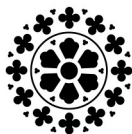


CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, VICTORIA, BC

Christmas Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 17, 2023 4.00 pm



CHRIST CHURCH
CATHEDRAL
A CATHEDRAL FOR THE CITY



ANGLICAN DIOCESE
OF ISLANDS AND INLETS
RENEWED HEARTS, RENEWED SPIRITS, RENEWED PEOPLE

Welcome to the cathedral church of the Anglican Diocese of Islands and Inlets. As a community of faith, we respectfully acknowledge that we gather to worship on the traditional lands of the Esquimalt and Songhees nations. We welcome and celebrate human diversity-including spirituality, age, ethnicity, gender, and sexual orientation. We declare our commitment to be in solidarity with the poor and marginalized, and to cherish and sustain the created order. Here people of any faith or none can question and discover the sacred in life through openness, struggle, laughter, and prayer.

Liturgical notes

This afternoon's service begins at the time of the creation of the universe. The first reading ends with hints of humanity's loss of innocence and the breaking of our relationship with God. The unfolding story, told through scripture, tells how the coming of the Christ Child gives us hope that one day all will be restored. The lessons and carols tell how God has reached out to creation since the dawn of time with a message of comfort, renewal, and peace. Listen well. It is a magnificent story. It is the story of love.

A word about our readers

Over the years, we have invited people from the public arena to read the short lessons which are at the heart of this service. Today we are pleased to have representatives from civic life, media, education, and outreach services with us to tell this ancient story. We welcome them – and you – to this uplifting annual celebration.

Music before the service:

"Les Bergers," from La Nativité du Seigneur Olivier Messiaen (d. 1992)
Played by Amiel Elfert, Organ Scholar

Pastorale, BWV 590 Johann Sebastian Bach (d.1750)
Played by Mark McDonald, Assistant Director of Music

In dulci júbilo, BuxWV 197 Dieterich Buxtehude (d. 1707)
Played by Mark McDonald, Assistant Director of Music

CHRISTMAS LESSONS AND CAROLS

Officiant: The Reverend Canon Jeannine Friesen

This service is being broadcast live on the Internet.

THE ENTRANCE & BIDDING

The congregation remains seated as a solo voice and choir sings:

Hymn

Tune: Irby (Common Praise #123)

Solo 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.

Choir 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.

All now stand at the entrance of the choir and chancel party, joining in singing

All 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 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 gather round.

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895), alt.

Music: Henry John Gauntlett (1805-1876). vv. 1-4 harm. A.H. Mann. Desc. David Willcocks

The Bidding Prayer

all remain standing

Priest Beloved family of God,
in this season when we celebrate the birth of Jesus,
let it be our duty and delight
to hear once more the message of the angels
and go in heart and mind to Bethlehem
to see the Son of God lying in a manger.

As we hear the reading of God's holy word,
let us raise our voices with the messenger who announces good
news of great joy to all people and give thanks to the one
whose power has made us the children of God.

As we mark once more the mystery of the Word made flesh,
let us join with the song of angels and saints and make this
place ring with our carols and hymns of praise.

But first, let us remember the poverty of the birth of the
Prince of Peace, and pray for the poor, the cold, the hungry,
and those among us who find that there is
no room for them at the inn.

Let us remember the flight of the Holy Family into Egypt,
and pray for the oppressed, refugees, the isolated, and those
on the edges of our society.

Let us remember that the Lord of Glory experienced the
pain of life and death, and pray for the sick, the anxious,
the weary, and the bereaved.

And remembering the promise that he shall reign for ever and ever,
let us pray for the rulers of the nations,
for peace and justice on earth,

for the unity and mission of the Church,
that we may be a sign that God's rule on earth
has already begun.

With joy in our hearts,
let us hear again the story of the birth of Christ,
and join with Mary and Joseph,
with shepherds and wise men,
and with all our forebears in faith
in offering our worship.

Officiant And now let us humbly offer up our prayers and praises
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 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.

