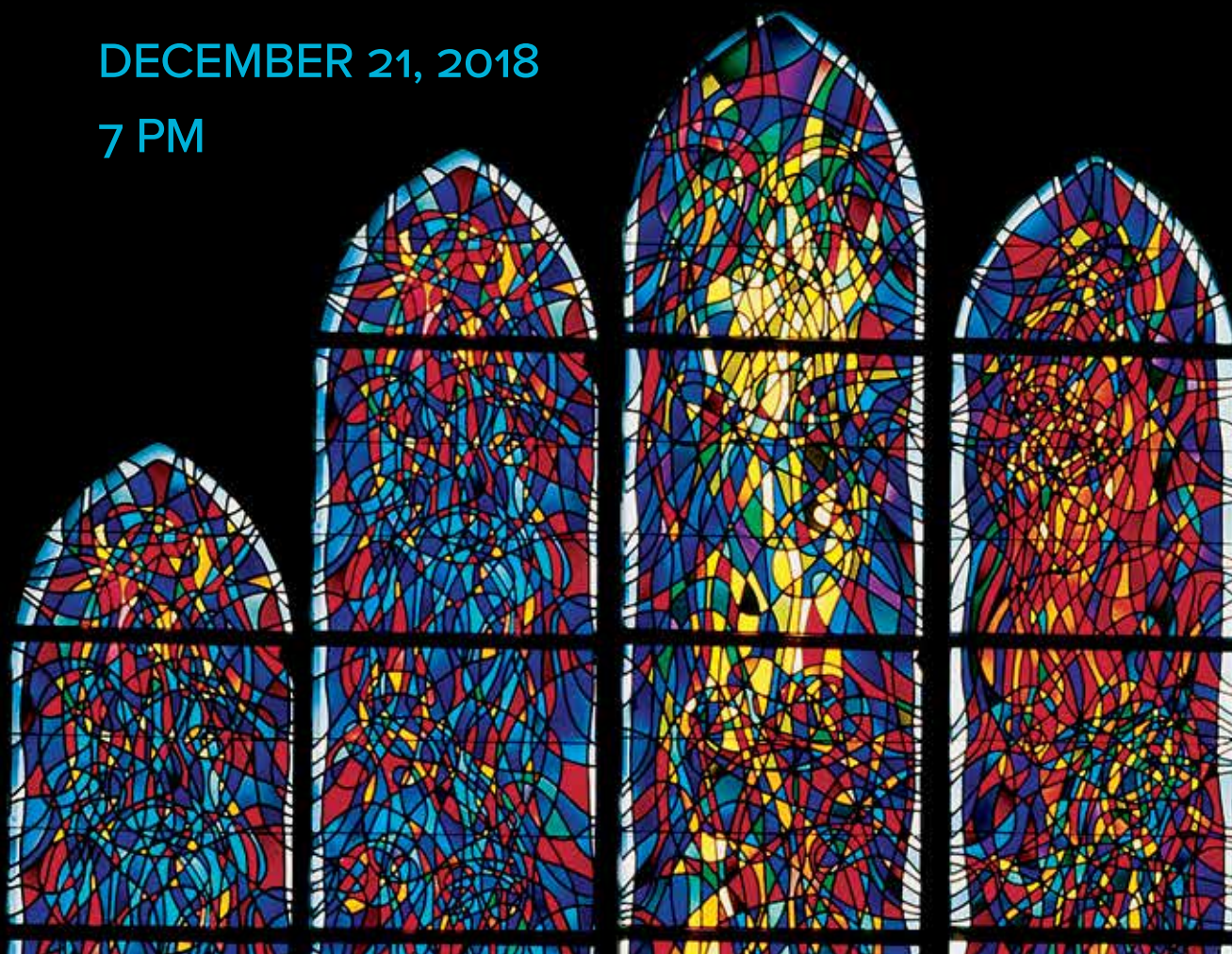


WASHINGTON  
NATIONAL  
CATHEDRAL

# *A Gospel Christmas*

DECEMBER 21, 2018

7 PM



Dear friends,

Merry Christmas! We're so glad you've joined us here for a Cathedral Christmas. Please know that the doors of this Cathedral are always open to you, and that everyone has a home here in this house of prayer for all people.

