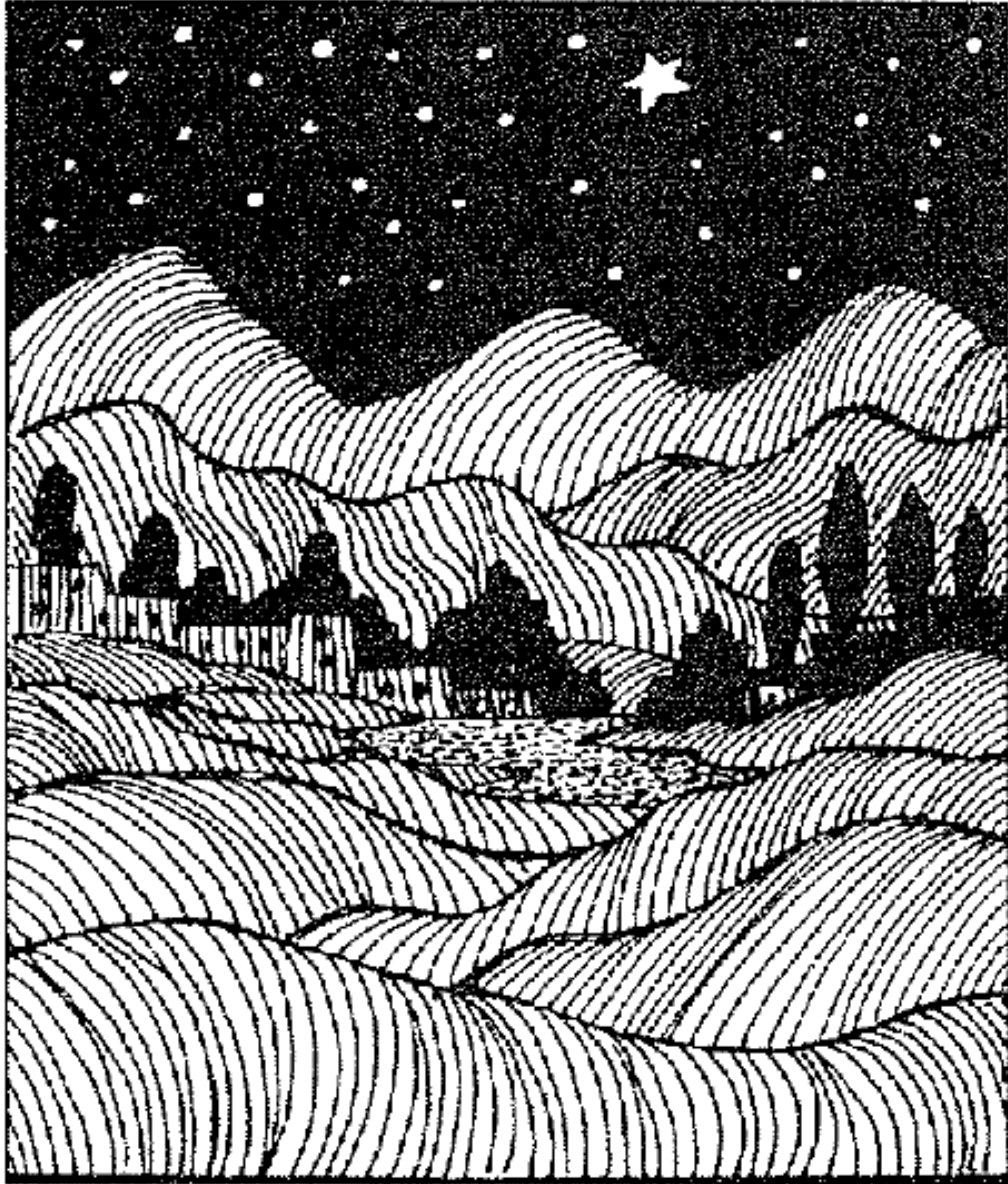




CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL
Vancouver, BC • *Open Doors, Open Hearts, Open Minds*



Nine Lessons & Carols

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2025

4:00 P.M.

In-Person & Livestream

The Cathedral Clergy
The Cathedral Choir
Dr. Neil Cockburn, *Organist & Director of Music*

About the Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols

The original idea for the Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols was drawn up by Edward White Benson, Bishop of Truro in Cornwall (later Archbishop of Canterbury), for use on Christmas Eve in 1880. It was based on an idea from the future Bishop of Edinburgh, George Walpole, who was the succentor of the cathedral at the time: tradition says that he organized a 10:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve using a temporary wooden shed for his Cathedral and that a key purpose of the service was to keep people out of pubs on Christmas Eve.

