



GLOUCESTER
CATHEDRAL

Services and Music

December 2025

Welcome

*'The voice of prayer is never silent,
nor dies the strain of praise away.'*

For two millennia, Christians have been offering daily worship to God and since its foundation as a monastery in the eleventh century, there has been a daily rhythm of prayer in Gloucester Cathedral, which sustains our life and brings to God our own particular needs and the needs of the whole world. These services are just a small part of the eternal round of worship, which is never silent and will never die away.

Regular Worship

At the heart of our life is the regular cycle of daily prayer. Each day begins with the peaceful, said service of Morning Prayer, as we offer the day and all that it will hold to God. Our working day pauses at 12.30 p.m. to the offering of the Eucharist, often called *Holy Communion*, in either the Thomas Chapel or the Lady Chapel. The day draws to a close with Choral Evensong, sung by one of our choirs or said Evening Prayer. Our principal act of worship is the 10.15 a.m. Choral Eucharist on Sundays.

The Choral Eucharist on Sundays is live streamed on YouTube and Facebook. The cameras focus mainly on the clergy, choir and readers, but please alert one of the stewards if you do not wish to appear on camera.

Other Services

Morning Prayer on Sundays is said at 8.30 a.m. and the ancient office of Compline is said on Tuesdays at 8.30 p.m., both on Zoom. To join, email reception@gloucestercathedral.org.uk

Prayers for Peace and Justice are said on the first Tuesday of each month in person in the Cathedral and on Zoom. If you would like to join by Zoom, email reception@gloucestercathedral.org.uk

*Commemorations in blue denote those with a direct link
to the Cathedral, the city and county, and the link Dioceses*

*All hymns are taken from 'Common Praise' unless otherwise stated
(CW) – Common Worship: modern language
(BCP) – Book of Common Prayer: traditional language*

Music at Gloucester Cathedral

Music has been at the heart of Gloucester Cathedral's worship for almost 1,000 years and today we have an international reputation for offering the finest music to the glory of God and for the enrichment of our worship. Music has the ability to transform and connect people through prayer and praise and we strive to promote a greater appreciation of its value by bringing people together to share in stimulating musical experiences.

The Cathedral has five choirs which sing regularly:

The Boy and Girl Choristers are separate choirs, which join together for large occasions. Choristers join from the age of six and receive an outstanding musical education in their time here. They are educated at The King's School, Gloucester and enjoy an attractive Choral Scholarship for the duration of their choristership. They sing most of the services at the Cathedral, along with our Lay Clerks (professional adult singers).

The Junior Choir is a voluntary choir of around 50 children in years two to five, which meets weekly for a singing rehearsal. They also perform in services and concerts, most notably in our Family Eucharist, once a month.

The St Benedict Singers was launched in September 2025. Young people can join SBS from school year 4 and will leave at the end of school year 9, when they will be encouraged to progress into the Cathedral Youth Choir. The choir regularly joins with the Youth Choir for services, helping to ease the transition between the choirs. The choir also combines with the choristers and Youth Choir for major cathedral concerts.

The Trinity Singers is one of the best of its kind in the country. Founded as Gloucester Cathedral Youth Choir in 1999 and relaunched in its current form in 2025, it is made up of talented young singers in School Years 10 to 13, from schools and colleges all around Gloucestershire, who perform to a very high standard.

For more information email choirs@gloucestercathedral.org.uk

MONDAY 1 DECEMBER

ANDREW THE APOSTLE
(transferred from 30 Nov)

Verses: *Decani*

0830	Morning Prayer (CW)	<i>Lady Chapel</i>
1230	Eucharist (CW)	<i>Lady Chapel</i>
1730	Choral Evensong (BCP) <i>Sung by the Cathedral Choir</i> Responses: <i>Smith</i> Psalm: 6 Canticles: <i>Bairstow in D</i> Anthem: <i>Adrian Partington, When Jesus walked</i>	<i>Quire</i>

TUESDAY 2 DECEMBER

0830	Morning Prayer (CW)	<i>Thomas Chapel</i>
1230	Eucharist (CW)	<i>Lady Chapel</i>
1730	Choral Evensong (BCP) <i>Sung by the Cathedral Lay Clerks</i> Responses: <i>Sanders</i> Psalm: 9 Canticles: <i>Cleobury, Evening Service</i> Anthem: <i>Praetorius, Come, thou redeemer (arr. Andrew Parnell)</i>	<i>Quire</i>