During this busy time of year, I sometimes wonder what draws people to church, especially for those who rarely or never go to church for the rest of the year. There are so many demands on our time, and the places we go or the people we visit say something about what's important. So why do churches tug on our heartstrings at this time of year?

The Christmas story, at its core, is about that moment in time when God chose to dwell among us. In the church, we call it the Incarnation. Christmas is about that moment when God came closest to us, when the veil between heaven and earth slipped away and we could see and touch the very face of God.

I think churches are the same way, or at least we try to be. In this glorious Cathedral, where the majestic space draws our eyes toward Heaven, we get a glimpse of that moment when God comes close. If you pause for a moment, you can feel the same sense of the incarnate God, Emmanuel, God with us. This is a place where God feels close. Maybe that's why you're here, in this Cathedral, this Christmas.

However you got here or whatever drew you here, thank you for letting us share that experience with you, and for joining us to encounter God anew at Christmas. My prayer is that in this moment, as we journey to Bethlehem, that you will feel the touch of God upon your heart. After the holiday hustle and bustle is over, know that the Cathedral is open to you as a place where the wonder of Christmas remains, where you can meet and know God.

From all of us here at the Cathedral, have a joyous holiday, a wonderful new year, and we hope to see you again soon.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Randolph Marshall Hollerith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

The Very Reverend Randolph Marshall Hollerith  
*Dean, Washington National Cathedral*



# A GOSPEL CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 21, 2018 • 7 PM

*The people's responses are in bold.*

## PRELUDE

*O come, O come, Emmanuel*

arr. Andrew K. Barnett (b. 1984)

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel. O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily: to us the path of knowledge show, and teach us in her ways to go. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel. O come, thou Dayspring from on high, and cheer us by thy drawing nigh; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel. O come, Desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind. Bid thou our sad divisions cease, and be thyself our King of Peace. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel. O come, O come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

*(Latin, ca. 9th cent.; Hymnal 1940, alt.)*

*Sweet little Jesus boy*

Robert MacGimsey (1898-1979); arr. Mark Kibble (b. 1964), adapt. Stanley J. Thurston (b. 1958)

Sweet little Jesus boy, they made you be born in a manger. Sweet little Holy Child, didn't know who you was. Didn't know you'd come to save us, Lawd, to take our sins away. Our eyes was blind, we couldn't see, we didn't know who you was. Long time ago you was born, born in a manger low. Sweet little Jesus boy, the world treat you mean, Lawd, treat me mean too, but please, sir, forgive us, Lawd. We didn't know it was you. Sweet little Jesus boy, born long time ago. Sweet little Holy Child, and we didn't know who you was.

*(R. MacGimsey)*

*Emmanuel*

Norman Hutchins (b. 1962)

Come, come let us adore him. Kneel down before him. Worship and adore him. Emmanuel, we worship you.

*(N. Hutchins)*

*The people stand as able.*

## HYMN

*O come, all ye faithful*

*Adeste Fideles*

*The choir sings an interlude between verses.*

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O  
2. True God from true God, Light from light e - ter - nal,  
3. Sing, choirs of an - gels; sing in ex - ul - ta - tion;  
4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born on Christ - mas morn - ing,

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem!  
born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;  
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove!  
Je - sus to thee be all glo - ry giv'n;

Come and be - hold him, born the King of An - gels!  
Ver - y God, be - got - ten, not cre - at - ed!  
Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est!  
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

*Officiant* The people who walked in darkness  
*People* have seen a great light.

*Officiant* For to us a child is born,  
*People* unto 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.

