



CHRISTMAS DAY

A SERVICE OF
LESSONS AND CAROLS

DECEMBER 25, 2011
FOUR PM

WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL

*The Reverend Canon Mary Sulerud and the Reverend Heather Patton-Graham, co-officiants
Katherine Ebert, Malinee Peris de-Silva, Theodora Radcliffe,
Duke DuTeil, and Haley Dettra, readers
Rosa Lamoreaux, guest soloist
Cathedral Singers*

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Fantasy on "Divinum Mysterium"

Gerre Hancock (b. 1934)

INTROIT

Ding dong! merrily on high

arr. Charles Wood (1866-1926)

Ding dong! merrily on high in heav'n the bells are ringing: ding dong! verily the sky is riv'n with angel singing. Gloria, *Hosanna in excelsis!* E'en so here below, below, let steeple bells be swungen and *i-o, i-o, i-o*, by priest and people sungen. Gloria, *Hosanna in excelsis!* Pray you dutifully prime your matin chime, ye ringers; may you beautifully rime your evetime song, ye singers. Gloria, *Hosanna in excelsis!*

George R. Woodward (1848-1934)

HYMN AT THE PROCESSION - 83

Sung by all, standing.

O come, all ye faithful

Adeste fideles

WELCOME AND BIDDING

Behold, I bring you good news of a great joy:
a Savior is born to you. Alleluia.
Unto us a child is born. Alleluia.

Dear People of God: In this Christmas Season, let it be our duty and delight to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger.

Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy Child Jesus, and let us make this place glad with our carols of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and especially for his Church in our country and in this city.

And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, as well as all those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ.

Finally, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore. **Amen.**

The people are seated.

A period of silent reflection will follow each reading.

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 52:7-10

In which the Lord promises salvation

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

COLLECT

God of the prophets in every age: you send messengers of hope for the world. Strengthen us to live as faithful people who proclaim a present and future of joy and renewed life. **Amen.**

CAROL

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day

arr. John Rutter (b. 1945)

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day: I would my true love did so chance to see the legend of my play, to call my true love to my dance: *Sing O my love, O my love, my love, my love; this have I done for my true love.* Then was I born of a virgin pure, of her I took fleshly substance; thus was I knit to man's nature, to call my true love to my dance. In a manger laid and wrapp'd I was, so very poor, this was my chance, betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass, to call my true love to my dance:

SECOND LESSON

Isaiah 35:1-10

In which the prophet Isaiah proclaims that God will come and save us

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be

there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

COLLECT

God of all ages: in the birth of Christ you show us the way of salvation. Shatter the power of darkness and give us light and love that we may find your saving blessing of grace and peace. **Amen.**

The people stand.

HYMN 78

Sung by all.

O little town of Bethlehem

Forest Green

The people are seated.

THIRD LESSON

Luke 2:1-7

In which Jesus is born

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

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born this day of Mary: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

CAROL

Here mid the ass and oxen mild

arr. Alice Parker and Robert Shaw

Here, mid the ass and oxen mild, sleep, my little child. *Thousand seraphim, thousand cherubim come from heaven above to guard the Lord of love.* Here, where sweet flowers their fragrance bring, sleep, my little King. Here, where the shepherds' search is done, sleep, my little son.

FOURTH LESSON

Luke 2:8-20

In which Jesus is worshiped by angels and shepherds

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.

COLLECT

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The people stand.

HYMN 96

Sung by all.

Angels we have heard on high

Gloria

The people are seated.

FIFTH LESSON

John 1:1-14

In which the Word became flesh and lived 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 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

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

CAROL

Wexford Carol

arr. Dale Warland (b. 1932)

Good people all, this Christmas-time, consider well and bear in mind what our good God for us has done, in sending his beloved Son. With Mary holy we should pray to God with love this Christmas Day; in Bethlehem upon that morn there was a blessed Messiah born. The night before that happy tide the noble Virgin and her guide were

long time seeking up and down to find a lodging in the town. But mark how all things came to pass: from ev'ry door repell'd, alas! As long foretold, their refuge all was but a humble oxen stall. Near Bethlehem did shepherds keep their flocks of lambs and feeding sheep; to whom God's angels did appear, which put the shepherds in great fear. 'Prepare and go', the angels said, 'to Bethlehem, be not afraid; for there you'll find, this happy morn, a princely babe, sweet Jesus born.' With thankful heart and joyful mind the shepherds went the babe to find, and as God's angel had foretold, they did our Savior Christ behold. Within a manger he was laid, and by his side the virgin maid, attending on the Lord of life, who came on earth to end all strife. Good people all, this Christmas-time, consider well and bear in mind what our good God for us has done, in sending his beloved Son.

Traditional Irish Carol

The people stand.

HYMN 100

Sung by all.

Joy to the world

Antioch

The people are seated at the invitation of the homilist.

HOMILY

Canon Sulerud

INVITING THE OFFERING

The people remain seated while an offering is collected to support the Cathedral's work of sharing God's love with the world.

CAROL

O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam (1803-1856)

arr. J. Rutter

O Holy Night! The stars are brightly shining, it is the night of the dear Saviour's birth. Long lay the world in sin and error pining. Till he appeared and the Spirit 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, the night when Christ was born; O night, O holy night, O night divine! Led by the light of faith serenely beaming, with glowing hearts by his cradle we stand. O'er the world a star is sweetly gleaming, now come the wisemen from out of the orient land. The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger; in all our trials born to be our friends. He knows our need, our weakness is no stranger, 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 he shall break, for the slave is our brother, and in his name all oppression shall cease. Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we, with all our hearts we praise his holy name. Christ is the Lord! Then ever, ever praise we, his power and glory ever more proclaim!

Placide Cappeau (1808-1877)

tr. John Sullivan Dwight (1813-1893)

The people stand.

CONCLUDING PRAYERS

O God, you make us glad with the yearly festival of the birth of your son Jesus Christ: grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes again in glory.
Be born in us, Lord Jesus Christ.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us we are bold to say:
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.

ANNOUNCEMENT

*At the conclusion of this service, people may make their way to the great choir for the
Christmas Day organ recital by way of St. Mary's Chapel and St. John's Chapel.
Please do not attempt to enter the great choir via the crossing platform.
We ask that all those changing seats for the recital, please regard the safety of others
who may choose to exit the Cathedral following evensong.*

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.

HYMN AT THE CLOSING - 87
Hark! the herald angels sing

Sung by all.

Mendelssohn

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

In dulci jubilo, BWV 729

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

*A gift for services in celebration of Christ's birth
is made to the glory of God
and in thanksgiving for
the William Carter Dulin and Maurine Stuart Dulin Families.*



WASHINGTON
NATIONAL CATHEDRAL

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