

THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2007

10:00 p.m.

THE ENTRANCE RITE

Voluntary

From Heaven High I Come to You
Allegretto cantabile – Pastorale – Scherzando

Ernst Pepping

The Congregation stands as the bells are rung.

Opening Carol

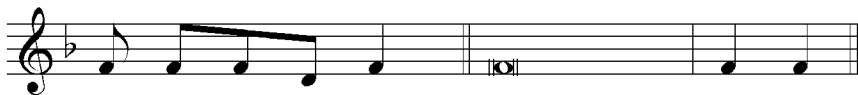
Once in Royal David's City

1. 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.
2. 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 meek and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.
3. And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;
for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heav'n above;
and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.
4. Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him; but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high;
there his children gather 'round, bright like stars, with glory crowned.

Apostolic Greeting and Prayer of the Day



*The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.*



And al - so with you. Let us pray ... A - men.

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light.
Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence, and in the last day
wake to the brightness of his glory; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who
lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

The Congregation is seated for the Meditation and The Service of Lessons and Carols.

Meditation

THE SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

*God announces in the Garden of Eden
that the offspring of woman shall bruise the serpent's head.*

The First Lesson

Genesis 3:8-15

Anthem

The Truth from Above

Ralph Vaughan Williams

Carol

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.
2. O come, strong Branch of Jesse, free your own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell your people save and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.
3. O come, O Key of David, come, and open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.

The Second Lesson

Isaiah 11:1-9

Anthem

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Michael Praetorius

Carol

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

1. It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all-gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.
2. Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heav'nly music floats o'er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hov'ring wing,
And ever o'er its Babel sound the blessed angels sing.
3. For lo! The days are hast'ning on, by prophets seen of old,
When with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
And all the world give back the song which now the angels sing.

St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

The Third Lesson

Luke 2:1-7

Anthem

O Sanctissima

Sicilian Mariner's Hymn

Carol

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

1. God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay;
Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day,
To save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray.
O tidings of comfort and joy ...
2. "Fear not, then," said the angel, "Let nothing you affright:
This day is born a Savior of a pure virgin bright,
To free all those who trust in him from Satan's pow'r and might."
O tidings of comfort and joy ...
3. Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place,
And with true love and charity each other now embrace;
His holy tide of Christmas doth bring redeeming grace.
O tidings of comfort and joy ...

*The shepherds go to the manger.***The Fourth Lesson**

Luke 2:8-16

Anthem

Past Three O'clock

English, arr. Charles Wood

Carol

Angels We Have Heard on High

1. Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo ...
2. Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo ...
3. Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the new-born king.
Gloria in excelsis Deo ...

*St. John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.***The Fifth Lesson**

John 1:1-14

Anthem

Ríu, Ríu, Chíu

16th c. Spanish Villancico*Refrain: Ríu, ríu, chíu, Shepherd by the river: God protected our Ewe [Mary] from the wolf [Satan].*

1. The furious wolf tried to bite her, but almighty God protected her well;
He kept her safe in this world of sin. *Refrain*
2. This new-born Child is a mighty monarch, the patriarchal Christ clothed in flesh;
He redeemed us by making himself tiny: he who was infinite became finite. *Refrain*
3. He comes to give life to the dead and to atone for man's fall:
This very Babe is the Light of Day, the Lamb of whom St. John spoke. *Refrain*
4. God made her [Mary] a mere mother: he who was her father was born of her today;
And he who created her calls himself her son. *Refrain*

Carol

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

1. Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!
2. Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest for evermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
3. Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave; Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

The Congregation stands.

Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary and was made truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

Prayers

Each petition concludes with one of the following responses:

Send forth your light: **Hear our prayer.**

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Sharing of Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Anthem

While By My Sheep

arr. Hugo Jüngst

The Congregation stands.

