

# GOSPEL CHRISTMAS What Child Is This?

Friday, December 20, 2019 7:00 PM



WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL

# Dear Friends,

Merry Christmas and welcome home! We are so glad to have you here during this holy season. Please know that this Cathedral is your Cathedral; it is a house of prayer for all people, and you are always welcome here.

The good news of great joy to be found during the Christmas season centers not only around gatherings of family and friends, but also in the proclamation of the marvelous work God is doing in the midst of human history. It is the season when we proclaim God's good news that we are loved so much that God became one of us in order to lift all of us up to God. It is the astounding news that the infinite God who created all things loves us, not by lording over us, but by humbling God's self to be born a helpless infant in a stable in Palestine. As Christians, all our hopes rest on this newborn baby—his life, his death, and his resurrection.

Whatever brings you to the Cathedral this Christmas season, please know that we gather to proclaim what many people would consider preposterous—that love is the strongest force in the universe. It is more powerful than all that divides us. It is more powerful than the greatest of rulers or the most powerful of armies. It is the force that formed the universe and the essence of the very God we gather to worship. In Jesus we believe that God's love is perfected, and because Jesus walked this earth as one of us, we believe that by God's grace, we can mold our lives on his.

Whether you regularly participate in our worshiping community or this is your first time in the Cathedral, we are honored to have you here. I have no doubt that God has brought you to this place for a reason, and I hope and pray that you will know the deep presence of God moving in your life. There is so much joy to be found in these Christmas celebrations, and as we journey together to meet the newborn babe in Bethlehem, may you feel the touch of God upon your heart. God has come among us, the world is forever changed, and love reigns supreme.

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

Blessings,

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



# GOSPEL CHRISTMAS What Child Is This?

DECEMBER 20, 2019

7:00 PM

The people's responses are in **bold**.

PRELUDE

Christmas Medley

Emmanuel

Hark! the herald angels sing

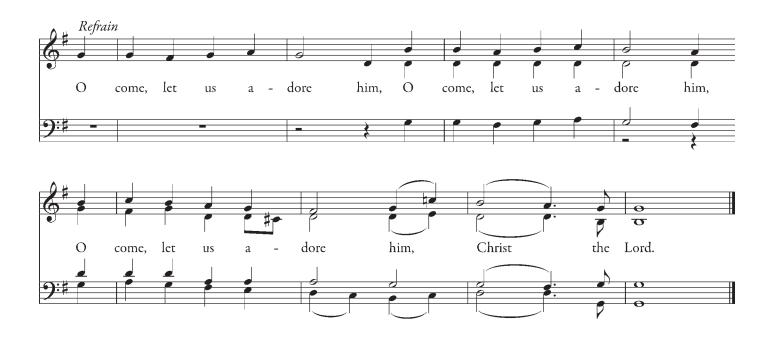
Behold the Lamb of God

Richard Smallwood (b. 1948) Norman Hutchins (b. 1962) Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

after George Frideric Handel (1685-1759) arr. The Yellowjackets

The people stand as able at the introduction to the hymn.





#### WELCOME AND BIDDING

*Officiant* 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. Let us hear again the wonderful story of our redemption, and, hearing, let us rejoice and respond with lively faith.

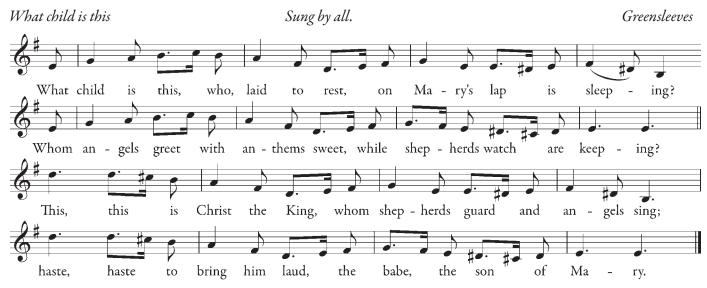
#### ACCLAMATION OF THE NATIVITY

Officiant	Come! Hear the news of great joy!
People	A child is born to us this day!
Officiant	Great joy for all people of the earth!
People	A child is born to us this day!
Officiant	A Savior, the Messiah, the Lord!
People	Glory to God in the highest!

