

Christmas Eve

FESTIVAL HOLY EUCHARIST



WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL

*O the magnitude of meekness!
Worth from worth immortal sprung;
O the strength of infant weakness,
If eternal is so young!*
—Christopher Smart
“The Nativity of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ”

Christmas 2015 arrives at an unusually fraught time in our national and international life. We seem this season to be assaulted by distressing news on an almost daily basis. Life seems ever more fragile and at risk. Civility seems all but absent from our public discourse. We spend our days alternating between postures of anger and fear.

It is natural in times like these to want to defend ourselves and to strike back at those who either threaten our sense of security or offend our values. Our safety, we believe, resides either in our corporate and personal power or in our superior principles.

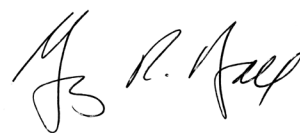
As vexing as today’s world can be, it is no more disturbed than the one into which Jesus came two millennia ago. Then as now the arrogant overwhelmed the meek. Then as now the preciousness of life seemed of no account to those bent on enmity and control. Then as now the answers on offer seemed to revolve around getting more—resources, power, control—with which to overwhelm those who posed a threat either in fact or imagination.

But it has always been the affirmation of the biblical tradition—from the Hebrew prophets to Jesus himself and to his earliest followers—that security resides neither in power nor money nor status. Real safety—the kind that Isaiah, Jesus, and Paul both live out and offer—consists in what might seem like a counterintuitive set of emotions. Real security consists in trust—trust that reality is finally friendly, trust that the world is actually good, trust that God keeps promises. The One behind the world—the One who comes into it then and now at Christmas—is ultimately trustworthy. And we are finally safe.

The eighteenth century English poet Christopher Smart understood what Isaiah and Jesus and Paul proclaimed and what Jesus’s mother Mary lived out in her faithful nurture of her infant son. We normally think of and describe God as ultimate power, but such a construction gets it totally wrong. The truth is really the other way around. God is not to be seen in ultimate power. God is on view in ultimate weakness. God comes among us not as a warrior but as a baby. Our image of God is not of a mighty king but a helpless infant. Our fantasies of power are fakes. What Smart calls the “strength of infant weakness” is the real truth about God, the world, and us.

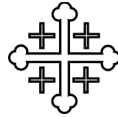
We gather in this cathedral church during the season of infant weakness to celebrate the strength and endurance of those values and virtues that Christopher Smart names “the magnitude of meekness.” The One born at Christmas will come to stand with and for us humans in ways that will outlast the pretensions and postures of power in all its pompous self-display. The infant Jesus embraces us in his weakness, and beckons us to share that embrace around. The problems of 2015 lose their power to frighten us. We can live, with God and Jesus and our neighbors in gratitude and trust.

May the God we meet in infant weakness bless you in the magnitude of meekness to live in hope and thanksgiving, both now and throughout the year. Welcome to Christmas at Washington National Cathedral.



Gary Hall
Dean, Washington National Cathedral

CHRISTMAS EVE
FESTIVAL HOLY EUCHARIST
DECEMBER 24, 2015 • 10:00 PM



CARILLON PRELUDE

<i>Novena di Natale per campagne</i>	Nino Rota (1911-1979)
<i>Pifferata (Little Fife) - Il gregge e l'angelo (The Flock and the Angel)</i>	
<i>Il presépio (The Manger) - Gloria in excelsis Deo (Glory to God in the Highest)</i>	
<i>O come, all ye faithful</i>	<i>Adeste fideles</i> ; arr. Ronald Barnes (1927-1997)
<i>In dulci jubilo, from A Carillon Book for the Liturgical Year</i>	Roy Hamlin Johnson (b. 1929)
<i>Away in a manger</i>	<i>Cradle Song</i> ; arr. Milford Myhre (b. 1931)
<i>The first Nowell</i>	<i>The First Nowell</i> ; arr. Edward M. Nassor (b. 1957)
<i>Joy to the world! the Lord is come</i>	<i>Antioch</i> ; arr. Wendell J. Westcott (1911-2010)
<i>Paraphrase on 'Gloria in excelsis' for carillon</i>	Sjef van Balkom (1922-2004)
<i>Go, tell it on the mountain</i>	African-American Spiritual; arr. Raymond Keldermans (1911-1984)
<i>O little town of Bethlehem</i>	<i>St. Louis</i> ; arr. Kamiel Lefevere (1888-1974)
<i>Hark! the herald angels sing</i>	<i>Mendelssohn</i> ; arr. Albert C. Gerken (b. 1938)
<i>Silent night, holy night</i>	<i>Stille Nacht</i> ; arr. Percival Price (1901-1985)