The original liturgy has since been adapted and used by churches all over the world. Traditionally an Anglican service, it has been adopted as part of the Christmas celebrations of many different denominations. The best-known version is broadcast annually from King's College, Cambridge on Christmas Eve, where it was first celebrated in 1918 (other than King's College, Groton School, Massachusetts in the US has performed the festival longer than any institution, holding its first Lessons & Carols in 1928). The King's College version was conceived by its Dean, Eric Milner-White, whose experience as an army chaplain had led him to believe that more imaginative worship was needed by the Church of England. The music at the first service at King's was directed by Arthur Henry Mann, working with a choir which had only trebles, as specified in statutes laid down by Henry VI. Later on, the men's voices were provided by choral scholars and lay clerks, while today, undergraduates from the College Choir sing the men's parts.

The service was first broadcast nationally by the BBC in 1919 and, except for 1930, has been broadcast every year since. During this time, the BBC also began broadcasting the service on its overseas programmes. Even throughout World War II, despite the stained glass having been removed from the Chapel and the lack of heating, the broadcasts continued. For security reasons, the name of King's College was not mentioned during wartime broadcasts. Since World War II it has been estimated that each year there are millions of listeners worldwide who tune in to the service live on the BBC World Service.

Our Cathedral was founded on December 23, 1888 — 137 years ago — just eight years after the first Service of Nine Lessons & Carols. This Carol service has become part of our Christmas worship for many years and it has built up a loyal congregation delighted by the beautiful music and the recitation of the greatest story ever told.

We are delighted that you have chosen to be part of this wonderful tradition and wish you a blessed and grace-filled Advent and Christmas!



The Very Rev. Christopher A. Pappas, Ph.D., D.Min.
Dean & Rector

ATTENTION

Incense will be used at this service.

Please use caution if you suffer from asthma or have a fragrance allergy or sensitivity.

Please do not leave valuables unattended.

This worship takes place on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the x̱məθḵʷəy̱əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), and Səlilwətaʔ (Tseil-Waututh) nations, in the heart of Vancouver.

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Congregational Carol

Once in Royal David's City

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895).

Music: IRBY, Henry John Gauntlett (1805-76), harm. by Arthur Henry Mann
(1850-1929); desc. Neil Cockburn

Verses 1 and 2 are sung by the choir

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 mean and lowly lived on earth our Saviour holy.

The congregation joins at verse 3:



3. And through all his won - drous_ child - hood he would
4. For he is our child - hood's pat - tern, day by
5. And our eyes at last_ shall_ see him, through his
6. Not in that poor low - ly_ sta - ble, with the
hon - our and_ o - bey, love and watch the low - ly_
day like us_ he_ grew, he was lit - tle weak and_
own re - deem - ing_ love, for that child so dear_ and_
ox - en stand - ing_ by, we shall see him; but_ in_
maid - en, in whose gen - tle arms_ he_ lay: Chris - tian
help - less, tears and smiles like us_ he_ knew: and he
gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove; and he
hea - ven, set at God's right hand_ on_ high; where like
chil - dren all must be_ mild, o - bed - ient, good as_ he_
feel - eth for our sad - ness, and he sha - reth in_ our_ glad - ness.
leads his child - ren on_ to the place where he_ is_ gone_
stars his child - ren crowned all in white shall wait a - round.

The Dean Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,

All May all the earth be filled with his glory.

The Dean Light has sprung up for the righteous,

All And joyful gladness for those who are true-hearted.

The Dean Glory to God in the highest,

All And peace to his people on earth.

A Bidding for Christmas

The Dean My sisters and brothers in Christ,
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: reflect on the time of our rebellion
against the creator of the universe [Genesis 3]
find comfort in the promise that the blind will see, the
deaf hear, the lame dance, and the silent burst into
song [Isaiah 35] join with Mary, the favoured handmaid, and offer
ourselves in service to God's holy and saving purpose
for the world [Luke 1] magnify the God of mercy who breaks the power of
tyrants and exalts the humble [Luke 1]
bless the name of the God of our salvation who brings the
dawn of forgiveness and salvation to those who live in
the shadow of death and despair [Luke 1]
raise our voices with the messenger who announces good
news of great joy to all people [Luke 2]
give thanks to the one whose power has made us the
children of God [John 1]

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.

