



NEWCASTLE
CATHEDRAL



Sung Eucharist *Holy Innocents*

Sunday 28th December 2025, 10.00am
President: The Very Revd Lee Batson
Preacher: Katherine Govier, Cathedral Reader

Welcome

A warm welcome to worship at Newcastle Cathedral. If you are new, or a visitor today, please make yourself known to one of the clergy after the service – it is a joy to have you with us today.

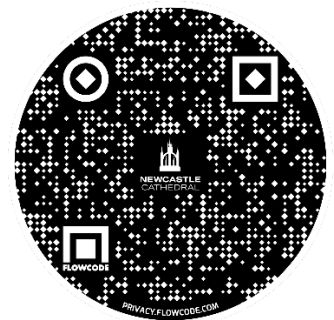
A large print copy of this service sheet is available; please ask one of our welcome team at the door.

Please refrain from taking photographs during the service. Toilets are available at the far end of the Cathedral; please ask one of our welcomers if you need directions, and take care to move quietly when passing the organ loft.

During worship we are invited to sit or stand. This is only an invitation. Please move or stay seated as works best for you as we worship God together.

Giving to Newcastle Cathedral

The Cathedral needs and appreciates your financial support. A collection plate will be passed around during the service into which you can give cash or pay by card. Please give as generously as you are able. Gift Aid envelopes are available from the welcomers by the door. If you prefer, you can make a one-off donation or give regularly by scanning this QR code.



Music

Director of Music:

Ian Roberts

Assistant Director of Music:

Kris Thomsett

The Cantor for this service is Clare Crinson

Before the service, the organist plays:

Pastorella (BWV 590)

J.S. Bach (1685 - 1750)

The Mass Setting is:

Coventry Gloria

Plainsong Missa de Angelis

Peter Jones (1951-2016)

arr. Ian Roberts (b.1979)

Order of Service

The Gathering

Please stand, as you are comfortable, to sing the opening hymn during which the procession enters



**Christians, awake! salute the happy morn,
whereon the Saviour of the world was born;
rise to adore the mystery of love
which hosts of angels chanted from above;
with them the joyful tidings first begun
of God incarnate and the Virgin's Son.**

**Then to the watchful shepherds it was told,
who heard th' angelic herald's voice, 'Behold,
I bring good tidings of a Saviour's birth
to you and all the nations on the earth:
this day hath God fulfilled his promised word,
this day is born a Saviour, Christ the Lord.'**

O may we keep and ponder in our mind
God's wondrous love in saving lost mankind;
trace we the babe, who hath retrieved our loss,
from his poor manger to the bitter cross;
tread in his steps, assisted by his grace,
till man's first heavenly state again takes place.

Then may we hope, the angelic hosts among,
to sing, redeemed, a glad triumphal song:
he that was born upon this joyful day
around us all his glory shall display;
saved by his love, incessant we shall sing
eternal praise to heaven's almighty King.

John Byrom (1691-1763) NEH 24
John Wainwright (1723-1768)

The president says

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

The Greeting

The president greets the people.

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

Words of welcome or introduction are said.

The Junior Church members are prayed for before they leave for their group. New members are always welcome!

Prayer of Preparation

This prayer is said.

All **Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Prayers of Penitence

The deacon says

On this day when we recall the murder of innocent lives, let us stand before our just and holy God, and remembering the violence and injustice of our world, confess our sins in penitence and faith.

You are the God of the weak and the vulnerable.
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

You judge the tyrant and the cruel.
Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

You wipe away the tears of the broken-hearted.
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

The president says this form of Absolution.

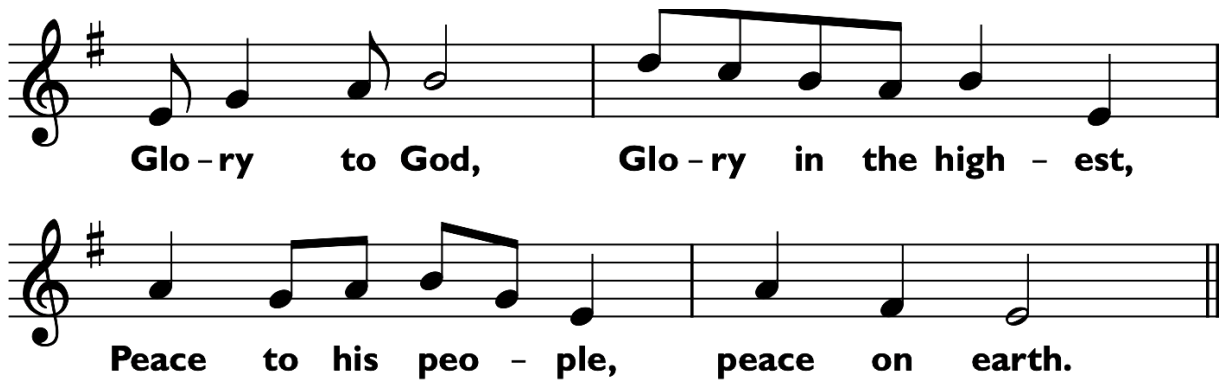
Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

