# ST JOHN'S COLLEGE CHAPEL



# EPIPHANY CAROL SERVICE

Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st January 2024 at 6 pm

# ST JOHN'S COLLEGE CHAPEL

# Faith Beauty Justice

Our Chapel is one of the most recognisable buildings in Cambridge and is home to a lively and inclusive community. You are always welcome here, whatever your beliefs or background.

St John's has a distinguished tradition of religious music and, since the 1670s, has maintained a world-famous College Choir, whose main duty is singing the daily services (Tuesday to Sunday) in the College Chapel during the University Term. The College also has another choir, St John's Voices, who sing the choral service on Monday. You will find details of all our choral services on the Chapel page of the College website.

For members of College, this is your Chapel, and we hope that you will come here for refreshment, encouragement, peace and perhaps occasionally even challenge. It is usually open from 8am until 7.3opm.

The Rev'd Andrew Hammond Chaplain Christopher Gray Director of Music

Please note that rubrics asking you to stand are only for those who are able to; and we invite you to join in the spoken texts printed in **bold**.



The Chapel is fitted with a hearing induction loop for those who are hearingimpaired.

# THIS SERVICE

The season of Epiphany continues the great season of Christmas up to its culmination in the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas). Its central story is that of the three wise men from the east, the Magi. Their coming to the Christ-child in Bethlehem shows that in Jesus' birth God reaches out to all the people of the world, Jewish and Gentile.

This service reprises the whole sweep of the Christmas story, from the birth of Jesus through to the Presentation, with the story of the Magi at its heart. We are celebrating the fact and meaning of a birth which utterly changed the course of history. Jesus is Emmanuel, 'God with us'. As the earliest theologians put it, God became human that we might become divine.



#### ORGAN MUSIC BEFORE THE SERVICE

Played by Alexander Robson:

La Nativité du Seigneur:

Olivier Messiaen (1908–1992)

#### i. La vierge et l'enfant

Isaiah 9.6, Zechariah 9.9: "Conceived by a virgin, unto us a child is born, unto is a son is given. Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Sion! Behold, thy king cometh unto thee, just and lowly."

#### ii. Les bergers

Luke 2.16, 20: "Having seen the babe lying in a manger, the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God."

#### iii. Desseins éternels

Ephesians 1.4–6: "God, in His love, hath predestined us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ unto Himself, to the praise of the glory of his grace."

#### Played by Tingshuo Yang:

#### iv. Le verbe

Psalms 2.7, 110.3, Wisdom 7.26, John 1.2–3: "The Lord hath said unto me, Thou art my Son. From his bosom, before dawn existed, he begat me. I am the Image of the Goodness of God, the Word for life from which all things were made."

#### v. Les enfants de dieu

John 1.12, Galatians 4.6: "As many as received him, the Word gave them the power to become the sons of God. And God hath sent forth the spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba! Father!"

#### vi. Les anges

Luke 2.13–14: "And there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying glory to God in the highest."

#### vii. Jésus accepte la souffrance

Hebrews 10.5, 7: "Wherefore when He cometh into the world He said unto His Father: 'Sacrifice and offering you wouldest not, but a body hast Thou prepared me. Lo, I come!"

#### Played by Alexander Robson:

#### viii. Les mages

Matthew 2.9: "The wise men departed, and the star went before them."

# **ORDER OF SERVICE**

The service begins with the Chapel in darkness; the congregation is seated.

#### FIRST READING

Read by the Chaplain



In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

#### INTROIT

Hodie Christus natus est, noë. Hodie Salvator apparuit, Alleluia. Hodie in terra canunt Angeli, Laetantur Archangeli, noë. Hodie exsultant iusti, dicentes: Gloria in excelsis Deo! Alleluia, noë.

Today the Saviour appeared, Alleluia. Today on earth the Angels sing, Archangels rejoice, nowell. Today the righteous rejoice, saying: Glory to God in the highest! Alleluia, nowell.

Today Christ is born, nowell.

Words Antiphon at Christmas Day Vespers

Music Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck (1562–1621)

Please stand when the playover to the hymn begins.

#### PROCESSIONAL HYMN

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 mankind's salvation, by the Holy Ghost conceived; and the Babe, the world's Redeemer, in her loving arms received, 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.

