

**CONGREGATIONAL HYMN - 93** 

Angels, from the realms of glory

CHORAL PRELUDE

Ding dong! merrily on high

Suo gan

Sir Christèmas

The people are seated.

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN - 89

It came upon a midnight clear

The people are seated.

CHORAL PRELUDE

What Cheer?

Sussex Carol

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN - 99

Go tell it on the mountain

The people are seated.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

La Nativité

The people stand to sing.

Sung by Cathedral Voices.

arr. Charles Wood (1866–1926) arr. K. Lee Scott (b. 1950)

William Mathias (1934–1992)

Carol

Regent Square

Sung by Cathedral Voices.

The people stand to sing.

William Walton (1902–1983) arr. David Willcocks (b. 1919)

The people stand to sing.

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Jean Langlais (1907–1991)

**INTROIT**Gaudete!

Sung by the Cathedral Choir.

Anonymous

Gaudete! Gaudete! Christus est natus ex Maria Virgine: gaudete! Tempus adest gratiae, hoc quod optabamus; carmina laeticiae devote reddamus. Deus homo factus est, natura mirante; mundus renovatus est a Christo regnante. Ezechielis porta clausa pertransitur; unde Lux est orta, salus invenitur. Ergo nostra concio psallat jam in lustro; benedicat Domino: salus Regi nostro.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Christ is born of the Virgin Mary; rejoice! The time of grace has come for which we have prayed; let us devoutly sing songs of joy. God is made man, while nature wonders; the world is renewed by Christ the King. The closed gate of Ezekiel has been passed through; from where the Light has risen salvation is found. Therefore let our assembly sing praises now at this time of purification; let us bless the Lord: greetings to our King.

14th century, Piae Cantiones



#### **BIDDING**

Beloved ones, we meet in this holy season with excitement and joy as we anticipate the wondrous gift of the birth of Jesus. As the shepherds huddled around the manger to welcome the Holy Child, so we gather to hear the transforming story and to offer God our thanksgiving with songs of praise.

In the warmth of this sacred space, let us pray.

Dear God, help us to remember those who are cold and alone, that they might find a warm hearth for rest. Bring strength to all who live and work in the midst of violence; give comfort to those who are in distress; give the joyous sensitivity to the grieving, and above all, make our lives show forth your love in the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

The people are seated.

**CAROL** 

Sung by the Cathedral Choir.

Star Carol

John Rutter (b. 1945)

Sing this night, for a boy is born in Bethlehem, Christ our Lord in a lowly manger lies; bring your gifts, come and worship at his cradle, hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary! See his star shining bright in the sky this Christmas night! Follow me joyfully; hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary! Angels bright, come from heaven's highest glory, bear the news with its message of good cheer: "Sing, rejoice, for a King is come to save us, hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!" See, he lies in his mother's tender keeping; Jesus Christ in her loving arms asleep. Shepherds poor, come to worship and adore him, offer their humble gifts before the son of Mary. Let us all pay our homage at the manger, sing his praise on this joyful Christmas Night; Christ is come, bringing promise of salvation; Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!

A period of silent reflection will follow each reading.

FIRST LESSON

In which the prophet proclaims hope for the future

Isaiah 40:1-2, 10-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

**COLLECT** 

The people stand.

Delivering God: You rescue us from all our captivities. Your voice calms us like a lullaby and your peace sustains us. In all of our exiles, may we know that you travel beside us as guardian and protector. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

The people are seated.

**CAROL** 

Sung by the Cathedral Choir.

Down in yon forest

arr. Andrew Carter (b. 1939)

Micah 5:2-5a

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.

**SECOND LESSON** 

In which the prophet foretells the birth of the Savior in Bethlehem

You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

**COLLECT** 

The people stand.

God of small things: You surprise us. Coming among us in a small town, born in a lowly manger to a virgin mother, Christ taught us that glory is found in the most unlikely places. May we look to hidden corners and humble dwellings for glimpses of your likeness. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.** 

The people are seated.

Sing Noel, O come, ye people, gather here to hear the news of good cheer. The King of Kings, the Lamb of God is born today in Bethlehem.

**HYMN**O little town of Bethlehem

Sung by all, standing.

Forest Green



Luke 1:26-35

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 he 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. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God."

COLLECT

The people stand.

O God of unexpected opportunities: You give us the fresh air of new beginnings, but we often shy away from them in fear. Give us strength to embrace the changes of this world, knowing that you will lead us to a place more glorious than we could imagine. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.** 

The people are seated.