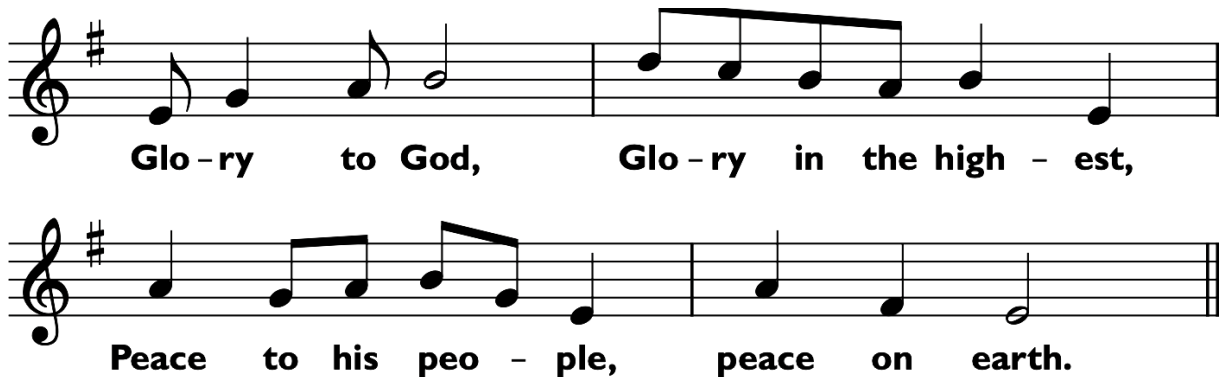
Gloria in Excelsis

The Gloria is sung. All sing the bold type after the cantor.

Cantor Glory to God, glory in the highest,
peace to his people, peace on earth.



Cantor Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,



Cantor We worship you,



Cantor Give you thanks,



Cantor Praise you for your glory.



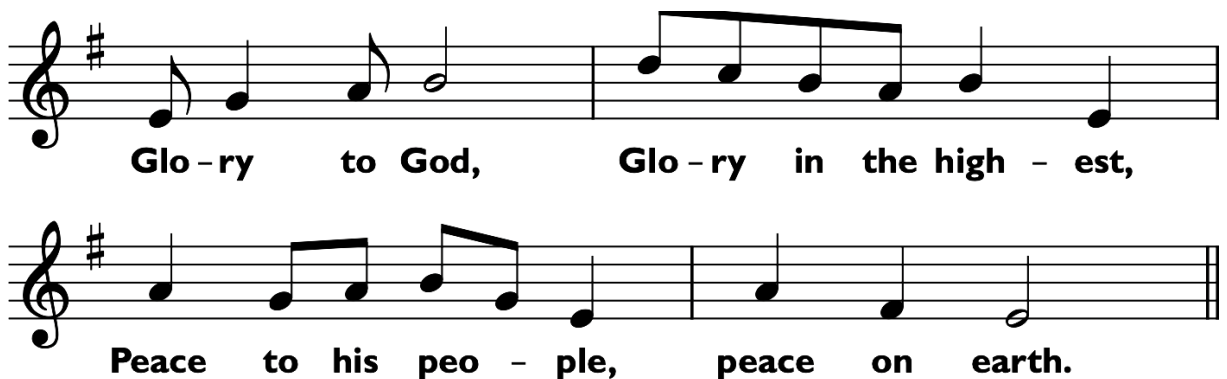
Cantor Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;



