

The Cathedral and Metropolitan Church of the Holy Trinity  
commonly called

**CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL  
DUBLIN**



**FESTAL EUCHARIST**

**CHRISTMAS EVE 2023**

**23.00**

Whether you come as a member of the Church of Ireland, an Anglican - Episcopalian from abroad, as a member of another Christian tradition, or from another faith background we greet you in the name of the Lord. Christian worship has been offered on this site for nearly one thousand years. Your prayers today are added to those of countless generations of Christ's people. We hope that you will know the presence and peace of God as we gather for worship today.

You are invited to join in saying the responses printed in bold and in the singing of the hymns.

At any point in the service, those who find it difficult to stand should feel free to sit.

Celebrant	The Most Revd Dr Michael Jackson Archbishop of Dublin and Bishop of Glendalough
Preacher	The Very Revd Dermot Dunne, The Dean
Setting	The Truro Eucharist, David Briggs (b. 1962)

To learn more about the cathedral, and its services and events, please see the website at [www.christchurchcathedral.ie](http://www.christchurchcathedral.ie) or pick up a leaflet at the welcome desk.

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To use the induction loop system provided please turn your Hearing Aid to the T position.

*Please stand in silence as the choirs and clergy process to the West End.*  
*A solo chorister begins the service with the first verse of 'Once in Royal David's City', then the choir sings the second verse and the choir and congregation sing the remaining verses.*

## Processional Hymn



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.

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.

**And through all his wondrous childhood,  
He would honour and obey,  
Love and watch the lowly maiden,  
In whose gentle arms he lay;  
Christian children all must be  
Mild, obedient, good as he.**

**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;  
When like stars his children crowned  
All in white shall wait around.**

Tune: Irby, H. J. Gauntlett (1805-76)  
harmonised by A. H. Mann (1850-1929)  
arranged by David Willcocks (1919-2015)

Mrs C. F. Alexander (1818-95)

### The Greeting

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

**Amen**

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ  
be with you all; **and also with you.**

### The Call to 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.

**Kyrie** *sung by the choir*

Kyrie eleison; Christe eleison; Kyrie eleison.

*Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.*

*The president pronounces the Absolution:*

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy on you,  
† pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in  
all goodness, and keep you in eternal life,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Gloria** *sung by the choir*

Gloria in excelsis Deo, et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis.

*Glory be to God on high, and in earth peace, good will towards men.*

Laudamus te, benedicimus te, adoramus te, glorificamus te.

*We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee*

Gratias agimus tibi propter magnum gloriam tuam.

*We give thanks to thee for thy great glory,*

Domine Deus, Rex coelestis, Deus Pater omnipotens.

*O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.*

Domine Fili unigenite, Jesu Christe.

*O Lord, the only-begotten Son Jesu Christ;*

Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris.

*O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,*

Qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.

*Thou that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us*

Qui tollis peccata mundi, suscipe deprecationem nostram.

*Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer.*

Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris, miserere nobis.

*Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.*

Quoniam tu solus sanctus, tu solus Dominus, tu solus altissimus,

Jesu Christe, cum sancto Spiritu in gloria Dei Patris. Amen.

*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.*

**The Collect of the Nativity of our Lord**

Eternal God,

who made this most holy night

to shine with the brightness of your one true light:

Bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth,

to see the radiance of your heavenly glory;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*Please sit*

## Proclaiming and Receiving the Word

### The First Reading

Isaiah 9: 2-7

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah:

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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**The Psalm** *Please remain seated while the choir sings*

**Psalm 96**

O sing unto the Lord a new song :

    sing unto the Lord, all the whole earth.

Sing unto the Lord, and praise his Name:

    be telling of his salvation from day to day.

Declare his honour unto the heathen:

    and his wonders unto all people.

For the Lord is great, and cannot worthily be praised:

    he is more to be feared than all gods.

As for all the gods of the heathen, they are but idols:

    but it is the Lord that made the heavens.

Glory and worship are before him:

    power and honour are in his sanctuary.

Ascribe unto the Lord, O ye kindreds of the people:

    ascribe unto the Lord worship and power.

Ascribe unto the Lord the honour due unto his Name:

    bring presents, and come into his courts.

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness:

    let the whole earth stand in awe of him.

Tell it out among the heathen that the Lord is King:

    and that it is he who hath made the round world so fast that it cannot be moved; and how that he shall judge the people righteously.

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad:

let the sea make a noise, and all that therein is.  
Let the field be joyful, and all that is in it:  
then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice before the Lord.  
For he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth:  
and with righteousness to judge the world, and the people with his truth.