Words Prudentius (348–c. 413) translated by Roby Furley Davis (1866–1937) Tune DIVINUM MYSTERIUM Melody 'Piae Cantiones Theoderici Petri Nylandensis' (1582) arranged by David Willcocks (1919–2015)

#### BIDDING PRAYER

We have gathered to celebrate the revelation of God's glory in the birth of Jesus, who is Emmanuel, God-with-us. We will recall the visit of the Magi bringing their homage and their gifts, laden with meaning; and we will hear again the prophetic words of Simeon revealing the Christ-child as the light who will bring light to all people.

As we rejoice in this, the Word made flesh, who called us out of darkness into light, so we pray that his love and faithfulness may be known in all the world. We pray for God's creation, that we may have reverence for the natural order and respect for every person, made in the image and likeness of God; for those who are in need, for the lonely, the fearful, the sick and the bereaved, and for all who have no-one to pray for them.

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has 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 God open our eyes to see his glory and open our hearts to be a blessing to his people, now and always.

#### Amen.



## I: THE WORD MADE FLESH

#### **SENTENCE**

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the shadow of death, upon them has the light shined.

Arise, shine, for your light has come:

All And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

#### **COLLECT**

Almighty God, you have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him and to be born of a pure virgin: grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

All Amen.

Please sit.

#### MOVEMENTS FROM 'CHRISTUS'

When Jesus, our Lord, was born in Bethlehem, in the land of Judea; Behold, from the east to the city of Jerusalem there came wise men and said:

Say, where is he born, the king of Judea? For we have seen his star, And are come to adore him.

There shall a star from Jacob come forth, and a sceptre from Israel rise up. And dash in pieces princes and nations.

How bright appears the Morning Star What sudden radiance from afar With light and comfort glowing. Thy word, Jesu, inly feeds us, Rightly leads us, life bestowing. Praise, O praise such love o'erflowing!

Words from Matthew 2, Numbers 24 and the chorale 'Wie schön leuchtet'

Music Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy (1809–1847)

#### SECOND READING

The birth of Jesus: God-with-us.

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.

Thanks be to God.

Matthew 1. 18-25

#### CAROL: THERE IS NO ROSE

There is no rose of such virtue as is the rose that bare Jesu: *Alleluia*.

For in this rose contained was

heaven and earth in little space: Res miranda. [A marvellous thing]

By that rose we may well see

there be one God in persons three: *Pares forma*. [Equal in form]

Then leave we all this worldly mirth

and follow we this joyous birth: Transeamus. [Let us follow]

Words Anonymous, 14th century

Music John Joubert (1927–2019)

#### THIRD READING

# THE VIRGIN MARY by JOHN DONNE

For that fair blessed mother-maid,
Whose flesh redeemed us; that she-cherubin,
Which unlocked Paradise, and made
One claim for innocence, and disseized sin,
Whose womb was a strange heaven, for there
God clothed himself, and grew,
Our zealous thanks we pour. As her deeds were
Our helps, so are her prayers; nor can she sue
In vain, who hath such titles unto you.

John Donne (1572–1631)

#### **CAROL**

In the bleak mid-winter Frosty wind made moan, Earth stood hard as iron, Water like a stone; Snow had fallen, Snow on snow, In the bleak mid-winter 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 mid-winter A stable-place sufficed The Lord God Almighty Jesus Christ.

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.

Words Christina Rossetti (1830–1894)

Music Becky McGlade (b. 1974)

#### **MOTET**

Quem vidistis, pastores? Dicite, et annuniate nobis; in terris quis apparuit?

Natum vidimus, et choros angelorum collaudantes Dominum. Whom have you seen, shepherds? Tell us and declare the same unto us; who has appeared on the earth?

We have seen the child, and the choir of angels, singing praises to the Lord.

Words 3<sup>rd</sup> Responsory at Matins for Christmas Day

Music Francis Poulenc (1938-2022)

Please stand when the playover to the hymn begins.

#### HYMN

Bethlehem, of noblest cities none can once with thee compare; thou alone the Lord from heaven didst for us incarnate bear.

Fairer than the sun at morning was the star that told his birth; to the lands their God announcing, seen in fleshly form on earth.

By its lambent beauty guided see the eastern kings appear; see them bend, their gifts to offer, gifts of incense, gold and myrrh.

Solemn things of mystic meaning: incense doth the God disclose, gold a royal child proclaimeth, myrrh a future tomb foreshows.