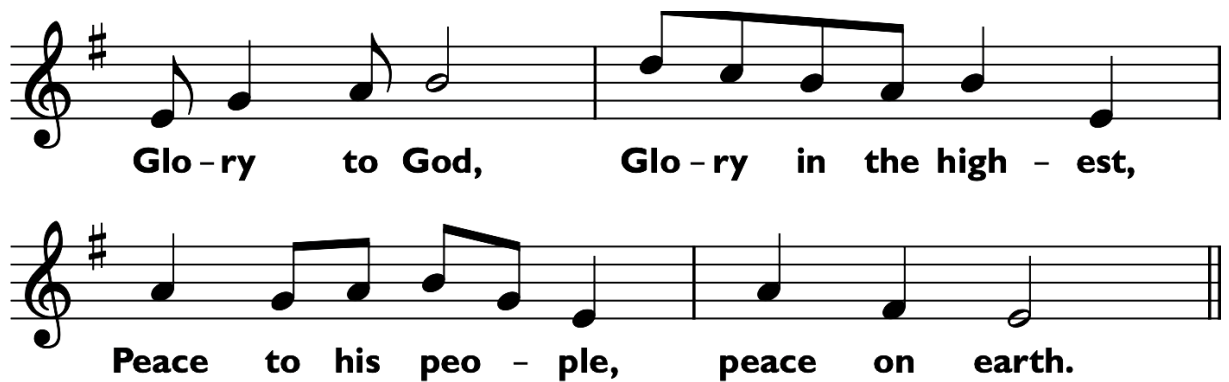
Cantor You are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer



Cantor Glory to God, glory in the highest,
peace to his people, peace on earth.



Cantor 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.



Cantor Amen.



The Collect

The president introduces the Collect.

Let us pray.

Silence is kept.

Heavenly Father, whose children suffered at the hands of Herod, though they had done no wrong: by the suffering of your Son and by the innocence of our lives frustrate all evil designs and establish your reign of justice and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, 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

Old Testament Reading

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

Thus says the Lord: A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more. Thus says the Lord: Keep your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears; for there is a reward for your work, says the Lord: they shall come back from the land of the enemy; there is hope for your future, says the Lord: your children shall come back to their own country.

Jeremiah 31: 15-17

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

New Testament Reading

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God.

1 Corinthians 1: 26-29

This is the word of the Lord.

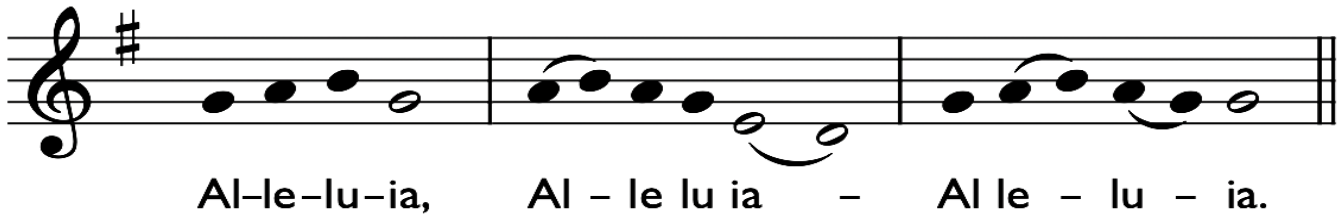
All **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

Please stand, as you are comfortable, to face the Gospel.

This acclamation is sung.

First time: Cantor; Second time: All; After sentence: All.



*Never despise these little ones;
their guardian angels in heaven look continuously
on the face of my heavenly Father.*

When the Gospel is announced the reader says

The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.



Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.'

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

'A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.'

Matthew 2: 13-18

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Sermon

A sermon is preached.

The Creed

Please stand, as comfortable, to say The Nicene 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

The president introduces the prayers.

Kneel or sit to pray.

One of these responses may be used

Lord, in your mercy.	(or)	Lord hear us.
<i>All</i> Hear our prayer.		<i>All</i> Lord graciously hear us.

The prayers may end with

All Merciful Father,
**accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

Please stand, as you are comfortable.

The president introduces the Peace.

‘I will comfort you,’ says the Lord, ‘as a mother comforts her child, and you shall be comforted.’

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

The deacon invites all to exchange a sign of peace.

Preparation of the Table

*The Offertory hymn is sung as the altar is prepared.
During the hymn a collection is taken.*



**Of the Father's heart begotten,
ere the world from chaos rose,
he is Alpha: from that Fountain
all that is and hath been flows;
he is Omega, of all things
yet to come the mystic Close,
evermore and evermore.**

**By his word was all created;
he commanded and 'twas done,
earth and sky and boundless ocean,
universe of three in one;
all that sees the moon's soft radiance,
all that breathes beneath the sun,
evermore and evermore.**

**O how blest that wondrous birthday,
when the maid the curse retrieved,
brought to birth our whole salvation,
by the Holy Ghost conceived;
and the Babe, the world's Redeemer,
in her loving arms received,
evermore and evermore.**

**This is he, whom seer and sibyl
sang in ages long gone by;
this is he of old revealed
in the page of prophecy;
lo! he comes, the promised Saviour;
let the world his praises cry!
evermore and evermore.**

**Sing, ye heights of heaven, his praises;
Angels and Archangels, sing!
wheresoe'er ye be, ye faithful,
let your joyous anthems ring,
every tongue his name confessing,
countless voices answering,
evermore and evermore.**

*Tr: Robert Furley Davis (1866-1937)
NEH 33 Petri Nylandensis (1582)*

The president says this offertory prayer.

