The organ is played by Jonathan Allsopp, *Assistant Director of Music*.

Please note that all worshippers and visitors are now required to wear a face covering at all times inside the Minster (including when singing), unless they have a valid medical reason for not doing so. Please continue to observe some social distancing in the building and be mindful of the needs of other worshippers who may be vulnerable to the virus.

This service will be live-streamed to the internet, and will be available at [www.southwellminster.org/worship-online](http://www.southwellminster.org/worship-online) and on the Minster's YouTube channel, for one day. Live-streaming allows those joining from home to participate in the same act of worship as those in the Cathedral.

No collection is taken at this service, but donations as you leave in support of the mission and ministry of the Cathedral are very welcome. Envelopes and cash may be deposited in the donation box, or preferably use the contactless donation station. Alternatively, you can give online at [www.southwellminster.org.uk/donate](http://www.southwellminster.org.uk/donate). Please give generously.

## The Service of Evensong

The experience of the service of Evensong is unique. It takes place at the end of the working day, and the choir leads worship through their singing. The service is centred around the singing of psalms, ancient texts that speak powerfully and accessibly to our very human hopes, fears and dreams. Every service of Evensong also includes two canticles, or songs, recorded in St Luke's Gospel: the *Magnificat* and *Nunc dimittis*. Both canticles focus on hope and the fulfilment of what God promised to his people, and so have acted as a foundation for prayer and reflection towards the end of the day for many hundreds of years. The beauty of daily sung services in cathedrals is that no two composers' interpretation of these texts is the same, so in the repetition of familiar texts we find fresh meaning every single day.

The gift of the service of Evensong is that it requires little active participation from the congregation; it is a service of respite from the stresses of the day. Our hope is that those of you for whom this is your first taste of Evensong will let yourselves be immersed in the experience: you need simply to be receptive, and to allow yourself to be carried by the choir in song and prayer. In letting others take on the responsibility for prayer on your behalf, you are left with greater freedom to be open to the presence and grace of God.

## Standing, Sitting and Kneeling

Throughout the booklet, you will find various references to posture:

- **Standing** is used for parts of the service where the emphasis is on praising or praying to God together; so we usually stand to sing hymns, and for certain important prayers.
- **Sitting** indicates listening and receiving; so we sit for the first and second readings from the Bible, and for the sermon.
- **Kneeling** is the traditional position for personal prayer. Please speak to one of the Vergers or Sidesmen if you would like a cushion for kneeling.

Adopting the same posture is a way of showing that we are worshipping God together, as his people. However, please always feel free to adopt a different posture, especially if standing or kneeling is uncomfortable.

We are always delighted to welcome newcomers and visitors. If you would like to keep in regular contact with the Minster, please either speak to one of the clergy or churchwardens, or email [office@southwellminster.org.uk](mailto:office@southwellminster.org.uk)

# ORDER OF SERVICE

## ORGAN PRELUDE

*Bach Trio Sonata No 3 in D minor, BWV 527  
(Andante-Adagio e dolce-Vivace)*

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

## INTROIT *sung by the choir from the North Transept*

Remember, O thou man,  
O thou man, O thou man.  
Remember, O thou man,  
Thy time is spent:  
Remember, O thou man,  
How thou art dead and gone,  
And I did what I can,  
Therefore repent.

Remember Adam's fall,  
O thou man, O thou man.  
Remember, Adam's fall  
From heaven to hell,  
Remember, Adam's fall  
How we were condemned all  
In hell perpetual,  
Therefore to dwell.

Remember God's goodness  
O thou man, O thou man,  
Remember God's goodness  
And his promise made,  
Remember God's goodness  
How he sent his son doubtless  
Out sins for to redress,  
Be not afraid.

*Words: Traditional Carol*

*Music: Thomas Ravenscroft (c.1588-1635)*

*Please stand at the entry of the choir and ministers*

*PRECES sung by the Canon Precentor and choir*

O Lord, open thou our lips:  
And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

O God, make speed to save us:  
O Lord, make haste to help us.