All are now seated

Carol

Ding dong, merrily on high!
In heav'n the bells are ringing;
ding dong, verily the sky
is riv'n with angel singing.
Gloria, hosannah in excelsis!
Gloria, hosannah in excelsis!

E'en so here below,
let steeple bells be swungen,
And io, io, io,
by priest and people sungen.

Gloria, hosannah in excelsis!
Gloria, hosannah in excelsis!

Pray ye dutifully prime
your matin chime, ye ringers;
may ye beautifully rhyme
your evetime song, ye singers.
Gloria, hosannah in excelsis!
Gloria, hosannah in excelsis!

Words by George Ratcliffe Woodward (1848-1934)
Music: French Traditional, arr. Charles Wood (1866-1926)

THE LESSONS & CAROLS

The First Reading: The Garden of Eden

Genesis 2. 4b-10, 15-17

read by Chris Coleman,
Councillor, City of Victoria

Reader Holy Word, holy Wisdom.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Carol

Adam lay ybounden,
bounden in a bond;
four thousand winter
thought he not too long.

And all was for an apple,
an apple that he took,
as clerkes finden
written in their book.

Nay had the apple taken been,
the apple taken been,
ne had never our Lady
a-been heavené-queen.

Blessed be the time
that apple taken was
therefore we moun singen,
Deo gratias!

Words: 15th century English
Music: Peter Warlock (1894-1930)

The Second Reading: A sign of God's faithful covenant appears in the sky

Genesis 9. 12-16

read by Jake Humphries,
Interim Head, Christ Church Cathedral School

Reader Holy Word, holy Wisdom.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Song

Blessed be the Living Tree.
Blessed be the Tree of Life
that grows within you and me.

Steady and true,
rooted in love.
Shelter and peace
below and above

Sing to the sky,
rise from the earth.
Seasons come round again,
death to rebirth.

Text and Music: Melanie DeMore (b. 1955)

The Third Reading: The prophet foretells the coming of the Saviour

Isaiah 9. 2, 6-7

read by Sid Tobias,
Mayor, View Royal

Reader Holy Word, holy Wisdom.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Motet

*Christus est stella matutina, qui nocte
saeculi transacta,
lucem vitae sanctis promittit,
et pandit aeternam.
Alleluia.*

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.
Alleluia.

*Text: The Venerable Bede (673-735)
Music: Will Todd*

The congregation stands

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.

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 all on earth.

Choir How silently, how silently
 the wondrous gift is given
 as love imparts to human hearts
 the blessings of God's 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.

All 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.

Text: Phillips Brooks (1835-1893), alt.

Music: Melody English trad.; coll. and harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958).

Desc. Thomas Armstrong (1898-1994)

The Fourth Reading: The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown

Isaiah 11.1-3a, 4a, 6-9

please be seated

read by Janet Dirks,

Former Correspondent—CTV National News

Reader Holy Word, holy Wisdom.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Carol (world première)

This is the month, and this the happy morn,
wherein the Son of Heaven's eternal King,
of wedded maid and Virgin Mother born,
our great redemption from above did bring;
for so the holy sages once did sing,
that he our deadly forfeit should release,
and with his Father work us a perpetual peace.

That glorious Form, that Light unsufferable,
and that far-beaming blaze of majesty,
wherewith he wont at Heaven's high council-table
to sit the midst of Trinal Unity,
he laid aside, and, here with us to be,
forsook the Courts of everlasting Day,
and chose with us a darksome house of mortal clay.

See how from far upon the Eastern road
the star-led Wisards haste with odours sweet!
Oh! run; prevent them with thy humble ode,
and lay it lowly at his blessèd feet;
have thou the honour first thy Lord to greet,
and join thy voice unto the Angel Quire,
from out his secret altar touched with hallowed fire.

