Christmas LESSONS & CAROLS

WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL

Dear friends,

Welcome to Washington National Cathedral. Thank you for joining us for our Christmas celebrations. Whether you are here every Sunday or you are just visiting this one time, we are blessed to have you with us, and we hope you will find something of God's love, hope, and peace in this sacred space.

The great miracle of the Christian faith is that God becomes one of us. The infinite becomes finite, and the unknowable God, beyond space and time, becomes a helpless infant totally dependent on the love and care of a young unwed couple. Why? Why would God do such a thing? Why would the Creator of all things deign to be born in a stable? Because of love. God loves us so much that God becomes one of us in order to reach us, in order to lift us toward God. In the process, God hallows all human existence and provides us, in Jesus, with a living example of what it means to be fully human.

Two thousand years ago, Mary and Joseph wandered their way through the city of Bethlehem looking for a home, searching for a safe place where they could rest. Scripture tells us they were young and in trouble—Mary was not supposed to be pregnant and Joseph was not supposed to stay with her now that she was. But they were in love and they knew that somehow God was calling them to play a role in God's plans for the world. Sometime during the night, a child was born, a special child, a child whose destiny was to be Immanuel—God with us. God with us, not God above us and beyond us, not God transcendent and mysterious, not God out of our reach and free from our experience but God here, present in this life, in a human person, needing human love. Jesus was born to satisfy our yearnings, to fill that hole in our souls, to bring God closer to us, and to bring all of us closer to our home in God.

A child once said: "I wish I had a picture of God." This is exactly what we are granted in the birth of Jesus. God has shown us God's face. And so, as you leave the Cathedral today, take the Christ child with you. Take his humility and make it your own. Learn to be more patient, more open, more understanding, and more forgiving of others in your life. Take his life of service and make it your life. Learn to take less from others; learn to give more of yourself without the thought of getting anything in return. And finally, take his love and let God's love for you become the source of your love for one another. May we all this Christmastide find the Christ Child again and again, and bring him afresh into our Jesus-starved world. Because he is needed now more than ever.

Merry Christmas and may God bless and keep you this day and always.

RMH6 ith+

The Very Reverend Randolph Marshall Hollerith Dean, Washington National Cathedral



Christmas Lessons & Carols

DECEMBER 23 & 24, 2023 · 6:00 РМ

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

CARILLON PRELUDE

An English Christmas Suite I. Once in Royal David's City II. In the Bleak Midwinter III. What Child Is This? IV. The First Nowell Pastoral Symphony God Rest You Merry Gentlemen Evening Prelude on "Gartan" O Little Town of Bethlehem Hark! The Herald Angels Sing O Come, All Ye Faithful Silent Night

Organ Prelude

Angels We Have Heard on High Kommet, ihr Hirten Two Christmas Diversions on "Joy to the World" Mary Magnificat Triptych on an English Noël Noël Suisse Angelus ad Virginem Variations on the Huron Carol Edward M. Nassor (b. 1957)

George Frideric Handel (1685–1759); arr. E. M. Nassor *God Rest You Merry*; arr. Milford Myhre (b. 1931) John Knox (1932–2021) *Forest Green*; arr. Percival Price (1901–1985) *Mendelssohn*; arr. Ester T. Dawson (1907–1989) *Adeste fideles*; arr. Ronald Barnes (1927–1997) *Stille Nacht*; arr. Frank P. Law (1918–1985)

> Keith Chapman (1945–1989) Margaretha Christina de Jong (b. 1961) Gilbert M. Martin (b. 1941) Angela Kraft Cross (b. 1958) Franklin D. Ashdown (1942–2023) Louis-Claude Daquin (1694–1772) Karl Osterland (b. 1956) Brenda Portman (b. 1980)

Hymn at the Procession

Once in Royal David's City



The Acclamation of the Nativity

Officiant People	The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.
Officiant	For to us a child is born,
People	to us a Son is given.
Officiant People	His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.
Officiant	Glory to God in the highest,
People	and peace to God's people on earth.