WEDNESDAY 3 DECEMBER

Francis Xavier, missionary, 1552

0830	Morning Prayer (CW)	<i>Lady Chapel</i>
1230	Eucharist (CW)	<i>Lady Chapel</i>
1730	Choral Evensong (BCP) <i>Sung by the Cathedral Choir</i> Responses: <i>Sanders</i> Psalm: 77 Canticles: <i>Morley, First Service</i> Anthem: <i>Boris Ord, Adam lay ybounden</i>	<i>Quire</i>

THURSDAY 4 DECEMBER *John of Damascus, monk, teacher of the faith, c. 749*
Nicholas Ferrar, deacon, founder of the Little Gidding Community, 1637

0830	Morning Prayer (CW)	<i>Thomas Chapel</i>
1230	Eucharist (CW)	<i>Lady Chapel</i>
1730	The Friends of Gloucester Cathedral Christmas Celebration	<i>Quire</i>

FRIDAY 5 DECEMBER

0830	Morning Prayer (CW)	<i>Lady Chapel</i>
1230	Eucharist (CW)	<i>Lady Chapel</i>
1730	Choral Evensong (BCP) <i>Sung by the Cathedral Choir</i> Responses: <i>Sanders</i> Psalm: <i>22</i> Canticles: <i>Gibbons, Fauxbourdons</i> Anthem: <i>Handl, Ecce concipies</i>	<i>Quire</i>

SATURDAY 6 DECEMBER

Nicholas, bishop, c. 326

0830	Morning Prayer (CW)	<i>Sebroke Chapel</i>
1100	Carols on the Hour <i>sung by the Cathedral Junior Choir</i>	<i>Nave</i>
1200	Carols on the Hour <i>sung by the Trinity Singers</i>	<i>Nave</i>
1300	Carols on the Hour <i>sung by the St Benedict Singers</i>	<i>Nave</i>
1400	Carols on the Hour <i>sung by the Cathedral Choristers</i>	<i>Nave</i>
1500	Carols on the Hour <i>sung by the Caring Chorus</i>	<i>Nave</i>
1630	Evening Prayer (BCP)	<i>Lady Chapel</i>

SUNDAY 7 DECEMBER**2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

- 0800 **Eucharist (BCP)** *The Chapel of St Paul*
- 0830 **Morning Prayer (CW)** *Zoom*
- 1015 **Choral Eucharist (CW)** *Nave*
Sung by the Cathedral Choir
 Setting: *Ireland in C*
 Hymns: 334, 444, 87, 37
 Sermon: The Cathedral Curate
 Motets: *Byrd, Ave verum corpus*
 Voluntary: *J. S. Bach, Prelude and Fugue in G (BWV 541)*
- 1500 **Choral Evensong (BCP)** *Quire*
Sung by the Cathedral Choir
 Introit: *Warlock, Benedicamus Domino*
 Responses: *Sanders*
 Psalm: 11
 Canticles: *Weelkes, Service for trebles*
 Anthem: *Katharine Parton, Gaudebat et ridebat*
 Sermon: The Canon Precentor
 Hymn: 39
 Voluntary: *Buxtehude, Ciacona in E minor (BuxWV 160)*
- 1615 **Britten's 'A Ceremony of Carols'**
Sung by the Cathedral Choristers, with Daniel de-Fry (harp)

MONDAY 8 DECEMBER

Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Verses: *Cantoris*

- 0830 **Morning Prayer (CW)** *Lady Chapel*
- 1230 **Eucharist (CW)** *Lady Chapel*
- 1730 **Choral Evensong (BCP)** *Quire*
Sung by the Cathedral Choristers
 Responses: *Sanders*
 Psalm: 28
 Canticles: *Morley, Fauxbourdons*
 Anthem: *Stanford, As with gladness*

TUESDAY 9 DECEMBER

0830	Morning Prayer (CW)	<i>Thomas Chapel</i>
1230	Eucharist (CW)	<i>Lady Chapel</i>
1730	Choral Evensong (BCP) <i>Sung by the Cathedral Lay Clerks</i> Responses: <i>Frikki Walker</i> Psalm: 33 Canticles: <i>Guy Turner in E</i> Anthem: <i>Tomkins, Remember me, O Lord</i>	<i>Quire</i>

WEDNESDAY 10 DECEMBER

0830	Morning Prayer (CW)	<i>Lady Chapel</i>
1230	Eucharist (CW)	<i>Lady Chapel</i>
1730	Choral Evensong (BCP) with the Collation and Installation of Honorary Canons <i>Sung by the Cathedral Choir</i> Responses: <i>Sanders</i> Psalm: 119 vv. 33-56 Canticles: <i>Batten, Fourth Service</i> Anthem: <i>Morten Lauridsen, O magnum mysterium</i>	<i>Quire</i>