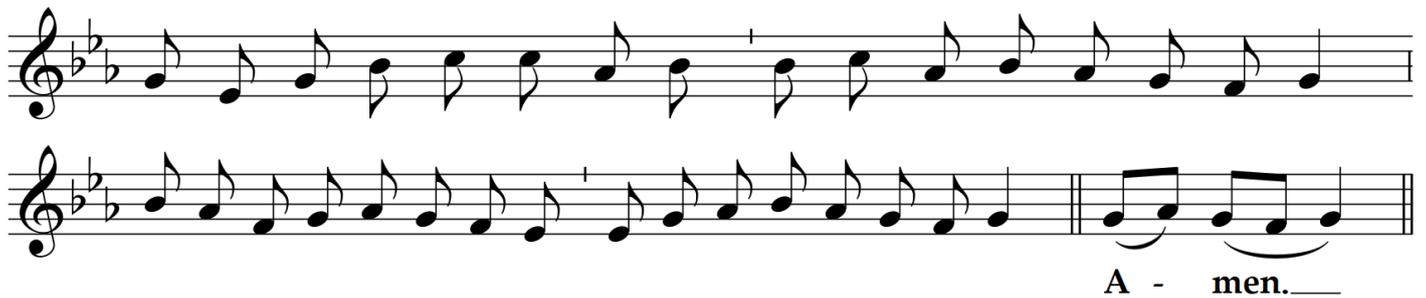
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.

Praise ye the Lord:  
The Lord's name be praised.

*Music: Thomas Tomkins (1572-1656)*

*The Canon in Residence welcomes the congregation to the service.*

## OFFICE HYMN



Creator of the stars of night,  
Thy people's everlasting light,  
O Jesu, Saviour of us all,  
Regard thy servants when they call.

**Thou, grieving at the bitter cry  
Of all creation doomed to die,  
Didst come to save a ruined race  
With healing gifts of heavenly grace.**

Thou camest, Bridegroom of the bride,  
As drew the world to evening-tide,  
Proceeding from a virgin shrine,  
The Son of Man, yet Lord divine.

**At thy great name, exalted now,  
All knees must bend, all hearts must bow,  
And things in heaven and earth shall own  
That thou art Lord and King alone.**

To thee, O holy One, we pray,  
Our judge in that tremendous day,  
Preserve us, while we dwell below,  
From every onslaught of the foe.

**All praise, eternal Son, to thee,  
Whose advent sets thy people free,  
Whom with the Father we adore,  
And Spirit blest, for evermore. Amen.**

*Words: Latin, 9<sup>th</sup> century  
trans. John Mason Neale (1818-66)*

*Tune: CONDITOR ALME NEH 1  
Mode iv*

*Please sit*

The Lord, even the most mighty God, hath spoken:  
and called the world, from the rising up of the sun, unto the going  
down thereof.  
Out of Sion hath God appeared:  
in perfect beauty.  
Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence:  
there shall go before him a consuming fire, and a mighty tempest shall  
be stirred up round about him.  
He shall call the heaven from above:  
and the earth, that he may judge his people.  
Gather my saints together unto me:  
those that have made a covenant with me with sacrifice.  
And the heaven shall declare his righteousness:  
for God is Judge himself.

*Please stand*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:  
and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:  
world without end. Amen.

*Music: Henry Smart (1813-79)*

*Please sit*

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 35

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,  
and rejoice with joy and singing.  
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.  
They shall see the glory of the Lord,  
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,  
and make firm the feeble knees.  
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,  
'Be strong, do not fear!  
Here is your God.  
He will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense.  
He will come and save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.  
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;  
the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there,  
and it shall be called the Holy Way;  
the unclean shall not travel on it,  
but it shall be for God's people;  
no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.  
No lion shall be there,  
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
they shall not be found there,  
but the redeemed shall walk there.  
And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,  
and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain joy and gladness,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

*Please stand*

MAGNIFICAT *sung by the choir*

My soul doth magnify the Lord:  
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.  
For he hath regarded:  
the lowliness of his handmaiden.  
For behold, from henceforth:  
all generations shall call me blessed.  
For he that is mighty hath magnified me:  
and holy is his name.  
And his mercy is on them that fear him:  
throughout all generations.  
He hath shewed strength with his arm:  
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.  
He hath put down the mighty from their seat:  
and hath exalted the humble and meek.  
He hath filled the hungry with good things:  
and the rich he hath sent empty away.  
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel:  
as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.  
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:  
and to the Holy Ghost.  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:  
world without end. Amen.

*Words: Luke 1: 46-55*

*Music: from SECOND SERVICE  
William Byrd (c.1539-1623)*

*Please sit*

Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. Her neighbours and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.

On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. But his mother said, 'No; he is to be called John.' They said to her, 'None of your relatives has this name.' Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. He asked for a writing-tablet and wrote, 'His name is John.' And all of them were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. Fear came over all their neighbours, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. All who heard them pondered them and said, 'What then will this child become?' For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.

*Please stand*

NUNC DIMITTIS *sung by the choir*

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace:

according to thy word.

For mine eyes have seen:

thy salvation.

Which thou hast prepared:

before the face of all people;

To be a light to lighten the Gentiles:

and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:

and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:

world without end. Amen.

