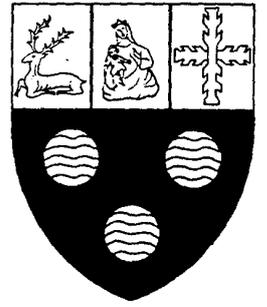


**Southwell
Minster**

THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF
THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY



EVENSONG

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday 19 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 Minster Chorale is directed by Jonathan Allsopp, *Assistant Director of Music*.

The organ is played by Michael D'Avanzo, *Organ Scholar*.

Please note that all worshippers and visitors to are currently required to wear a face covering whilst inside the Minster, unless they have a valid medical reason for not doing so. We are currently asking members of the congregation to keep face coverings in place at all times in order to keep everyone as safe as possible. We also ask all those visiting the Cathedral to check in using the NHS Covid-19 app on entry if possible, and to continue to observe some social distancing in the building. Please be mindful of the needs of others 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 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. 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

ORDER OF SERVICE

ORGAN PRELUDE

O Radix Jesse (from O Antiphon Sequence)

Cecilia McDowall (b. 1951)

INTROIT *sung by the choir from the North Transept*

Alma Redemptoris mater quae
pervia caeli porta manes et stella
maris, succurre cadenti, surgere
qui curat populo: Tu quae
genuisti, natura mirante, tuum
sanctum genitorem: Virgo prius ac
posterius, Gabrielis ab ore sumens
illud ave, peccatorum miserere.

*Kind mother of the Redeemer, the open
gateway to heaven and star of the sea,
help your fallen people who strive to
rise again: we pray you, who bore your
holy Son by a miracle of nature, a
virgin first and last, who received
God's greeting from the mouth of
Gabriel, have mercy on sinners.*

Words: Marian antiphon from Advent to Candlemas

Music: Mode v

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: Richard Ayleward (1626-69)

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, 9th century
trans. John Mason Neale (1818-66)*

*Tune: CONDITOR ALME NEH 1
Mode iv*

Please sit

Unto thee lift I up mine eyes:

O thou that dwellest in the heavens.

Behold, even as the eyes of servants look unto the hand of their masters,
and as the eyes of a maiden unto the hand of her mistress:
even so our eyes wait upon the Lord Our God, until he have mercy
upon us.

Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us:
for we are utterly despised.

Our soul is filled with the scornful reproof of the wealthy:
and with the despitefulness of the proud.

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: 'Langdon's Collection'

Please sit

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 10: 33 – 11: 10

Look, the Sovereign, the Lord of hosts,
will lop the boughs with terrifying power;
the tallest trees will be cut down,
and the lofty will be brought low.
He will hack down the thickets of the forest with an axe,
and Lebanon with its majestic trees will fall.

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the
nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Please stand

ANTIPHON AND MAGNIFICAT *sung by the choir*

O root of Jesse, which standest for an ensign of the people,
At whom kings shall shut their mouths, to whom the Gentiles shall seek:
Come and deliver us, and tarry not.

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.

O root of Jesse, which standest for an ensign of the people,
At whom kings shall shut their mouths, to whom the Gentiles shall seek:
Come and deliver us, and tarry not.

Words: Luke 1: 46-55

*Music: from EVENING SERVICE IN F
George Dyson (1883-1964)*

*Antiphon: O RADIX JESSE
Mode ii*

Please sit

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.’ All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

‘Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel’,
which means, ‘God is with us.’

When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

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, raise up (we pray thee) thy power, and come among us,
and with great might succour us;
that whereas, through our sins and wickedness, we are sore let and
hindered in running the race that is set before us,
thy bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us;
through the satisfaction of thy Son our Lord,
to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost be honour and glory,
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: Richard Ayleward (1626-69) and John Harper (b. 1947)

Please sit

ANTHEM sung by the choir

Ave Maria, gratia plena,
Dominus tecum:
benedicta tu in mulieribus,
et benedictus fructus ventris tui
Jesus.
Sancta Maria, Mater Dei,
ora pro nobis peccatoribus nunc et
in hora mortis nostrae. Amen.

*Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with you:
blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb
Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners now and at the
hour of our death. Amen.*

Words: Angelic Salutation from Luke 1: 28, 42

Music: Jacques Arcadelt (1505-68)

HOMILY given by the Revd Dr Richard Frith, Canon Precentor

Please remain seated or kneel when invited.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION led by the Dean

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



Virgin born, we bow before thee:
Blessèd was the womb that bore thee;
Mary, mother meek and mild,
Blessèd was she in her child.

Blessèd was the breast that fed thee;
Blessèd was the hand that led thee;
Blessèd was the parent's eye
That watched thy slumbering infancy.

Blessèd she by all creation,
Who brought forth the world's salvation;
Blessèd they, for ever blest,
Who love thee most and serve thee best.

Virgin born, we bow before thee:
Blessèd was the womb that bore thee;
Mary, mother meek and mild,
Blessèd was she in her child.

Words: Reginald Heber (1783-1826)

Tune: MON DIEU, PRETE-MOI L'OREILLE NEH 187
Melody by L. Bourgeois (c.1510-61)

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: Edward Naylor (1867-1934)

ORGAN VOLUNTARY *during which the ministers depart*

Le Monde dans l'attente du Sauveur
(from *Symphonie-Passion*)

Marcel Dupré (1886-1971)

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.

The Minster Centre, Church Street, Southwell, NG25 0HD.

Tel.: [01636 812649](tel:01636812649)

office@southwellminster.org.uk

www.southwellminster.org

Facebook: [@SouthwellMinster](https://www.facebook.com/SouthwellMinster)

Twitter: [@SouthwMinster](https://twitter.com/SouthwMinster)

Instagram: [@SouthwellMinster](https://www.instagram.com/SouthwellMinster)

Acknowledgements

Text from The Book of Common Prayer, the rights in which are vested in the Crown, is reproduced by permission of the Crown's Patentee, Cambridge University Press. Scriptural quotations are from New Revised Standard Version Bible: Anglicised Edition, copyright © 1989, 1995, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America (used by permission; all rights reserved). This compilation is copyright © The Chapter of Southwell Cathedral.