GOSPEL CHRISTMAS

What Child Is This?

Friday, December 20, 2019
7:00 PM

WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL
Dear Friends,

Merry Christmas and welcome home! We are so glad to have you here during this holy season. Please know that this Cathedral is your Cathedral; it is a house of prayer for all people, and you are always welcome here.

The good news of great joy to be found during the Christmas season centers not only around gatherings of family and friends, but also in the proclamation of the marvelous work God is doing in the midst of human history. It is the season when we proclaim God’s good news that we are loved so much that God became one of us in order to lift all of us up to God. It is the astounding news that the infinite God who created all things loves us, not by lording over us, but by humbling God’s self to be born a helpless infant in a stable in Palestine. As Christians, all our hopes rest on this newborn baby—his life, his death, and his resurrection.

Whatever brings you to the Cathedral this Christmas season, please know that we gather to proclaim what many people would consider preposterous—that love is the strongest force in the universe. It is more powerful than all that divides us. It is more powerful than the greatest of rulers or the most powerful of armies. It is the force that formed the universe and the essence of the very God we gather to worship. In Jesus we believe that God’s love is perfected, and because Jesus walked this earth as one of us, we believe that by God’s grace, we can mold our lives on his.

Whether you regularly participate in our worshiping community or this is your first time in the Cathedral, we are honored to have you here. I have no doubt that God has brought you to this place for a reason, and I hope and pray that you will know the deep presence of God moving in your life. There is so much joy to be found in these Christmas celebrations, and as we journey together to meet the newborn babe in Bethlehem, may you feel the touch of God upon your heart. God has come among us, the world is forever changed, and love reigns supreme.

From all of us here at the Cathedral, have a joyous Christmas, a wonderful new year, and we hope to see you soon.

Blessings,

The Very Reverend Randolph Marshall Hollerith
Dean, Washington National Cathedral
GOSPEL CHRISTMAS

What Child Is This?

DECEMBER 20, 2019
7:00 PM

The people’s responses are in bold.

PRELUDE

Christmas Medley
Emmanuel
Hark! the herald angels sing
Behold the Lamb of God

Richard Smallwood (b. 1948)
Norman Hutchins (b. 1962)
Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

after George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)
arr. The Yellowjackets

The people stand as able at the introduction to the hymn.
HYMN

O come, all ye faithful
Sung by all.

Adeste fideles

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O
2. God from God, Light from Light eternal,
3. See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,
4. Child, for us sinners poor and in a manger,
5. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
6. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born that happy morning;

1. come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
2. lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
3. leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
4. we would embrace thee, with love and awe;
5. sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
6. Jesus, to thee be glory given;

1. come, and behold him, born the King of angels;
2. only begotten Son of the Father;
3. we too will thinker bend our joyful footsteps;
4. who would not love thee, loving us so dearly?
5. glory to God, glory in the highest;
6. Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;
WELCOME AND BIDDING

*Officiant* My brothers and sisters: in the name of Christ I welcome you. We have come together as Christmas draws near to prepare for our celebration of the birth of God’s beloved Son. Through the days of Advent we have followed the light of Christ, and now we travel in spirit with Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem to acclaim with the multitude of the heavenly host the coming of the Prince of Peace. Let us hear again the wonderful story of our redemption, and, hearing, let us rejoice and respond with lively faith.

ACCLAMATION OF THE NATIVITY

*Officiant* Come! Hear the news of great joy!

*People* A child is born to us this day!

*Officiant* Great joy for all people of the earth!

*People* A child is born to us this day!

*Officiant* A Savior, the Messiah, the Lord!

*People* Glory to God in the highest!

GATHERING PRAYER

*Officiant* Holy and merciful God, like the shepherds of old, we listen for news of great joy, in the words of the herald angels. You are coming into the world at last. Open our hearts and our souls, O God, that we may welcome your Son into our lives with joy.

*People* Amen.
HYMN

What child is this

Sung by all.

Greensleeves

The people are seated.

The First Reading • Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

The righteous reign of the coming King

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 onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Reader Christ is coming.

People Be glad and believe.
ANTHEM

Glory to God

For unto us a child is born,
And the government shall be upon his shoulder.
His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,
Almighty God, Everlasting Father.
And of his reign there'll be no end,
And his Kingdom is of majesty and splendor.
His glory shines forever and ever,
Almighty God Everlasting Father.
Glory to God in the highest,
Peace on earth,
Goodwill to all men,
Glory to God in the highest,
Jesus Christ has come to save us from our sin.

Jesus is born our counselor,
The Mighty God,
The Everlasting father,
The Prince of Peace that reigns like no other,
Because of him we are overcomers.

Two thousand years have passed since then,
One can still hear the angels' joyful chorus,
To share the good news,
The news that God is with us,
In Bethlehem God's divine announcement.
Glory to God in the highest,
Peace on earth,
Goodwill to all men,
Glory to God in the highest,
Jesus Christ has come to save us from our sin.