ORGAN PRELUDE

<i>Toccata and Fugue in E major, BWV 566</i>	Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)
<i>Sinfonia, from the Christmas Oratorio</i>	J. S. Bach; arr. Robert Gower
<i>Bring a torch, Jeanette Isabella</i>	arr. Keith Chapman (1945-1989)
<i>Noël-Étranger</i>	Louis-Claude Daquin (1694-1772)
<i>Noël</i>	L. Daquin
<i>Gigue – Go, tell it on the mountain</i>	A. D. Miller (b. 1972)
<i>Partita – In dulci jubilo</i>	James Vivian (b. 1974)

CHORAL PRELUDE

O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam (1803–1856); arr. John Rutter (b. 1945)

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! O hear the angel voices! O night divine! O night when Christ was born, 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!

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 pow'r and glory ever more proclaim.

(Placide Cappeau, 1808-1877)

WELCOME

Dean Hall

THE ENTRANCE RITE

INTROIT

Hodie Christmas natus

Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck (1562-1621)

Sung in Latin.

Born today is Christ, born for us, comes today, lo!
To us the Savior comes, songs today angels sing,
Sing to men on earth, and their praise Archangels bring.
Loud today the just men cry out, exulting glory be,
Glory to God on high, Alleluia, Noel.

(Antiphon on the Magnificat, Vespers of Christmas Day)

HYMN AT THE PROCESSION

Sung by all, standing

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,
6. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;

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;
 6. Je - sus, to thee be glo - - ry given;

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.
 6. Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;

Refrain

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

O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

ACCLAMATION OF THE NATIVITY

Dean Hall Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
People who comes to us, to set us free.

Dean Hall A child is born to us!
People A Son is given to us!

Dean Hall By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high breaks upon us,
People giving light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
 to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Dean Hall Glory to God in the highest!
People and peace to God's people on earth.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO

Sung by all

Glory to God in the highest

William Mathias (1934-1992)



Glo - ry to God in the high- est, and peace to God's




peo - ple on earth. Lord God, heaven - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus



Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther:



re - ceive our prayer. For you a - lone are the



Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ,



with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the glo - ry of



God the Fa - ther. A - - - men.

COLLECT OF THE NATIVITY

Dean Hall The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Dean Hall Let us pray in the peace of this Christmas celebration that our joy in the birth of Christ will last forever.

Eternal God, who made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of your one true light: bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth, to see the radiance of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The people are seated.

THE WORD OF GOD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 62: 6-12

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the Lord, take no rest, and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth. The Lord has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have labored; but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the Lord, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts. Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples. The Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, "See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him." They shall be called, "The Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord"; and you shall be called, "Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

CANTICLE OF THE CHOSEN ONE • ISAIAH 11:1-3B; 4A, 6, 9

chant: George Thalben-Ball

The choir introduces the antiphon, then all repeat.



There shall come forth a shoot from the stock of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding.

The spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear.

But with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth.

The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,
and the leopard shall lie down with the kid.

The calf, the lion and the fatling together,
with a little child to lead them.

They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain,
for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord,
as the waters cover the sea.

All sing the antiphon.



SECOND READING

Titus 3:4-7

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
 People **Thanks be to God.**

The people stand to sing the hymn and remain standing for the Gospel.

HYMN AT THE SEQUENCE

Sung by all.

