

Blue Christmas

December 14, 2021 • 7:00 PM



WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

PRESIDER

The Reverend Canon Rosemarie Logan Duncan
Canon for Worship

HOMILIST

The Reverend Canon Jan Naylor Cope
Provost

GOSPELLER

The Reverend Patrick L. Keyser
Priest Associate

ASSISTANT

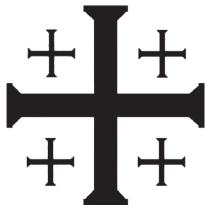
The Reverend Canon Leonard L. Hamlin, Sr.
Canon Missioner and Minister of Equity and Inclusion

MUSICIANS

Thomas M. Sheehan
Organist and Associate Director of Music

Laura Choi Stuart, *soprano*

Margaret Owens, *oboe*



BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

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The people's responses are in bold.

Pastorale for Christmas

James Woodman (b. 1957)

“Auch mit gedämpften, schwachen Stimmen”
from *Schwingt freudig euch empor*, BWV 36

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

The people stand as able.

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

Cantor sings stanza 1; all sing stanzas 3–4

Stuttgart

1. Come, thou long - ex - pect - 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 people are seated.

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

Isaías 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.

El pueblo que andaba en la oscuridad
vio una gran luz;
una luz ha brillado
para los que vivían en tinieblas.
Señor, has traído una gran alegría;
muy grande es el gozo.
Todos se alegran delante de ti como en tiempo de cosecha,
como se alegran los que se reparten grandes riquezas.
Porque tú has deshecho
la esclavitud que oprimía al pueblo,
la opresión que lo afligía,
la tiranía a que estaba sometido.
Fue como cuando destruiste a Madián.
Las botas que hacían resonar los soldados
y los vestidos manchados de sangre
serán quemados, destruidos por el fuego.
Porque nos ha nacido un niño,
Dios nos ha dado un hijo,
al cual se le ha concedido el poder de gobernar.
Y le darán estos nombres:
Admirable en sus planes, Dios invencible,
Padre eterno, Príncipe de la paz.
Se sentará en el trono de David;
extenderá su poder real a todas partes
y la paz no se acabará;
su reinado quedará bien establecido,
y sus bases serán la justicia y el derecho
desde ahora y para siempre.
Esto lo hará el ardiente amor del Señor todopoderoso.

Palabra del Señor.

Demos gracias a Dios

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.

The people stand as able.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 11:28-30

Mateo 11:28-30

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Matthew.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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 Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Santo Evangelio de nuestro Señor Jesucristo,
según Mateo.

¡Gloria a ti, Cristo Señor!

Jesús dijo: «Vengan a mí todos ustedes que están cansados de sus trabajos y cargas, y yo los haré descansar. Acepten el yugo que les pongo, y aprendan de mí, que soy paciente y de corazón humilde; así encontrarán descanso. Porque el yugo que les pongo y la carga que les doy a llevar son ligeros.»

El Evangelio del Señor.

Te alabamos, Cristo Señor.

The people are seated at the invitation of the homilist.

THE HOMILY

The Reverend Canon Jan Naylor Cope

MUSICAL REFLECTION

Weihnachtslied

Felix Mendelssohn (1809–1847)

Sung in German.

Arise, prepare yourself with proper solemnity
To celebrate with thanks the feast of our Savior.
Love is the thanks,
The song of praise through which
We may exalt the God of Love.

Raise your voice with joyful thanks,
For God has thus loved the world
Through his own Son.

O, who am I?
Lord, that you would exalt me
So gloriously through the gift of your Son?

(*Christian Fürchtegott Gellert, 1715–1769*)

The people stand as able.

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 in this season of holidays and holy times. 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.

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

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

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

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Please consider leaving an offering as you depart. You may also text the dollar amount you wish to give to (202) 856-9005.

The altar is prepared for Holy Communion.

ANTHEM AT THE OFFERTORY

The Little Road to Bethlehem

Sung by the cantor.

Michael Head (1900–1976)

As I walked down the road at set of sun,
The lambs were coming homewards, one by one,
I heard a sheep-bell softly calling them
Along the little road to Bethlehem.

Beside an open door, as I drew nigh,
I heard sweet Mary sing a lullaby.
She sang about the lambs at close of day
And rocked her tiny King among the hay.

Across the air the silver sheep-bell rang,
“The lambs are coming home,” sweet Mary sang.
“Your Star of gold is shining in the sky,
So sleep, my little King, go lullaby.”

(*Margaret Rose, d. 1936*)

The people stand as able.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
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, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your son Jesus Christ our Lord.

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:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest,
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

The presider gives thanks to God for the reconciling work of Christ through his passion and resurrection and prays over the bread and wine.

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. AMEN.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

The presider breaks the bread in silence.

Come now, O Prince of Peace, make us one body.

Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The people are seated. All who seek God and a deeper life in Christ are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Please move at the direction of the ushers. Please remain masked, receive the bread in open and outstretched hands and respond to receiving Communion by saying "Amen." You may consume the bread once you have returned to your seat. Gluten-free wafers are available; please make your need known to the minister. If you prefer to receive a blessing instead, please indicate your choice by crossing your hands across your chest. Those who wish to have Holy Communion brought to them at their seat should notify an usher.

MUSIC AT COMMUNION

I Wonder As I Wander

John Jacob Niles (1892–1980)

I wonder as I wander out under the sky,
How Jesus the Savior did come for to die.
For poor on'ry people like you and like I...
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.

When Mary birthed Jesus 'twas in a cow's stall,
With wise men and farmers and shepherds and all.
But high from God's heaven a star's light did fall,
And the promise of ages it then did recall.

If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,
A star in the sky, or a bird on the wing,
Or all of God's angels in heav'n for to sing,
He surely could have it, 'cause he was the King.

The people stand as able.

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE NIGHT

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.

THE BLESSING

The presider offers a blessing, and the people respond, Amen.

HYMN • 56 (STANZAS 1–2, 6–7)

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Sung by all.

Veni, veni, Emmanuel

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el,
2. O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest all things might - i - ly;
6. O come, thou Day-spring from on high, and cheer us by thy draw - ing nigh;
7. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the hearts of all man - kind;

that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
to us the path of know - ledge show and teach us in her ways to go.
dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight.
bid thou our sad di - vi - sions cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace.

Re- joice! Re- joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

THE DISMISSAL

Go forth in the name of the promised Christ.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Whence Is That Goodly Fragrance

Gilbert M. Martin (b. 1941)

FOR INFORMATION ON ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS
cathedral.org/christmas

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All are invited to make a gift to support the Cathedral's ministry of sharing God's love this Christmas at give2wnc.org/2021christmas or by texting the dollar amount you wish to give to 202-856-9005. For those worshipping in person, donations of cash and check are also gratefully accepted.

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

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Photo by Ken Cobb.