The Second Reading • Isaiah 42:1-4

The servant, a light to the nations

Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.
He will not cry or lift up his voice,
or make it heard in the street;
a bruised reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.
He will not grow faint or be crushed
until he has established justice in the earth;
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

Reader Christ is coming.
People Be glad and believe.

The people stand as able at the introduction to the hymn.
The people are seated.

**The Third Reading • Luke 1:28-31**

*The Annunciation*

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.”

*Reader* Christ is coming.

*People* Be glad and believe.

**The Fourth Reading • 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.

*Reader* Christ has come.

*People* Rejoice and be glad.
ANTHEM

The newborn King

Paul Baloche (b. 1962)

All creation like a song
Waiting to be sung.
All the world in darkness lay
Desperate for the dawn.

Suddenly a voice
And angel choir proclaimed,
The One who made the stars
Is born in Bethlehem,
So let all the people sing,

Blessing, honor,
Glory, power
To the newborn King.
Let all nations hear the news,
See what God has done,
Heaven's gift of peace on earth,
His own beloved Son.
The maker of all things
For majesty above.
The one who made the stars,
Now with us in flesh and blood.
What praise could be enough?

Refrain

Blessing, honor,
Glory, power
To the newborn King,
To creation's King.

Angels gather around your
throne,
All the saints and angels singing.
They all bow down to you alone.

Refrain

Blessing, honor,
Glory, power
To the newborn King,
To the newborn King.

The people stand as able at the introduction to the hymn.

HYMN

What child is this

Sung by all.

Greensleeves

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to own him;
the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.

This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

The people are seated.
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.

Reader              Christ has come.
People             Rejoice and be glad.

ANTHEM

Born this day
Christmas is the day
The angels came to say,
They said be not afraid.
For born on this day,
Born to save is Christ the Lord.

Yolanda Adams (b. 1961)

Shepherds watched by night
When that angel appeared from on high
And said, “be not afraid, for born on this day,
Born to save, is Christ the Lord.”

They said be not afraid.
For born on this day,
Born to save is Christ the Lord.
He’s God the Father, God the Son, and Holy Spirit.

Christmas is the day
When the angels appeared to say,
They said be not afraid
For born on this day,
Born to save is Christ the Lord.

Born this day,
Christmas day,
Born to save the world is Christ the Lord.

They said be not afraid,
For born on this day,
Born to save our lives,
His name is Jesus Christ,
He is Emmanuel,
He is Christ,
And he is born to save,
He’s Christ the Lord.
The Sixth Reading • Shepherd’s Song at Christmas

Langston Hughes (1902-1967)

The people stand as able at the introduction to the hymn.

HYMN

Go tell it on the mountain

Sung by all.

Negro spiritual

Refrain

Go tell it on the mountain, o-ver the hills and ev-ery-where;

Go tell it on the moun-tain, that Je-sus Christ is born!

1. While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o’er si-ent flocks by night,
2. The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when lo! a-bove the earth
3. Down in a low-ly man-ger the hum-ble Christ was born,

be-hold, through-out the hea-vens there shone a ho-ly light.
rang-out the an-gel cho-rus that hailed our Sa-vior’s birth.
and God sent us sa-vation that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

The people are seated at the invitation of the homilist.

HOMILY

The Reverend Canon Rosemarie Logan Duncan

ANTHEM

Jesus, what a wonderful child

Jesus, Jesus,
Oh, what a wonderful child.
Jesus, Jesus,
So lowly, meek, and mild.
New life, new hope, new joy he brings;
Won’t you listen to the angels sing
Glory, glory, glory,
To the new born king.

He was heralded by the angels.
Born in a lowly manger.
The virgin Mary was his mother,
And Joseph was his earthly father.

Three wise men came from afar.
They were guided by a shining star
To see King Jesus where he lay
In a manger filled with hay.

Jesus, Jesus,
Oh, what a wonderful child.
Jesus, Jesus,
So lowly, meek, and mild.
New life, new hope, new joy he brings;
Won’t you listen to the angels sing
Glory, glory, glory,
To the new born king.
THE OFFERTORY
An offering is received to support the Cathedral’s ministry of sharing God’s love with the world. You may also text the dollar amount you wish to give to (202) 856-9005.

ANTHEM
The real meaning of Christmas

Tell me what Christmas means to you,
How many gifts will you go through;
Well it really doesn’t matter
If the gift is great or small,
Without Christ, there’s no Christmas at all.
The real meaning of Christmas ain’t about mistletoe.
The real meaning of Christmas ain’t about dashing through the snow.
The real meaning of Christmas ain’t found in a toy,
The real meaning of Christmas is Mary’s baby boy,
Is Mary’s baby boy.
Silent night, holy night,
All is bright,
That’s the real meaning.