## The Second Reading

**Titus 2: 11-14**

A reading from the letter of Paul to Titus

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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

*Please stand as the Gospel procession moves down the Nave. On this night the white candle is lit to celebrate the birth of the saviour. The choir sings:*

Blessed are you, Sovereign Lord, King of Peace: to you be praise and glory for ever! The new light of your incarnate word gives gladness in our sorrow and a presence in our isolation. Fill our lives with your light, until they overflow with gladness and praise.

*The people join in singing the response:*



*The deacon then lights the candle.*

## The Gospel

**Luke 2: 1-20**

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Luke:

*Response*



*All turn to face the reader*

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.

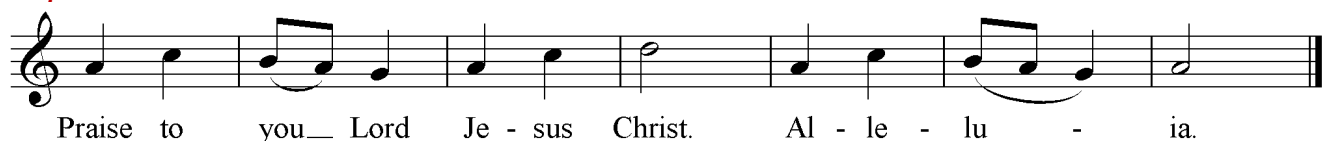
In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great 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!'

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.

This is the gospel of the Lord.

*Response*



## The Sermon

## The Baptismal Creed

*Please stand*

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## The Prayers of the People

*Please sit or kneel*

*Each intercession will end with:*

Holy God;

*The congregational response is:*

**Hear our prayer.**

Merciful Father,

**accept these our prayers for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ**

## The Peace

*Please stand*

*The president says*

This holy night the angels sang,  
'Glory to God 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.**

*Those present may offer one another a sign of peace*



# Celebrating at the Lord's Table

*A collection is taken at this point. Card donations are accepted at the Welcome Desk following the service.*

*If you prefer to donate by your Mobile/Cell phone, please scan the following QR code:*



## The Offertory Hymn



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 wings,  
And ever o'er its Babel sounds  
The blessed 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.

Tune: Noel

English traditional melody adapted by A.S. Sullivan (1842-1900)

Edmund Sears (1810-1876)

## **At the Preparation of the Table**

*The bread and wine for the communion are placed on the altar. The president says*

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 Taking of the Bread and Wine**

*The president takes the bread and wine, and says*

Christ our passover has been sacrificed for us  
**therefore let us celebrate the feast.**

# **The Great Thanksgiving**

*The president says or sings*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Father, almighty and everliving God,  
at all times and in all places

it is right to give you thanks and praise:

You have given Jesus Christ your only Son  
to be born of the Virgin Mary,  
and through him you have given us power  
to become the children of God:

And so with all your people,  
with angels and archangels,  
and with all the company of heaven,  
we proclaim your great and glorious name,  
for ever praising you and saying:

*The choir sings*

Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus, Dominus Deus Sabaoth.

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,*

Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua. Hosanna in excelsis.

*heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest!*

Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini. Hosanna in excelsis.

*Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!*

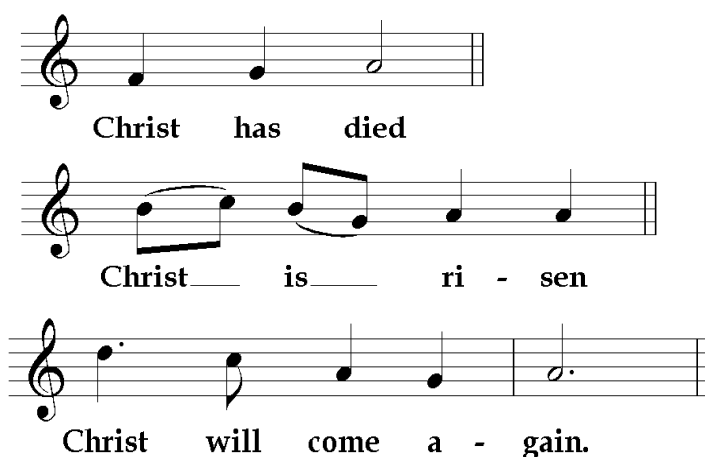
Blessed are you, Father,  
the creator and sustainer of all things;  
you made us in your own image,  
male and female you created us;  
even when we turned away from you,  
you never ceased to care for us,  
but in your love and mercy you freed us from the slavery of sin,  
giving your only begotten Son to become man  
and suffer death on the cross to redeem us:  
he made there the one complete and all-sufficient sacrifice  
for the sins of the whole world:

he instituted,  
and in his holy Gospel commanded us to continue,  
a perpetual memory of his precious death  
until he comes again.