## CREED

**I believe in God the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth:  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead and buried.  
He descended into hell;  
the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Ghost;  
the holy catholic Church;  
the communion of saints;  
the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

## LESSER LITANY, LORD'S PRAYER AND RESPONSES

*sung by the Canon Precentor and choir*

The Lord be with you:  
And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

*Please sit or kneel*

Lord, have mercy upon us:  
Christ, have mercy upon us:  
Lord, have mercy upon us.

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 that trespass against us;  
and let us not be led into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
Amen.

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us:  
And grant us thy salvation.

O Lord, save the Queen:  
And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Endue thy Ministers with righteousness:  
And make thy chosen people joyful.

O Lord, save thy people:  
And bless thine inheritance.

Give peace in our time, O Lord:  
Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.

O God, make clean our hearts within us:  
And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

#### COLLECT FOR THE DAY

O Lord Jesu Christ, who at thy first coming didst send thy messenger to  
prepare thy way before thee;  
Grant that the ministers and stewards of thy mysteries may likewise so  
prepare and make ready thy way, by turning the hearts of the  
disobedient to the wisdom of the just,  
that at thy second coming to judge the world  
we may be found an acceptable people in thy sight,  
who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
ever one God, world without end.  
Amen.

## COLLECT FOR ADVENT

Almighty God,  
give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness,  
and put upon us the armour of light,  
now in the time of this mortal life,  
in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility;  
that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious Majesty,  
to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal;  
through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost,  
now and ever.  
Amen.

## COLLECT FOR PEACE

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels,  
and all just works do proceed;  
give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give;  
that both, our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments,  
and also that, by thee,  
we being defended from the fear of our enemies  
may pass our time in rest and quietness;  
through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour.  
Amen.

## COLLECT FOR AID AGAINST ALL PERILS

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord;  
and by thy great mercy defend us  
from all perils and dangers of this night;  
for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.  
Amen.

*Music: Thomas Tomkins (1572-1656)*

*Please sit*

*ANTHEM sung by the choir*

Prepare ye the way of the Lord,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.  
Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made  
low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places  
shall be made plain.  
And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,  
and all flesh shall see it together.  
And the voice said, Cry. What shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and the  
goodliness thereof is as the flower that is in the field.  
The grass withereth, the flower fadeth:  
but the word of the Lord shall stand fast for ever.  
O Zion, that bringest glad tidings, get thee up into the mountains:  
O Jerusalem, that bringest glad tidings, lift up thy voice with  
strength, and say unto Judah, Behold thy God!

*Words: Isaiah 40: 3–9*

*Music: Michael Wise (c.1648-87)*

*HOMILY given by Canon Angela Ashwin, Reader*

*Please remain seated or kneel when invited.*

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION led by the Canon Precentor*

*One of the following responses, or another, may be used:*

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Lord, hear us.  
**Lord, graciously hear us.**

**THE GRACE**

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
be with us all evermore.  
Amen.**

*Please stand*

HYMN



On this high feast day honour we the Baptist,  
Greatest and last of Israel's line of prophets,  
Kinsman of Jesus, herald of salvation,  
Chosen forerunner.

Lo, from the heavens Gabriel descending,  
Brings to thy father tidings of thy coming,  
Telling thy name, and all thy life's high calling  
Duly announcing.

When Zechariah doubted what was told him,  
Dumbness assailed him, sealing firm the promise  
Till, at thy naming, lo, his voice resounded  
Loud in God's praises.

Greater art thou than all the sons of Adam,  
Lowly in spirit, faithfully proclaiming  
Israel's Messiah, Jesus our Redeemer,  
Thus we exalt thee.

Father eternal, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
God everlasting, hear thy people's praises;  
Let saints on earth with all the saints in glory,  
Ever adore thee. Amen.

Words: NEH 168  
Latin, Paul Deacon (730-99)

Tune: ISTE CONFESSOR NEH 210  
Poitiers Antiphoner, 1746

## BLESSING

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding,  
keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God,  
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord:  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost,  
be amongst you and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**

DISMISSAL *sung by the Canon Precentor and choir*

The Lord be with you:  
And with thy Spirit.

Let us bless the Lord:  
Thanks be to God.

*Music: after Thomas Tomkins (1572-1656)*

ORGAN VOLUNTARY *during which the ministers depart*

*Rorate caeli*

Jeanne Demessieux (1921-68)

*Once the ministers and choir have departed, you are invited to sit to listen quietly to the organ voluntary. If you wish to leave at this point, please do so without disturbing those who may still wish to listen or pray. The clergy will stand outside the north door to greet you on your way out.*

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