

St Margaret's Church

Westminster Abbey



Westminster School

Small Carols



Thursday 1st December 2016

6.30 pm

The service is conducted by The Reverend Jane Sinclair, Canon of Westminster and Rector of St Margaret's Church.

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

The organ is played by Ben Bloor, School Organist.

Music before the service:

Prelude and Fugue in A BWV 536

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland

Nicolaus Bruhns (1665–97)

Hymns covered by Christian Copyright Licensing (International) Ltd are reproduced under CCL no 1040271 and MRL no 1040288.

Order of Service

All stand for

THE HYMN

during which the lights are dimmed and congregational candles are lit

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 only: 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)
descant by David Willcocks (1919–2015)*

Cecil Alexander (1818–95)

All remain standing. The Reverend Jane Sinclair, Canon of Westminster and Rector of St Margaret's Church, gives

THE BIDDING

All say

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

Congregational candles are extinguished.

All sit. The choir sings

THE RESPONSORY

I look from afar:
and lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth.
Go ye out to meet him and say:
Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?
High and low, rich and poor, one with another,
Go ye out to meet him and say:
Hear, O thou Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep,
tell us, art thou he that should come?
Stir up thy strength, O Lord, and come
to reign over thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

I look from afar:
and lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth.
Go ye out to meet him and say:
Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?

*from a Magnificat
by Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (c 1525–94)
adapted by David Willcocks (1919–2015)*

First Matins Responsory of Advent Sunday

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

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

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

All sit. An Old Westminster reads

THE SECOND LESSON

Micah 5: 2–4

All remain seated. The choir sings

THE ANTHEM

There shall a star from Jacob come forth, and a sceptre from Israel rise up; and dash in pieces princes and nations.

How brightly shines the morning star,
With sudden radiance from afar,
With light and comfort glowing!
Thy word, Jesus,
Inly feeds us, rightly leads us,
Life bestowing.
Praise, oh praise such love o'erflowing!

*Felix Mendelssohn (1809–47)
from the unfinished oratorio Christus
chorale melody by Philipp Nicolai (1556–1608)*

*from Numbers 24: 17; Psalm 2: 9,
and Wie schön leuchtet, Philipp Nicolai*

An Old Westminster reads

THE THIRD LESSON

Isaiah 9: 2, 6–7

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.

Choir only: 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 1: 26–38

All remain seated. The choir sings

THE ANTHEM

Softly a light is stealing, sweetly a maiden sings,
Ever wakeful, ever wistful, watching faithfully,
Thankfully, tenderly her King of kings.
'My soul doth magnify the Lord:
And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.'

Mary her song to Jesus softly, serenely sings:
'I will love you, I will serve you, may my lullaby glorify,
Magnify my King of kings'.
Lullaby, lullaby, lullaby.

*Mary's Lullaby
Andrew Carter (b 1939)*

Andrew Carter

All remain seated. An Old Westminster reads

THE FIFTH LESSON
St Luke 2: 1–7

All stand to sing

THE HYMN

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 sit. Patricia Millett, Chair of the Friends of Westminster School, reads

THE SIXTH LESSON

St Luke 2: 8–16

All remain seated. The choir sings

THE ANTHEM

Going through the hills on a night all starry
On the way the Bethlehem,
Far away I heard a shepherd boy piping
On the way to Bethlehem.

*Angels in the sky brought this message nigh:
'Dance and sing for joy that Christ the new-born King is
come to bring us peace on earth, and he's lying
cradled there at Bethlehem.'*

'Tell me, shepherd boy piping tunes so merrily
On the way to Bethlehem,
Who will hear your tunes on these hills so lonely
On the way to Bethlehem?'

*Angels in the sky brought this message nigh:
'Dance and sing for joy that Christ the new-born King is
come to bring us peace on earth, and he's lying
cradled there at Bethlehem.'*

'None may hear my pipes on these hills so lonely
On the way to Bethlehem;
But a King will hear me play sweet lullabies
When I get to Bethlehem.'

*Angels in the sky came down from on high,
Hovered o'er the manger where the babe was lying
cradled in the arms of his mother Mary,
sleeping now at Bethlehem.*

'Where is this new King, shepherd boy piping merrily,
Is he there at Bethlehem?'

'I will find him soon by the star shining brightly
In the sky o'er Bethlehem.'

*Angels in the sky brought this message nigh:
'Dance and sing for joy that Christ the new-born King is
come to bring us peace on earth, and he's lying
cradled there at Bethlehem.'*

'May I come with you, shepherd boy piping merrily,
Come with you to Bethlehem?
Pay my homage too at the new King's cradle,
Is it far to Bethlehem?'

*Angels in the sky brought this message nigh:
'Dance and sing for joy that Christ the infant King is
born this night in lowly stable yonder,
Born for you at Bethlehem.'*

All remain seated. Artin Basirov (GG 1989–94), Chairman, Elizabethan Club, reads

THE SEVENTH LESSON

St Matthew 2: 1–11

All remain seated. The choir sings

THE ANTHEM

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

O sisters too,
How may we do
For to preserve this day
This poor youngling,
For whom we do sing,
By by, lully lullay?

Herod, the king,
In his raging,
Charged he hath this day
His men of might,
In his own sight,
All young children to slay.

That woe is me,
Poor child for thee!
And ever morn and day,
For thy parting
Neither say nor sing
By by, lully lullay!

Coventry Carol
*from the Pageant of the Shearmen and Tailors, 1591
arranged by Martin Shaw (1875–1958)*

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

All stand to sing

THE HYMN

during which congregational candles are relit

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.

Silent night, holy night,
Shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia:
Christ, the Saviour, is born.

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

Franz Gruber (1787–1863)

*George Timms (1910–97)
after Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht Joseph Mohr (1792–1848)*

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

THE EIGHTH LESSON

St John 1: 1–14

The choir sings

THE ANTHEM

Es ist ein Ros entsprungen,
aus einer Wurzel zart,
wie uns die Alten sungen,
von Jesse war die Art
Und hat ein Blümlein bracht
mitten im kalten Winter,
wohl zu der halben Nacht.

*A rose has sprung up,
from a tender root.
As the old ones sang to us,
its lineage was from Jesse.
And it has brought forth a floweret
in the middle of the cold winter
blooming at midnight.*

*Michael Praetorius (1571–1621)
arranged by Jan Sandström (b 1954)*

anonymous, 16th century

All remain standing. The Rector says

THE COLLECT

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.

The Rector pronounces

THE BLESSING

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 remain standing to 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:

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

Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
'Glory to God
in the highest':

*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:

Noël: Quand Jésus naquit à Noël

Claude Balbastre (1724–99)

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