Choir Carol

Out of your sleep

Robin Nelson (1943-)
Text: 15th cent.

Out of your sleep arise and wake,
for God mankind now hath ytake,
all of a maid without any make;
of all women she beareth the bell.

And through a maidé faire and wise,
now man is made of full great price;
now angels knelen to man's service,
and at this time all this befell.

Now man is brighter than the sun;
now man in heav'n on high shall won;
blessèd be God this game is begun
and his mother the Empress of helle.

That ever was thrall now is he free;
that ever was small now great is she.
Now shall God deem both thee and me
unto his bliss if we do well.

Now man he may to heaven wend;
now heav'n and earth to him they bend,
he that was foe now is our friend.
this is no nay that I you tell.

Now blessèd brother, grant us grace
at doomèsday to see thy face,
and in thy court to have a place,
that we may there sing thee nowell.

Reading 1

Genesis 2.4–9,15–25

(These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created)

Prayer Creating God,
you call us to live in harmony with nature, with one another, and with you.
Now fix our eyes upon the one in whom your purpose for our world has been revealed,
Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

Choir Carol

Adam Lay Ybounden

Philip Ledger (1937-2012)
Text: anon. 15th cent.

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.

Ne had the apple taken been
the apple taken been;
ne had never our lady
abeen heavené queen.

Blessed be the time
that apple taken was,
therefore we moun singen
deo gracias!

Reading 2

Isaiah 35.1–10

(Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened)

Prayer Hope of the desperate and strength of the weak,
you give streams in the desert of wasted lives,
and abundant future to cities made desolate.
Hear our prayer for the exiles of our time,
the prisoners of poverty and tyranny,
the victims of illness, waste, and hunger.
Come among us as new life for all the world.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ,
Word made flesh and hope revealed.

All Amen.

Choir Carol

Tomorrow shall be my Dancing Day

John Gardner (1917-2011)

Text: English trad.

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day;
I would my true love did so chance
to see the legend of my play,
to call my true love to my dance;

Chorus

Sing, oh! my love, oh! my love,
my love, my love,
this have I done for my true love

Then was I born of a virgin pure,
of her I took fleshly substance

thus was I knit to man's nature
to call my true love to my dance. *Chorus*

In a manger laid, and wrapped I was
so very poor, this was my chance
betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass
to call my true love to my dance. *Chorus*

Then afterwards baptized I was;
the Holy Ghost on me did glance,
my Father's voice heard from above,
to call my true love to my dance. *Chorus*

Reading 3

Isaiah 7.10–15

(The young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel)