Text: from "On the morning of Christ's nativity," John Milton (1608-1674)

Music: Tobin Stokes (b. 1966)

The Fifth Reading: The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary

Luke 1.26-35, 38

read by Elizabeth May,

MP, Saanich-Gulf Islands, Leader, Green Party of Canada

Reader Holy Word, holy Wisdom.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Carol

*Angelus ad virginem,
Subintrans in conclave,
Virginis formidinem
Demulcens, inquit "Ave!
Ave, regina virginum:
Coeli terraeque dominum
Concipies et paries intacta
Salutem hominum;
Tu porta coeli facta,
Medela criminum."*

*"Quomodo conciperem,
Quae virum non cognovi?
Qualiter infringere,
Quae firma mente vovi?"
"Spiritus sancti gratia
Perficiet haec omnia.
Ne timeas, sed gaudeas
Secura, quod castimonia
Manebit in te pura
Dei potentia."*

*Ad haec, virgo nobilis
Respondens inquit ei,
"Ancilla sum humilis
Omnipotentis Dei.
Tibi coelesti nuntio,
Tanti secreti conscio,
Consentiens et cupiens videre
Factum quod audio,
Parata sum parere
Dei consilio."*

The angel came to the Virgin,
entering secretly into her room;
the Virgin's fear
calming, he said, "Hail!
Hail, queen of virgins:
you will conceive the Lord of
heaven and earth
and bear him, still a virgin,
to be the salvation of mankind;
you will be made the gate of
heaven, the cure of sins."

"How can I conceive,
When I have never known a man?
How can I transgress
resolutions that I have vowed with
a firm mind?"
"The grace of the Holy Spirit
shall do all this.
Do not be afraid, but rejoice
without a care, since your chastity
will remain in you unspoilt
through the power of God."

To this, the noble Virgin,
replying, said to him,
"I am the humble maidservant
of almighty God.
To you, heavenly messenger,
and bearer of such a great secret,
I give my consent,
and wishing to see done
what I hear,
I am ready to obey
the will of God."

*Eia Mater Domini,
Quae pacem reddidisti
Angelis et homini
Cum Christum genuisti!
Tuum exora filium
Ut se nobis propitium
Exhibeat, et deleat peccata,
Praestans auxilium
Vita frui beata
Post hoc exsilium.*

Hail, Mother of our Lord,
who brought peace back
to angels and men
when you bore Christ!
Pray your son
that he may show favor to us
and blot out our sins,
giving us help
to enjoy a blessed life
after this exile.

Text and Music: 13th-century Franciscan carol, arr. Barry Rose (b. 1934)

The Sixth Reading: St Luke tells of the birth of Jesus

Luke 2.1, 3-7

read by Grace Lore,

MLA—Victoria-Beacon Hill, BC Minister of State for Child Care

Reader Holy Word, holy Wisdom.
People **Thanks be to God.**

The congregation stands

Hymn

Tune: Winchester Old (Common Praise #136)

While shepherds watched their flocks by night
all seated on 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 humankind.

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 swaddling 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 world be peace;
good will henceforth from heaven to earth
begin, and never cease.”

*Text: Luke 2.8-14; para. Nahum Tate (1652-1715), alt.
Music: Melody Whole Book of Psalms, 1592*

Seventh Reading: The shepherds go to the manger

Luke 2.8-16

please be seated
read by Julian Daly,
Executive Director, Our Place Society

Reader Holy Word, holy Wisdom.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Carol

I wonder as I wander out under the sky
how Jesus the Saviour had come for to die.
For poor on'ry people like you and like I.
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.

When Mary birthed Jesus 'twas in a cow's stall,
with wise men and farmers and shepherds and all.
But high from God's heaven a star's light did fall,
and the promise of ages it then did recall.

If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,
a star in the sky, or a bird on the wing,
or all of God's angels in heav'n for to sing,
he surely could have it, 'cause he was the King.

Text and Music: Appalachian Traditional, arr. John Rutter (b. 1945)

The Eighth Reading: The Magi are led by the star to Jesus

Matthew 2.1-12

read by Gregor Craigie,
Host, CBC Radio, "On the Island"

Reader Holy Word, holy Wisdom.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Carol

In silence, loneliness, and night,
the dreary desert lies:
And thro' the vast and cloudless height,
the stars with sparks of crystal light,
have gemmed the dusky skies.