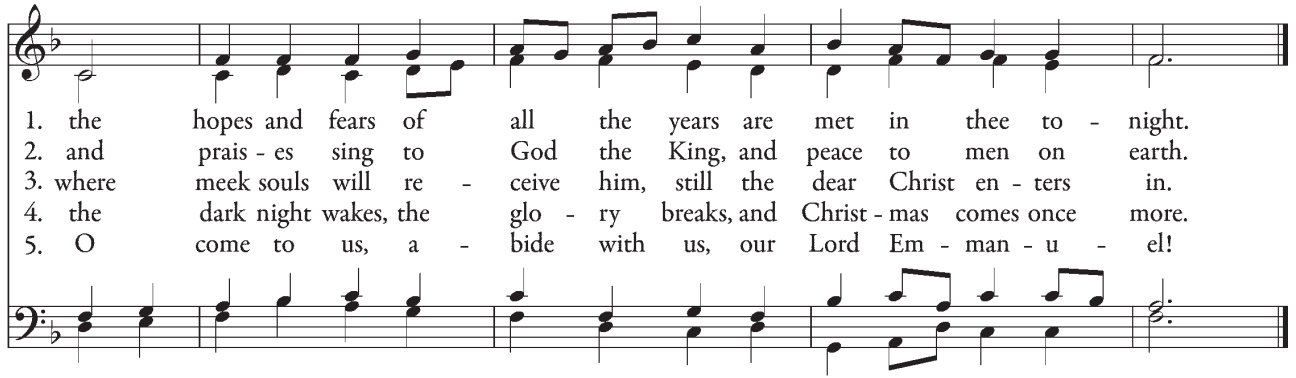
O little town of Bethlehem

Forest Green

1. O lit - le town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2. For Christ is born of Ma - ry; and gath - ered all a - bove,
 3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!
 4. Where child - ren pure and hap - py pray to the bless - ed Child,
 5. O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

1. A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
 2. while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.
 3. So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.
 4. where mis - er - y cries out to thee, Son of the mo - ther mild;
 5. cast out our sin and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

1. yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;
 2. O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!
 3. No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
 4. where char - i - ty stands watch - ing and faith holds wide the door,
 5. We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

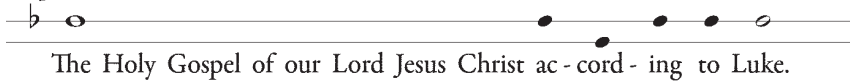


1. the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 2. and prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.
 3. where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 4. the dark night wakes, the glo - ry breaks, and Christ - mas comes once more.
 5. O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

THE HOLY GOSPEL

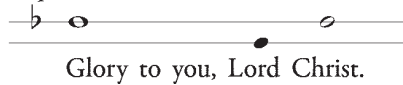
Luke 2:1-20

Gospeller



The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ ac - cord - ing to Luke.

People



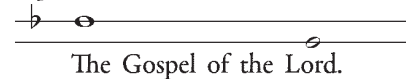
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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. 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."

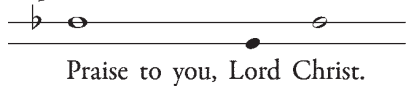
So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Gospeller



The Gospel of the Lord.

People



Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The people are seated at the invitation of the bishop.

SERMON

Bishop Mariann

The people stand.

THE NICENE CREED

Said by all

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Intercessor Loving God, in this holy night, your Son our Savior is born; bone of our bone, flesh of our flesh. Renew your Church as the Body of Christ; a people of your love incarnate; a people of joy, a people of peace.



Intercessor In this holy night, Mary and Joseph find no room for your Son in the inn. Protect with your love those who have no home, those for whom we make no room, those who live in crushing poverty.

Cantor *Holy God,*
People *Hear our prayer.*

Intercessor In this holy night, Mary, in the pain of labor, brings your Son to birth. Keep watch over all who know any pain or distress; any anxiety or fear; and bring them to newness of life.

Cantor *Holy God,*
People *Hear our prayer.*

Intercessor In this holy night, your Christ comes as a light shining in the darkness. Bring comfort to the suffering; tender mercy to the sorrowing; assurance of your presence to the struggling.

Cantor *Holy God,*
People *Hear our prayer.*

Intercessor In this holy night, the angels sing "Peace to God's people on earth." Strengthen the will of those who work for peace. Quicken in us all a holy impatience for justice throughout the world.

Cantor *Holy God,*
People *Hear our prayer.*

Intercessor In this holy night, shepherds in the field hear good tidings of joy. Give us grace to preach the gospel of Christ's redeeming love, and stamina to witness the truth of your compassion.

Cantor *Holy God,*
People *Hear our prayer.*

Intercessor In this holy night, strangers find the Holy Family, and behold the baby lying in the manger. Bless our homes and all beloved to us. Bless the stranger and the vulnerable; may they find in us a welcoming place.

Cantor *Holy God,*
People *Hear our prayer.*

Intercessor In this holy night, heaven stoops down to earth, and earth rises up to heaven. Hold in your hand all those who have passed through death, trusting in that which they cannot see; believing in your promise of light and life in the eternal company of heaven.

Cantor *Holy God,*
People *Hear our prayer.*

Intercessor In this holy night, Christians in every place celebrate the birth of your Son. Open our hearts to receive this mystery of your love; come to heal us, come to save us, come to set us free.

Cantor *Holy God,*
People *Hear our prayer.*

Dean Hall God of grace, in this holy night, angels and shepherds worship at the manger throne. Receive the worship we offer in fellowship with Mary, Joseph and the saints through him who is your Word made flesh, our Savior Jesus Christ.

