CHRISTMAS *lessons & carols*

WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL

Dear friends,

Welcome to Washington National Cathedral! We are glad you are here with us to share in our Christian celebrations. Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules to pause and enjoy the wonder of this special season.

Frederick Buechner in his book, *The Longing for Home: Reflections at Midlife,* writes: "Our stories are all stories of searching. We search for a good self to be and for good work to do. We search to become human in a world that tempts us always to be less than human or looks to us to be more. We search to love and to be loved. And in a world where it is often hard to believe in much of anything, we search to believe in something holy and beautiful and life-transcending that will give meaning and purpose to the lives we live."

In the birth of the Christ child, I believe we have found a source of holy, beautiful, transcendent and life-giving meaning that can give our lives great purpose. I believe that in the manger we have found the answer to all our longings and the end of all our searchings. In this miraculous event we discover that the holy and infinite God has chosen to become one of us, not in great power or prestige, but as a vulnerable child born to a poor unwed couple in the stable of a small town. God comes not to punish us but to love us, as one of us. God comes to show us the path to lives of deep meaning and purpose because in the incarnation we are not just taught about the nature of God's love — we literally see it embodied and lived out in the life of Jesus. At Chrismas, God comes to show us the way home, to a home we have never seen but a home we have longed for all our lives.

In this day and age when our culture seems to be pulling itself apart, when it is increasingly easy to demonize others rather than honor them, our God shows us a different way. On Christmas, the Holy One stoops to become one of us and in so doing shows us that deep and abiding love always involves humility, vulnerability and trust. In Christ, we are given a guide, a yardstick, to measure ourselves against and to hold up as an example of what we can be at our best. Now more than ever we need the good news of Immanuel, "God with us."

We are blessed by your presence today and we hope this service of praise and worship will be a blessing to you. No matter why you have come, please know that you are welcome here, today and always.

Merry Christmas and may God bless and keep you.

The Very Rev. Randolph Marshall Hollerith
Dean, Washington National Cathedral

Christmas
Lessons and Carols

December 23 & 24, 2017 • 6:00 PM

Carillon Prelude

O come, all ye faithful	*Adeste fideles*; arr. Edward M. Nassor (b. 1957)
Choral Prelude on "There is a Rose"	Koen Cosset (b. 1963)
Winter, from *Almanac for Bells*	Aaron David Miller (b. 1972)
While shepherds watched their flocks by night	George Frideric Handel (1685-1759); arr. Milford Myhre (b. 1931)
O little town of Bethlehem	*St. Louis*; arr. M. Myhre
Angels we have heard on high	*Gloria*; arr. M. Myhre
God rest ye merry, gentlemen	*God Rest You Merry*; arr. M. Myhre
Hark! the herald angels sing	*Mendelssohn*; arr. Albert C. Gerken (b. 1938)
Silent night, holy night	*Stille Nacht*; arr. Hans Uwe Hielscher (b. 1945)

Organ Prelude

Finale, from *Symphony II, Op. 13/2*	Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937)
Concerto I in G major, BWV 592	Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)
Chorale Prelude, 'In dulci jubilo,' BWV 729	J.S. Bach
Fiat Lux	Theodore Dubois (1837-1924)
Partita on 'In dulci jubilo'	James Vivian (b. 1974)
Bring a torch, Jeanette Isabella	arr. Keith Chapman (1945-1989)
Partita on "Adeste Fideles"	Charles Callahan (b. 1951)

Introit

African Noel — arr. André Thomas (b. 1952)

Sing Noel,
O Come, ye people, gather here
To hear the news of good cheer.
The King of Kings, the Lamb of God
is born today in Bethlehem.
Sing Noel!
(Traditional)

The people stand.