Pour upon the poverty of our love, and the weakness of our
praise, the transforming fire of your presence.

All Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer



♪ The Lord be with you. *R* And al - so with you.
 ♪ Lift up your hearts. *R* We lift them to the Lord.
 ♪ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *R* It is right to give thanks and praise.

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere, mighty creator, ever-living God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

In love for our fallen human race, you sent your Son into the world to lighten our darkness. In his life he rejoiced in the innocence and beauty of children; in his death he carried in his body the violence and cruelty of our world; in his resurrection he brought life and salvation to his people and began the new creation.

As our ascended and merciful high priest, he hears our cries and knows our grief; and will come as universal Lord to whom all must give account.

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:

Cantor Holy



All **Holy**



Cantor Holy

All **Holy**



Cantor Holy

All **Holy**



Cantor Lord God of power
and might.

All **Lord God of power
and might**

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

18

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us with the Blessed Virgin Mary, St Nicholas and all the saints to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever.

Cantor Amen.



All Amen.

Please kneel or sit.

The Lord's Prayer

As we join our prayers with those of the Universal Church, so we pray, each in our own language or form, as our Saviour taught us:

***All* Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

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.**

Giving of Communion

The president says this invitation to communion.

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

The Agnus Dei is sung as the bread is broken.

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

*Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
grant us peace.*

All who normally receive the bread and wine in any church are welcome to take Holy Communion here today. Please follow the directions of the Wardens and stewards. If you would prefer to receive a blessing, please bow your head and keep your hands at your sides when you come, to signal your intention. If you need to receive communion in your seat, please make this known to the Wardens or stewards.

*Gluten free wafers are available; please ask if you require one.
When receiving the wine, please drink from the cup.*

During the distribution, the cantor sings the following, otherwise, silence is kept.

Bereite dich, Zion,
mit zärtlichen Trieben,
den Schönsten,
den Liebsten
bald bei dir zu sehn!

*Make ready, Zion, with
Tender desire
to see the fairest,
the dearest
with you soon!*

Deine Wangen
müssen heut viel schöner
prangen,
eile, den Bräutigam
sehnlichst zu lieben!

*Your cheeks
must today look much lovelier,
hasten,
to love the bridegroom
most longingly!*

*Bereite dich Zion (from Christmas Oratorio BWV 248)
J.S. Bach (1685 – 1750)*

Prayer after Communion

The Post Communion prayer is said.

Lord Jesus Christ, in your humility you have stooped to share our human life with the most defenceless of your children: may we who have received these gifts of your passion rejoice in celebrating the witness of the Holy Innocents to the purity of your sacrifice made once for all upon the cross; for you are alive and reign, now and for ever.

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

Please stand, as comfortable, to sing



**Jesus Christ the Lord is born
all the bells are ringing!
Angels greet the holy One
and shepherds hear them singing,
and shepherds hear them singing.**

**'Go to Bethlehem today,
find your king and saviour:
glory be to God on high,
to earth his peace and favour,
to earth his peace and favour!'**

**Held within a cattle stall,
loved by love maternal,
see the master of us all,
our Lord of lords eternal,
our Lord of lords eternal!**

**Soon shall come the wise men three,
rousing Herod's anger;
mothers' hearts shall broken be
and Mary's son in danger,
and Mary's son in danger.**

**Death from life and life from death
our salvation's story:
let all living things give breath
to Christmas songs of glory,
to Christmas songs of glory!**

Puer nobis nascitur, tr. Michael Perry (1942 - 1996)

The president says

The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

The president uses this blessing.

God, who gives life to the dead and comfort to the desolate, sustain you, keep you and console you, and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

The deacon says

Go in the Peace of Christ.

All **Thanks be to God.**

The ministers depart.

You are then invited to sit for the duration of the organ voluntary.

Prelude and Fugue in C (BWV 547)

J.S. Bach (1685 – 1750)

Thank you for joining us in worship today.
If you are able, please join us now for refreshments.

If you are new, or a visitor,
we hope that we will see you again soon.

*This order of service is mainly printed on recycled paper. You
are warmly invited to take it home with you.*

The Rev'd Canon Ruth Hulse
**Canon for Worship &
Congregational Life**

The Very Rev'd Lee Batson
The Dean

The Rev'd Canon Zoe Heming
Canon for Mission

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