## OPENING PRAYER

My brothers and sisters: in the name of Christ I welcome you. We have come together as Christmas draws near to prepare for our celebration of the birth of God's beloved Son. Through the days of Advent we have followed the light of Christ, and now we travel in spirit with Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem to acclaim with the multitude of the heavenly host the coming of the Prince of Peace. Through Scripture and silence, prayer and song, let us hear again the wonderful story of our redemption, and, hearing, let us rejoice and respond with lively faith. Indeed, may we welcome every stranger in our midst, through the power of the Holy Spirit, and in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

*The people are seated.*

## THE FIRST READING • JOHN 1:1-13

*The Word, present with God since the beginning, becomes flesh and dwells among us*

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.

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| <i>Reader</i> | The Word became flesh                   |
| <i>People</i> | <b>and came to live among us. Amen.</b> |

## ANTHEM

*Star-Child*

Ronald F. Krisman (b. 1946)

Star-Child, earth-Child, go-between of God, love Child, Christ Child, heaven's lightning rod: This year, this year let the day arrive when Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive. Street child, beat child, no place left to go, hurt child, used child, no one wants to know: This year, this year let the day arrive when Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive. Grown child, old child, memory full of years, sad child, lost child, story told in tears: This year, this year let the day arrive when Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive. Spared child, spoiled child, having, wanting more, wise child, faith child knowing joy in store: This year, this year let the day arrive when Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive. Hope-for-peace Child, God's stupendous sign, down to earth Child, Star of stars that shine: This year, this year let the day arrive when Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive.

*(Shirley E. Murray, b. 1931)*

## THE SECOND READING • LUKE 1:46-55

*Mary's song prophesies God's work in the world after learning that she will bear the Son of the Most High*

Mary said,  
"My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God  
my Savior,  
for he has looked with favor on  
the lowliness of his  
servant.  
Surely, from now on all  
generations will call me  
blessed;  
for the Mighty One has done  
great things for me,  
and holy is his name.  
His mercy is for those who fear  
him  
from generation to generation.  
He has shown strength with his  
arm;  
he has scattered the proud in  
the thoughts of their  
hearts.

He has brought down the  
powerful from their  
thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;  
he has filled the hungry with  
good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.  
He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
according to the promise he  
made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and his  
descendants forever."

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| <i>Reader</i> | My soul magnifies the Lord.                         |
| <i>People</i> | <b>And my spirit rejoices in God<br/>my Savior.</b> |

## ANTHEM

*And he shall purify, from Soulful Messiah*

Mervin Warren (b. 1964)

And he shall purify, and he shall purify the sons of Levi. That they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness. They live in holiness for they are set aside. That they may glorify the Lord, rejoicing in his power to save. For he has made a way for them to yield their lives. He shall purify the sons of Levi. They gonna live holy! And they tell the story how they went to glory! They march to Zion. The New Jerusalem. They tell the story of wondrous glory their sons and daughters were baptized. The holy water, the celebration, the coronation. He's gonna purify the sons of Levi!

*(Malachi 3:3, adapt. M. Warren)*

## THE THIRD READING • LUKE 2:1-7

*Mary gives birth to Jesus in a manger because there was no room at the inn*

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.

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| <i>Reader</i> | And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, |
| <i>People</i> | <b>because there was no place for them in the inn.</b>   |

*The people stand as able.*

# HYMN

*What child is this?*

*Greensleeves*

*The band plays an interlude after the second verse.*



1. What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Ma - ry's lap is sleep - ing? Whom  
 2. Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing? Good  
 3. So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, come, peas - ant, king, to own him; the  
 an - gels greet with an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?  
 Chris - tian, fear: for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
 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 people are seated.*

## THE FOURTH READING • LUKE 2:8-20

*The shepherds go to worship the Christ-child*

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 God 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.

*Reader*      Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
*People*        and on earth peace among those whom God favors!

*The people stand as able.*

## THE PROMISE OF INCARNATION

*Officiant* All the earth is waiting  
*People* to see the Promised One.