#### GATHERING PRAYER

*Officiant* Holy and merciful God, like the shepherds of old, we listen for news of great joy, in the words of the herald angels. You are coming into the world at last. Open our hearts and our souls, O God, that we may welcome your Son into our lives with joy.

People Amen.



The people are seated.

# The First Reading • Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

The righteous reign of the coming King

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. 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 forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

ReaderChrist is coming.PeopleBe glad and believe.

#### ANTHEM

Glory to God

For unto us a child is born, And the government shall be upon his shoulder. His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Almighty God, Everlasting Father.

And of his reign there'll be no end, And his Kingdom is of majesty and splendor. His glory shines forever and ever, Almighty God Everlasting Father.

Glory to God in the highest, Peace on earth, Goodwill to all men, Glory to God in the highest, Jesus Christ has come to save us from our sin.

Jesus is born our counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting father, The Prince of Peace that reigns like no other, Because of him we are overcomers. Oliver W. Wells (b. 1957) Carol Joy Cymbala (b. 1947)

Two thousand years have passed since then, One can still hear the angels' joyful chorus, To share the good news, The news that God is with us, In Bethlehem God's divine announcement.

Glory to God in the highest, Peace on earth, Goodwill to all men, Glory to God in the highest, Jesus Christ has come to save us from our sin.

Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest,

Glory to God in the highest, Peace on earth, Goodwill to all men, Glory to God in the highest, Jesus Christ has come to save us from our sin.

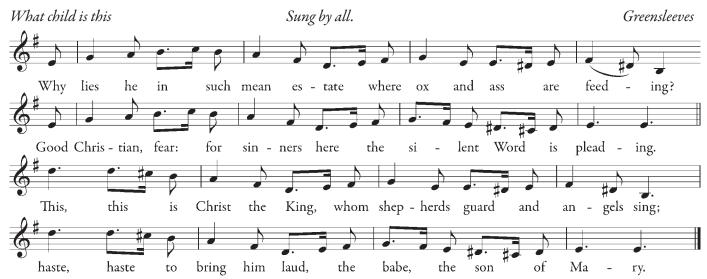
# The Second Reading • Isaiah 42:1-4

The servant, a light to the nations

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations.
He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street;
a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice.
He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

ReaderChrist is coming.PeopleBe glad and believe.

The people stand as able at the introduction to the hymn.



The people are seated.

# THE THIRD READING • LUKE 1:28-31

## The Annunciation

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 the angel 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."

ReaderChrist is coming.PeopleBe glad and believe.

# The Fourth Reading • Luke 2:1-7

# The birth of Jesus

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.

ReaderChrist has come.PeopleRejoice and be glad.

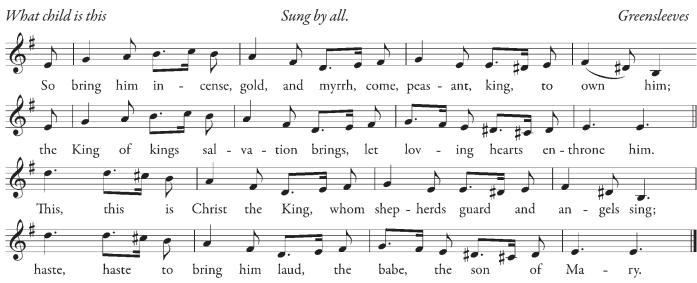
#### ANTHEM

## The newborn King

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All creation like a song	Blessing, honor,	Blessing, honor,
Waiting to be sung.	Glory, power	Glory, power
All the world in darkness lay	To the newborn King.	To the newborn King,
Desperate for the dawn. Suddenly a voice And angel choir proclaimed, The One who made the stars	Let all nations hear the news, See what God has done, Heaven's gift of peace on earth,	To creation's King. Angels gather around your throne,
Is born in Bethlehem,	His own beloved Son.	All the saints and angels singing.
So let all the people sing.	The maker of all things For majesty above.	They all bow down to you alone. <i>Refrain</i>
Blessing, honor,	The one who made the stars,	
Glory, power	Now with us in flesh and blood.	Blessing, honor,
To the newborn King.	What praise could be enough?	Glory, power
Songs of earth and	Refrain	To the newborn King,
Songs of heaven,	10,000	To the newborn King.
Just as one to bring.		

