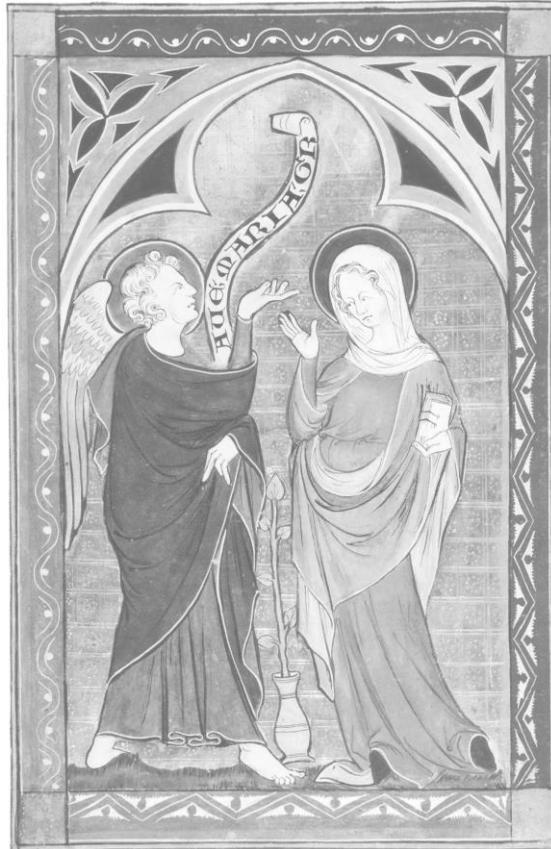


A SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS
Sunday, December 23, 2018 at 5:00 pm



Church of the Holy Martyr Saint Stephen-in-the-Fields
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Prelude

Processional Hymn 123: *Once in royal David's city*

IRBY

A soloist sings the first verse of the hymn; all join in the singing of the second verse.

Bidding prayer *Please remain standing, as able.*

Officiant: Beloved in Christ, be it this Christmas Eve our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels: in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and with the Magi adore the Child lying in his Mother's arms.

Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by this Holy Child; and let us make this chapel, dedicated to his pure and lowly Mother, glad with our carols of praise:

But first let us pray for the needs of his whole world; for peace and goodwill over all the earth; for unity and brotherhood within the Church he came to build, within the dominions of our sovereign lady Queen Elizabeth, within this University and City of Cambridge, and in the two royal and religious Foundations of King Henry VI here and at Eton: And let us at this time remember in his name the poor and the helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick in body and in mind and them that mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all who know not the loving kindness of God.

Lastly let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no man can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom we for evermore are one. These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us:

All: **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 them that trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. Amen.**

Officiant: The Almighty God bless us with his grace: Christ give us the joys of everlasting life: and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the king of Angels bring us all.

All: **Amen.**

Please be seated.

Lesson 1: Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19 *Read by a child of the congregation*

Reader: God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise and that his seed will bruise the serpent's head.

And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden. And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. And the Lord God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat. And the Lord God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: and I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel. And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; in the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken; for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

Reader: Thanks be to God.

Carol: *This is the truth sent from above*

English Traditional, arr. R.V. Williams

Sung by the choir

1. This is the truth sent from above, the truth of God, the God of love;
therefore don't turn me from your door, but hearken all, both rich and poor.
2. The first thing, which I do relate, that God at first did man create
The next thing, which to you I tell, woman was made with him to dwell.
3. Then after this, 'twas God's own choice to place them both in Paradise,
there to remain from evil free except they ate of such a tree.
4. But they did eat, which was a sin, and thus their ruin did begin;
ruined themselves, both you and me, and all of their posterity.
5. Thus we were heirs to endless woes, till God the Lord did interpose
for so a promise soon did run that he'd redeem us with a Son.

Lesson 2: Genesis 22.15-18 *Read by a representative of St. Stephen's Community House*

Reader: God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.

And the angel of the Lord called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time, and said, By myself have I sworn, saith the Lord, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: that in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.

Reader: Thanks be to God.

Carol: *Ding dong! merrily on high*

16th century French

Sung by the choir

1. 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.
2. E'en so here below, below let steeple bells be swungen,
and i-o, i-o, i-o by priest and people be sungen.
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis.
3. Pray ye dutifully prime your matin chime, ye ringers;
may ye beautifully rime your evetime song, ye singers.
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis.

Lesson 3: Isaiah 9.2, 6, 7 *Read by a representative of Christian Peacemaker Teams*

Reader: The Prophet foretells the coming of the Saviour.

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

Reader: Thanks be to God.

Hymn: *Unto us is born a Son*

Piae Cantiones, arr. D. Willcocks

1. Unto us is born a Son, King of Quires supernal:
see on earth his life begun, of lords the Lord eternal, of lords the Lord eternal.
2. Christ, from heav'n descending low comes on earth a stranger;
ox and ass their owner know, be cradled in the manger, be cradled in the manger.
3. This did Herod sore affray, and grievously bewilder,
so he gave the word to slay, and slew the little childer, and slew the little childer.
4. Of his love and mercy mild this the Christmas story;
and O that Mary's gentle child might lead us up to glory! might lead us up to glory!
5. O and A, and A and O, *cum cantibus in choro*,
let our merry organ go, *Benedicamus Domino, benedicamus Domino*.