The people's responses are in **bold.**

HYMN AT THE PROCESSION

O come, all ye faithful — *Adeste Fideles*

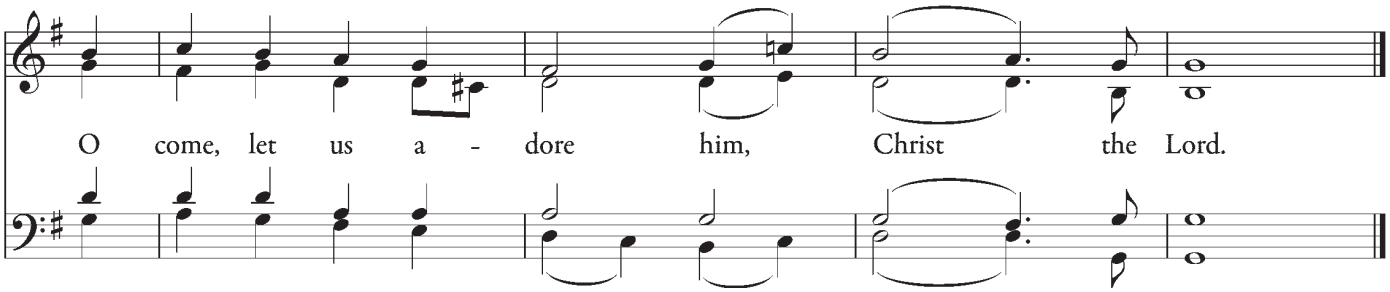
1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
2. God from God, Light from Light e - ter - nal,
3. See how the shep - herds, sum - moned to his cra - dle,
4. Child, for us sin - ners poor and in a man - ger,
5. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,

1. come ye, O come ye to Beth - - le - hem;
2. lo! he ab - hors not the Vir - - gin's womb;
3. leav - ing their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
4. we would em - brace thee, with love and awe;
5. sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;

1. come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
2. on - ly - be - got - ten Son of the Fa - ther;
3. we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;
4. who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?
5. glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est.

Refrain

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



THE ACCLAMATION OF THE NATIVITY

Officiant The people who walked in darkness
People **have seen a great light.**

Officiant For to us a child is born,
People **to us a Son is given.**

Officiant His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
People **the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.**

Officiant Glory to God in the highest,
People **and peace to God's people on earth.**

THE BIDDING PRAYER

Dear People of God: In this Christmas Season, let it be our duty and delight to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger.

Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy Child Jesus, and let us make this Cathedral Church, dedicated to the Apostles Peter and Paul, glad with our carols of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and especially for his Church in our country and in this city of Washington.

And because he particularly loves them, 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 unloved, the aged and little children, as well as all those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ.

Finally, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore.

And now, to sum up all these petitions, let us pray in the words which Christ himself has taught us, saying:

Notre Père..., Padre nuestro..., Vater unser...,

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, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

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

The people are seated.

The First Lesson • Genesis 3:1–22

Adam and Eve rebel against God and are cast out of the Garden of Eden

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves. They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate."

Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel." To the woman he said, "I will greatly increase your pangs in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children, yet your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you."

And to the man he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return." The man named his wife Eve, because she was the mother of all living. And the Lord God made garments of skins for the man and for his wife, and clothed them. Then the Lord God said, "See, the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever."

CAROL

Jesus Christ the apple tree — Elizabeth Poston (1905-1987)

The tree of life my soul hath seen,
Laden with fruit and always green:
The tree 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 brought:
I missed of all; but now I see
'Tis found in Christ the apple tree.

I'm weary with my former toil,
Here I will sit and rest awhile:
Under the shadow I will be,
Of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,
It keeps my dying faith alive;
Which makes my soul in haste to be
With Jesus Christ the apple tree.
(from Divine Hymns or Spiritual Songs)