No sound upon the stillness swells,
save where the little band
of midnight trav'lers break the spells,
with the low-tinkling camel-bells,
along the desert sand.

In chastened splendour, through the haze
of shining worlds afar,
a holy guide in gloomy ways
before them moves with mystic rays,
the bright, majestic star.

And all the glories of the night
that crowd the arching skies,
are paled by wondrous light that leads
their steps aright to where the Saviour lies.

Text: Shapcott Wensley (1854-1917)

Music: Emma Mundella (1858-1896), arr. Olivia Sparkhall

The congregation stands

The Ninth Reading: St John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation

John 1.1-14

read by Maureen Sawa,
CEO, Greater Victoria Public Library

Reader Holy Word, holy Wisdom.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Carol

please be seated

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining,
it is the night of the dear Saviour's birth;
long lay the world in sin and error pining,
'Till he appeared and the soul felt its worth.

A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,
for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn;

Fall on your knees, Oh hear the angel voices!
O night divine! O night when Christ was born.
O night divine!

Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is Love and His gospel is Peace;
Chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother,
And in his name all oppression shall cease,
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful Chorus raise we;
Let all within us praise his Holy name!

Christ is the Lord! O praise his name forever!
His power and glory ever proclaim!
O night divine!

Text: John Sullivan Dwight (1813-1893)
Music: Adolphe-Charles Adam (1803-1856)

THE OFFERING, CONCLUDING PRAYER & HYMNS

The congregation stands

Hymn

Tune: Adeste fideles (Common Praise #118)

During this hymn, a collection is received for the work of the cathedral. Our donation kiosk can be found at the Quadra St doors (charitable tax receipt option available) as is our new, easy to use, Tap machine for those who do not require a tax receipt. Please use the QR code at the end of the leaflet if you would like to make an online donation.

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,
Christ the Lord.

God of God,
Light of Light,
Lo! he abhors not the virgin's womb;
very God,

begotten, not created:
O come ...

Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God
in the highest:
O come ...

See how the shepherds,
summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
we too will thither
bend our joyful footsteps:
O come ...

Yea, Lord we greet thee,
born on Christmas morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing:
O come ...

*Text: St. 1, 2, 3, and 5, John Francis Wade (1711-1786);
st. 4, Étienne-Jean-François Borderies, 1822; st. 5a, Thesaurus Animae Christianae, 1850?;
st. 1, 2, 3, and 5, tr. Frederick Oakley (1802-1880); st. 4 and 5a, tr. William T. Brooke (1848-1917). Vv.
2 & 5 arr. Patrick Wedd (1948-2019).*

Concluding Prayer

please remain standing

Officiant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.
Holy God,
bring us to the manger to greet and adore your Son.
Grant us like John the Baptist
to prepare his way, our hearts and our homes, for his coming;
like Mary and Joseph,
to carry him in our very selves,
bringing him to birth in the most unlikely of places;
like Herod and the magi,
to understand the danger he poses to our way of being,
but to seek him nonetheless;

and like the angels and shepherds,
to spare no effort to herald and welcome his presence among us;
through the same your Son, Jesus Christ, our incarnate Lord.

People **Amen.**

Hymn

Tune: Mendelssohn (Common Praise #138)

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn 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 newborn 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 one of us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! the herald angels sing:
"Glory to the newborn 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 we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth,
born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing:
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Text: Charles Wesley (1701-1788), alt.

Music: Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809-1847); adapt. William Hayman Cummings (1831-1915); altern harm. and desc. David Wilcocks (1919-2015). Altern harm. and desc. © Oxford University Press.