THURSDAY 11 DECEMBER

0830	Morning Prayer (CW)	<i>Thomas Chapel</i>
1230	Eucharist (CW)	<i>Lady Chapel</i>
1730	Choral Evensong (BCP) <i>Sung by the Trinity Singers</i> Responses: <i>plain-song</i> Psalm: 57 Canticles: <i>Philip Wilby, Evening Service</i> Anthem: <i>Philip Moore, Come, dearest Lord</i>	<i>Quire</i>

FRIDAY 12 DECEMBER

- 0830 **Morning Prayer (CW)** *Lady Chapel*
- 1230 **Eucharist (CW)** *Lady Chapel*
- 1730 **Choral Evensong (BCP)** *Quire*
Sung by the Cathedral Lay Clerks
Responses: *Piers Kennedy*
Psalm: 90
Canticles: *Arnold, Fauxbourdons*
Anthem: *Tallis, Hear the voice and prayer*
- 2000 **Saint Cecilia Singers Christmas Concert** *Lady Chapel*
Music by E. W. Naylor, Kerensa Briggs, Libby Croad, Owain
Park, Jonathan Dove, Charlotte Baskerville and others.
*Tickets from **saintceciliasingers.org***
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SATURDAY 13 DECEMBER

Lucy, martyr, 304

- 0830 **Morning Prayer (CW)** *Sebroke Chapel*
- 1230 **Eucharist (CW)** *Lady Chapel*
- 1630 **Evening Prayer (BCP)** *Lady Chapel*

SUNDAY 14 DECEMBER**3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT***Kenneth Neal Jennings, Dean of Gloucester 1983-96, d. 2007*

0800	Eucharist (BCP)	<i>Chapel of St John the Baptist</i>
0830	Morning Prayer (CW)	<i>Zoom</i>
1015	Choral Eucharist (CW) <i>Sung by the Cathedral Lay Clerks</i> Setting: <i>Brian Chapple, Mass</i> Hymns: 32, 34, 28, 476 Sermon: The Canon Precentor Motet: <i>Byrd, Vigilate</i> Voluntary: <i>Jonathan Hope, Improvisation on 'Wachet auf'</i>	<i>Nave</i>
1500	Evening Prayer (BCP)	<i>Thomas Chapel</i>
1700	Cathedral Junior Choir Concert	<i>Lady Chapel</i>
1830	Organ Concert Olivier Messiaen <i>La Nativité du Seigneur (1935)</i> played by Jonathan Hope (Assistant Director of Music)	<i>Nave</i>

MONDAY 15 DECEMBER*Verses: Decani*

0830	Morning Prayer (CW)	<i>Lady Chapel</i>
1230	Eucharist (CW)	<i>Lady Chapel</i>
1730	Evening Prayer (BCP)	<i>Lady Chapel</i>

TUESDAY 16 DECEMBER

0830	Morning Prayer (CW)	<i>Lady Chapel</i>
1230	Eucharist (CW)	<i>Lady Chapel</i>
1730	Evening Prayer (BCP)	<i>Lady Chapel</i>

WEDNESDAY 17 DECEMBER
O Sapientia

*Eglantyne Jebb, social reformer,
founder of 'Save the Children', 1928*

0830	Morning Prayer (CW)	<i>Lady Chapel</i>
1230	Eucharist (CW)	<i>Lady Chapel</i>
1730	Evening Prayer (BCP)	<i>Lady Chapel</i>

THURSDAY 18 DECEMBER
O Adonai

*Francis Close, priest, Rector of Cheltenham,
founder, educationalist, 1882*

0830	Morning Prayer (CW)	<i>Thomas Chapel</i>
1230	Eucharist (CW)	<i>Lady Chapel</i>
1730	Evening Prayer (BCP)	<i>Lady Chapel</i>

FRIDAY 19 DECEMBER
O Radix Jesse

0830	Morning Prayer (CW)	<i>Lady Chapel</i>
1230	Eucharist (CW)	<i>Lady Chapel</i>
1730	Evening Prayer (BCP)	<i>Lady Chapel</i>

SATURDAY 20 DECEMBER
O Clavis David

0830	Morning Prayer (CW)	<i>Sebroke Chapel</i>
1230	Eucharist (CW)	<i>Lady Chapel</i>
1630	Evening Prayer (BCP)	<i>Lady Chapel</i>

SUNDAY 21 DECEMBER*O Oriens***4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

0800	Eucharist (BCP)	<i>Memorial Chapel</i>
0830	Morning Prayer (CW)	<i>Zoom</i>
1015	Choral Eucharist (CW) <i>Sung by the Cathedral Lay Clerks</i> Setting: <i>Darke</i> in F Hymns: 362, 241, 49, 31 Sermon: The Canon Chancellor Motet: <i>Warlock</i> , Bethlehem Down Voluntary: <i>J. S. Bach</i> , Fugue in F (BWV 540b)	<i>Nave</i>
1500	Evening Prayer (BCP)	<i>Lady Chapel</i>
1800	Christmas Carol Service <i>Sung by the Cathedral Choir</i>	<i>Nave and Quire</i>