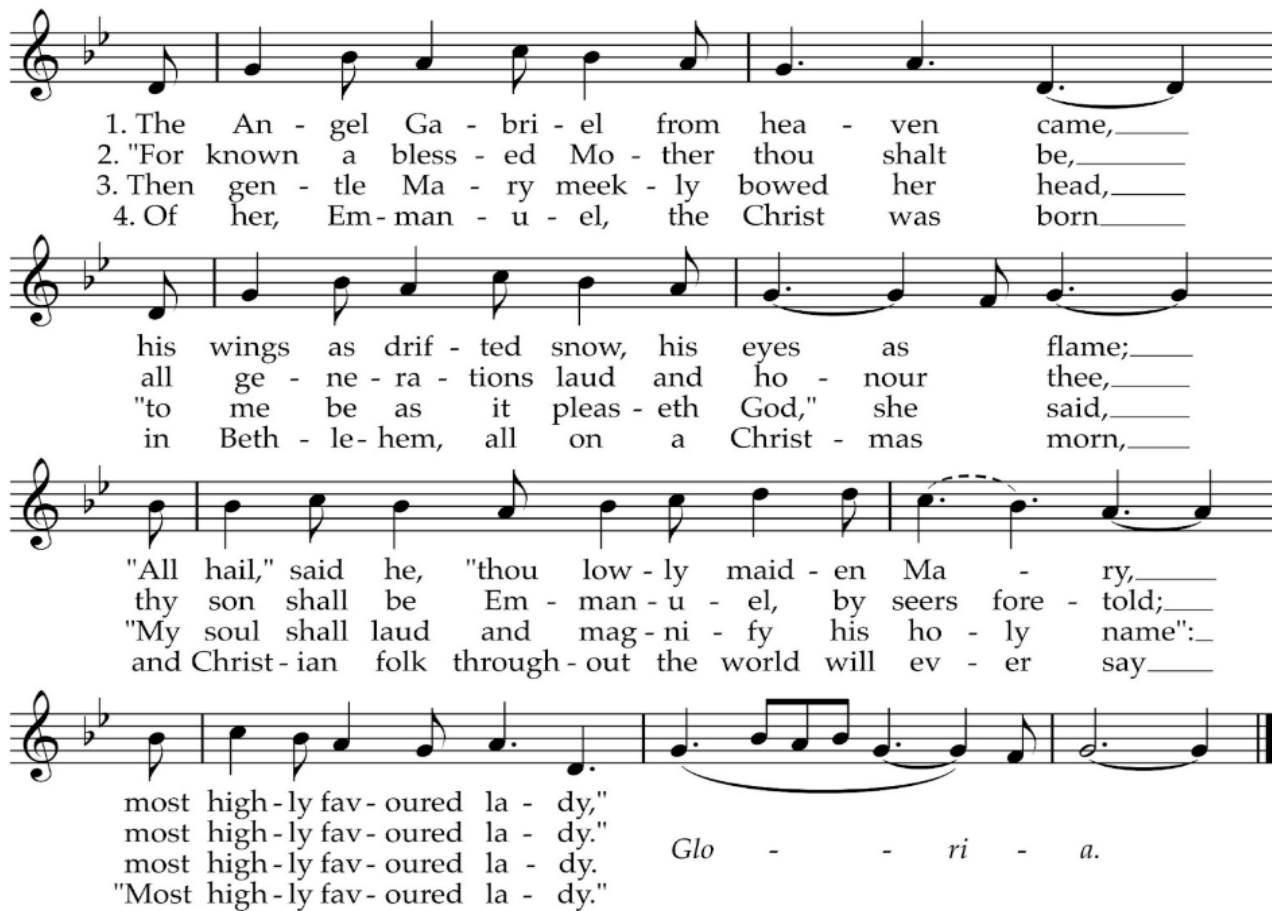
Prayer God of hope,
look upon those who live with despair as their companion.
Give them signs of your healing presence and of your eternal purpose of salvation.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the
Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

All Amen.

Congregational Carol

The Angel Gabriel (Basque Carol)

Text: Basque Carol, para. Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924).
Music: GABRIEL'S MESSAGE, Basque trad., arr. Edgar Pettman (1865-1943).



1. The An - gel Ga - bri - el from hea - ven came,____
2. "For known a bless - ed Mo - ther thou shalt be,____
3. Then gen - tle Ma - ry meek - ly bowed her head,____
4. Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ was born____

his wings as drif - ted snow, his eyes as flame;____
all ge - ne - ra - tions laud and ho - nour thee,____
"to me be as it pleas - eth God," she said,____
in Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn,____

"All hail," said he, "thou low - ly maid - en Ma - ry,____
thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told;____
"My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy his ho - ly name":_____
and Christ - ian folk through - out the world will ev - er say____

most high - ly fav - oured la - dy,"
most high - ly fav - oured la - dy."
most high - ly fav - oured la - dy.
"Most high - ly fav - oured la - dy." Glo - - ri - a.

Reading 4

Luke 1.26–38

(Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you)

Prayer

Pour your grace into our hearts, O Lord,
that we who have known the incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ,
announced by an angel to the Virgin Mary,
may by his cross and passion be brought to the glory of his resurrection;
who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All

Amen.

Of one who is so fair and bright
Velut maris stella, [Like a star of the sea]
 Brighter than the day is light,
Parens et puella: [Both mother and maiden]
 I cry to thee, thou see to me,
 Lady, pray thy Son for me,
Tam pia, [so pure]
 That I may come to thee.
Maria! [Mary]

All this world was forlorn,
Eva peccatrice, [because of Eve, a sinner]
 Till our Lord was yborn,
De te genetrix. [through you, his mother]
 With ave it went away,
 Darkest night, and comes the day
Salutis; [of salvation]
 The well springeth out of thee.
Virtutis. [of virtue]

Lady, flower of everything,
Rosa sine spina, [Rose without thorn]
 Thou bare Jesu, heaven's king,
Gratia divina: [by divine grace]
 Of all thou bearest the prize,
 Lady, queen of paradise
Electa: [chosen]
 Maid mild, mother
es effecta. [you are made]

Reading 5

Luke 1.39–46 or 1.39-56

(My soul magnifies the Lord)

Prayer Almighty God,
 who looked with favour on your servant Mary,
 and called her to be the mother of your Son,
 nurture in us the humility and gentleness that found favour in your sight,
 that with her we may proclaim the greatness of your name
 and find the mercy you show to those who fear you;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord,
 who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
 one God, for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

Choir Carol

In the Bleak Midwinter

Harold Darke (1888-1976)
Text: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

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 mangerful 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.

