

THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS' NAIROBI

A Festival of Lessons & Carols on

CHRISTMAS EVE

24th December 2023, 6:00pm
All Saints' Cathedral, Nairobi

Choir Director: Ben Ogola
Conductor: Francis Oludhe
Organist: Antony Muriuki

● **STREAMING LIVE** |  

THEME FOR THE YEAR: Is anything too hard for the Lord? (Gen. 18:14)

The Provost, the Clergy and the entire Cathedral staff, take this opportunity to wish you a happy and blessed Christmas. May the light of the new-born Christ shine upon you and may He scatter the darkness from before your path now and always. Amen.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY: In dulci jubilo - arr Robert Lucas

**PROCESSIONAL CAROL NO. 31: Once in royal David's city
(vv 1 and 2 choir only)**

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.

Not in that poor and lowly stable,
With the oxen standing by,
We shall see him; but in heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high,
When like stars his children crowned
All in white shall wait around.

THE BIDDING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Beloved in Christ, be it this Christmas Eve our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is coming to pass, and with the Magi adore this child laying 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 child. And let us make this house glad with our carols of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace on earth and goodwill among all his people; for unity and brotherhood within the church he came to build and especially within our city

of Nairobi, within our diocese and within our beloved country of Kenya.

And let us at this time remember, in his name, the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry, and the oppressed; the sick in body and mind and those that mourn, the lonely and the unloved, the aged and the little children; and all who know not the Lord Jesus.

Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore, and in greater light, that multitude which no man can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh and with whom in this Lord Jesus we for evermore are bound.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself 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 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, forever and ever. Amen.*

PRIEST:

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. **Amen.**

THE CONGREGATION SHALL SIT

INVITATORY: And there were shepherds

[J.S Bach (From Christmas Oratorio) Edited by David Willcocks]

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL: Of the Father's Heart Begotten

ALL: *Of the father's heart begotten
Ere the world began to be
He is alpha and omega
He the source, the ending he;
Of the things that are, that have been,
And that future years shall see;
Evermore and evermore*

Ladies: By his word was all created;
He commanded and 'twas done:
Earth and sky and boundless ocean,
Universe of three in one;
All that sees the moon's soft radiance:
All that breathes beneath the sun.
Evermore and evermore.

Gentlemen: O how blest that wondrous birthday,
When the Maid the curse retrieved,
Brought to birth mankind's salvation,
By the Holy Ghost conceived:
And the Babe, the world's Redeemer,
In her loving arms received,
Evermore and evermore.

ALL: *Sing, ye heights of heaven His praises;
Angels and archangels, sing!
Wheresoe'er ye be, ye faithful,
Let your joyous anthems ring,
Every tongue His name confessing,
Countless voices answering;
Evermore and evermore.*

CHOIR CAROL: Christ was born on Christmas day
[Text: John Mason Neale (1818-1866) Music:
from Piae Cantiones (1582) arr. Colin Mawby (b. 1936)]

1ST LESSON: Genesis 3:8-14, 24 ~ Eliana Anne Opondo

God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise.

CHOIR CAROLS: Leo yatomizwa

[Words: D. M . Mbela - Music by Lewis Malema]:

The holly and the ivy

[Words: traditional; arr. Jonathan Willcocks]

2ND LESSON: Genesis 22: 15 - 18 ~ Linda Macharia

God promises faithful Abraham that in his see shall the nations of earth be blessed

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL: NO. 20 -

It came upon the midnight clear

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 men,
From heaven's all-gracious King!'
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come,
With peaceful wings unfurled;
And still their heavenly music floats
O'er all the weary world:
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hovering wing;
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.

Yet in the woes of sin and strife
The world hath suffered long;
Beneath the angel-strain have rolled
Two thousand years of wrong;
And man, at war with man, hears not
The love song which they bring;
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,
And hear the angels sing.

For lo! the days are hastening on,
By prophet-bards foretold,
When, with the ever-circling years,
Shall come the Age of Gold;
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendours fling,
And all the world give back the song
Which now the angels sing.

CHOIR CAROL: O Holy Night

[Words by J S Dwight Arr. Adolphe Adam]

3RD LESSON: Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7 ~ Jeth Maina

The prophet foretells the coming of the Saviour

CHOIR CAROLS: Quelle Est Cette Odeur, Agréable?
[French traditional carol arranged by David Willcocks]

4TH LESSON: Micah 5: 1 - 4 ~ Wangu Mugo

The prophet foretells the glory of the kingdom of God

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL No. 29: -
O little town of Bethlehem (Omit verse 4)

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 to-night.