The Second Lesson • Isaiah 9:2, 6–7

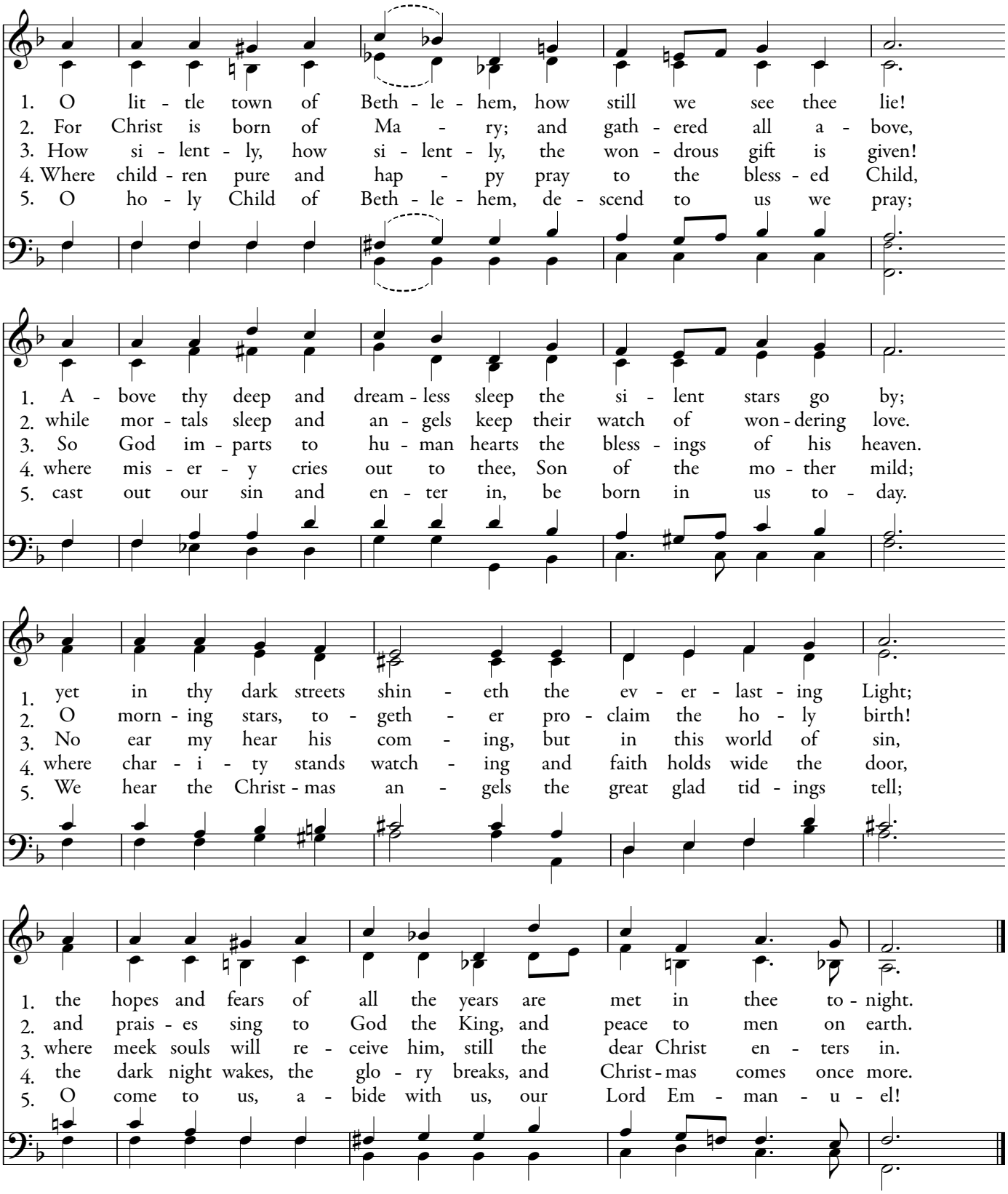
The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

The people stand.

HYMN

O little town of Bethlehem *St. Louis*



The people are seated.

CAROL

This endris night — Z. Randall Stroope (b. 1953)

This endris night I saw a sight,
A star, bright, bright as day;
And e'er among, a maiden sung
'Lullay, bye bye, lullay.'

This lovely lady sat and sang,
And to her child did say:
'My son, my brother, father dear,
Why do you lie in bed of hay?'

'Mary mother, I am your child,
Though I be laid in manger stall;
For lords and dukes shall worship me,
And so shall kings all singing
Lullay, bye bye, lullay.'

That child or man, who will or can
Be merry on this day,
To bliss you bring and I shall sing
'Lullay, bye bye, lullay.'
(English Carol, 15th century)

The Third Lesson • Luke 1:26–38

The Angel Gabriel announces to the Virgin Mary that she will bear the Son of the Most High