Congregational Carol

See Amid the Winter's Snow

John Goss (1800-1880)
Text: Edward Caswell (1814-1878)

1 See a - mid the win - ter's snow, born for us on earth be - low;
2 Lo, with - in a man - ger lies he who built the star - ry skies,
3 Say, ye ho - ly shep - herds, say what your joy - ful news to - day;
4 "As we watched at dead of night, lo, we saw a won - drous light;
5 Sa - cred in - fant, all di - vine, what a migh - ty love was thine,

see the ten - der Lamb ap - pears, pro - mis'd from e - ter - nal years:
who en - throned in height sub - lime sits a - mid the cher - u - bim.
where - fore have ye left your sheep on the lone - ly moun - tain steep?
an - gels, sing - ing 'Peace on earth' told us of the Sav - iour's birth."
thus to come from high - est bliss down to such a world as this!

Hail thou e - ver - bless - ed morn! Hail re - demp - tion's hap - py dawn!

Sing through all Je - ru - sa - lem: Christ is born in Beth - le - hem.

Reading 6

Luke 2.1–20

(To you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord)

Prayer O God our Father,
whose Word has come among us
in the Holy Child of Bethlehem,
may the light of faith illumine our hearts
and shine in our words and deeds;
through him who is Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

Choir Carol

Silent Night

Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863)

Text: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848), trans. John Freeman Young (1820-1885),
arr. Bob Chilcott (1955-).

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 first saw the sight:
glories stream from heav'n a-far,

heav'nly hosts sing alleluia:
Christ the Saviour is born,
Christ the Saviour is born.

3 Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light
radiance beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus lord at thy birth,
Jesus lord at thy birth.

Reading 7

Luke 2.21–35

(My eyes have seen your salvation)

Prayer Almighty God,
you have shed upon us the new light
of your incarnate Word.
May this light, enkindled in our hearts,
shine forth in our lives;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

All **Amen.**

The one whom the shepherds praised,
and about whom the angels told:
“Abandon your present fears,
the King of Glory is born.”

To him the kings walked,
carrying gold, frankincense and myrrh,
offering them religiously,
for the Lion’s victory.

Let us rejoice with Mary,
in union with the celestial hierarchy,
singing a pious song to the newborn,
that be sweet in its melody.

Of Christ the King, God born,
who was given to us by Mary,
we should sing the merit:
praise, honour, and glory.

Reading 8

Hebrews 1.1–12

(In these last days God has spoken to us by a Son)

Prayer

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light,
look favourably on your whole Church,
that wonderful and sacred mystery.
By the effectual working of your providence,
carry out in tranquillity the plan of salvation.
Let the whole world see and know
that things which were cast down are being raised up,
and things which had grown old are being made new,
and that all things are being brought to their perfection
by him through whom all things were made,
your Son Jesus Christ our Lord;
who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen

All

Amen.

Choir Carol

Noel—*Verbum Caro Factum Est*

Tamsin Jones (1972-)
Text: The Gospel of John, and anon. 16th cent.

Noel!
This night there is a child y-born
That sprang out of Jesse's thorn
We must sing and say therefor
Verbum caro factum est. [The Word became flesh]

Jesus is the childes name
And Mary mild is his dame
All sorrow is turned to game
Verbum caro factum est.

It fell upon the high midnight
The stars they shone both fair and bright
The angels sang with all their might
Verbum caro factum est.

Now kneel we down upon our knee
And pray we to the Trinity
Our help, our succour for to be
Verbum caro factum est.
Noel!