For Christ is born of Mary;
And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to men on earth.

(Ladies)

How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming;
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still
The dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem!
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in;
Be born in us to-day.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel!

CHOIR CAROL: The Gathering
[Words by Rose Aspinall Music by Mary McDonald]

CHOIR CAROL: We believe
[Words and Music by Marty Funderburk arranged by
Russell Mauldin]

5TH LESSON: St. Luke 1:26-35, 38 ~ Ben Ogola

The angel Gabriel salutes the virgin Mary

CHOIR CAROL: I sing of a maiden
[Words traditional arr. Patrick Hadley]

CHOIR CAROL: Shepherd's pipe carol
[Words and Music by John Rutter]

6TH LESSON: Luke 2:1-7 ~ Pamela Kola

The birth of Jesus foretold

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL No. 40: -
While shepherds watched their flock by night

While Shepherds watched their flocks by night,
All seated in the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around.

'Fear not,' said he (for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled mind);
'Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind;

To you in David's town this day
Is born of David's line
A Saviour who is Christ the Lord;
And this shall be the sign.

The heavenly babe you there shall find
To human view displayed,
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
And in a manger laid.'

Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith
Appeared a shining throng
Of angels praising God, who thus
Addressed their joyful song:

'All glory be to God on high,
And to the earth be peace;
Goodwill henceforth from heaven to men
Begin and never cease.'

CHOIR CAROL: Have you heard the story
[Words and Music by Jay Althouse]

7TH LESSON: Luke 2:8 - 16 ~ Ruth Odep

The Shepherds go to the manger

CHOIR CAROL: The Shepherds farewell

[English words by Paul England; from *The Childhood of Christ* (L'estance del Christ arr. Hector Berlioz)]

CHOIR CAROL: Go tell it on the mountain

[John W Work jr; Negro spiritual arr. By Stan Pethel]

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL No. 12: (Offertory Carol)

God rest you merry, Gentlemen

**(vv 1 & 3 unison voices v.4 men only; v.5 ladies only,
but all sing refrain)**

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,

Comfort and joy,

O tidings of comfort and joy.

In Bethlehem, in Jewry
This blessed babe was born,
And laid within a manger
Upon this blessed morn;
The which his mother Mary
Did nothing take in scorn.

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.

O tidings of comfort and joy,.....

(Gentlemen)

Fear not, then said the angel,
Let nothing you affright,
This day is born a Saviour
Of a pure virgin bright,
To free all those who trust in him
From Satan's power and might.

O tidings of comfort and joy,.....

(Ladies)

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.

O tidings of comfort and joy,.....

And 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.

O tidings of comfort and joy,.....

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 anger should efface.

O tidings of comfort and joy,.....

CONGREGATION SHALL SIT AND OBSERVE A MOMENT OF SILENCE

8TH LESSON: Matthew 2:1-11 ~ Rev'd David Otieno

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus

CHOIR CAROL: Mary's little boy Chile (Calypso Carol)
[An original Christmas spiritual based on West-indies rhythm by Jester Hairston]

THE CONGREGATION SHALL STAND FOR THE 9TH LESSON.

9TH LESSON: John 1:1-14 ~ Provost

St. John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation

******* A PEAL OF BELLS WILL BE RUNG *******

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL No. 27 -

O come, all ye faithful (vv 1, 2 & 3 only)

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.

O come, let us adore Him,

Sing choir of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God
In the highest;

O come, let us adore Him,

Priest: The Lord be with you
All: And with thy spirit

Priest: Let us pray

(All shall kneel)

