

St Margaret's Church Westminster Abbey



Westminster School Small Carols



Tuesday 27th November 2019
6.30 pm

The whole of the church is served by a hearing loop. Users should turn the hearing aid to the setting marked T.

Members of the congregation are kindly requested to refrain from using private cameras, video, or sound recording equipment. Please ensure that mobile telephones and other electronic devices are switched off.

The service is conducted by The Reverend Gavin Williams, Chaplain, Westminster School.

Cantandum is directed by Gilly French.

The organ is played by Jonathan Dods.

Music before the service

Chorale Fantasia on
'Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern'

Dieterich Buxtehude (c 1637–1707)

ORDER OF SERVICE

All stand for

THE HYMN

HARK! a herald voice is calling:
'Christ is nigh,' it seems to say;
'cast away the dreams of darkness,
O ye children of the day!'

Startled at the solemn warning,
let the earth-bound soul arise;
Christ, her Sun, all sloth dispelling,
shines upon the morning skies.

Lo! the Lamb, so long expected,
comes with pardon down from heaven;
let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
one and all to be forgiven;

so when next he comes in glory,
and earth's final hour draws near,
may he then as our defender
on the clouds of heaven appear.

Honour, glory, virtue, merit,
to the Father and the Son,
with the co-eternal Spirit,
while unending ages run. Amen.

Merton 5 NEH
William Monk (1823–89)

Vox clara ecce intonat c 5th century
translated by Edward Caswall (1814–78)

All remain standing. The Reverend Gavin Williams, Chaplain, Westminster School, gives

THE BIDDING

IN the name of God, who has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and made a place for us in the kingdom of his beloved Son, we welcome you: grace to you and peace.

As we meet to celebrate anew the coming of God's kingdom, we hear revealed the mystery of his loving purpose for us all—how that when we were far off, he met us in his Son and brought us home; how he humbled himself to take our human nature, that we might share his divine glory.

Let us then so celebrate this coming with our carols and hymns of praise, that our lives may be charged with his life; that we may bear witness to his glory and so bring light and hope to those who sit in darkness. But first we pray for those among whom the Christ was born: the poor and helpless, the aged and young children; the cold, the hungry, and the homeless; the victims of poverty, injustice, and oppression, the sick and those who mourn; the lonely and the unloved; those in despair or in the shadow of death.

And that we may bear true witness to this hope, we pray for peace and unity within Christ's body, the Church universal, within the ancient foundations of St Peter and St Margaret, and within this School community, that the whole earth may live to praise his name.

Finally, as we rejoice with the saints in heaven and on earth, we remember all who have gone before us with the sign of faith, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we offer up our prayers for the coming of his kingdom, in the words he himself has taught us, saying:

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.

May the Lord when he comes find us watching and waiting, active in his service and joyful in his praise. **Amen.**

All sit. The choir sings

THE ANTHEM

THIS is the truth sent from above,
The truth of God, the God of love:
Therefore don't turn me from your door,
But hearken all, both rich and poor.

The first thing which I do relate
Is that God did man create,
The next thing which to you I'll tell,
Woman was made with man to dwell.

And they did eat, which was a sin,
And thus their ruin did begin.
Ruined themselves, both you and me,
And all of their posterity.

Then, after that, 'twas God's own choice
To place them both in Paradise,
There to remain, from evil free,
Except they ate of such a tree.

Thus we were heirs to endless woes,
Till God the Lord did interpose,
And so a promise soon did run,
That he would redeem us by his Son.

*Herefordshire carol
arranged by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)*

An Old Westminster reads

THE FIRST LESSON Isaiah 11: 1–4a, 5–9

All stand to sing

THE HYMN

OF the Father's heart begotten,
ere the world from chaos rose,
he is Alpha: from that Fountain
all that is and hath been flows;
he is Omega, of all things
yet to come the mystic Close,
evermore and evermore.

Lower voices sing

This is he, whom seer and sibyl
sang in ages long gone by;
this is he of old revealed
in the page of prophecy;
Lo! he comes, the promised Saviour;
let the world his praises cry!
Evermore and evermore.

Upper voices sing

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.

All sing

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.

*Divinum mysterium 58 100CC
from Piae Cantiones 1582
descant by David Willcocks (1919–2015)*

*Corde natus ex Parentis Prudentius (348–c 413)
translated by Roby Furley Davis (1866–1937)*

All sit. An Old Westminster reads

THE SECOND LESSON

Isaiah 9: 2, 6–7

The choir sings

THE ANTHEM

A BABE is born all of a may,
to bring salvation unto us.
To him we sing both night and day.
Veni creator Spiritus.
Come, creator Spirit

At Bethlehem, that blessed place,
the child of bliss now born he was;
and him to serve God give us grace,
O lux beata Trinitas.
O blessed light of the Trinity.

There came three kings out of the east,
to worship the King that is so free,
with gold and myrrh and frankincense,
A solis ortus cardine.
From the rising of the sun.

The angels came down with one cry,
a fair song that night sung they
in worship of that child:
Gloria tibi Domine.
Glory to you, Lord.

A babe is born all of a may,
to bring salvation unto us.
To him we sing both night and day.
Veni creator Spiritus, O lux beata Trinitas,
A solis ortus cardine, Gloria tibi Domine. Noël!