Lesson 4: Isaiah 11:1-3a, 4a, 6-9 *Read by a representative of the congregation*

Reader: The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots: and the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord; and shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord. With righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth. The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in

all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

Reader: Thanks be to God.

Carol: *In dulci jubilo*

IN DULCI JUBILO, *GEISTLICHE LIEDER*

Sung by the choir

1. *In dulci jubilo!* Let us our homage show!
Our heart's joy reclineth *in præsepio*
and like a bright star shineth *matris in gremio*.
Alpha es et O! Alpha es et O!

2. *O Jesu parvule*, my heart is sore for thee.
Hear me, I beseech thee, *O puer optime*.
My prayer, let it reach thee, *O princeps gloriae*.
Trahe me post te! Trahe me post te!

3. *O patris charitas! O nati lenitas*,
deeply were we stained *per nostra crimina*,
but thou hast for us gained *celorum gaudia*.
O that we were there, O that we were there!

4. *Ubi sunt gaudia*, where, if they be not there?
There are angels singing *nova cantica*;
there the bells are ringing, *in Regis curia*.
O that we were there, O that we were there!

Lesson 5: Luke 1:26-35, 38 *Read by a member of the choir*

Reader: The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: and he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the

angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

Reader: Thanks be to God.

Carol: *The Seven Joys of Mary*

English traditional, arr. R.R. Terry

Sung by the choir

1. The first good joy that Mary had, it was the joy of one:
to see her blessed Jesus when he was first her Son,
when he was her first Son, *Refrain* good Lord, and happy may we be;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost to all eternity.
2. The next good joy that Mary had, it was the joy of two:
to see her own son Jesus Christ to make the lame to go,
to make the lame to go, *Refrain...*
3. The next good joy that Mary had, it was the joy of three:
to see her own son Jesus Christ, to make the blind to see,
to make the blind to see, *Refrain...*
4. The next good joy that Mary had, it was the joy of four:
to see her own son Jesus Christ to read the Bible o'er,
to read the Bible o'er, *Refrain...*
5. The next good joy that Mary had, it was the joy of five:
to see her own son Jesus Christ, to bring the dead alive,
to bring the dead alive, *Refrain...*
6. The next good joy that Mary had, it was the joy of six:
to see her own son Jesus Christ, upon the crucifix,
upon the crucifix, *Refrain...*
7. The next good joy that Mary had, it was the joy of seven:
to see her own son Jesus Christ, to wear the crown of heaven,
to wear the crown of heaven, *Refrain...*

Lesson 6: Luke 2.1, 3-7 *Read by the honorary assistant*

Reader: Saint Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Cæsar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judæa, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

Reader: Thanks be to God.

Hymn 148: *See amid the winter's snow*

SEE AMID THE WINTER'S SNOW

Lesson 7: Luke 2.8-16 *Read by the organist and choir director*

Reader: The shepherds go to the manger.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, 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, and on earth peace, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

Reader: Thanks be to God.

Hymn 136: *While shepherds watched their flocks*

WINCHESTER OLD

Lesson 8: Matthew 2.1-12 *Read by the warden emeritus*

Reader: The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judæa in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. When

Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judæa: for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel. Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, inquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also. When they had heard the king, they departed; and lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts, gold, and frankincense, and myrrh. And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

Reader: Thanks be to God.

Carol: *Personent hodie (in Latin)*

German, arr. G. Holst

Sung by the choir

1. Let the voices of children resound today,
joyfully praising the One who is born to us,
given by most high God, and conceived in a virginal womb.
2. He was born into the world, wrapped in swaddling clothes,
and laid in a manger in a stable for animals,
the master of the heavens. The prince of Hell has lost his spoils.
3. Three Magi came, and sought the little one;
they came to Bethlehem, following a star, to worship him,
and to offer him gold, frankincense, and myrrh.
4. Let all priests, like the boys, sing like angels:
“You have come into the world; I pour out praises to you.
Therefore, glory to God in the highest!”

Please stand, as able, for the ninth Lesson.

Lesson 9: John 1.1-14 *Read by the rector*

Reader: Saint John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that light, but was sent to bear witness of that light. That was the true light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only-begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Reader: Thanks be to God.

Hymn 118: *O come, all ye faithful (verses 1-4 only)*

ADESTE FIDELES

Collect and Blessing

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: **And with thy spirit.**

Priest: Let us pray.

O God, who makest us glad with the yearly remembrance
of the birth of thy only son, Jesus Christ:

Grant that as we joyfully receive him for our redeemer,
so we may with sure confidence behold him,

when he shall come to be our judge;

who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit,
one God, world without end.

All: **Amen.**

Priest: May he who by his Incarnation gathered into one
things earthly and heavenly,
grant you the fullness of inward peace and goodwill;
And the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you, and remain with you always.

All: **Amen.**

Hymn 128: *Hark! The herald angels sing*

MENDELSSOHN

Postlude

Officiant: The Rev'd Maggie Helwig
Organist: John Gardham

The text has been used by kind permission of the Provost and Fellows of King's College.

We acknowledge that we are on the traditional territory of the Mississaugas of New Credit (an Anishnaabe people), the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, and the Huron-Wendat Nation, land covered by the Dish With One Spoon wampum belt covenant.

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