

St Margaret's Church Westminster Abbey



Westminster School Small Carols



Tuesday 4th December 2018
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.

The Choir of Westminster School is directed by Tim Garrard, Director of Music, Westminster School.

The organ is played by Richard Pearce.

Music before the service

Noëls

Louis-Claude Daquin (1694–1772)

In dulci jubilo

Johann Michael Bach (1648–94)

ORDER OF SERVICE

All stand for

THE HYMN

A soloist sings **O**NCE 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.

The choir sings 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 sing 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.

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 wait around.

Henry Gauntlett (1805–76)
verse 5 arranged by James O'Donnell (b 1961)

Cecil Alexander (1818–95)

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

THE BIDDING

BELOVED in Christ, be it this Christmas-tide our care and delight to hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger.

Therefore 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 Holy Child, and let us make this church glad with our carols of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace and goodwill over all the earth; and for unity and brotherhood within the Church he came to build, within the ancient foundations of St Peter and St Margaret, and within this School community.

And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us remember in his name the poor and the helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick and them that mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

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

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us:

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.

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.

All sit. The choir sings

THE ANTHEM

Nowell!

WHO is there that singeth so?
I am here, Sir Christemas.
Welcome, my Lord Sir Christemas!
Welcome to all, both more and less, come near.

Dieu vous garde, beaux sieurs, tidings I you bring:
A maid hath borne a child full young,
which causeth you to sing:

Christ is now born of a pure maid;
In an ox stall he is laid,
Wherefore sing we at a brayed:

Buvez bien, buvez bien par toute la compagnie.
Make good cheer and be right merry,
And sing with us now joyfully:

William Mathias (1934–92)

anonymous, c 1500

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.

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.

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.

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

NOW may we singen as it is
Quod puer natus est nobis.

This Babe to us that now is born,
Wonderful works he hath (y)wrought
He would not loss what was forlorn,
But boldly again it bought;

And thus it is
For sooth ywis,
He asketh nought but that is his.

This bargain lovèd he right well,
The price was high and bought full dear.
Who would suffer and for us feel
As did that Prince withouten peer?

His ransom for us hath ypaid;
Good reason have we to be his.
Be mercy asked and he be prayed,
Who may deserve the heavenly bliss.

To some purpose God made man;
I trust well to salvation.
What was his blood that from him ran
But fence against damnation?

Almighty God in Trinity,
Thy mercy we pray with whole heart,
Thy mercy may all woe make fell
And dangerous deraad from us to start.

Cecilia McDowall (b 1951)

English, 15th century

THE THIRD LESSON

St Luke 1: 26–38

The choir sings

MAGNIFICAT

MY soul doth magnify the Lord :
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

For he hath regarded :

the lowliness of his hand-maiden.

For behold, from henceforth :

all generations shall call me blessed.

For he that is mighty hath magnified me :

and holy is his name.

And his mercy is on them that fear him :

throughout all generations.

He hath shewed strength with his arm :

he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

He hath put down the mighty from their seat :

and hath exalted the humble and meek.

He hath filled the hungry with good things :

and the rich he hath sent empty away.

He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel :

as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed, for ever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son :

and to the Holy Ghost;

as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be :

world without end. Amen.

All stand to sing

THE HYMN

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.

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

The choir sings

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.

All sing

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.

*traditional English melody
descant by Tim Garrard*

Phillips Brooks (1835–93)

All sit. An Old Westminster reads

THE FOURTH LESSON St Luke 2: 1–7

THE ANTHEM

WHAT sweeter music can we bring
than a carol, for to sing
the birth of this our heav'nly King?
Awake the voice! Awake the string!
Dark and dull night, fly hence away,
and give the honour to this day
that sees December turn'd to May.

Why does the chilling winter's morn
smile, like a field beset with corn?
Or smell like a meadow newly shorn
thus on the sudden? Come and see
the cause, why things thus fragrant be:
'tis he is born, whose quickening birth
gives life and lustre, public mirth,
to heaven and the under earth.

We see him come, and know him ours,
who, with his sunshine and his show'rs,
turns all the patient ground to flowers,
the darling of the world is come,
and fit it is, we find a room
to welcome him. The nobler part
of all the house here, is the heart,
which we will give him; and bequeath
this holly, and this ivy wreath,
to do him honour, who's our King,
and Lord of all this revelling.

What sweeter music can we bring
than a carol, for to sing
the birth of this our heavenly King?

John Rutter (b 1945)

Robert Herrick (1591–1674)

A Member of The Friends of Westminster School Committee reads

THE FIFTH LESSON

St Luke 2: 8–16

The choir sings

THE ANTHEM

O MAGNUM mysterium et admirabile sacramentum, ut animalia viderent Dominum natum, jacentem in praesepio. O beata virgo, cujus viscera meruerunt portare Dominum Jesum Christum.

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.

Morten Lauridsen (b 1943)

fourth respond for Matins of Christmas Day

The President of The Elizabethan Club reads

THE SIXTH LESSON

St Matthew 2: 1–11

The choir sings

THE ANTHEM

*Lully, lulla, thou little tiny child,
By by, lully lullay,
thou little tiny child,
By by, lully lullay.*

O SISTERS too,	Herod, the king,
how may we do	in his raging,
for to preserve this day	charged he hath this day
this poor youngling,	his men of might,
for whom we sing,	in his own sight,
By by, lully lullay?	all children young to slay.

That woe is me,
poor child for thee!
and ever morn and day,
for thy parting
nor say nor sing
By by, lully lullay!

Kenneth Leighton (1929–88)

*from the Pageant of the Shearmen and Tailors
Coventry, 15th century*

All stand to sing

THE HYMN

during which congregational candles are lit

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 th'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 th'incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.

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.

*Felix Mendelssohn
verse 3 arranged by David Willcocks*

Charles Wesley OW (1707–88)

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

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 soul rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.

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

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming,
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand.
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,
Here came the wise men from Orient land.
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger,
In all our trials born to be our friend!

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

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

Cantique de Noël
Adolphe Adam (1803–56)
arranged by John Rutter

Minuit, Chrétiens
Placide Cappeau (1808–77)

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

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,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

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, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of
heaven above;
'Glory to God
in the highest':
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

Adeste fideles
attributed to John Wade (1711–86)
descant by David Willcocks

Adeste fideles attributed to John Wade
translated by Frederick Oakeley (1802–80)
and William Brooke (1848–1917)

Music after the service

Chorale Prelude on 'Vom Himmel hoch'

Johannes Pachelbel (c 1653–1706)

**A retiring collection will be taken in support of
the Westminster School Bursary Programme
(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.**