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

CAROL

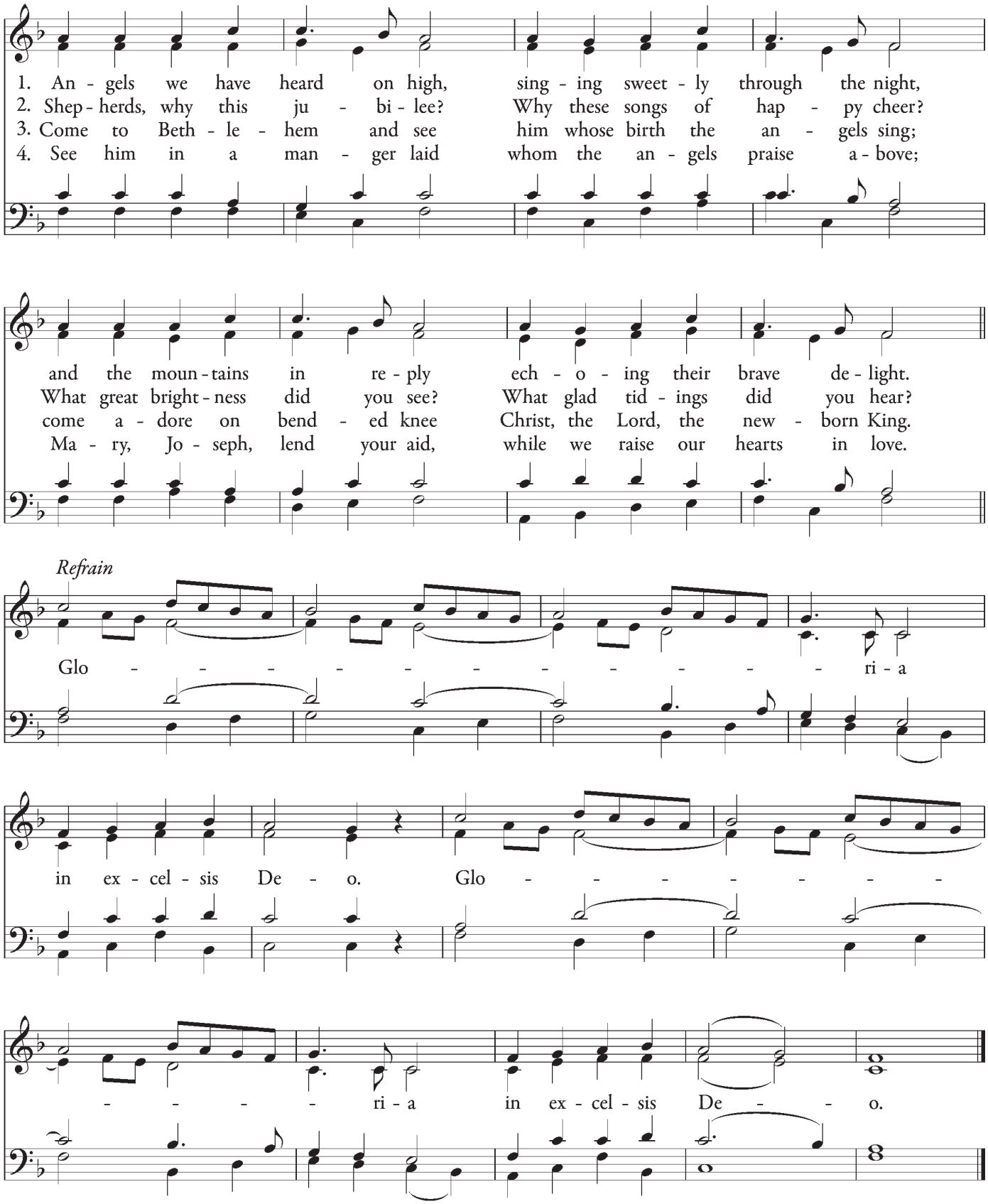
Hymn to the virgin — Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)

Of one that is so fair and bright *Velut maris stella,*
Brighter than the day is light, *Parens et puella:*
I cry to thee, thou see to me, Lady pray thy Son for me, *Tam pia,*
That I may come to thee. *Maria!*
All this world was forlorn *Eva peccatrice,*
Till our Lord was y-born *Dete genetrice*
With 'ave' it went away Darkest night, and comes the day *Salutis;*
The well springeth out of thee. *Virtutis.*
Lady, flow'r of ev'rything, *Rosa sine spina,*
Thou bare Jesu, Heaven's King *Gratia divina:*
Of all thou bear'st the prize, Lady, queen of paradise *Electa:*
Maid mild, mother *es Effecta.*
(Anonymous, c. 1300)

The people stand.

HYMN

Angels we have heard on high *Gloria*



The people are seated.