The Bidding Prayer

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 Cathedral Church, dedicated to the Apostles Peter and Paul, 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 of Washington.

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.

And now, to gather up all these petitions, let us pray in the words which Christ himself has taught us, saying:

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.
<i>Officiant</i> The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ giv

Officiant The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and to the fellowship of the citizens above, may the King of Angels bring us all.

People Amen.

The people are seated.

The First Lesson • Genesis 3:8-14

Adam and Eve rebel against God.

They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life."

Carol

Jesus Christ the Apple Tree

The tree of life my soul hath seen Laden with fruit and always green. The trees of nature fruitless be Compared with Christ the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel: By faith I know but ne'er can tell The glory which I now can see In Jesus Christ the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought, And pleasure dearly I have bought. I missed of all, but now I see 'Tis found in Christ the apple tree.

I'm weary with my former toil; Here I will sit and rest a while: Under the shadow I will be Of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive; It keeps my dying faith alive, Which makes my soul in haste to be With Jesus Christ the apple tree.

(18th century anonymous English)

Elizabeth Poston (1905–1987)

The Second Lesson • Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

The prophet Isaiah foretells the coming of the Savior.

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 onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Carol

Morning Star

Christ is the morning star Who, when the night of this world is past, Brings to his saints the promise of the light of life And opens everlasting day.

(Bede the Venerable, ca. 672–735)

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

Arvo Pärt (b. 1935)



The people are seated.

The Third Lesson • Micah 5:2-5a

The one who is to rule Israel will be born in the village of 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.

Carol

The Sparrows' Carol

Bob Chilcott (b. 1955)

RefrainWe are sparrows, sparrows in the snow,
Frost on our feathers and ice in our bones,
So let us have a crumb, a crumb or two,
We'll sing the sparrows' carol for you.

A sparrow flew up to heaven on high, He sang for the Maker of the sky, So let us have a sip, a sip or three, And a sparrow will sing from your Christmas tree!

Refrain

The sparrow who flew from Bethlehem afar Sang Hallelujah, Hallelujah! So let us have a coin, a coin or four, And sparrows no longer shall be poor!

Refrain

A sparrow sang loud when the Christ was born, He sang from the holly and from the hawthorn, So let us have a bite to be of good cheer, And you shall have a Christmas to last all year!

Refrain

(Charles Bennett, b. 1954)

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



The people are seated.

The Fourth Lesson • Matthew 1:18-23

The birth of Jesus.

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us."

Carol

My Lord Has Come

Will Todd (b. 1970)

Shepherds, called by angels, called by love and angels: No place for them but a stable. My Lord has come. Sages, searching for stars, searching for love in heaven; No place for them but a stable. My Lord has come. His love will hold me, his love will cherish me, love will cradle me. Lead me, lead me to see him, sages and shepherds and angels; No place for me but a stable. My Lord has come.

The Fifth Lesson • Luke 2:8-16

The shepherds go to the manger.

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.

Carol

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and everywhere. Go, tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born. When I was a seeker,