**CAROL** 

Sung by the Cathedral Choir.

A Hymn to the Virgin

Benjamin Britten (1913–1976)

Of one that is so fair and bright, *Velut maris stella*, brighter than the day is light, *parens et puella*: I cry to thee, thou see to me, Lady, pray thy Son for me, *tampia*, that I may come to thee. Maria! All this world was forlorn, *Eva peccatrice*, till our Lord was y-born, *dete genetrice*, with *ave* it went away, darkest night, and comes the day, *Salutis*; the well springeth out of thee. *Virtutis*. Lady, flow'r of ev'rything, *Rosa sine spina*, thou bare Jesu, Heaven's King, *gratia divina*: of all thou bear'st the prize, Lady, queen of paradise, *electa*, maid mild, mother *es effecta*.

Anonymous, c. 1800

# **FOURTH LESSON**

In which Jesus is born

Luke 2:1-7

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.

COLLECT

The people stand.

Humble God: You came to us as a little baby, born in straw and mud; helpless and vulnerable, but with wide-eyed curiosity, you cherished all you greeted. May we be as open and vulnerable as the smallest of babies, that we may know others as you know us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

The people are seated.

CAROL

Sung by the Cathedral Choir.

O magnum mysterium

Morten Lauridsen (b. 1943)

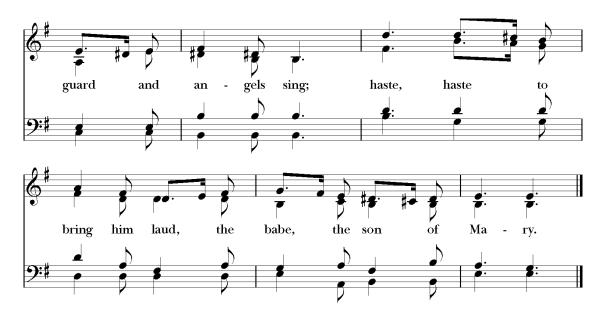
O magnum mysterium et admirabile sacramentum, ut animalia viderent Dominum natum jacentem in praesepio. O beata Virgo, cujus viscera meruerunt portare Dominum Jesum Christum. Alleluja.

O great mystery and wondrous sacrament, that animals should see the birth of the Lord, and him lying in a manger. O blessed Virgin whose womb was worthy to carry the Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia.

Matins Responsory, Feast of the Nativity

# What child is this?





The people are seated.

# FIFTH LESSON

In which the Word became flesh and lived among us

John 1:1-14

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 human will, 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.

# COLLECT

The people stand.

Glorious God: From the tabernacle of heaven you came to earth to illuminate our humanity. In searching for the light you kindle, may we find it shining forth in ourselves and others. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.** 

The people are seated.

### **CAROL**

Sung by the Cathedral Choir.

Hodie Christus natus est

Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck (1562–1621)

Hodie Christus natus est. Hodie Salvator apparuit. Hodie in terra canunt Angeli, latantur Archangeli. Hodie exsultant justi dicentes. Gloria in excelsis Deo, alleluia, noe.

Today Christ is born. Today the Saviour has appeared. Today on earth the angels sing and the archangels rejoice. Today the just exult, saying, Glory to God in the highest, alleluia, noel.

Antiphon on the Magnificat, Vespers of Christmas Day

The people stand.



MEDITATION Dean Lloyd

**ANTHEM** 

Balulalow

Sung by the Boy and Girl Choristers.

Peter Warlock (1894–1930)

O my dear hert, young Jesu sweet, Prepare thy creddil in my spreit. And I sall rock thee in my hert, and ne-ver mair from thee depert. But I sall praise thee evermore, with sangis sweet unto thy glor. The knees of my hert sall I bow, and sing that richt Balulalow.

### INVITING THE OFFERING

An offering is received to support the ministries of the Cathedral. Alms basins will be passed by ushers, then the congregation's tapers will be lighted from the Advent wreath by the acolytes. To pass the light, please hold lighted tapers upright and allow others to light their wicks from the flame. As always, we ask the congregation to be mindful of their own safety, and that of others, when holding lighted candles.

### OFFERTORY CAROL

Sung by the Cathedral Choir.

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! Oh 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 you 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) tr. John Sullivan Dwight (1813–1893)

# **PRAYERS**

The people stand and make the responses printed in **bold**.

Dear people of God, we bear this candlelight, symbol of Christ's love breaking forth into the darkness. That our lives may be a beacon to the world, let us pray together saying, Light of the world,

Shine in our hearts.