The Fourth Lesson • Luke 2:1–7

The birth of Jesus

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

CAROL

O magnum mysterium — Morten Lauridsen (b. 1943)

Sung in Latin. O great mystery, and wonderful sacrament, that animals should see the new-born Lord, lying in a manger! Blessed is the Virgin whose womb was worthy to bear Christ the Lord. (*Matins responsory for Christmas Day*)

The Fifth Lesson • Luke 2:8–20

The shepherds go to the manger

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

CAROL

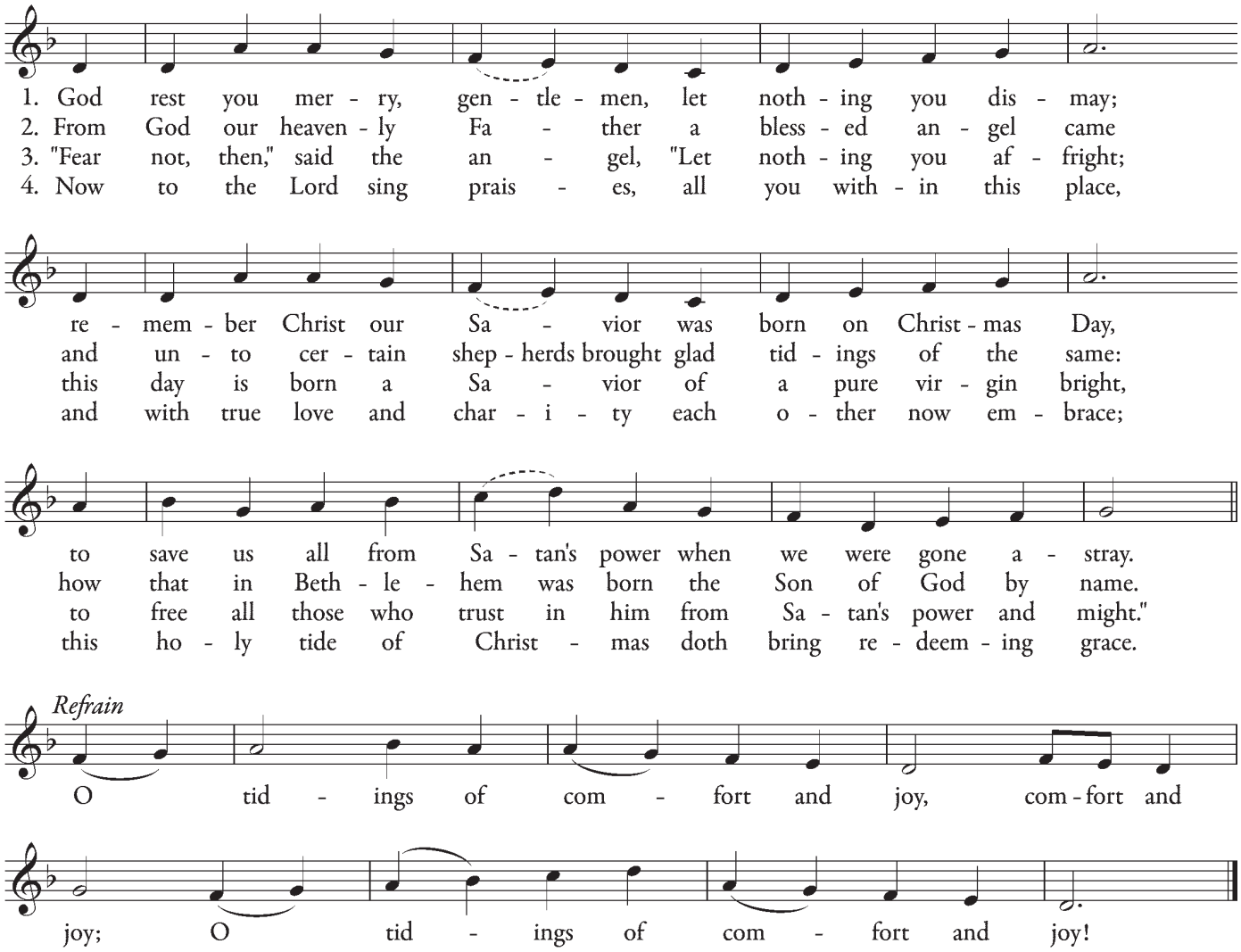
My Lord has come — Will Todd (b. 1970)

Shepherds, called by angels, called by love and angels; no place for them but a stable.
My Lord has come. Sages, searching for stars, for love in heaven; no place for them but a stable.
My Lord has come. His love will hold me, his love will cherish me, love will cradle me.
Lead me to see him, sages and shepherds and angels; no place for me but a stable.
My Lord has come.
(Text by Will Todd)

The people stand.