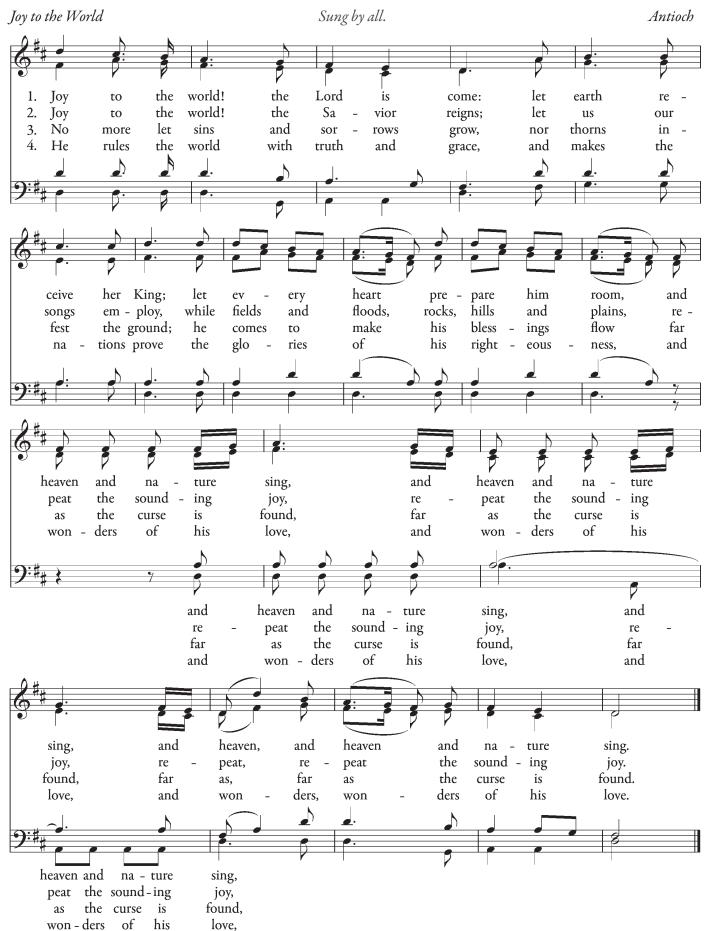
I sought both night and day. I asked the Lord to help me, And he showed me the way. Negro spiritual; arr. Stacey V. Gibbs (b. 1962)

Refrain

They found a lowly manger, Where humble Christ was born, And God sent our salvation That blessed Christmas morn.

Refrain

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



The Sixth Lesson • John 1:1-14

The Great 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. 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. 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.

The people are seated at the invitation of the homilist.

Homily

The Reverend Canon Jan Naylor Cope (December 23) The Right Reverend Mariann Edgar Budde (December 24)

MUSICAL MEDITATION

Balulalow

Sung in Middle Scots.

O my dear heart, young Jesus sweet, Prepare thy cradle in my sp'rit And I shall rock thee in my heart And never more from thee depart.

But I shall praise thee evermore With songs sweet unto thy glory: The knees of my heart shall I bow, And sing that right Balulalow. *(Lullaby.)* git Revelend Mariann Eugar Budde (December 24,

Peter Warlock (1894–1930)

(John Wedderburn, ca. 1505–1553, and Robert Wedderburn, ca. 1510–ca. 1560, from "Ane Sang of the Birth of Christ"; after Martin Luther, 1483–1546, "Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her")

The Offertory

An offering is received to support the Cathedral's ministry of sharing God's love. All are invited to make a gift as the plate is passed, online at cathedral.org/give, or by scanning the QR code on the back cover of this leaflet.

Carol at the Offertory

0 Oriens

Sung in Latin.

O Morning Star, Splendour of light eternal and sun of righteousness: Come and enlighten those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

(Advent Antiphon at Vespers, ca. sixth-century Italian)

Melissa Dunphy (b. 1980)

THE CANDLE LIGHTING

Officiant	Christ has brought us out of darkness:
People	to live in his marvelous light.
Officiant	Jesus Christ is the light of the world:
People	a light no darkness can quench.
Officiant People	The shepherds kept watch by night, 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.

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.

Carol at the Candle Lighting

Away in a Manger

Ola Gjeilo (b. 1978), after William J. Kirkpatrick (1838–1921)

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the poor baby wakes, But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes. I love thee, Lord Jesus! look down from the sky, And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay Close by me forever, and love me I pray. Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, And take us to heaven to live with thee there.

(Anonymous carol)

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



THE CONCLUDING COLLECT

Officiant 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.

People Amen.

The Blessing

The bishop blesses the people, and the people respond, Amen.

Hymn at the Closing



Please gently extinguish your candles and upon exiting place used tapers in the baskets provided.