The people stand as able at the introduction to the hymn.

# HYMN



The people are seated.

Paul Baloche (b. 1962)

# The Fifth Reading • Luke 2:8-20

### The shepherds and the angels glorify God

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.

ReaderChrist has come.PeopleRejoice and be glad.

#### ANTHEM

*Born this day* Christmas is the day The angels came to say, They said be not afraid. For born on this day, Born to save is Christ the Lord.

Shepherds watched by night When that angel appeared from on high And said, "be not afraid, for born on this day, Born to save, is Christ the Lord."

Wise men from afar Said they followed the eastern star, Followed it to this place. For born on this day, Born to save is Christ the Lord.

Born this day, Christmas day, Born to save the world is Christ the Lord. Born this day, Christmas day, Born to save the world is Christ the Lord. Yolanda Adams (b. 1961)

They said be not afraid. For born on this day, Born to save is Christ the Lord. He's God the Father, God the Son, and Holy Spirit.

Christmas is the day When the angels appeared to say, They said be not afraid For born on this day, Born to save is Christ the Lord.

Born this day, Christmas day, Born to save the world is Christ the Lord.

They said be not afraid, For born on this day, Born to save our lives, His name is Jesus Christ, He is Emmanuel, He is Christ, And he is born to save, He's Christ the Lord. Sung by all.

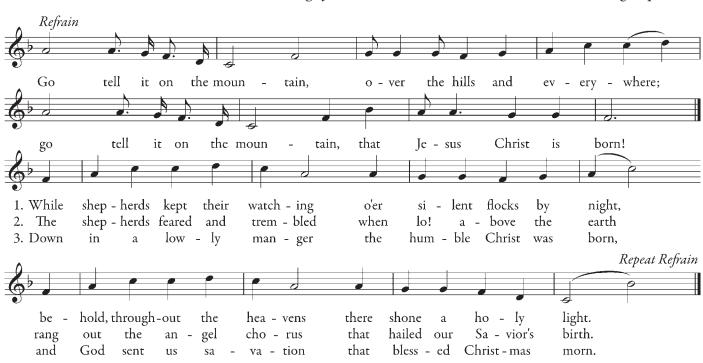
Langston Hughes (1902-1967)

Negro spiritual

## The people stand as able at the introduction to the hymn.

#### HYMN

Go tell it on the mountain



The people are seated at the invitation of the homilist.

#### HOMILY

The Reverend Canon Rosemarie Logan Duncan

Negro spiritual

#### ANTHEM

Jesus, what a wonderful child Jesus, Jesus, Three wise men came from afar. Oh, what a wonderful child. They were guided by a shining star Jesus, Jesus, To see King Jesus where he lay So lowly, meek, and mild. In a manger filled with hay. New life, new hope, new joy he brings; Jesus, Jesus, Won't you listen to the angels sing Oh, what a wonderful child. Glory, glory, glory, Jesus, Jesus, To the new born king. So lowly, meek, and mild. He was heralded by the angels. New life, new hope, new joy he brings; Born in a lowly manger. Won't you listen to the angels sing The virgin Mary was his mother, Glory, glory, glory, And Joseph was his earthly father. To the new born king.

### THE OFFERTORY

An offering is received to support the Cathedral's ministry of sharing God's love with the world. You may also text the dollar amount you wish to give to (202) 856-9005.

## **ANTHEM**

The real meaning of Christmas Tell me what Christmas means to you, Glory to the King, How many gifts will you go through; Angels sing, Well it really doesn't matter That's the real meaning, If the gift is great or small, That's the real meaning. Without Christ, there's no Christmas at all. Merry Christmas, don't mean the same The real meaning of Christmas ain't about mistletoe. If it ain't in Jesus' name. The real meaning of Christmas ain't about dashing Merry Christmas. through the snow. Merry Christmas, just ain't the same, The real meaning of Christmas ain't found in a toy, It ain't the same, no. The real meaning of Christmas is Mary's baby boy, Merry Christmas. Is Mary's baby boy. Merry Christmas just ain't the same, Silent night, holy night, It ain't the same, no. It ain't the same. All is bright, That's the real meaning.