HYMN

God rest you merry, gentlemen *God Rest You Merry*



The people are seated.

The Sixth Lesson • John 1:1–14

The Great Mystery of the Incarnation

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.

HOMILY

The Very Reverend Randolph Marshall Hollerith *(December 23)*
The Right Reverend Mariann Edgar Budde *(December 24)*

THE OFFERTORY

The people remain seated while an offering is received to support the Cathedral's work of sharing God's love with the world.

CAROL AT THE OFFERTORY

Wassail — Jonathan Willcocks (b. 1953)

Wassail, wassail all over the town,
Our bread it is white and our ale it is brown;
Our bowl it is made of the green maple tree;
With the Wassailing bowl we'll drink to thee.

Here's a health to the ox and to his right eye,
Pray God send our master a god Christmas pie,
A good Christmas pie as ever I did see;
With the Wassailing bowl we'll drink to thee.

So here's to the cow and to her broad horn,
May God send our master a good crop of corn,
And a good crop of corn that we all may see:
With the Wassailing bowl we'll drink to thee.

Then here's to the maid in the lilywhite smock,
Who tripped to the door and slipped back the lock;
Who tripped to the door and pulled back the pin
For to let these jolly Wassailers in.

Come butler, come fill us a bowl of the best;
Then we hope that your soul in heaven may rest;
But if you do draw us a bowl of the small,
Then down shall go butler, bowl and all.
(Traditional English)

THE CANDLE LIGHTING

Officiant Christ has brought us out of darkness:
People **to live in his marvelous light.**

Officiant Jesus Christ is the light of the world:
People **a light no darkness can quench.**

Officiant The shepherds kept watch by night,
People **and your glory shone round about them.**

Officiant The darkness is not dark to you,
People **the night is as bright as the day.**

Officiant Let your light scatter the darkness,
People **and fill your Church with your glory.**

The people remain seated as their tapers are lighted from the Advent Wreath. To pass the light, please hold lighted tapers upright and allow others to light their wicks from the flame.

CAROL AT THE CANDLE LIGHTING

Candlelight Carol — John Rutter (b. 1945)

How do you capture the wind on the water?
How do you count all the stars in the sky?
How do you measure the love of a mother,
Or how can you write down a baby's first cry?

Refrain
Candlelight, angel light, firelight and star-glow,
Shine on his cradle till breaking of dawn.
Silent night, holy night, all is calm and all is bright,
Angels are singing; the Christ child is born.