MONDAY 22 DECEMBER*O Rex Gentium**Verses: Cantoris*

0830	Morning Prayer (CW)	<i>Lady Chapel</i>
1230	Eucharist (CW)	<i>Lady Chapel</i>
1730	Evening Prayer (BCP)	<i>Lady Chapel</i>
1800	Christmas Carol Service <i>Sung by the Cathedral Choir</i>	<i>Nave and Quire</i>

TUESDAY 23 DECEMBER
O Emmanuel

*John Derek Sanders OBE,
Organist of Gloucester Cathedral 1967-94, d. 2003*

0830	Morning Prayer (CW)	<i>Thomas Chapel</i>
1230	Eucharist (CW)	<i>Lady Chapel</i>
1430	Family Carol Service <i>Sung by the St Benedict Singers</i>	<i>Nave</i>
1730	Evening Prayer (BCP)	<i>Lady Chapel</i>
1800	Christmas Carol Service <i>Sung by the Cathedral Choir</i>	<i>Nave and Quire</i>

WEDNESDAY 24 DECEMBER

CHRISTMAS EVE

0830	Morning Prayer (CW)	<i>Lady Chapel</i>
1230	Eucharist (CW)	<i>Lady Chapel</i>
1430	Family Carol Service <i>Sung by the Cathedral Choristers and Junior Choir</i>	<i>Nave</i>
1730	Evening Prayer (BCP)	<i>Lady Chapel</i>
2315	Midnight Mass (CW) <i>Sung by the Trinity Singers, with former members</i> Setting: <i>Jonathan Dove, Missa brevis</i> Hymns: 61, 63, 56, 53 Sermon: The Dean Motets: Carols during communion Voluntary: <i>Messiaen, Dieu parmi nous</i>	<i>Nave</i>

THURSDAY 25 DECEMBER**CHRISTMAS DAY**

0800	Eucharist (BCP)	<i>Lady Chapel</i>
0830	Morning Prayer (CW)	<i>Thomas Chapel</i>
1015	Choral Eucharist (CW) <i>Sung by the Cathedral Choir</i> Setting: Schubert in G Hymns: 61, 65, 55, 67, 53 Sermon: The Bishop of Gloucester Motets: Carols during communion Voluntary: Widor, Toccata (Symphonie V)	<i>Nave</i>

FRIDAY 26 DECEMBER**STEPHEN, DEACON, FIRST MARTYR**

0900	Morning Prayer (CW)	<i>Sebroke Chapel</i>
1230	Eucharist (CW)	<i>Lady Chapel</i>
1500	Gloucester Choral Society Concert: Carols for All	
1600	Evening Prayer (BCP)	<i>Lady Chapel</i>

SATURDAY 27 DECEMBER**JOHN, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST**

0900	Morning Prayer (CW)	<i>Sebroke Chapel</i>
1230	Eucharist (CW)	<i>Lady Chapel</i>
1600	Evening Prayer (BCP)	<i>Lady Chapel</i>

SUNDAY 28 DECEMBER**THE HOLY INNOCENTS**

0800	Eucharist (BCP)	<i>Chapel of St Paul</i>
0830	Morning Prayer (CW)	<i>Zoom</i>
1015	Choral Eucharist (CW) Setting: Missa de Angelis Hymns: 44, 73, 55, 67 Sermon: The Canon Precentor	<i>Nave</i>
1500	Evening Prayer (BCP)	<i>Lady Chapel</i>

MONDAY 29 DECEMBER*Thomas Becket, archbishop, martyr, 1170*

0900	Morning Prayer (CW)	<i>Sebroke Chapel</i>
1230	Eucharist (CW)	<i>Lady Chapel</i>
1600	Evening Prayer (BCP)	<i>Lady Chapel</i>

TUESDAY 30 DECEMBER*Echwin, Bishop of Worcester,
founder of Evesham Abbey, 711*

0900	Morning Prayer (CW)	<i>Sebroke Chapel</i>
1230	Eucharist (CW)	<i>Lady Chapel</i>
1600	Evening Prayer (BCP)	<i>Lady Chapel</i>

WEDNESDAY 31 DECEMBER*John Wyclif, reformer, 1384*

0900	Morning Prayer (CW)	<i>Sebroke Chapel</i>
1230	Eucharist (CW)	<i>Lady Chapel</i>
1600	Evening Prayer (BCP)	<i>Lady Chapel</i>