Reading 9

John 1.1–18

(To all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God)

Prayer Eternal Wisdom, creating, ordering, and saving,
we give you thanks that we have seen you
in the selfless love of Jesus Christ.
Now reign within our minds and hearts,
and mobilize our will,
that by your power and through our hands
this world may be re-made
to be the garden and the city of your glory.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

All **Amen.**

A Christmas Proclamation *God is With Us*

John Tavener (1944-2013)
Text: adapted from the Orthodox Great Compline for Christmas Eve

God is with us.
Hear ye people, even to the uttermost end of the earth.
The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light.
The people that dwell in the shadow of death, upon them the light has shined.
For unto us a child is born! For 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.
Hear ye people, even to the uttermost end of the earth.
God is with us.
Christ is born! Christ is born! Christ is born!

Incarnation Litany

- Officiant* In joy and humility let us pray to the creator of the universe, saying, “Lord, grant us peace.”
By the good news of our salvation brought to Mary by the angel, hear us, O Lord.
- All* **Lord, grant us peace.**
- Officiant* By the mystery of the Word made flesh, hear us, O Lord.
- All* **Lord, grant us peace.**
- Officiant* By the birth in time of your timeless Son, hear us, O Lord.
- All* **Lord, grant us peace.**
- Officiant* By the manifestation of your radiant glory to the shepherds and magi, hear us, O Lord,
- All* **Lord, grant us peace.**
- Officiant* By the submission of the maker of the world to Mary and Joseph of Nazareth, hear us, O Lord.
- All* **Lord, grant us peace.**
- Officiant* By the baptism of the Son of God in the river Jordan, hear us, O Lord.
- All* **Lord, grant us peace.**
- Officiant* Grant that the kingdoms of this world may become the kingdom of our Saviour Jesus Christ; hear us, O Lord.
- All* **Lord, grant us peace.**

Silence may be kept.

Collect

- Officiant* Almighty God,
you wonderfully created
and yet more wonderfully restored our human nature.
May we share the divine life of your Son Jesus Christ,
who humbled himself to share our humanity,
and now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
- All* **Amen.**
- Officiant* And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
- 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.**

Offertory

Text: Charles Wesley (1701-1788), alt.
 Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847), adapt. William Hayman Cummings (1831-1915);
 desc. David Willcocks (1919-2015)



1 Hark! the he - rald - an - gels sing_ "Glo - ry to the new - born King,
 2 Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;
 3 Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Right-eous-ness!



peace on earth and mer - cy mild,_ God and sin - ners re - con - ciled."
 late in time be - hold him come, off-spring of a vir-gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful all ye na - tions rise,_ join the tri-umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see;_ hail, the in-car-nate de - i - ty,_
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by,_ born that we no more may die,_



with th an-gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is__born in Beth - le - hem!"
 pleased as one of us to dwell, Je - sus,_ our Em-man-u - el!
 born to raise each child of earth, born to__give us sec-ond birth.



Hark! the he - rald - an - gels sing, "Glo - ry__ to the new - born King."

Blessing

Officiant May the God of infinite goodness
 scatter the darkness of sin
 and brighten your hearts with holiness;
 and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
 be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

Congregational Carol

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Text: John Francis Wade (1711-1786), tr. Frederick Oakley (1802-1880).
Music: ADESTE FIDELES, melody attrib. John Francis Wade (1711-1786);
desc. Neil Cockburn.

1 O come all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant,
2 God of God, Light of Light,
3 Sing choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,

O come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
lo, he ab - hors not the vir - gin's womb;
sing all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove;

Come and be - hold him Born the King of An - gels:
ver - y God, be - got - ten not cre - a - ted:
glo - ry to God in the high - est:

O come let us a - dore him, O come let us a - dore him,
O come let us a - dore him, — Christ — the Lord.

Postlude

Carillon de Westminster (from Pièces de Fantaisie, Op. 54/6)

Louis Vierne
(1870-1937)



CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL
Vancouver, BC · Open Doors, Open Hearts, Open Minds

Participants in the Service

The Cathedral Clergy

Music

The Cathedral Choir & Friends
Dr. Neil Cockburn, *Organist & Director of Music*

Readers

John Innes, Teresa Mitchell-Banks, Andrew Bartlett, Obi Ifedior, Emma Jang, Colin Miles,
Liz McCauseland, Bernard Cuffling, Hope Sealy

Servers

Jane Callen and Terry Love

Welcoming Team

Jane Dittrich, Miles Lubinich, Peter Roulston, Marilyn Campbell, Kayoko Wear and Jennifer Chen

Offertory



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