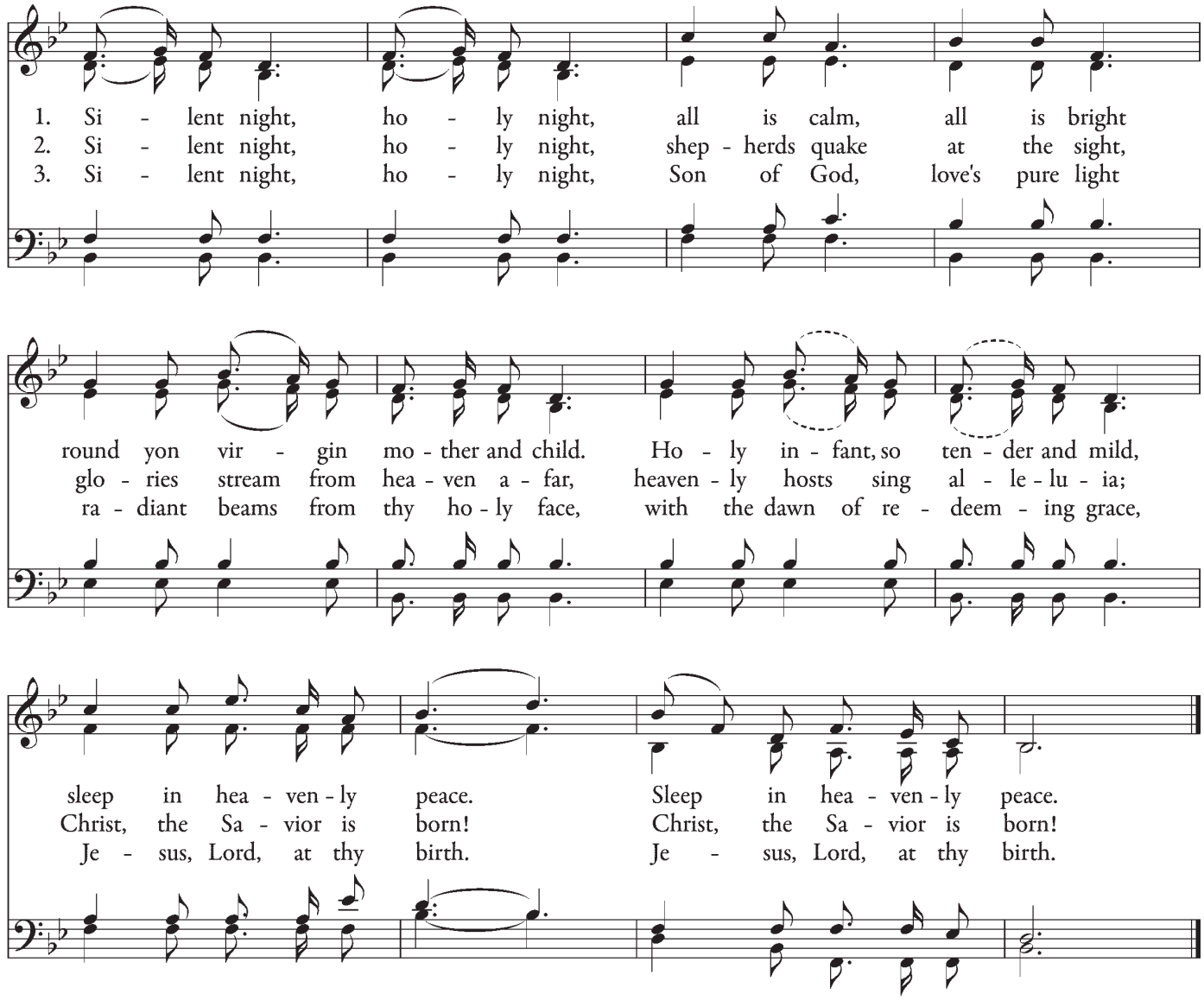
Shepherds and wise men will kneel and adore him,
Seraphim round him their vigil will keep.
Nations proclaim him their Lord and their Saviour,
But Mary will hold him and sing him to sleep. *Refrain*

Find him at Bethlehem laid in a manger,
Christ our Redeemer asleep in the hay.
Godhead incarnate and hope of salvation,
A child with his mother that first Christmas Day.
Refrain
(Text by John Rutter)

The people stand.