All **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Dean Hall The peace of Christ be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

The people greet one another with a sign of God's peace and then are seated.

INVITING THE OFFERING

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

ANTHEM AT THE OFFERTORY

A babe is born

W. Mathias

A babe is born all of a may,
 To bring salvation unto us.
 To him we sing both night and day.
Veni Creator Spiritus.

At Bethlehem, that blessed place,
 The child of bliss now born he was;
 And him to serve God give us grace.
O lux beata Trinitas.

There came three kings out of the East,
 To worship the King that is so free,
 With gold and myrrh and frankincense.
A solis ortus cardine.

The angels came down with one cry,
 A fair song that night sung they,
 In worship of that child.
Gloria tibi Domine.

A babe is born all of a may,
 To bring salvation unto us.
 To him we sing both night and day.
Veni Creator Spiritus. Noel!

(15th century, anonymous)

HYMN AT THE PRESENTATION

Sung by all, standing.

Spiritual

Go, tell it on the mountain

Refrain

Go, tell it on the moun - tain, 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 - lent flocks by night, be -
 2. The shep - herds feared and trem - bled, when lo! a - bove the earth, rang
 3. Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born, and

Repeat Refrain

hold through - out the heav - ens there shown a ho - ly light.
 out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed the Sav - ior's birth.
 God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn.


THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Dean Hall *People*
 The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.


Dean Hall *People*
 Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Dean Hall



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People



It is right to give God thanks and praise.

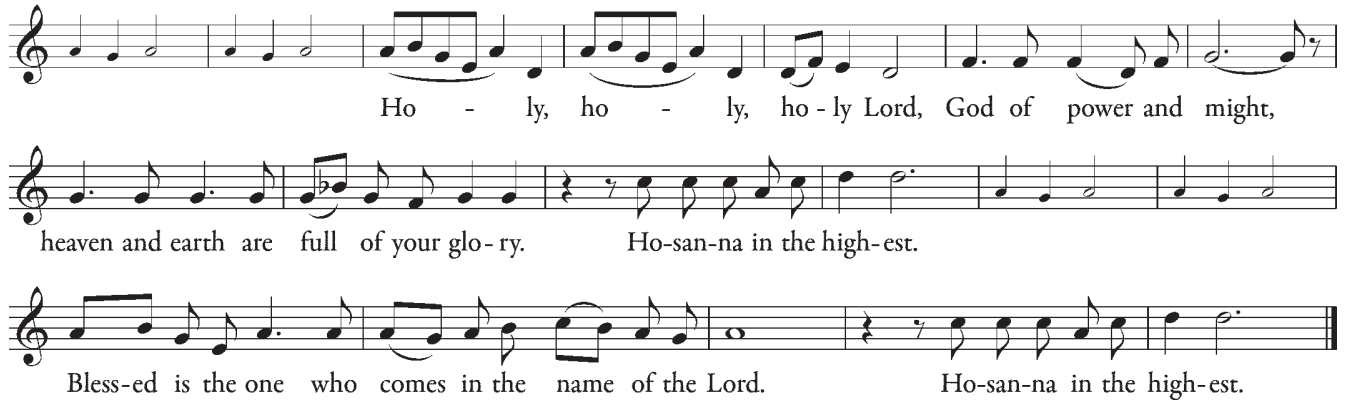
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, O God, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

Sung by all.

W. Mathias



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
 heaven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high-est.
 Bless-ed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Dean Hall Therefore, according to his command, O God,
All We remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory;

Dean Hall And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant

All Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

Dean Hall In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Mary and Joseph and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever.

All AMEN.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Dean Hall Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us, we join our prayers with those in every place who pray this night, each in their own language, the prayer that Jesus Christ has taught us,

All 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.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD & THE FRACTION ANTHEM

Michael McCarthy (b. 1966)

The Word was made flesh and dwelt a - mong us. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - ry to God in the high - est.

MINISTRATION OF COMMUNION

The people are seated.

All who seek God and a deeper life in Christ are welcome to receive Holy Eucharist.

Gluten-free wafers are available; please make your need known to the minister.

If you wish to receive a blessing rather than communion, please join in the movement to the station and cross your arms over your heart; this will alert the minister of your desire to receive a blessing.

ANTHEMS AT THE COMMUNION

Down in yon forest

arr. Andrew Carter (b. 1939)

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 bed-side 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.

Under that bed there runs a flood:
 The bells of Paradise I heard them ring:
 The one half runs water, the other runs blood:
 And I love my Lord Jesus above anything.