THE COLLECT FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

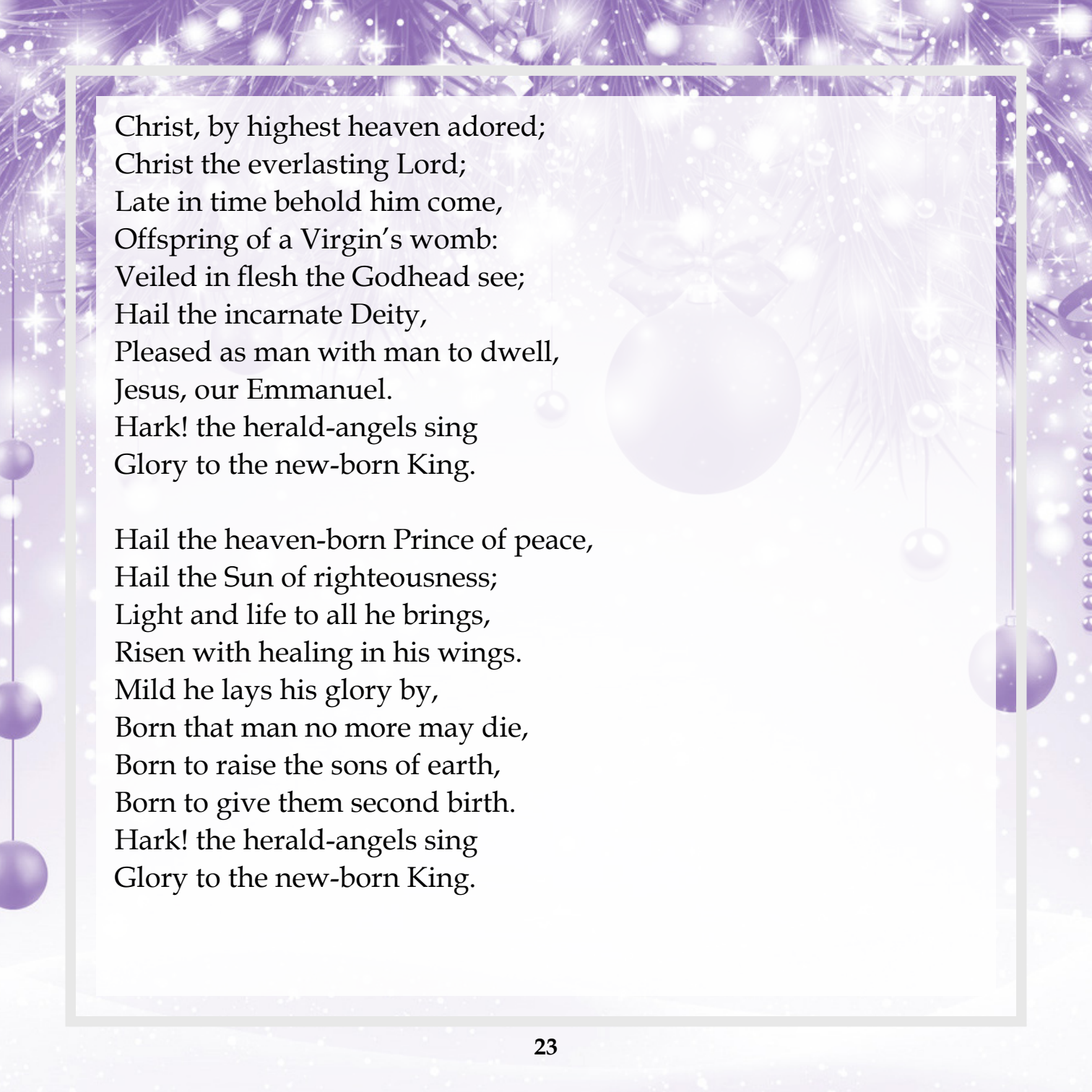
O God, who makes us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your only Son, Jesus Christ: grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold Him when He shall come to be our judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

THE 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.**

RECESSIONAL CAROL No. 15 - Hark! The herald angels sing (vv 1, 2, & 3 only)

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

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

**ORGAN VOLUNTARY: March from Nutcracker -
Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky**

CONTACT US

Email: info@allsaintsnairobi.org

Tel: 0728 271 715 or 0702 645 069

Prayer & Pastoral Care Line: 0110 095533 (from 9am to 4pm)

Email: prayerline@allsaintsnairobi.org

FOLLOW US ON

You Tube/ Facebook/ Twitter:

All Saints' Cathedral, Nairobi

MAKING PAYMENTS

1. For Tithe, Thanksgiving, Offertory, Organ Restoration, etc:

Paybill No. 303036

Account Name: All Saints' Cathedral Church

ABSA Bank, Queensway Branch

A/C No. 0941048099

2. For CTC payments:

Mpesa Paybill No. 303035

Account: Your phone number

Bank A/C Name: All Saints Cathedral CTC

ABSA Bank, Queensway Branch

A/C No. 2034405894



*He put a new song in my mouth,
a song of praise to our God;
Many will see & fear
And will trust in the Lord.*

PSALM 40:3