A Children's Christmas Service

with Pageant

December 24, 2018 • 11:00 AM

WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL
Welcome to our celebration of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Each year we tell again the story of the Incarnation, of God’s love breaking through to all of humanity. Christmas is a time for thanksgiving and renewal; we give thanks for God's gift of love.

The words and music of our service speak from an ancient tradition and give voice to what is waiting to be expressed in our own hearts. We proclaim boldly and joyfully, “Jesus is the light of the world.”

As we celebrate the birth of our Savior, let us remember that the promise of Christmas is not only that God will bring us from darkness to light, but also that we have a part to play in that promise. We are to be messengers of the love of God and to bring the light of Christ to the everyday places of our lives, showing the mercy of God in action.

May the Lord bless you and all who you love and care for this Christmas, and may the light of Christ shine brightly in your hearts and lives.

Merry Christmas!
Special amplification for the hearing impaired may be arranged with an usher.

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

**CAROL PRELUDE**  **Sung by all, remaining seated**

*O come, all ye faithful*  
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;  
O come, let us adore him, O come let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.

*Adeste fideles*

*The First Nowell*

The first Nowell the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields as they lay, keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter’s night that was so deep.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
born is the King of Israel.

*The First Nowell*

*Angels we have heard on high*  
Angels we have heard on high, singing sweetly through the night,  
and the mountains in reply echoing their brave delight.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.  
Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.
**PROCESSION**

*Hark! the herald angels sing*  
Mendelssohn

Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn 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 newborn King!

Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord;  
late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin’s womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity.  
Pleased as man with us to dwell; Jesus, our Emmanuel!  
Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King!

**A Christmas Prayer**

God of heaven and earth, whose Son was born for all the world as a child in Bethlehem;  
we praise you for the shepherds in the fields, who with the animals and angels greeted  
the Word made flesh with wonder and joy. Through the telling of the Christmas story,  
may we join with the shepherds and angels in singing and praising the coming of our  
Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

All are seated.
A Christmas Pageant

The people join in singing the hymns during the pageant.

*Away in a manger*  
Carl Mueller

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

*Angels we have heard on high (refrain)*  
Gloria

Gloria in excelsis Deo.  
Gloria In excelsis Deo.

*Go, tell it on the mountain*  
Go Tell It on the Mountain

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;  
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born! Repeat

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born, and God sent  
us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;  
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born! Repeat
**Silent night**

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.

**We three kings**

We three kings of Orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.
O—star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright;
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light!
An offering is received to support the Cathedral's ministry of sharing God's love with the world. Thank you for your generosity.

Offertory Hymn

O little town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

Where children pure and happy pray to the blessèd Child,
where misery cries out to thee, Son of the mother mild;
where charity stands watching and faith holds wide the door,
the dark night wakes, the glory breaks, and Christmas comes once more.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

All stand as able.

Prayer

Prayed by all.

Lord, by the song of the angels
you disclosed your birth to your own people,
and by the leading of a star
you revealed your glory to strangers.
Teach us to know you now,
and to make you known to all.
Amen.

Blessing

Dean Hollerirth offers a blessing and the people respond, Amen.
Joy to the world!
Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! the Savior reigns;
let us our songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

Dismissal
Go in peace to proclaim Jesus’ birth!
Glory, thanks and praise to God!

CLERGY

PARTICIPANTS

PROGRAM ART
Cover: Student of Beauvoir, the National Cathedral Elementary School.