

The background of the entire page is a large, vertical stained glass window. It features a deep blue background with intricate golden patterns of scrolling vines and leaves. Small, colorful circular accents, possibly representing berries or flowers, are scattered throughout the design. The window is divided into several vertical panels by dark leaded glass lines. At the top, there is a small, square inset window with a similar design. The overall aesthetic is classic and elegant, fitting for a Christmas event.

# *Blue Christmas*

December 16, 2020 • 7:00 PM

WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL



# BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

December 16, 2020

*The people's responses are in bold.*

## PRELUDE

*The Wexford Carol*

Gilbert M. Martin (b. 1941)

## THE BIDDING

### THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE

Light and peace, in Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me, and the light around me turn to night," darkness is not dark to you, O Lord; the night is as bright as the day; darkness and light to you are both alike.

## HYMN • 66 (STANZAS 1, 3-4)

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

*Sung by all.*

*Stuttgart*

1. Come, thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;  
3. Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king,  
4. By thine own e - ter - nal Spi - rit rule in all our hearts a - lone;  
from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.  
born to reign in us for ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.  
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

## THE COLLECT FOR ADVENT

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

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.

You have multiplied the nation,  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.

For the yoke of their burden,  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

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 for evermore.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## A READING

*An Unending Love*

Rami M. Shapiro (b. 1951)

We are loved by an unending love.

We are embraced by arms that find us  
even when we are hidden from ourselves.

We are touched by fingers that soothe us  
even when we are too proud for soothing.

We are counseled by voices that guide us  
even when we are too embittered to hear.

We are loved by an unending love.

We are supported by hands that uplift us  
even in the midst of a fall.

We are urged on by eyes that meet us  
even when we are too weak for meeting.

We are loved by an unending love.

Embraced, touched, soothed, and counseled,

Ours are the arms, the fingers, the voices;

Ours are the hands, the eyes, the smiles;

We are loved by an unending love.

## ANTHEM

*A Song of the Spirit*

*Sung by the cantor.*

Monte Mason (b. 1949)

“Behold, I am coming soon,” says the Lord,

“and bringing my reward with me,

to give to everyone according to their deeds.

“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last,  
the beginning and the end.”

Blessed are those who do God’s commandments,  
that they may have the right to the tree of life,  
and may enter the city through the gates.

“I, Jesus, have sent my angel to you,  
with this testimony for all the churches.

I am the root and the offspring of David,

I am the bright morning star.”

“Come!” say the Spirit and the Bride;

“Come!” let each hearer reply!

Come forward, you who are thirsty,

let those who desire take the water of life as a gift.

*(Revelation 22:12-17)*

## THE SECOND LESSON

Matthew 11:28-30

Jesus said, “Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## MUSICAL REFLECTION

*Christmas-tide**Sung by the cantor.*

Bob Chilcott (b. 1955)

Lullee, lullay,  
 I could not love thee more  
 If thou wast Christ the King.  
 Now tell me, how did Mary know  
 That in her womb should sleep and grow  
 The Lord of everything?

Lullee, lullay,  
 An angel stood with her  
 Who said: "That which doth stir  
 Like summer in thy side  
 Shall save the world from sin.  
 Then stable, hall, and inn  
 Shall cherish Christmas-tide."

Lullee, lullay,  
 And so it was that Day.  
 And did she love Him more  
 Because an angel came  
 To prophesy His name?  
 Ah no, not so,  
 She could not love Him more,  
 But loved Him just the same.  
 Lullee, lullay.

*(A Lullaby; Janet Lewis, 1899–1998)*

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God,  
 the Father, from whom every family  
 in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,  
 who lives in our hearts through faith,  
 and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
 who strengthens us  
 with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God,  
 Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
 Amen.**

## LITANY OF REMEMBRANCE

### First Candle

We light this candle to remember those persons who have been loved and lost. We pause to remember their names, their faces, their voices.

#### *Silence*

We embrace and give thanks for the memories that bind them to us in this season of expectation, when all Creation waits for the Light.

**We remember them with love. May God's eternal love surround them.**

### Second Candle

We light this second candle to remember the pain of loss: loss of relationships, loss of trust, loss of jobs, loss of health, loss of faith, the loss of joy.

#### *Silence*

We acknowledge and embrace the pain of the past, O God, and we offer it to You, asking that into our wounded hearts and open hands You will place the gift of peace, shalom.

**We remember that through You all things are possible. Refresh, restore, and renew us, O God.**

### Third Candle

We light this third candle to remember ourselves this Christmas time. We pause and remember the past weeks, months, and for some of us years, that have been heavy with our burdens.