HYMN

Silent night *Stille Nacht*



THE CONCLUDING COLLECT

Officiant Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

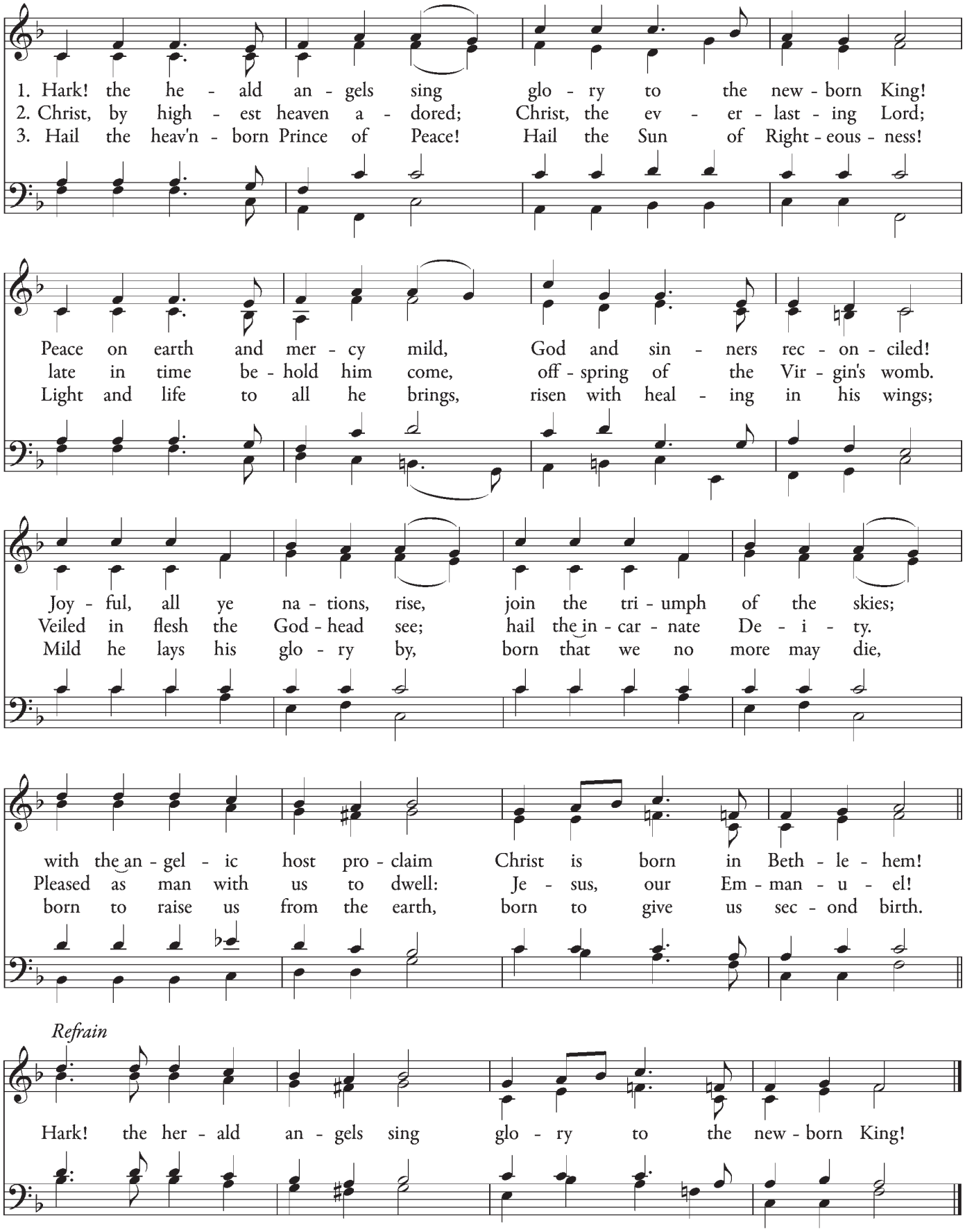
People **Amen.**

THE CHRISTMAS BLESSING

The presider/bishop blesses the people, and the people respond, **Amen**.

HYMN AT THE CLOSING

Hark! the herald angels sing — *Mendelssohn*



Please gently extinguish your candles and, upon exiting, place used tapers in the baskets provided.

POSTLUDE

Carillon de Westminster, Op. 54/6 — Louis Vierne (1870-1937)

CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF SAINT PETER & SAINT PAUL

The Right Reverend Mariann Edgar Budde
Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington

The Very Reverend Randolph Marshall Hollerith
Dean

The Reverend Canon Jan Naylor Cope
Provost

The Reverend Dana Colley Corsello
Vicar

The Reverend Canon Kelly Brown Douglas
Canon Theologian

The Reverend Canon Rosemarie Logan Duncan
Canon for Worship

The Reverend Canon Samuel Van Culin
Canon Ecumenist

The Reverend Andrew K. Barnett
Associate for Worship and Music

MUSICIANS

The Cathedral Choir

Canon Michael McCarthy
Director of Music

The Reverend Benjamin Pearce Straley
Organist and Associate Director of Music

George Fergus
Assistant Organist

Dr. Edward M. Nassor
Carillonneur

USHERS

Valerie Ciccone
Head Usher

Angela Wilson
Deputy Head Usher

Kerry Fergus
Deputy Head Usher

VERGERS

Dr. Torrence N. Thomas
Head Cathedral Verger

Kevin R. Thomas
Cathedral Verger

Jane Gilchrist, Joyce A. Michelini,
Verne Rinker, Scott Sanders

ACOLYTES

Lilly Freemyer & Robert Shekoyan, *Head Acolytes*

Shannon Ayres, Alba Cordover, Clayton Gasho,
Dan Huynh, Emily Kim, Clark Klitenic,
Caroline Schuermann, Isabel Steinberg, Ben Vacher

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FLOWERS THROUGHOUT THE CATHEDRAL ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD.

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A gift in celebration of Christ's birth is made to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for the William Carter Dulin and Maurine Stuart Dulin families.

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COVER: The Cathedral Choir sings during the candle lighting. Photo by Danielle E. Thomas.

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