The Blessing

Officiant Beloved family of God:
Life is short
and we do not have much time
to gladden the hearts of
those who travel with us.
So be swift to love,
make haste to be kind,
and go with the blessing of God;
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **Amen.**

Organ Voluntaries:

In dulci júbilo, BWV 729
Final, Symphony No. 1

J. S. Bach (d. 1750)
Louis Vierne (d. 1937)

NOTE ABOUT THE COMMISSIONED CAROL

From their beginnings in the Middle Ages, cathedrals have always had a role in fostering human creativity. This is, of course, in addition to that important work of being a community hub and of maintaining a rhythm of daily worship. One way that Christ Church Cathedral continues to join these mandates is through our commissioning of a new Christmas carol for this annual service. This year's carol ("This the happy morn") is by BC composer, Tobin Stokes. Stokes, who sets verses by the seventeenth century English poet, John Milton, writes:

"John Milton's ode *On the Morning of Christ's Nativity* contains over two dozen dramatic stanzas, prefaced with four introductory ones. It's three of these that ignite a celebratory feel I wish to express in this piece. While the lines are iambic, my interest lies in exploring the story, so at times it may sound hymnal and at others, something less predictable. The piece expresses joy, sometimes quietly, yet always with precision in rhythms and dynamics to best convey Milton's thoughts, taking the grand acoustic of Christ Church Cathedral into consideration along the way. It's always a privilege to be asked to compose choral music; I'm grateful to get to sit and think for days – sometimes weeks – on how best to transform each moment of text from something meant to be consumed intimately (heard only in the reader's head) to something new and alive, expressive and harmonious, living and breathing, ready to be experienced together. Thank you, Donald Hunt and Christ Church Cathedral Choir, for this opportunity and for your ongoing commitment to commission new works."

This is the thirteenth year that we've commissioned a new carol. These commissions, along with choral scholarships for young artists, our young chorister program with the Cathedral School, and concerts and workshops by visiting artists, are paid for entirely by the Music Fund, which is regularly supported by cathedral members and music lovers in the broader community. To those of you who support this important work: thank you!

Carol Commissions 2010-2023

2010: Paul Halley, *O magnum mysterium*
2011: Patrick Wedd, *A Poor Place*
2012: Stephanie Martin, *Legend of the Bird*
2013: Stephen Chatman, *I Sing the Birth*
2014: Zachary Windus, *Rejoice Ye Peoples of the Earth*
2015: Matthew Larkin, *Sailor's Carol*
2016: Rupert Lang, *There is no Rose*
2017: Christopher Goddard, *The Time Draws Near*

2018: Bramwell Tovey, Not very long ago
2019: Kathleen Allan, I Syng of a Mayden
2020: Sarah MacDonald, The Manger is Empty
2021: Andrew Balfour, Nowell Sing We
2022: Robert Busiakiewicz, Carol of the Bells
2023: Tobin Stokes, This the Happy Morn

Assisting with Today's Service

Greeters Christ Church Cathedral Sidespeople

Verger Bob Fearnley

Servers Jen Purkis, Elaine Ellison, Susan McKelvie, Joan Duckett,
Cyrus Chan, Pam Robertson

Musicians The Cathedral Choir
Benjamin Butterfield, *guest soloist*
Amiel Elfert, *Organ Scholar*
Mark McDonald, *Assistant Director of Music*
Donald Hunt, *Director of Music*

Production Team The Cathedral Technical Team

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS AT CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

Friday, December 22 / 5.00 p.m.
Community Carols in the Chapel
Freewill offering

Saturday, December 23 / 7.30 p.m.
CapriCCio Vocal Ensemble: The Night Before the Night Before
Tickets at capriccio.ca

Sunday, December 24 / 4.30 p.m.
Carols around the Crib: A family Eucharist for Christmas Eve
Freewill offering

Sunday, December 24 / 10.00 p.m.
Procession & Solemn Eucharist of the Nativity
Freewill offering
Incense will be used

Monday, December 25 / 10.30 a.m.
Christmas Day: Cathedral Eucharist*
Freewill offering

*The cathedral will be closed on Tuesday, December 26. Daily services resume
Wednesday, December 27. The offices will be closed December 23 to January 1.*

Sunday, December 31 / 4.00 p.m.
Organ Meditation: Messiaen's *La Nativité du Seigneur*
Freewill offering

Monday, January 1 / 2.30 p.m.
Old Music for the New Year
Admission by donation