At the bed's foot there grows a thorn:
 The bells of Paradise I heard them ring:
 Which ever blows blossom since he was born:
 And I love my Lord Jesus above anything.

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

(Traditional English)

Ding dong! merrily on high in heav'n the bells are ringing:
 Ding dong! verily the sky is riv'n with angel singing.
 Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!
 E'en so here below, below, let steeple bells be swungen:
 And i-o, i-o, i-o, 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 Radcliffe Woodward, 1848-1934)

HYMN AFTER THE COMMUNION

Sung by all, standing.

Silent night

Stille Nacht

1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm, all is bright
 2. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake at the sight,
 3. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God, love's pure light

round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child. Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild,
 glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far, heaven - ly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia;
 ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,

sleep in hea - ven - ly peace. Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.
 Christ, the Sa - vior is born! Christ, the Sa - vior is born!
 Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth. Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Said by all

Loving God, in this night you have made known to us again the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him until the day dawns and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts. To him be the glory both now and for ever. Amen.

CHRISTMAS BLESSING

Bp Mariann May Almighty God, who sent Jesus to take our nature upon himself, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of holiness.

People **Amen.**

Bp Mariann May God who sent the angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy and make you heralds of the Gospel.

People **Amen.**

Bp Mariann May God who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you the peace and favor of this holy feast.

People **Amen.**

Bp Mariann And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever.

People **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Gospeller



Let us go forth in the name of Christ, al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia.

People



Thanks be to God, al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia.

HYMN AT THE CLOSING

Sung by all.

Mendelssohn

Hark! the herald angels sing

1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!
 2. Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;
 3. Hail the heav'n - born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Right - eous - ness!

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings;

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty.
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with the an - gel - ic host pro - claim Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!
 Pleased as man with us to dwell: Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Refrain

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Postlude on 'Mendelssohn'

David Willcocks (1919-2015)

WORSHIP LEADERS

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Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington

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The Reverend Canon Gina Gilland Campbell
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FLOWERS THROUGHOUT THE CATHEDRAL ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD.

HIGH ALTAR: in memory of Hibbard G. James; HIGH ALTAR SANCTUARY CANDELABRA: in loving memory of Charles and Mary Russell Bounds; ST. MARY'S CHAPEL ALTAR: in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Larz Anderson, and in loving memory of the Reverend and Mrs. Norman Egerton and Robert Marsden Goodchild; ST. MARY'S CHAPEL GATES: in loving memory of Stephen Mark Walsh; HOLY SPIRIT CHAPEL ALTAR: in memory of Ann Wilson, and in loving memory of Frank Murray and Rosanna Milner Warner; ST. JOHN'S CHAPEL ALTAR: in thanksgiving for the Charles Ray Long family and friends; ST. JOHN'S PRINCE TOMB: in honor of Norman Prince; ST. JOHN'S GATES: in memory of Athanasius Tapera; CHILDREN'S CHAPEL ALTAR: in memory of Wayne Evan Matejik; CHRIST CHILD TREE: in honor of Andrew, Kurt, and Stefan Moss; Jennifer and Robert Vettori Jr.; and Lydia Hynson, and in honor of The Great Mystery of the Incarnation; CHILDREN'S CHAPEL FONT: in joyful thanksgiving for Jane and Anne Guidera and Jack, Will, and Kate Rogstad; WAR MEMORIAL CHAPEL ALTAR: in memory of Margaret H. Howard; DULIN BAY: given in memory of and thanksgiving for Blanche Scott Dulin, Edward Milton Dulin Sr., and Dr. William C. Dulin; FOLGER BAY: given in memory of J. Clifford Folger; WOODROW WILSON TOMB: in thanksgiving for and in honor of President Woodrow Wilson; BETHLEHEM CHAPEL ALTAR: in honor of David, Michael and Peter Lee, and in loving memory of Favour Hazeltine Slater; ANGUS DUN FONT: in honor of Helen Barnard and in thanksgiving for her service to the Cathedral; PRINCE TOMB CRYPT: in honor of Frederick Henry Prince and Abigail Norman Prince; RESURRECTION CHAPEL ALTAR: in thanksgiving for the Charles Ray Long family and friends; ST. JOSEPH'S CHAPEL COLUMBARIUM GATES: in memory of and thanksgiving for the Seferlis and Tidball families; USHERS' CARNATIONS: in memory of Lieutenant James Norbert Matthews.

COVER: Detail from Bethlehem Chapel window; an angel heralds the Christ Child. Photo by Danielle E. Thomas.



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