William Mathias (1934–92)

15th century

An Old Westminster reads

THE THIRD LESSON

St Luke 1: 26–38

THE HYMN

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 heav'n'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 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 sounds
the blessed angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife
the world has 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
comes round the age of gold;
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendours fling,
and the whole world give back the song
which now the angels sing.

All sit. An Old Westminster reads

THE FOURTH LESSON
St Luke 2: 1–7

The choir sings

THE ANTHEM

BORN in a stable so bare,
born so long ago;
born 'neath light of star
he who loved us so.
*Far away silent he lay,
born today, your homage pay,
for Christ is born for aye,
born on Christmas Day.*

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Cradled by mother so fair, tender her lullaby; over her son so dear angel hosts fill the sky. | Wise men from distant far land, shepherds from starry hills worship this babe so rare, hearts with his warmth he fills. |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Love in that stable was born
into our hearts to flow;
innocent dreaming babe,
make me thy love to know.

John Rutter (b 1945)

John Rutter

A Member of The Friends of Westminster School Committee reads

THE FIFTH LESSON
St Luke 2: 8–16

The choir sings

THE 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, heav'n cannot hold him
Nor earth sustain;
Heav'n 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.

Harold Darke (1888–1976)

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.

Christina Rossetti (1830–94)

The President of The Elizabethan Club reads

THE SIXTH LESSON
St Matthew 2: 1–11

The choir sings

THE ANTHEM

SING this night, for a boy is born in Bethlehem,
Christ our Lord in a lowly manger lies;
Bring your gifts, come and worship at his cradle,
Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!
*See his star shining bright
In the sky this Christmas night!
Follow me joyfully;
Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!*

Angels bright, come from heaven's highest glory,
Bear the news with its message of good cheer:
"Sing, rejoice, for a King is come to save us,
Hurry to Bethlehem to see the son of Mary!"

See, he lies in his mother's tender keeping;
Jesus Christ in her loving arms asleep.
Shepherds poor, come to worship and adore him,
Offer their humble gifts before the son of Mary.

Let us all pay our homage at the manger,
Sing his praise on this joyful Christmas night;
Christ is come, bringing promise of salvation;
Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!

John Rutter (b 1945)

John Rutter

All stand to sing

THE HYMN

during which congregational candles are lit

AS with gladness men of old
did the guiding star behold,
as with joy they hailed its light,
leading onward, beaming bright,
so, most gracious God, may we
evermore be led to thee.

As with joyful steps they sped
to that lowly manger-bed,
there to bend the knee before
him whom heaven and earth adore,
so may we with willing feet
ever seek thy mercy-seat.

As they offered gifts most rare
at that manger rude and bare,
so may we with holy joy,
pure, and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to thee our heavenly King.

Holy Jesu, every day
keep us in the narrow way;
and, when earthly things are past,
bring our ransomed souls at last
where they need no star to guide,
where no clouds thy glory hide.

In the heavenly country bright
need they no created light;
thou its light, its joy, its crown,
thou its sun which goes not down:
there for ever may we sing
Alleluias to our King.

*adapted from Conrad Kocher (1788–1872)
by William Henry Monk (1823–89)*

William Chatterton Dix (1837–98)

All remain standing. A former Staff Member of Westminster School reads

THE SEVENTH LESSON

St John 1: 1–14

All sit and extinguish congregational candles. The choir sings

THE ANTHEM

OMAGNUM mysterium et admirabile sacramentum, ut animalia viderent
Dominum natum, jacentem in praesepe. O beata virgo, cujus viscera
meruerunt portare Dominum Jesum Christum. Alleluia!

O great mystery and wondrous sign, that the animals should see the Lord born, lying in a manger. Blessed is the Virgin, whose womb was counted worthy to bear the Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia!

Tomás Luis de Victoria (c 1548–1611)

fourth respond for Matins of Christmas Day

All stand. The Chaplain says

THE COLLECT *and* THE BLESSING

ALMIGHTY God, you make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as we joyfully receive him as our redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold him when he shall come to be our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

MAY the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary, and the peace of the Christ child be yours this Christmas; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

All sing

THE HYMN

LO! he comes with clouds descending,
Once for favoured sinners slain;
Thousand thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia!
God appears, on earth to reign.

Those dear tokens of his passion
still his dazzling body bears,
cause of endless exultation
to his ransomed worshippers:
with what rapture
gaze we on those glorious scars!

Every eye shall now behold him
robed in dreadful majesty;
those who set at nought and sold him,
pierced and nailed him to the tree,
deeply wailing,
shall the true Messiah see.

Yea, Amen! let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory:
claim the kingdom for thine own:
O come quickly!
Alleluia! Come, Lord, come!

*Helmsley 9 NEH
noted by Thomas Olivers (1725–99)
included in Wesley's Select Hymns 1765*

*The kingdom come
Charles Wesley (1707–88)*

Music after the service

Toccata on 'Veni Emmanuel'

Andrew Carter (b 1939)

**A retiring collection will be taken in support of
The Westminster School Campaign
(Westminster School—registered charity no. 312728).**

We believe that a Westminster education should be available to the very brightest children, regardless of their financial circumstances. With your help, we will be able to transform the futures of many more young people and enrich the experience of all pupils at Westminster School.

Members of the congregation are invited to a reception of mince pies and mulled wine Up School. Access via Dean's Yard and Liddell's Arch.