# The Seventh Reading • John 1:1-5, 14

# The Mystery of the Incarnation

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. 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.

Reader Christ has come. People Rejoice and be glad. Joseph Pace (b. 1965)



#### THE CANDLE LIGHTING

Officiant People	The glory of the Lord has been revealed <b>and all flesh shall see it together.</b>
Officiant	Jesus Christ is the light of the world:
People	a light no darkness can quench.
Officiant	The shepherds kept watch by night,
People	and your glory shone round about them.
Officiant	The darkness is not dark to you,
People	the night is as bright as the day.
Officiant	Let your light scatter the darkness
People	and fill your Church with your glory.
Officiant	Christ, the light of the world, gives each of us one light, so that we too may shine with gratitude, hope, and love. Receive the light of Christ, hold the light, and be thankful.

The people remain seated, and during the anthem, 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.

# Adolphe Adam (1803-1856)

# ANTHEM

# O holy night

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, O night, 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! 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 power and glory evermore proclaim. His power and glory evermore proclaim.

(Placide Cappeau, 1808-1877; English translation John Sullivan Dwight, 1813-1893, alt.)

The people stand as able at the introduction to the hymn.

HYMN



Howard Thurman (1899-1981)

Reader	When the song of the angels is stilled,
People	<b>When the star in the sky is gone,</b>
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	<b>To find the lost,</b>
Reader	To heal the broken,
People	<b>To feed the hungry,</b>
Reader	To release the prisoner,
People	To rebuild the nations,
Reader	To bring peace among brothers,
People	To make music in the heart.

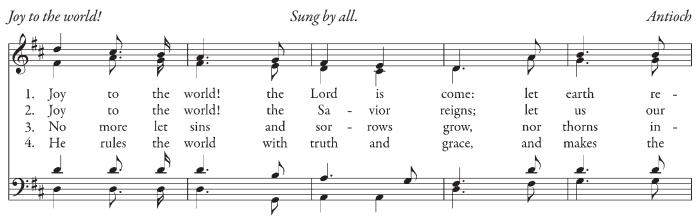
# THE CLOSING PRAYER

Officiant Christ among us, Light of the World, heal our brokenness, and bring us to wholeness, ease our pain, and bring us hope, strength, and life. Give us new heart, new hope, and a new song, that our prayers and deeds may be one. We ask it in your Holy name.
 People Amen.

### THE BLESSING

Dean Hollerith offers the blessing, and the people respond, Amen.

# CLOSING HYMN







Hallelujah!

Quincy Jones (b. 1933)

Thank you for worshiping at 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.

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

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The Very Reverend Randolph Marshall Hollerith Dean

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Washington National Cathedral Band

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# FLOWERS THROUGHOUT THE CATHEDRAL ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD.

High Altar: in memory of Hibbard G. James; Candelabra in the High Altar Sanctuary: in loving memory of Charles and Mary Russell Bounds; Canterbury Pulpit: in memory of George W. Guthrie; Stone Lectern: in loving memory of Marilyn Ehrlich and Nancy J. McKee; Altar in the Chapel of St. Mary the Virgin: in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Larz Anderson, and in loving memory of James H. Lewis and Betty Prater Lewis; Altar in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit: in memory of Ann Wilson; Altar in the Chapel of St. John: in thanksgiving for the Charles Ray Long family and friends; Norman Prince Tomb in the Chapel of St. John: in honor of Norman Prince; Altar in Children's Chapel: 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; Altar in War Memorial Chapel: 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 and Kathrine Dulin Folger; Altar in the Chapel of the Nativity: in honor of David, Michael, and Peter Lee; 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; Altar in the Chapel of the Resurrection: in thanksgiving for the Charles Ray Long family and friends; Altar in the Chapel of the Good Shepherd: in memory of Charlie Habanananda; Altar in the Chapel of St. Joseph of Arimathea: in loving memory of Favour H. Slater and Mary and Sherman Hazeltine; Columbarium Gates in the Chapel of St. Joseph of Arimathea: in memory of the Seferlis and Tidball families; Ushers' carnations: in memory of Lieutenant James Norbert Matthews.

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

Photo by Danielle E. Thomas.

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