Offertory Hymn

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

1. Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand:
Ponder nothing earthly-minded, for with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descending comes our homage to demand.
2. King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords in human vesture, in the body and the blood,
He will give to all the faithful his own self for heav'nly food.

Offertory Verse and Prayer

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.

God of time and eternity, **you have given your only Son, born of Mary, to save and redeem us. Bless us with all good things, that the works of our hands through the years of our lives may proclaim the news of your redeeming love in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The musical notation consists of three staves of music in G major (one sharp). The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The lyrics are: "The Lord be with you. And al - so with you." The second staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The lyrics are: "Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord." The third staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The lyrics are: "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give God thanks and praise."

Preface and Sanctus

It is in-deed right and sal - u - tar - y... we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of pow'r and might,
Hea'vn and earth are full of your glo - ry. Al - le - lu - ia, Lord most high.
Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Al - le - lu - ia, Lord most high.

The musical notation consists of four staves of music. The first staff is in G major (one sharp) with a treble clef. The lyrics are: "It is in-deed right and sal - u - tar - y... we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:". The second staff is in G major (one sharp) with a treble clef. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of pow'r and might,". The third staff is in G major (one sharp) with a treble clef. The lyrics are: "Hea'vn and earth are full of your glo - ry. Al - le - lu - ia, Lord most high." The fourth staff is in G major (one sharp) with a treble clef. The lyrics are: "Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Al - le - lu - ia, Lord most high."

Eucharistic Prayer

Holy One, the Beginning and the End, the giver of life:

Blessed are You for the birth of creation.

Blessed are You in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are You for your promise to your people.

Blessed are You in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are You for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are You for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying,

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:



With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth.
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.
We look with hope for his coming.



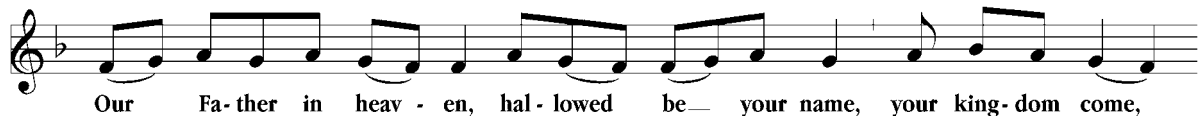
Holy God, we long for your Spirit.
Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us.
Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.



All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.



The Lord's Prayer



Agnus Dei

Sung by the Choir.

The Distribution of the Blessed Sacrament

All Christians are invited to receive the Sacrament.

Non-communicants are invited to come forward to receive a blessing

Carol

1. 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.
2. How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming; but, in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.
3. 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;
Oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

Anthem

Away in a Manger

arr. J. Thomas Mitts

Carol

The First Nowell

1. The first Nowell the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields as they lay, keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.
2. They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.
3. Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heav'nly Lord;
That hath made heav'n and earth of nought,
And with his blood our life hath bought.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.

THE POST-COMMUNION

The Congregation stands.

Eucharistic Blessing

Nunc dimittis

Lord, bid your servant go in peace, your word is now fulfilled.
These eyes have seen salvation's dawn, this child so long foretold.
This is the Savior of the world, the Gentiles' promised light,
God's glory dwelling in our midst, the joy of Israel.

Prayer

In this meal, O God, we have beheld your glory, and have been renewed in soul and body.
Strengthen us to be true to our calling to serve you, and to proclaim the news of your redeeming
love to all who are in need. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The Candle Lighting

*As the Procession passes, those on the center aisle light their candles from the acolytes, and hold their
candles upright so that others may light theirs. Exercise care in holding the candle to avoid dripping wax.
Please assist small children with their candles.*

Carol

Silent Night, Holy Night!

1. Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child, holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.
2. Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar, heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!
3. Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

Benediction

May you glory in the birth of the Son of God,
And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
be among you today and always. **Amen**

Dismissal

Glory to God in the highest;
Peace to God's people on earth!
Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Voluntary

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

Marcel Dupré