*Officiant* All the world, bound and struggling,  
*People* seeks true liberty.

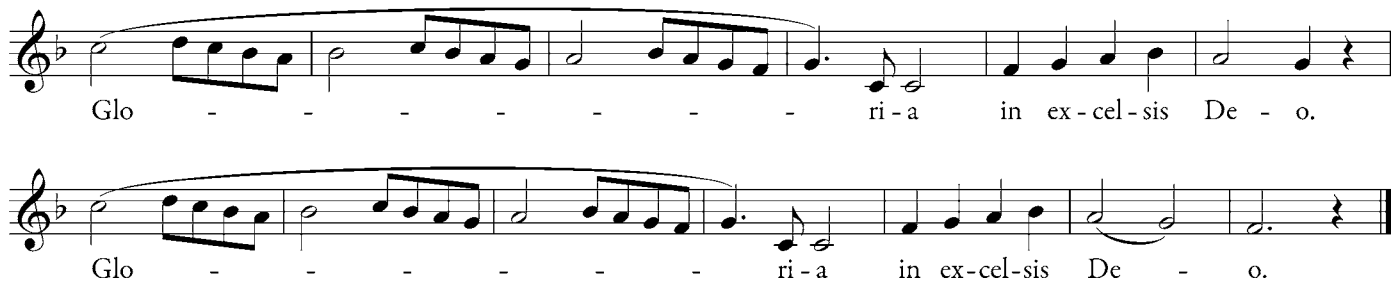
*Officiant* Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;  
*People* Come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.

## HYMN

*Angels we have heard on high*

*Gloria; arr. S. Thurston*

*The choir sings the verses and the people sing the refrain.*



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

*Refrain*

2. Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing; come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.

*Refrain*

*The people are seated.*



## THE FIFTH READING • MATTHEW 2:1-11

*The wise men follow a star to honor the child, Jesus*

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’” Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

*Reader*            When they saw that the star had stopped,  
*People*            they were overwhelmed with joy.

### ANTHEM

*Born to set me free*

Patrick Lundy (b. 1967)

Never thought a little babe would grow up to be the one who would make all the difference in my life. For you saved me, you raised me, new life you gave me. Now I'm changed to bless your name. O Jesus, precious Jesus, you were born to set me free.  
(P. Lundy)

### HOMILY

The Reverend Canon Dana Colley Corsello

### MUSICAL REFLECTION

*Peace that passes understanding*

A.K. Barnett

May the peace that passes understanding be with you. (*Philippians 4:7*)

### THE OFFERTORY

*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

*For everyone born*

S. Murray and Brian Mann (b. 1950)

For everyone born, a place at the table, for everyone born, clean water and bread, a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing, for everyone born, a star overhead, and God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion and peace: Yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy! For woman and man, a place at the table, revising the roles, deciding the share, with wisdom and grace, dividing the power, for woman and man, a system that's fair, and God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion and peace. For everyone born, a place at the table, to live without fear, and simply to be, to work, to speak out, to witness and worship, for everyone born, the right to be free, and God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion and peace: Yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!

(S. Murray)

## THE CANDLE LIGHTING

*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.*

## ANTHEM AT THE CANDLE LIGHTING

*Mary, did you know?*

Mark Lowry (b. 1958); arr. S. Thurston

Mary, did you know that your baby boy would one day walk on water? Mary, did you know that your baby boy would save our sons and daughters? Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new? This child that you've delivered, will soon deliver you. Mary, did you know that your baby boy will give sight to a blind man? Mary, did you know that your baby boy will calm a storm with his hand? Did you know that your baby boy has walked where angels trod? When you kiss your little baby, you kiss the face of God. Mary, did you know? Mary, did you know? Mary, did you know? The blind will see, the deaf will hear, the dead will live again. The lame will leap, the dumb will speak, the praises of the lamb. Mary, did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all creation? Mary, did you know that your baby boy would one day rule the nations? Did you know that your baby boy is heaven's perfect lamb? That sleeping child you're holding is the great I AM. Mary, did you know?