Holy Jesu, in thy brightness to the Gentile world displayed, with the Father and the Spirit endless praise to thee be paid.

Words Prudentius (348–c. 413) translated by Edward Caswall (1814–1878) Tune STUTTGART adapted from a tune in 'Harmonia Sacra' Gotha by Christian Witt (1660–1716)

# II: THE KING OF THE NATIONS

#### **SENTENCE**

At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow; in heaven, on earth and under the earth: and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

Nations shall come to your light:

All And kings to your dawning brightness.

#### **COLLECT**

Almighty Father, by the leading of a star you revealed your only-begotten Son to the peoples of the earth: in your mercy grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Please sit.

#### MOTET

Videntes stellam Magi gavisi sunt gaudio magno: et intrantes domum obtulerunt Domino aurum, thus et myrrham.

Words Magnificat antiphon for the octave of the Epiphany

When they saw the star, the Magi rejoiced with great gladness: and they entered the house and offered the Lord gold, incense and myrrh.

Music Francis Poulenc (1899–1963)

#### FOURTH READING

JOURNEY OF THE MAGI by T.S. ELIOT

'A cold coming we had of it, Just the worst time of the year For a journey, and such a long journey: The ways deep and the weather sharp, The very dead of winter.' And the camels galled, sore-footed, refractory, Lying down in the melting snow. There were times we regretted The summer palaces on slopes, the terraces, And the silken girls bringing sherbet. Then the camel men cursing and grumbling And running away, and wanting their liquor and women, And the night-fires going out, and the lack of shelters, And the cities hostile and the towns unfriendly And the villages dirty and charging high prices: A hard time we had of it. At the end we preferred to travel all night, Sleeping in snatches, With the voices singing in our ears, saying That this was all folly.

Then at dawn we came down to a temperate valley, Wet, below the snow line, smelling of vegetation, With a running stream and a water-mill beating the darkness, And three trees on the low sky, And an old white horse galloped away in the meadow. Then we came to a tavern with vine-leaves over the lintel, Six hands at an open door dicing for pieces of silver, And feet kicking the empty wine-skins. But there was no information, and so we continued And arriving at evening, not a moment too soon Finding the place; it was (you may say) satisfactory.

All this was a long time ago, I remember,
And I would do it again, but set down
This set down
This: were we led all that way for
Birth or Death? There was a Birth, certainly,
We had evidence and no doubt. I had seen birth and death,
But had thought they were different; this Birth was
Hard and bitter agony for us, like Death, our death.
We returned to our places, these Kingdoms,
But no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation,
With an alien people clutching their gods.
I should be glad of another death.

#### **CAROL: THE THREE KINGS**

O balow, balow la lay, O balow, balow la lay, The first king was very young, With doleful ballads on his tongue. He came bearing a branch of myrrh Than which no gall is bitterer, Gifts for a baby King, O. O balow, balow la lay.

The second king was a man in prime, The solemn priest of a solemn time, With eyes downcast and rev'rent feet He brought his incense sad and sweet, Gifts for a baby King, O. O balow, balow la lay.

The third king was very old,
Both his hands were full of gold.
Many a gaud and a glittering toy
Baubles brave for a baby boy.
O balow, balow la lay, O balow, balow la lay,
Gifts for a baby King, O.

Words Dorothy L Sayers (1893-1957)

Music Jonathan Dove (b. 1959)

#### FIFTH READING

The Holy Family become refugees.

After the wise men 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.'

Thanks be to God.

Matthew 2. 13-18

#### **MOTET**

Vox in Rama audita est ploratus et ululatus, Rachel plorans filios suos; noluit consolari, quia non sunt.

Words Matthew 2. 18

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.

Music George Kirbye (1565–1634)



#### SCRIPTURE SENTENCE

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead.'

Matthew 2. 19-20

#### ANTHEM: REFUGEE

We think of him as safe beneath the steeple, Or cosy in a crib beside the font, But he is with a million displaced people On the long road of weariness and want. For even as we sing our final carol His family is up and on that road, Fleeing the wrath of someone else's quarrel, Glancing behind and shouldering their load.

Whilst Herod rages still from his dark tower Christ clings to Mary, fingers tightly curled, The lambs are slaughtered by the men of power, And death squads spread their curse across the world. But every Herod dies, and comes alone To stand before the Lamb upon the throne.