As your Church throughout the world prepares to welcome the miracle of Christ's birth, open our hearts to receive him, that he may be born in us. Light of the world,

Shine in our hearts.

As the Prince of Peace draws near, we pray for the people of every nation; for those in the midst of war, and all those haunted by the consequence of war. May Christ's abiding love bring comfort and harmony to our human family. Light of the world,

Shine in our hearts.

As you sheltered the holy family in the poverty of the stable, so keep in your care all who are in pain, despair, or distress this night. Shine the healing light of your countenance upon them. Light of the world,

Shine in our hearts.

As Christ lived among us in human flesh to restore our life in heaven and on earth, we pray for those who are dying and those who have died, that they may know the light of your unending day. Light of the world, **Shine in our hearts.** 

We bless you, Holy God, for you have visited your people. In human fragility you reveal the face of divinity. Gather into your arms all the peoples of the world, that in your embrace we may find blessing, peace, and the fullness of our inheritance as your daughters and sons. Amen.

Let us pray together in the words that Christ taught us.

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.

Holy God, you spoke and your Word became flesh, breathing a new song of joy and praise into the world. Grant that we may bear the good news of your salvation, proclaiming glad tidings of peace, and welcoming Christ in our midst. Amen.

Stille Nacht

The people stand or kneel.

**HYMN** 



#### **BLESSING**

May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered all things earthly and heavenly into one, bestow upon you the fullness of peace and goodwill; and the blessing of God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.** 



#### **DISMISSAL**

Let us go forth in the radiant light of Christ. Thanks be to God.

Please gently extinguish your candles and hold them upright until the wax hardens to avoid dripping wax. Upon your departure kindly place used tapers in the baskets provided.

### **POSTLUDE**

Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella

Keith Chapman (1945–1989)

#### **SATURDAY OFFICIANTS**

The Reverend Gina Gilliand Campbell, The Reverend Canon Stephen Huber, The Reverend Gwendolyn W. Tobias, The Reverend Canon Carol L. Wade

#### **SUNDAY OFFICIANTS**

The Reverend Kim Turner Baker, The Reverend Canon Preston B. Hannibal, The Reverend Canon Stephen Huber, The Reverend Gwendolyn W. Tobias, The Reverend Canon Carol L. Wade

### **HOMILIST**

The Very Reverend Samuel T. Lloyd III

### SATURDAY READERS

Kenwin Benn, Gail Lewin, Diane Ruesch, George Strait, Ray Suarez

#### **SUNDAY READERS**

Lucinda Conger, John Dalton, Haley Hilliard, Beverley Kennedy, Eric Motley

#### **MUSICIANS**

The Cathedral Choir Cathedral Voices Michael McCarthy, *Director of Music* Scott Dettra, *Organist* 

The Advent greens throughout the Cathedral are given to the glory of God. The greens at the high altar are given in memory of Hibbard G. James; the Advent wreath at mid-nave is given in loving memory of Sarah Stewart Scarborough; the greens at the altar in St. Mary's Chapel are given in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Larz Anderson; the Advent wreath in St. Mary's Chapel is given in thanksgiving; the greens at the altar in Holy Spirit Chapel are given in memory of Ann Wilson; the greens at the altar in Children's Chapel are given in memory of Wayne Evan Matejik; the greens at the altar in War Memorial Chapel are given in memory of Margaret H. Howard; the Advent wreath in Bethlehem Chapel is given in memory of Joan Sager Vandemark; and the greens at the altar in Bethlehem Chapel are given in honor of David, Michael, and Peter Lee.

**PERMISSIONS** O come, all ye faithful. Words: John Francis Wade (1711-1786); tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880) and others. Music: Adeste fideles, present form of melody att. John Francis Wade (1711-1786); harm. The English Hymnal, 1906. Public Domain. O little town of Bethlehem. Words: Phillips Brooks (1835-1893). Music: Forest Green, English melody; adapt. and harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958). By permission of Oxford University Press. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-709283. What child is this, who, laid to rest. Words: William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898). Music: Greensleeves, English melody; harm. Christmas Carols New and Old, 1871. Public Domain. Joy to the world! the Lord is come. Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt. Music: Antioch, George Frideric Handel (1685-1759); adapt. and arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872). Public Domain. Silent night, holy night. Words: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848); tr. John Freeman Young (1820-1885). Music: Stille Nacht, melody Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863); harm. Carl H. Reinecke (1824-1910). Public Domain. Hark! the herald angels sing. Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt. Music: Mendelssohn, Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847); adapt. William H. Cummings (1831-1915). Public Domain.



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