*(M. Lowry)*

*The people stand as able.*

## THE PROMISE OF LIGHT

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| <i>Reader</i> | The glory of the Lord has been revealed     |
| <i>People</i> | <b>and all flesh shall see it together.</b> |

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| <i>Reader</i> | Jesus Christ is the light of the world: |
| <i>People</i> | <b>a light no darkness can quench.</b>  |

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| <i>Reader</i> | <b>The shepherds kept watch by night,</b>     |
| <i>People</i> | <b>and your glory shone round about them.</b> |

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| <i>Reader</i> | The darkness is not dark to you,          |
| <i>People</i> | <b>the night is as bright as the day.</b> |

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| <i>Reader</i> | Let your light scatter the darkness          |
| <i>People</i> | <b>and fill your Church with your glory.</b> |

# HYMN

*Silent night*

*Stille Nacht*

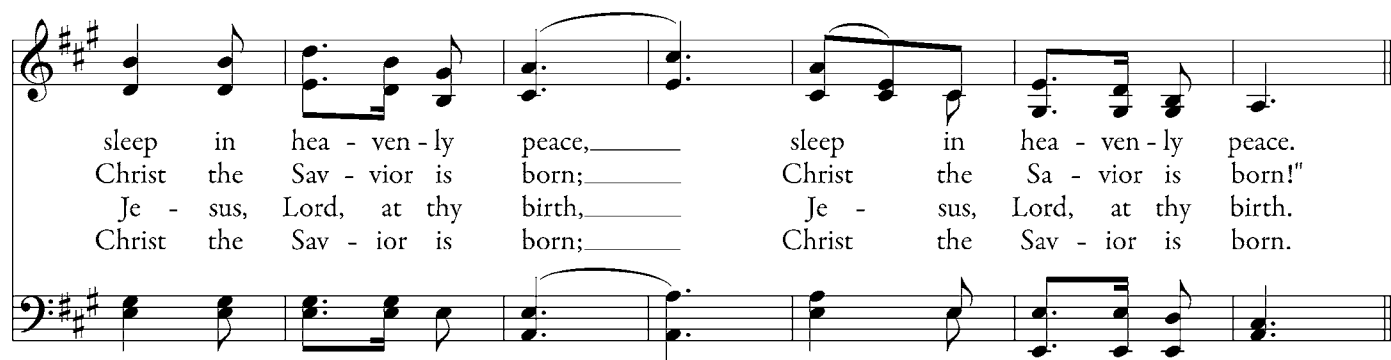
The people repeat the final phrase, "Christ the Savior is born" as directed.



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  
 4. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Won - drous star, lend thy 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, hea - ven - ly hosts sing "Al - le - lu - ia:  
 ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,  
 with the an - gels let us sing Al - le - lu - ia to our King:



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

## THE SIXTH READING • THE WORK OF CHRISTMAS

*Howard Thurman (1899-1981)*

*Reader* When the song of the angels is stilled,  
*People* **When the star in the sky is gone,**

*Reader* When the kings and the princes are home,  
*People* **When the shepherds are back with their flock,**

*Reader* The work of Christmas begins:  
*People* **To find the lost,**

*Reader* To heal the broken,  
*People* **To feed the hungry,**

*Reader* To release the prisoner,  
*People* **To rebuild the nations,**

*Reader* To bring peace among brothers,  
*People* **To make music in the heart.**

### CLOSING PRAYERS

A.K. Barnett

*The choir introduces the sung response, and the people repeat.*



We wel - come you, Lord Je - sus Christ, now change us by your love. We

wel - come you, Lord Je - sus Christ, now change us by your love.