Organ Postlude

Postlude sur un Noël

Denis Bédard (b. 1950)



A gift 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.

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The cathedral church of saint peter ${{{\mathscr C}}}$ saint paul

The Right Reverend Mariann Edgar Budde *Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of Washington*

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 and Minister of Equity and Inclusion

The Reverend Canon John L. Peterson Canon for Reconciliation and Global Justice

The Right Reverend Ann M. Ritonia Bishop Suffragan for Armed Forces and Federal Ministries, The Episcopal Church Canon

> The Reverend Canon Samuel Van Culin Canon for Anglican Communion Ministry

> > Canon Jon Meacham Canon Historian

The Reverend Patrick L. Keyser Associate Priest for Worship

The Reverend Spencer W. Brown Priest Associate

The Reverend Jo Nygard Owens Pastor for Digital Ministry



SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

BISHOP'S CHAPLAIN (DECEMBER 24)

The Venerable Steve Seely Archdeacon, Episcopal Diocese of Washington

READERS

December 23

National Cathedral School Chorister Miriam Young Gabe Kajeckas Imani Maya Stutely Duane Gelderloos

MUSICIANS

The Cathedral Choir Canon Michael McCarthy *Canon for Music and Director of Institutional Planning*

> Thomas M. Sheehan Organist and Associate Director of Music

Julie DeBoer Chorister Program Director and Associate Director of Music

> Dr. Edward M. Nassor *Carillonneur*

December 24

St. Albans School Chorister Michelle Kannan Dr. Amanda M. Guthorn Dr. Eric L. Motley

VERGERS

Dr. Torrence N. Thomas *Head Cathedral Verger*

> G. Scott Sanders *Cathedral Verger*

Jennifer Moulton-Post Assistant Verger

Catherine Able-Thomas Simone Bramble Dan Hewitt Joyce A. Michelini

ACOLYTES

Matthew Florance, *Head Acolyte* Jackson Wilson, *Head Acolyte* Katharine A. Carter Gabriel Donoghue Amber Lin Zach Mahan Chinwuba Nwokoye Anya Prokop Kevin Shin, Jr. Duncan Taylor Olivia Wu

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 • PULPIT: in loving memory of Lynn Laun Lindert • LECTERN: in memory of George Walker Guthrie • 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 • GATES OF THE CHAPEL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN: in memory of Sheila Lyons • 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 • WELCOME URNS AT THE WEST END OF THE NAVE: in memory of Marie and Frank T. Anania, and in memory of Frances and Robert A. Reed • 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 • CHAPEL OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD: in memory of William S. Lassiter • ALTAR IN THE CHAPEL OF THE **RESURRECTION:** in thanksgiving for the Charles Ray Long family and friends • GATES OF THE CHAPEL OF ST. JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA COLUMBARIUM: in memory of the Seferlis and Tidball families • ALTAR IN THE CHAPEL OF ST. JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA: in memory of Alice and George Bohlinger, Jr., Jane Bohlinger Yago, and Harriet Barrow • USHERS' CARNATIONS: in memory of Lieutenant James Norbert Matthews.

Thank you for joining us today. Please know that your presence is a blessing. All are invited to support the Cathedral's ministry of sharing God's love, hope, and peace this Christmas season.

From the candles used in worship services to the materials used in restoration projects, the ministries of this House of Prayer for All People are funded entirely through gifts from individuals like you. Because the Cathedral receives no operating support from the federal government or national church body, your generosity truly sustains our mission.



All are invited to support the Cathedral's ministry of sharing God's love, hope and peace this Christmas season. Make your gift as the plate is passed, online at cathedral.org/give, by texting the dollar amount you wish to give to 202-856-9005, or by scanning the QR code at left. To use the QR code, open your cell phone or tablet camera and hold it over the shape. Tap the link or small box that appears and you will be taken to our secure donation page.

Thank you for your gift, for your friendship, and for all the ways in which you bring the Christ child afresh into our world.

