

LANCASTER PRIORY

St Mary with St George, and St John

**A WELCOMING, INCLUSIVE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY,
SERVING THE PEOPLE OF LANCASTER**



A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

**SUNDAY 20 DECEMBER 2020
at 6.30 pm**

Organ music before the service will be played by **Mr Ian Pattinson** (Priory Organist)

Organ music before the service:

Christmas (Oesten)
Praeludium in E minor (Bach)
Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen (Brahms)
In dulci jubilo (Buxtehude)
Prelude on 'Still, still, still' (Tambling)

Organ Voluntary: Finale (Symphony 1) (Vierne)

The Choirs are directed by

Mr Don Gillthorpe
Director of Music

The service is led by

The Revd Canon Chris Newlands
Vicar of Lancaster

You are most welcome to this evening's service.

**Sadly, congregational singing is not permitted,
so please refrain from joining in the familiar carols.**

The Priory Choir carries on the long tradition of English church music.

The choral services at the Priory offer something special to those who find music helps them experience the realm of the spirit.

Why not come to find out for yourself?

A collection will be taken at the back of church. If you pay tax, please place your collection in a yellow envelope (available at the back of Church). Put your full name, address and signature on the envelope and put this on the plate at the collection. The amount you give is entirely confidential.

**IN THE UNLIKELY EVENT OF A FIRE, PLEASE NOTE THE EMERGENCY EXITS ARE
SITUATED IN THE FOUR CORNERS OF THE PRIORY CHURCH**

Please take this service sheet away with you as a memento of this occasion.

All stand as the choir sings the

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Once in Royal David's City HJ Gauntlett 1805-76

AH Mann 1850-1929

The congregation is asked to remain standing for

THE BIDDING PRAYER

In the name of Christ I bid you welcome to this Priory Church of Blessed Mary of Lancaster, to hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind to go to Bethlehem and see the Babe lying in a manger. Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God brought us by this Holy Child. But first, let us pray for the leaders of the world, that the peace Christ came to bring may be in their hearts. We remember Our Lord's Holy Land, and, in these troubled times, all other places of unrest that, inspired by the message of Christmas, peace, justice and freedom may be established. Let us remember, in his name, the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry, and the oppressed; the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and the unloved, the aged and all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not. Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore, and in a greater light, that multitude which none can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom in the Lord Jesus we are for ever one. These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the Throne of Heaven, in the words which Christ himself taught us:

**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.**

May the Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life, and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. **Amen.**

Please sit

Choir

The truth from above

arr. Vaughan Williams

First Lesson

Genesis 1.26-28

God creates human beings in God's own image, the crown of his creation, and gives them authority over the rest of creation.
Read by a member of The Lancaster Priory Choir.

The Choir sings

O come, O come, Emmanuel

Latin Advent Antiphons
tr. JM Neale 1818-1866

Second Lesson

GENESIS 22

God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall the nations of the earth be blessed.
Read by Dame Pauline Fielding, Churchwarden

The Choir sings

Of the Father's heart begotten *arr. Willcocks*

Third Lesson

ISAIAH 9

Christ's birth and Kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.
Read by Cllr Malcolm Thomas
The Mayor of the City of Lancaster

The Choir sings

*O Word of God, proceeding
From God in heaven above;
And from the Holy Spirit,
The holy heavenly dove;
Come down, O Christ, dwell with us,
Be born on earth today,
As angels sang to greet you
On that first Christmas Day.*

*You came to bring forgiveness
From sins of word and deed,
You brought us health and healing
The captives all were freed;
The poor were told the Good News,
The blind received their sight,
You healed the broken-hearted,
Their darkness turned to light.*

*Your gift was our salvation,
And so we sing your praise:
You give the nations justice,
And peace till end of days.
Lord, give us grace to follow,
And to your law be true,
That we may find the courage,
Always to follow you.*

Chris Newlands, 2020
Music (Newlands) by Don Gillthorpe

Fourth Lesson**MALACHI 3**

The prophet Malachi reminds the people that the coming Messiah will judge them.

Read by Mrs Catherine Penny DL
High Sheriff of Lancashire

The Choir sings

Torches

Joubert

Fifth Lesson**MICAH 5**

The prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem.

Read by Ms Cat Smith
Member of Parliament for Lancaster and Fleetwood

The Choir sings

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day

Gardner

Sixth Lesson**ST LUKE 1**

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Read by Mrs Catherine Walmsley
Principal
Ripley St Thomas Church of England Academy

The Choir sings

A spotless rose

Howells

Seventh Lesson**ST LUKE 2**

St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

Read by Ms Geraldine Onek
Chair, Lancaster Black History Group

The Choir sings

Seek him that maketh the seven stars

Dove

Eighth Lesson**ST LUKE 2**

The Shepherds go to the manger.

Read by Mrs Pam Barker DL
Constable of Lancaster Castle

The Choir sings

In the bleak midwinter

Darke

Please stand for the

Ninth Lesson**ST JOHN 1**

Saint John unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation.

Read by The Right Reverend Paul Swarbrick,
Roman Catholic Bishop of Lancaster

The Choir sings

O come, all ye faithful

*Latin 18th Century
Tr Frederick Oakeley 1802-80
and others*

THE COLLECT FOR CHRISTMAS

Almighty God, who hast given us thy only begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and as at this time to be born of a pure Virgin: grant that we being regenerate, and made thy children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by thy Holy Spirit: through the same our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit, ever one God, world without end.

Amen.

THE BLESSING

Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with the sweetness of inward peace and goodwill: and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be upon you and remain with you always.

Amen.

The Choir sings

Hark! the herald angels sing

Charles Wesley 1707-88



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Because of the limited capacity in the Priory, we are restricted to a maximum of 100 people in the congregation, seated in the Nave and Regimental Chapel.

Please book early to ensure you have a place as we cannot extend our capacity.

So that as many people as possible can attend please come to either Midnight Mass or Christmas Festival Eucharist.

CHRISTMAS EVE—Thursday 24 December

11.30pm **Midnight Mass of the Nativity**

*The Priory Choir and Orchestra
in music and traditional carols.*

CHRISTMAS DAY—Friday 25 December

8.00 am **Holy Communion (BCP)**

10.00 am **Christmas Festival Eucharist**

ST JOHN—Sunday 27 December

8.00 am **Holy Communion (BCP)**

10.00 am **Said Eucharist**

The Priory is taking a big hit from a drop in visitor income, venue income, and service collections.

If your income is keeping up, please consider using the barcode to make a donation to the work of the Priory.

We share a great sense of thanksgiving for all that God is inspiring around us in these difficult times.



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