#### *Silence*

We accept and lay before you, God, the sharpness of memory, the sadness and grief, the hurt and fear, the anger and pain. We accept and lay before you the ways we feel we have fallen short, and the times we have spent blaming ourselves, and you, for all that we have suffered.

**We remember that dawn defeats the darkness.**

### Fourth Candle

We light this fourth candle to remember faith, the gift of light and hope that God offers to us in the story of Christmas.

#### *Silence*

We remember that the loving God who came to share this life with us promises us comfort and peace.

**We remember the One who shares our burdens, who shows us the way to the Light, and who journeys the way with us.**

*Meditative music will play during this time. You are invited to name those concerns on your heart, pray for healing in body, mind, spirit, and relationship or maintain silence. You may also light a candle of hope for the future.*

## MUSICAL MEDITATION

### *A Stable Lamp Is Lighted*

*Sung by the cantor.*

David Hurd (b. 1950)

A stable lamp is lighted  
Whose glow shall wake the sky;  
The stars shall bend their voices,  
And every stone shall cry.  
And every stone shall cry,  
And straw like gold shall shine;  
A barn shall harbor heaven,  
A stall become a shrine.

This child through David's city  
Shall ride in triumph by;  
The palm shall strew its branches,  
And every stone shall cry.  
And every stone shall cry;  
Though heavy, dull, and dumb,  
And lie within the roadway  
To pave his kingdom come.

(A Christmas Hymn; *Richard Wilbur, 1921–2017*)

Yet he shall be forsaken,  
And yielded up to die;  
The sky shall groan and darken,  
And every stone shall cry.  
And every stone shall cry,  
For stony hearts of men:  
God's blood upon the spearhead,  
God's love refused again.

But now, as at the ending,  
The low is lifted high;  
The stars shall bend their voices,  
And every stone shall cry.  
And every stone shall cry,  
In praises of the Child  
By whose descent among us  
The worlds are reconciled.

*The officiant offers a concluding prayer, and the people respond, Amen.*

## PRAYER FOR THE NIGHT

Let us pray together.

Lord,  
it is night.

The night is for stillness.

Let us be still in the presence of God.

It is night after a long day.

What has been done has been done;  
what has not been done has not been done;  
let it be.

The night is dark.

Let our fears of the darkness of the world and of our own lives  
rest in you.

The night is quiet.

Let the quietness of your peace enfold us,  
all dear to us,  
and all who have no peace.

The night heralds the dawn.

Let us look expectantly to a new day,  
new joys,  
new possibilities.

In your name we pray.

Amen.

*What Child Is This**Sung by all.**Greensleeves*

1. What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Ma - ry's lap is sleep - ing?
2. Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
3. So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, come, peas - ant, king, to own him;



Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?  
 Good Chris - tian, fear: for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
 the King of kings sal - va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.



This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.

## THE BLESSING

*The officiant offers a blessing, and the people respond, Amen.*

## THE DISMISSAL

Go forth in the name of the promised Christ.  
 Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE

*Thank you for worshiping with 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.

All are invited to make a gift to support the Cathedral's ministry of sharing God's love this Christmas at [give2wnc.org/2020christmas](https://give2wnc.org/2020christmas) or by texting the dollar amount you wish to give to 202-856-9005.

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



## PARTICIPANTS

### HOMILIST

The Very Reverend Randolph Marshall Hollerith  
*Dean*

### OFFICIANTS

The Reverend Canon Dana Colley Corsello  
*Canon Vicar*

The Reverend Patrick L. Keyser  
*Priest Associate*

### READERS

The Reverend Canon Rosemarie Logan Duncan  
*Canon for Worship*

The Reverend Canon Leonard L. Hamlin, Sr.  
*Canon Missioner*

### MUSICIANS

Canon Michael McCarthy  
*Director of Music*

Thomas M. Sheehan  
*Organist & Associate Director of Music*

Crossley Hawn, *singer*

### AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS

S. J. Knight

Jamie S. Sycamore

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

Photo by Ken Cobb.

# ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2020

## DECEMBER 18

Gospel Christmas Service: O Holy Night • 6:00 PM

## DECEMBER 20: THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Holy Eucharist • 11:15 AM

Joy of Christmas Concert • 3:00 PM

Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord • 6:00 PM

## DECEMBER 23

Christmas Lessons & Carols • 6:00 PM

## DECEMBER 24: CHRISTMAS EVE

Family Christmas Service • 12:00 PM

Festival Holy Eucharist • 8:00 PM

## DECEMBER 25: CHRISTMAS DAY

Organ Recital • 12:00 PM

FOR INFORMATION ON ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

[cathedral.org/christmas](http://cathedral.org/christmas)