Christmas Lessons & Carols

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 worshipping 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,

[Signature]

The Very Reverend Randolph Marshall Hollerith
Dean, Washington National Cathedral
Christmas Lessons & Carols
December 23 & 24, 2019 • 6:00 PM

The people's responses are in bold.

**CARILLON PRELUDE**

Novena di Natale  
Little Fife, The Flock and the Angel, The Manger, Gloria in excelsis  
Nino Rota (1911-1979)

Once in royal David’s city  
Winter from Almanac for Bells  
God rest you merry, gentlemen  
Introit for Christmas Eve  
Ding dong! merrily on high  
Paraphrase on “Gloria in excelsis”  
Joy to the world!  
Hark! the herald angels sing  
Silent night  

Irby; arr. Edward M. Nassor (b. 1957)  
Jehan Tabourot (1519-1595); arr. E. M. Nassor  
Antioch; arr. Wendell Westcott (1911-2010)  
Mendelssohn; arr. Albert C. Gerken (b. 1938)  
Stille Nacht; arr. Hans Hielscher (b. 1945)

**ORGAN PRELUDE**

Prelude and Fugue in A major, BWV 536  
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Noël étranger  
Louis-Claude Daquin (1694-1772)

Greensleeves  
Richard Purvis (1913-1994)

Gelobet seist du, Jesu Christ, BuxWV 188  
Dieterich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

Partita on “Adeste fideles”  
Charles Callahan (b. 1951)

Toccata on “God rest you merry, gentlemen”  
Mark A. Miller (b. 1967)
HYMN AT THE PROCESSION

Once in royal David's city

The people remain seated as the choir sings the first two stanzas. The people stand at the sound of the organ and join in singing.

1. Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
   and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;
   Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

2. He came down to earth from heaven, who is God and Lord of all,
   heaven's Word, the world's creator, cradled there on Christmas Day,
   with the poor, the scorned, the lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

3. We, like Mary, rest confounded that a stable should display
   heaven's Word, the world's creator, cradled there on Christmas Day,
   yet this child, our Lord and brother, brought us love for one another.

4. For he is our lifelong pattern; daily, when on earth he grew,
   he was tempted, scorned, rejected, tears and smiles like us he knew.
   Thus he feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all our gladness.

5. And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;
   And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;
   and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

6. Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing round,
   with the oxen standing round,
   Christ, revealed to faithful eye, set at God's right hand on high.
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.
Adam and Eve rebel against God

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.”

CAROL

Down in yon forest

Down in yon forest there stands a hall:
The bells of Paradise I heard them ring:
It’s covered all over with purple and pall:
And I love my Lord Jesus above anything.

In that hall there stands a bed:
The bells of Paradise I heard them ring:
It’s covered all over with scarlet so red:
And I love my Lord Jesus above anything.

At the bedside there lies a stone:
The bells of Paradise I heard them ring:
Which the sweet Virgin Mary knelt upon:
And I love my Lord Jesus above anything.

Over that bed the moon shines bright:
The bells of Paradise I heard them ring:
Proclaiming our Savior was born this night:
And I love my Lord Jesus above anything.

(Traditional English)

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.
CAROL

E’en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come
Paul Manz (1919-2009)

Peace be to you and grace from him
Who freed us from our sins,
Who loved us all and shed his blood
That we might saved be.

Sing holy, holy to our Lord,
The Lord, Almighty God,
Who was and is and is to come;
Sing holy, holy, Lord!

(Revelation 22, adapted by Ruth Manz, 1919-2008)

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

HYMN

God rest you merry, gentlemen  Sung by all.  God Rest You Merry

1. God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle - men, let noth - ing you dis - may;
The people are seated.

2. From God our heav en - ly Fa - ther a bless - ed an - gel came

3. "Fear not, then," said the an - gel, "Let noth - ing you af - fright;

4. Now to the Lord sing prais - es, all you with - in this place,

Refrain

O tid - ings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and joy;

O tid - ings of com - fort and joy!
The Third Lesson • Luke 1:18-23

The Archangel Gabriel announces to Zechariah that his wife Elizabeth will bear a son

Zechariah said to the angel, “How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years.” The angel replied, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur.” Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. When his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

CAROL

I sing of a maiden
I sing of a maiden
That is makeless;
King of all kings
To her son she ches.

He came all so still
Where his mother was,
As dew in April
That falleth on the grass.

He came all so still
To his mother’s bower,
As dew in April
That falleth on the flower.

He came all so still
Where his mother lay,
As dew in April
That falleth on the spray.

Mother and maiden
Was never none but she:
Well may such a lady
God’s mother be.

(15th century English)

The people stand as able at the introduction to the hymn.
Angels we have heard on high

Sung by all.

Gloria

1. Angels we have heard on high, singing sweetly through the night,
   and the mountains in reply echoing their brave delight.
   in excelsis Deo. Gloria

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why these songs of happy cheer?
   What great brightness did you see? What glad tidings did you hear?
   in excelsis Deo. Gloria

3. 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.

4. See him in a manger laid whom the angels praise above;
   Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.
   Gloria

The people are seated.
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 fulfill 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.”

CAROL

*Ding dong! merrily on high*

Ding dong! merrily on high
In heaven the bells are ringing:
Ding dong! verily the sky
Is riven with angel singing.

*Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!*

E’en so here below, below,
Let steeple bells be swungen,
And io, io, io,
By priest and people sungen.

*Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!*

Pray you, dutifully prime
Your matin chime, ye ringers;
May you beautifully rime
Your evetime song, ye singers.

*Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!*

*(George R. Woodward, 1848-1934)*
The angel brings good news to the shepherds

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.

Carol

_Glory hallelujah to the newborn King_  
Oh, glory hallelujah.  
Who do you call that wonderful counselor?  
Glory hallelujah to the newborn King.  
Let me tell ya he was born in a manger.  
He was born in Bethlehem,  
the Son of the most high God.  
Let me tell ya he’s the King of all nations,  
Savior and Lord of Lords;  
and he reigns for ever and Jesus is his name.  
Oh, glory hallelujah to the newborn King!

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

Sung by all.
joy, and repeat the sounding joy, and far as the curse is found, far

Antioch
as the curse is found, and wonders of his love, and

1. 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

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

3. No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns in fest the ground; he comes to make his blessings flow far nations prove the glories of his righteousness, and

4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

countries prove the glories of his righteousness, and

countries prove the glories of his righteousness, and
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.

The people are seated at the invitation of the homilist.

HOMILY

The Reverend Canon Jan Naylor Cope (December 23)
The Right Reverend Mariann Edgar Budde (December 24)
THE OFFERTORY

An offering is received to support the Cathedral’s work of sharing God’s love with the world. You may also text the dollar amount you wish to give to (202) 856-9005.

CAROL AT THE OFFERTORY

Nativity Carol
Born in a stable so bare,
Born so long ago;
Born ’neath light of star
He who loved us so.
Far away, silent he lay,
Born today, your homage pay,
For Christ is born for aye,
Born on Christmas Day.

Cradled by mother so fair,
Tender her lullaby;
Over her son so dear
Angel hosts fill the sky.

Refrain

Wise men from distant far land,
Shepherds from starry hills
Worship this babe so rare,
Hearts with his warmth he fills.

Refrain

Love in that stable was born
Into our hearts to flow;
Innocent dreaming babe,
Make me thy love to know.

Refrain

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

Lux aurumque
Sung in Latin.

Light
warm and heavy as pure gold
and the angels sing softly
to the newborn babe.

(Edward Esch, b. 1970; Latin translation Charles Anthony Silvestri, b. 1965)
The people stand as able at the introduction to the hymn.

HYMN

Silent night

Sung by all.

Stille Nacht

1. Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
2. Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight,
3. Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light

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 BLESSING

The blessing is offered, and the people respond, Amen.
Hark! the herald angels sing

Hark! the herald angels sing, glory to the new-born King!

Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord;

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!

Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!

late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb.

Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings;

Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity.

Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,

with the angelic host proclaim Christ is born in Bethlehem!

Pleased as man with us to dwell: Jesus, our Emmanuel!

born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.

Refrain

Hark! the herald angels sing, glory to the new-born King!
Please gently extinguish your candles and upon exiting place used tapers in the baskets provided.

ORGAN POSTLUDE
Carillon-Sortie
Henri Mulet (1878-1967)

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

CHRISTMAS DAY
FESTIVAL HOLY EUCHARIST
11:15 AM

ORGAN RECITAL
1:30 PM

Organists Thomas Sheehan and George Fergus play a Christmas recital of traditional and familiar holiday favorites on the Cathedral’s Great Organ.
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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CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF SAINT PETER & SAINT PAUL
The Right Reverend Mariann Edgar Budde
Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of Washington

The Very Reverend Randolph Marshall Hollerith
Dean

The Reverend Canon Jan Naylor Cope
Provost
The Reverend Canon Dana Colley Corsello
Canon Vicar
The Reverend Canon Kelly Brown Douglas
Canon Theologian
The Reverend Canon Rosemarie Logan Duncan
Canon for Worship

December 23
Richard F. Bland, Chief Operating Officer
Simone Bramble, Cathedral Volunteer
Blake Coleman, Girl Chorister
Mildred Reyes, Missioner for Formation and Diocesan Initiative, Episcopal Diocese of Washington
Jan C. Smith, Member, Cathedral Chapter

READERS
December 24
Charlotte S. Atkinson, Chief Financial Officer
Lincoln Eyer, Boy Chorister
David Ignatius, Cathedral Volunteer
Dr. Eric L. Motley, Member, Cathedral Chapter
Patricia Pickard, Cathedral Volunteer

MUSICIANS
The Cathedral Choir
Canon Michael McCarthy
Director of Music
Thomas M. Sheehan
Organist and Associate Director of Music
George H. Fergus
Associate Director of Music and Assistant Organist
Dr. Edward M. Nassor
Carillonneur

USHERS
Kerry Fergus
Head Usher
Angela Wilson
Deputy Head Usher

The Reverend Canon Leonard L. Hamlin, Sr.
Canon Missioner
The Reverend Canon John L. Peterson
Canon for Reconciliation and Global Justice
The Reverend Canon Samuel Van Culin
Canon Ecumenist
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FLOWERS THROUGHOUT THE CATHEDRAL
ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD.


COVER: The angel from the quatrefoil in the Epiphany window in Bethlehem Chapel. Designed by John W. Lisle; installed, 1912.
Photo by Danielle E. Thomas

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