

THE NATIONAL CATHEDRAL
AND COLLEGIATE CHURCH
OF SAINT PATRICK, DUBLIN



CAROLS FOR ALL
Sunday 13th December 2020

sung by the Cathedral Choir

Hymn

O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant;
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him born, the King of angels:

O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

God of God, Light of Light,
Lo! He abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God, begotten, not created.

Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;
Glory to God in the highest.

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born that happy morning;
Jesu, to Thee be glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.

Words, Adeste Fideles, Translation, Frederick Oakley (1802-80)

Melody, John Francis Wade (1711-86)

Arrangement, David Willcocks (1919-2015)

Bidding Prayer

We have come together as the family of God, in our Father's presence, to celebrate the great festival of Christmas. In this service we hear and receive the good news of the birth of Christ and we offer to God our thanksgiving in the joyful singing of carols. As we gather together in the name of Christ, we pray for the world he came to save: for the Church, that she may be enabled in our generation to surrender anew to God's holy Wisdom, and bear the good news of God's love to a needy world; for the world, which is already Christ's, that all its peoples may recognize their responsibility for its future, and may be inspired by the message of Christmas to work together for the establishment of justice, freedom and peace everywhere; for all in special need, the sick, the anxious, the lonely, the fearful and the bereaved, that the peace and light of the Christ-child may bring hope and healing to all who sit in darkness. We commend all whom we love, or who have asked for our prayers, to the unfailing mercy of our heavenly Father, and say together, as Christ himself taught us:

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, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Anthem

What sweeter music can we bring than a carol, for to sing the birth of this our heavenly King? Awake the voice! Awake the string: We see him come, and know him ours, who with his sunshine and his showers turns all the patient ground to flowers. Dark and dull night fly hence away, and give the honour to this day that sees December turned to May. The Darling of the world is come, and fit it is we find a room to welcome him. The nobler part of all the house here is the heart: Which we will give him, and bequeath this holly and this ivy wreath, to do him honour who's our King, and Lord of all this revelling:

*Words, Robert Herrick
Music, John Rutter (b.1945)*

The First Lesson

Isaiah 9: 2, 6 & 7

read by Ms Laura Coyle

Anthem

I saw three ships come sailing in on Christmas day in the morning. And what was in those ships all three? Our Saviour Christ and his Lady. O they sailed in to Bethlehem. And all the bells on earth shall ring. And all the angels in heaven shall sing. And all the souls on earth shall sing. Then let us all rejoice a-main.

*Words & Music, English Traditional
Arrangement, Stuart Nicholson (b.1975)*

The Second Lesson

Luke 1: 26-38

read by Ms Judith Lyons

Hymn

Once in royal David's city
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby
In a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven,
Who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable,
And his cradle was a stall;
With the poor, and mean, and lowly,
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

And through all his wondrous childhood
He would honour and obey,
Love, and watch the lowly maiden,
In whose gentle arms he lay;
Christian children all must be
Mild, obedient, good as he.

For he is our childhood's pattern,
Day by day like us he grew,
He was little, weak, and helpless,
Tears and smiles like us he knew;
And he feeleth for our sadness,
And he shareth in our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see him,
Through his own redeeming love,
For that child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in heaven above;
And he leads his children on
To the place where he is gone.

*Words, Mrs Cecil Frances Alexander
Melody, Henry John Gauntlett
Arrangement, David Willcocks (1918-2015)*

The Third Lesson

Luke 2: 1-7

read by Mrs Elizabeth Lowrie

The choir sing

*Away in a manger, no crib for a 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 baby awakes, 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.*

The Blessing of the Crib

Hear the words of the book of Wisdom: When peaceful silence lay over all and night was in the midst of her swift course, from your royal throne, O God, down from the heavens, leapt your almighty Word.

Hear the words of Saint John: God's love for us was revealed when God sent his only Son into the world so that we could have life through him. **Thanks be to God.**

The choir sing

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

Text, Anonymous

Music, William James Kirkpatrick (1838-1921)

Arrangement, David Willcocks (1919-2015)

Prayers

Let us pray that God our Father will bless this crib, and that all who worship his Son, born of the Virgin Mary, may come to share his life in glory:

God our Father, on this night your Son Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary for us and for our salvation; bless this crib, which we have prepared to celebrate that holy birth; may all who see it be strengthened in faith and receive the fullness of life he came to bring; who lives and reigns for ever. **Amen.**

Holy Jesus, to deliver us from the power of darkness you humbled yourself to be born among us and were laid in a manger. Let the light of your love always shine in our hearts, and bring us at last to the joyful vision of your beauty, for you are now alive and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Hymn

O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King
and peace to men on earth;
for Christ is born of Mary;
and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wandering love.

O Holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel.

Music, English Traditional
Arrangement, Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

The Fourth Lesson

Luke 2: 8-16

read by Ms Victoria Green

Anthem

In the bleak mid-winter frosty wind made moan, earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone: Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow, in the bleak mid-winter, long ago. Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain; heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign: In the bleak mid-winter a stable-place sufficed the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ. Enough for him, whom cherubim worship night and day, a breastful of milk, and a manger full of hay; enough for him, whom angels fall down before, the ox and ass and camel which adore. What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb; if I were a wise man I would do my part; yet what I can I give him – give my heart.

Words, Christina Georgina Rossetti (1830-94)

Music, Harold Darke (1888-1976)

The Fifth Lesson

Matthew 2: 1-11

read by Ms Rosanna West

Anthem

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar, field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star. *O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.* Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown Him again, King for ever, ceasing never, over us all to reign. Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a Deity nigh; prayer and praising, all men raising, worshipping God on high. Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom; sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone cold tomb. Glorious now behold Him arise; King and God and sacrifice; Heav'n sings Alleluia, Alleluia the earth replies. *O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.*

Words & Music, John Henry Hopkins Jr (1820-91)

Arrangement, Stuart Nicholson (b.1975)

The Sixth Lesson

John 1: 1-14

read by Mrs Elizabeth Lowrie

Hymn

God rest you merry, gentlemen,
Let nothing you dismay,
For Jesus Christ our Saviour
Was born upon this day,
To save us all from Satan's power
When we were gone astray:
O tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our heavenly Father
A blessed angel came,
And unto certain shepherds
Brought tidings of the same,
How that in Bethlehem was born:
The Son of God by name:

The shepherds at those tidings
Rejoicèd much in mind,
And left their flocks a-feeding
In tempest, storm, and wind,
And went to Bethlehem straightway
This blessed Babe to find:

But when to Bethlehem they came,
Whereat this infant lay,
They found him in a manger,
Where oxen feed on hay;
His mother Mary kneeling
Unto the Lord did pray:

Now to the Lord sing praises,
All you within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood
Each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas
All others doth deface:

*Words & Music, English traditional
Arrangement, David Willcocks (1919-2015)*

Blessing

Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one all things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace: And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Hymn

Hark! the herald-angels sing
glory to the new-born King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.

Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'

Hark! the herald-angels sing
glory to the new-born King.

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail, the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Hail, the heaven-born Prince of peace!

Hail, the sun of righteousness!

Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.

Mild he lays his glory by,
born that man no more may die,
born to raise the sons of earth,
born to give them second birth.

Words, Charles Wesley (1707-88)

Music, Felix Mendelssohn (1809-47)

Arrangement, David Willcocks (1919-2015)