



Clifton Cathedral

MIDNIGHT MASS OF THE NATIVITY

Celebrant: Bishop Declan Lang
Bishop of Clifton

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance

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:

arr. David Willcocks (1919-2015)

*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
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:

Refrain

BLESSING OF THE CRIB

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God in the highest:

Refrain

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesu, to thee be glory given;
word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:

Refrain

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

All Amen.

Bishop The Lord be with you

All And with your spirit.

A Prayer for the most vulnerable in time of COVID-19:

*Bishop Compassionate God, we pray for vulnerable people to be reassured,
and supported safely and effectively to protect them from coronavirus.
Strengthen anyone who is seriously ill because of underlying conditions.
Protect all those looking after the sick,
especially doctors, nurses and carers,
and grant wisdom to those in authority
to make effective plans to bring healing
and comfort to them and their families.*

All Amen.

Penitential Act

Bishop Lord have mercy

All Lord have mercy

Bishop Christ have mercy

All Christ have mercy

Bishop Lord have mercy

All Lord have mercy

*Bishop May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life.*

All Amen.

The Gloria Missa Universalis

Richard Jeffrey-Gray

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. 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. Amen.

Collect

Bishop O God, who have made this most sacred night radiant with the splendour of the true light, grant, we pray, that we, who have known the mysteries of his light on earth, may also delight in his gladness in heaven. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

All Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading Isaiah 9:1-7

Reader The Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Richard Jeffrey-Gray

Today a Saviour has been born, he is Christ the Lord.

Second Reading St Paul to Titus 2:11-14

Reader The Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation Universa Laus

Christopher Walker

Alleluia, alleluia.

I proclaim to you good news of great joy: today a Saviour is born to us, Christ the Lord.

Gospel Luke 2:1-14

Deacon The Lord be with you

All And with your spirit.

Deacon A reading from the Gospel according to Luke

All Glory to you, O Lord.

After the reading

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord

All Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

The Homily Canon Bosco MacDonald, Cathedral Dean

The Creed

**All I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell;
on the third day he rose again
from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand
of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge
the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting.
Amen.**

The Prayer of the Faithful

Reader Lord in your mercy

All Hear our prayer.

**All Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now,
and at the hour of our death. Amen.**

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

The Preparation of Gifts

Harold Darke (1888-1976)

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away, when he comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter a stable-place sufficed
the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Enough for him, whom Cherubim worship night and day,
a breastful of milk, and a mangerful of hay;
enough for him, whom angels fall down before,
the ox and ass and camel which adore.

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him – give my heart.

Bishop Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

**All May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands
for the praise and glory of his name,
for our good and the good of all his holy Church.**

*Bishop May the oblation of this day's feast be pleasing to you, O Lord, we pray:
that through this most holy exchange we may be found in the likeness
of Christ, in whom our nature is united to you.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.*

All Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

Bishop *The Lord be with you.*

All **And with your spirit.**

Bishop *Lift up your hearts.*

All **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Bishop *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

All **It is right and just.**

Holy, Holy Missa Universalis

Richard Jeffrey-Gray

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name
of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Memorial Acclamation

Save us, Saviour of the world,
for by your Cross and Resurrection
you have set us free.

Bishop *Through him, and with him, and in him,
O God, almighty Father,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honour is yours,
for ever and ever.*

Great Amen

THE COMMUNION RITE

The Lord's Prayer

Bishop *At the Saviour's command
and formed by divine teaching,
we dare to say:*

All **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.**

*Bishop Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil...
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.*

**All For the kingdom,
the power and the glory are yours
now and for ever.**

*Bishop Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles...
Who live and reign for ever and ever.*

All Amen.

Bishop The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All And with your spirit.

Lamb of God Missa Universalis

Richard Jeffrey-Gray

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

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

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

Invitation to Communion

*Bishop Behold the Lamb of God,
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.*

**All Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof,
but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

Communion

Elizabeth Poston (1905–1987)

The tree of life my soul hath seen, laden with fruit and always green: the trees of nature fruitless be compared with Christ the apple tree. His beauty doth all things excel: by faith I know, but ne'er can tell. The glory which I now can see in Jesus Christ the apple tree. For happiness I long have sought, and pleasure dearly I have bought: I missed of all; but now I see 'tis found in Christ the apple tree.

An Act of Spiritual Communion

Bishop Lord God, our light and our salvation, we praise you for your gifts of life and faith. We thank you for the desire that you have planted in our hearts, our yearning to see your face. Help us to meet you in prayer, to walk in your ways, and to speak to others of our joy and consolation in your presence. Give us faithfulness in this present life so that we may come to know and praise your beauty, with all our brothers and sisters, in the life to come. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Post Communion Carol

arr Christopher Walker

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,
sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night.
Shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing "Alleluia!"
Christ, the Saviour is born,
Christ, the Saviour is born.

Silent night, holy night.
Son of God, love's pure light.
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace:
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Prayer after Communion

Bishop *Let us pray*
Grant us, we pray, O Lord our God, that we, who are gladdened by participation in the feast of our Redeemer's Nativity, may through an honourable way of life become worthy of union with him. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

THE CONCLUDING RITES

Bishop *The Lord be with you*

ALL **And with your spirit.**

Bishop *May almighty God bless you in the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit.*

All **Amen.**

Deacon *Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.*

ALL **Thanks be to God.**

Recessional

arr. David Willcocks (1919-2015)

Hark, the herald angels sing, glory to the new-born King;
peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled:
joyful all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies,
with the angelic host proclaim, Christ is born in Bethlehem.

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born king".

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, offspring of a Virgin's womb!
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born king".

Hail the heaven-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings risen with healing in his wings;
mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die,
born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born king".

Organ Voluntary Final from 1ère Symphonie

Louis Vierne (1870-1937)

Wishing you all every blessing at Christmas

Bishop Declan Lang, Bishop of Clifton

Canon Bosco MacDonald, Cathedral Dean