On the night that he was betrayed he took bread;  
and when he had given thanks to you, 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 when he had given thanks to you,  
he gave it to them, saying, Drink this, all of you,  
for 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.

*The choir sings and all repeat each line*



Christ has died

Christ is ri - sen

Christ will come a - gain.

The image shows three staves of musical notation in treble clef. The first staff has three quarter notes: C4, E4, G4. The second staff has a quarter note C4, a quarter note E4, a quarter note G4, and a quarter note A4. The third staff has a quarter note C4, a quarter note E4, a quarter note G4, and a quarter note A4. Each staff ends with a double bar line.

Accept through him, our great high priest,  
this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving;  
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts,  
grant by the power of the life-giving Spirit  
that we may be made one in your holy Church  
and partakers of the body and blood of your Son,  
that he may dwell in us and we in him:  
Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord,  
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
**all honour and glory are yours, Almighty Father,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

*The president says*

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to 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 Breaking of the Bread**

*The president breaks the consecrated bread for communion and says*

The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

**We being many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.**

### **The Invitation**

Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God, who has taken away the sins of the world.

Happy are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

*Please sit while the choir sings*

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.*

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.*

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem.

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.*

*If you require a gluten free wafer, please indicate this to the priest. Guided by the vergers, the people come forward to receive communion. Wherever you are from and whatever you believe you are welcome to receive at the table of the Lord.*

## The Communion Motets

Now the holly bears a berry as white as the milk,  
And Mary she bore Jesus, who was wrapped up in silk:

*Refrain:*

And Mary she bore Jesus our Saviour for to be,  
And the first tree that's in the greenwood, it was the holly.  
Holly! Holly! And the first tree that's in the greenwood, it was the holly!

Now the holly bears a berry as green as the grass,  
And Mary she bore Jesus, who died on the cross: *Refrain:*

Now the holly bears a berry as black as the coal,  
And Mary she bore Jesus, who died for us all: *Refrain:*

Now the holly bears a berry, as blood is it red,  
Then trust we our Saviour, who rose from the dead: *Refrain:*

John Rutter (b.1945)

Cornish Traditional

Silent night, Holy night,  
All is calm all is bright  
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child;  
Holy Infant so tender and mild.  
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, Holy night,  
Shepherds first saw the light;  
Heard the angel song alleluia;  
Loud proclaiming near and far;  
Christ our Saviour is here.

Silent night, Holy night!  
God's own son Oh! How bright  
Shines the love in thy holy face;  
Shines the light of redemption and grace;  
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Franz Gruber (1787-1863)  
Arr I Little (b. 1953)

Joseph Mohr (1792-1848)  
trans. J.F. Young (1820/1885)

## The Great Silence

*The silence is broken by the post-communion prayer.*

**Going Out as God's People**

## Prayer after Communion

*The president introduces the prayer*

God our Father, in this night you have made known to us again  
the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:  
Confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him  
until the day dawns and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts.  
To him be glory both now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

Father of all, we give you thanks and praise,  
that when we were still far off  
you met us in your Son and brought us home.  
Dying and living, he declared your love,  
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.

*All say:*

**May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;  
we who drink his cup bring life to others;  
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.  
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,  
so we and all your children shall be free,  
and the whole earth live to praise your name;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Please stand*

## The Final Hymn



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,  
*Christ the Lord.*

God of God,  
Light of Light,  
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
Very God,  
Begotten, not created:  
O come, let us adore him,  
*Christ the Lord.*



Child, for us sinners,  
 Poor and in the manger,  
 Fain we embrace thee, with awe and love;  
 Who would not love thee,  
 Loving us so dearly?  
*O come, let us adore him,  
 Christ the Lord.*

Sing, choirs of angels,  
 Sing in exultation,  
 Sing all ye citizens of heaven above;  
 Glory to God  
 In the highest:  
*O come, let us adore him,  
 Christ the Lord.*

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,  
 Christ the Lord.*

Tune: Adeste Fideles  
 J. F. Wade (c.1711-1786)

Latin 18<sup>th</sup> century  
*tr.* Frederick Oakeley (1802-80) and others

### The Blessing & Dismissal

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

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

May the Holy Spirit, by whose overshadowing Mary became the God-bearer,  
 give you grace to carry the good news of Christ. **Amen**

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit,  
 be with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

*The priest or the deacon sings*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia!

*The choir and the people sing*



*Please remain standing for the procession of cross, clergy and choir and sit for the*

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