*The response is sung after each petition.*

*Reader* Loving God, we ask your protection over all those who flee violence and persecution.  
*People* ***Sung response***

*Reader* Guide the leaders of this and every nation, that they may respect the dignity of every human being.  
*People* ***Sung response***

*Reader* Empower us to seek justice for the orphan and the widow.  
*People* ***Sung response***

*Reader* Help us to love the stranger, providing food and clothing, for we too were strangers.  
*People* ***Sung response***

*Reader* Mend our ways, Lord, that we might seek the welfare of all.  
*People* ***Sung response***

*Reader* In this season of Christmas, may we welcome Jesus and be transformed by his life and love.  
*People* ***Sung response***

Officiant  
People

Let us pray together.

Stir up your power, O God, and with great might come among us. Make us ever more fully your people in this time and place. Help us to show forth your love in the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## THE CHRISTMAS BLESSING

*Dean Hollerith blesses the people.*

## HYMN

*Joy to the world!*

*Antioch; arr. A.K. Barnett*

*The choir sings an interlude after verse 4; then all repeat verse 1.*



1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let  
2. Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let  
3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor  
4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and



earth re - ceive her King; let  
us our songs em - ploy, while  
thorns in - fest the ground; he  
makes the na - tions prove the



ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and  
fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -  
comes to make his bless - ings flow far  
glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and



heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture sing, and  
peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -  
as the curse is found, far as the curse is found, far  
won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his love, and



heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.  
-peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
as, far as the curse is found.  
won - ders, won - ders of his love.

## THE SENDING

*Officant*        We welcome you, Lord Jesus Christ.  
*People*         Now change us through your love.

*Please gently extinguish your candles and upon exiting place them in the baskets provided.*

## POSTLUDE

*Tell it on the mountain*

arr. Joseph Joubert (b. 1958) and Michael McElroy (b. 1967)

Tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born. The shepherds kept their watching over silent flocks by night. Behold! Throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth, there rang out a heavenly chorus that hailed the Savior's birth. Go on and tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born. Spread the news this Christmas morn. Yes, spread the word; Jesus is born! Go tell it. The star is shining to lead the way in a manger born this day. The Lord was born, yes Jesus Christ is born! Go tell it. Down in a lonely manger a blessed Savior was born. God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. Go tell it.

*(Negro spiritual; additional lyrics by J. Joubert and M. McElroy)*

**GREENS AND FLOWERS** The Advent floral arrangements are given to the glory of God. High Altar greens and flowers: in memory of Hibbard G. James; Mid-naive Advent wreath: in loving memory of Sarah Stewart Scarborough; St. Mary's Chapel Altar greens and flowers: in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Larz Anderson; Holy Spirit Chapel Altar greens and flowers: in memory of Ann Wilson; Children's Chapel Altar greens and flowers: in memory of Wayne Evan Matejik; War Memorial Chapel Altar greens and flowers: in memory of Margaret H. Howard; Bethlehem Chapel Altar greens and flowers: in honor of David, Michael, and Peter Lee.

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## WORSHIP LEADERS

### CLERGY

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*

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

The Reverend Andrew K. Barnett  
*Associate for Worship and Music*

The Reverend Dr. Wesley S. Williams, Jr.  
*Priest Scholar*

### READERS

Catherine Able-Thomas  
Hannah Phillips

### MUSICIANS

Washington Performing Arts  
Men and Women of the Gospel Choir

Heritage Signature Chorale:  
Next Generation

*under the direction of*  
Stanley Thurston  
*Artist-in-residence*

Washington National Cathedral Band

### VERGERS

Dr. Torrence N. Thomas  
*Head Cathedral Verger*

G. Scott Sanders  
*Cathedral Verger*

G. Stanley Utterback, Jr.  
*Assistant Cathedral Verger*

David Deutsch  
Erin Ennis  
Verne Rinker

### USHERS

Kerry Fergus  
*Head Usher*

Angela Wilson  
*Deputy Head Usher*

Sara Kirsch  
Dosha LaRosa  
Aneisha Persaud  
Sarah Rockwood



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