Glory to the King,
Angels sing,
That’s the real meaning,
That’s the real meaning.
Merry Christmas, don’t mean the same
If it ain’t in Jesus’ name.
Merry Christmas.
Merry Christmas, just ain’t the same,
It ain’t the same, no.
Merry Christmas.
Merry Christmas just ain’t the same,
It ain’t the same, no.
It ain’t the same.

Joseph Pace (b. 1965)

The Seventh Reading • John 1:1-5, 14

The 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. 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.

Reader Christ has come.

People Rejoice and be glad.
The people stand as able at the introduction to the hymn.

HYMN

*Jesus, the light of the world*  
*Sung by all.*  
*George D. Elderkin (1845-1928)*

1. Hark, the herald angels sing,  
   Jesus, the light of the world.
2. Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
   Jesus, the light of the world.
3. Christ, by highest heavens adored,  
   Jesus, the light of the world.
4. Hail, the heav’n-born prince of peace,  
   Jesus, the light of the world.

Glory to the new-born King,  
Join the triumph of the skies,  
Christ, the ever-lasting Lord,  
Hail, the sun of righteousness!

We’ll walk in the light,  
Come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright.  
Oh, shine all around us by day and by night.

THE CANDLE LIGHTING

Officiant The glory of the Lord has been revealed  
People and all flesh shall see it together.

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.

Officiant Christ, the light of the world, gives each of us one light, so that we too may shine with gratitude, hope, and love. Receive the light of Christ, hold the light, and be thankful.

The people remain seated, and during the anthem, 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.
O holy night

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining;
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till he appeared, and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.

Fall on your knees! Oh, hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born;
O night divine, O night, O night divine.

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming,
With glowing hearts by his cradle we stand.
So, led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,
Here came the wise men from the Orient land.
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger,
In all our trials born to be our friend.

He knows our need, to our weakness no stranger,
Behold your King! Before him lowly bend!
Behold your King! Before him lowly bend!

Truly, he taught us to love one another;
His law is love, and his gospel is peace.
Chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother,
And in his Name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we;
Let all within us praise his holy Name.

Christ is the Lord! Then ever, ever praise we;
His power and glory evermore proclaim.
His power and glory evermore proclaim.

(Placide Cappeau, 1808-1877; English translation John Sullivan Dwight, 1813-1893, alt.)

The people stand as able at the introduction to the hymn.
1. 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.

2. Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight,
   glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
   Christ, the Savior is born! Christ, the Savior is born!

3. Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love’s pure light
   radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Responsorial Reading • The Work of Christmas

Howard Thurman (1899-1981)

Reader When the song of the angels is stilled,
People When the star in the sky is gone,

Reader When the kings and the princes are home,
People When the shepherds are back with their flock,

Reader The work of Christmas begins:
People To find the lost,

Reader To heal the broken,
People To feed the hungry,

Reader To release the prisoner,
People To rebuild the nations,

Reader To bring peace among brothers,
People To make music in the heart.

THE CLOSING PRAYER

Officiant Christ among us, Light of the World, heal our brokenness, and bring us to wholeness, ease our pain, and bring us hope, strength, and life. Give us new heart, new hope, and a new song, that our prayers and deeds may be one. We ask it in your Holy name.

People Amen.

THE BLESSING

Dean Hollerith offers the blessing, and the people respond, Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Joy to the world! Sung by all. Antioch

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come; let earth re-
2. Joy to the world! the Savior reigns; let us our-
3. No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns in-
4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the
receive her King; let every heart prepare him room, and
songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re-
est the ground; he comes to make his blessings flow far
nations prove the glories of his righteousness, and

heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature
peat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding
as the curse is found, far as the curse is
wonders of his love, and wonders of his

and heaven and nature sing, and
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding
far as the curse is found, far
and wonders of his love, and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.
joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.
love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

heaven and nature sing,
peat the sounding joy,
as the curse is found,
wonders of his love,

POSTLUDE

_Hallelujah!_  
Quincy Jones (b. 1933)
Thank you for worshiping at Washington National Cathedral, your National Cathedral.

The work of the Cathedral in service to the city, the nation, and the world is made possible entirely through private support. The gifts of people from across the country and the world are behind every worship service, concert, public program, and the daily work of maintaining this historic landmark. It is only through your generosity that the Cathedral can fully live into its priorities of welcoming, deepening, convening, and serving.

We invite you to support the mission and ministry of the Cathedral. Visit cathedral.org to sign up for our weekly newsletter. You can also make a gift to help keep the Cathedral strong — either as the plate is passed or by using our mobile giving program. Simply text the dollar amount you wish to give to (202) 856-9005. You’ll be taken to a secure website to enter your credit card information.

Thank you in advance for your generosity. Please know that your presence with us today has been a blessing.

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Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of Washington

The Very Reverend Randolph Marshall Hollerith
Dean

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


COVER: The Land is Bright window in Churchill Porch. Designed by John Piper; installed 1974.

Photo by Danielle E. Thomas.

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