Words Malcolm Guite (b. 1957)

Music Joanna Marsh (b. 1970)

This work was commissioned by the Master and Fellows. It receives its first performances at these services.

Please stand when the playover to the hymn begins.

#### HYMN

Brightest and best of the sons of the morning, dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid; star of the East, the horizon adorning, guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Cold on his cradle the dew-drops are shining, low lies his head with the beasts of the stall: angels adore him in slumber reclining, maker and Monarch and Saviour of all.

Say, shall we yield him, in costly devotion, odours of Edom and offerings divine?
Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean, myrrh from the forest or gold from the mine?

Vainly we offer each ample oblation, vainly with gifts would his favour secure; richer by far is the heart's adoration, dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

Brightest and best of the sons of the morning, dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid; star of the East, the horizon adorning, guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Words Reginald Heber (1783-1826)

Tune EPIPHANY Joseph Thrupp (1827—1867)

## III: THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

#### **SENTENCE**

But the hour is coming, and now is, when true worshippers will worship in spirit and truth.

And the Lord, whom you seek: Shall suddenly come to his temple.

#### **COLLECT**

All

Almighty and ever-living God, clothed in majesty, whose beloved Son was presented in the Temple in substance of our flesh, and was acclaimed the glory of Israel and the light of the nations: grant that in him we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts, and in the world may reflect his glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Please sit.

#### **MOTET**

O magnum mysterium et admirabile sacramentum, ut animalia viderent Dominum natum jacentem in praesepio.
O beata Virgo, cuius viscera meruerunt portare Dominum Jesum Christum. Alleluia.

Words 5<sup>th</sup> Responsory at Vigil on Christmas Day

O great mystery and wonderful sacrament, that beasts should see the new-born Lord lying in a manger.
O blessed virgin, whose womb was worthy to bear the Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia.

Music Tomas Luis de Victoria (c .1548–1611)

#### SIXTH READING

Peace comes to a holy man.

After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.'

Thanks be to God.

#### **NUNC DIMITTIS**

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.

Words Luke 2. 29-32

Music SHORT SERVICE Thomas Tallis (1505–1585)



Please stand when the playover to the hymn begins.

#### HYMN

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness! Bow down before him, his glory proclaim; with gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness, kneel and adore him, the Lord is his Name!

Low at his feet lay thy burden of carefulness, high on his heart he will bear it for thee, comfort thy sorrows, and answer thy prayerfulness, guiding thy steps as may best for thee be.

Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness of the poor wealth thou wouldst reckon as thine: truth in its beauty, and love in its tenderness, these are the offerings to lay on his shrine.

These, though we bring them in trembling and fearfulness, he will accept for the name that is dear; mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness, trust for our trembling and hope for our fear.

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness! Bow down before him, his glory proclaim; with gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness, kneel and adore him, the Lord is his Name!

Words John Monsell (1811–1875)

Tune WAS LEBET Melody from the 'Rheinhardt' MS 1754

#### THE COLLEGE PRAYER

Bless, O Lord, the work of this College which is called by the name of thy beloved disciple, and grant that love of the brethren and all sound learning may ever grow and prosper here, to thy honour and glory, and to the good of thy people, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit livest and reignest, one God, world without end.

All Amen.

#### THE BLESSING

Christ the Son of God perfect in you the image of his glory and gladden your hearts with the good news of his kingdom; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

Please remain standing as the Choir and Clergy depart.

## ORGAN MUSIC AFTER THE SERVICE

Played by Alexander Robson

#### La Nativité du Seigneur

Olivier Messiaen (1908–1992)

#### ix. Dieu parmi nous

Sirach 24.8, John 1.14, Luke 1.46–47: "Words of the communicant, the virgin and all the church: He who created me has rested in my house, the Word was made Flesh and it has dwelt in me. My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my saviour."

# **COLLECTION**



# SAVE THE CHILDREN GAZA EMERGENCY APPEAL

The children of Gaza are living through unimaginable horror, which gets daily more distressing.

They urgently need our help.

The images reproduced in this order of service are from illuminated manuscripts in the College collection.

Further details of the Chapel and Choirs are available on our websites: www.joh.cam.ac.uk www.sjcchoir.co.uk stjohnsvoices.org