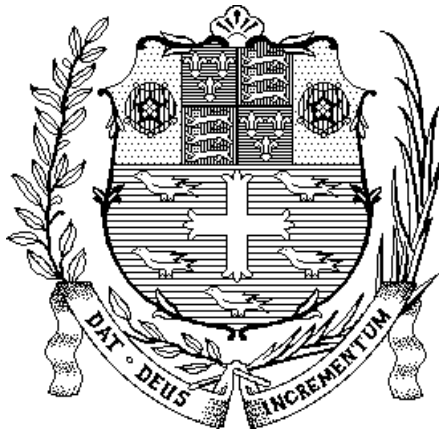


Westminster School
Carol Service



Westminster Abbey

Monday 11th December 2006

at 7.00 pm

Music before the Service

Jésus from La Nativité du Seigneur Olivier Messiaen (1908-1992)

played by Freddie James

Es ist ein' Ros'entsprungen Op.122 No.8 Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

played by Jeremy Holt

Service played by Simon McGregor

ORDER OF SERVICE

The Congregation stands.

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.

The procession enters.

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.

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;
Where like stars His children crowned
All in white shall wait around.

Mrs Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-95)

Henry Gauntlett (1805-76)

Verses 1-5 harmonised by A H Mann

Descant and organ part by David Willcocks

All remain standing for

THE BIDDING PRAYER

DEARLY beloved, in this season of Christmas, let us hear and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God; and let us make this Abbey glad with our carols of praise. Let us pray for our homes, for our school, for the unity of all Christian people and for peace and goodwill over all the earth. And with thankful hearts, let us remember before God all who have loved and served him in this place.

And in our joy, let us not forget those who suffer; let us pray for all sick persons and for those who care for them, for the desolate, the bereaved, the homeless, the oppressed and for those who are unemployed.

Finally, let us pray that at this Christmastide, God himself will dwell in our hearts through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who taught us when we pray to say:

All say together

OUR Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, In earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that 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 sit for

THE FIRST LESSON

Genesis 3: 8-15
The Fall

All remain seated while the Choir sings

I^N *dulci jubilo*
Let us our homage show:
Our heart's joy reclineth
In praesepio;
And like a bright star shineth
Matris in gremio,
Alpha es et O!

O Jesu parvule,
My heart is sore for Thee!
Here me, I beseech Thee,
O puer optime;
My praying let it reach Thee!
O princeps gloriae.
Trabe me post te.

O patris caritas!
O Nati lenitas!
Deeply were we stained
Per nostra crimina:
But Thou for us hast gained
Coelorum gaudia,
Qualis gloria!

Ubi sunt gaudia,
If that they be not there?
There are Angels singing
Nova cantica;
And there the bells are ringing
In Regis curia.
O that we were there!

German traditional
tr Pearsall

Old German tune
arr R L Pearsall

THE HOMILY

All stand to sing

OF the Father's love 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!

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!

This is he, whom seer and sybil
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!

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!

Prudentius (348-413)
tr R F Davis

Divinum Mysterium
Sanctus trope, 11th century

All sit for

THE SECOND LESSON

Isaiah 11: 1-5

The prophet Isaiah foretells the coming of the Saviour

All remain seated while the Choir sings

IESU, Redemptor omnium
quem lucis ante originem
parem Paternae gloriae
Pater supremus edidit.

Memento, rerum Conditor
nostri quod olim corporis
sacrata ab alvo Virginis
nascendo, formam sumpseris.

Iesu, tibi sit gloria,
qui natus es de Virgine,
cum Patre et almo Spiritu,
in sempiterna saecula.
Amen.

Christmas Office Hymn (6th century)

*O thou whose all-redeeming might
crowns every chief in faith's true fight,
on this commemoration day
bear us, good Jesus, while we pray.*

*In faithful strife for thy dear Name
thy servant earned the saintly fame,
which pious hearts with praise revere
in constant memory year by year.*

*For that Thine Advent glory be,
O Jesu, virgin born, to Thee;
With Father, and with Holy Ghost,
From men and from the heavenly host.
Amen.*

*Claudio Monteverdi (1567-1643)
from Selva morale e spirituale (1640)*

All stand to sing

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!*

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell thy people save,
And give them victory o'er the grave.

O come, thou Dayspring come and cheer
Our spirits by thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadow put to flight.

O come, thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.

O come, O come, thou Lord of Might,
Who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
In ancient times didst give the law
In cloud and majesty and awe.

*Latin Advent Antiphon
tr. John Mason Neale (1818-66)*

*Veni Emmanuel
Hymnal Noted 1856
from a 15th century French missal*

All sit for

THE THIRD LESSON

Luke 1: 26-35, 38
The Annunciation

All remain seated while the Choir sings

NO wind at the window, no knock on the door;
No light from the lamp stand, no foot on the floor;
No dream born of tiredness, no ghost raised by fear:
Just an angel and a woman and a voice in her ear.

“Oh, Mary, Oh, Mary don’t hide from my face.
Be glad that you’re favoured and filled with God’s grace.
The time for redeeming the world has begun;
And you are requested to mother God’s son.

This child must be born that the Kingdom might come:
Salvation for many, destruction for some;
Both end and beginning, both message and sign;
Both victor and victim, both yours and divine.”

No payment was promised, no promises made;
No wedding was dated, no blueprint displayed.
Yet Mary, consenting to what none could guess
Replied with conviction, “tell God I say yes.”

Iona Community

Irish Traditional ‘Columcille’

All stand to sing

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 wondering love.

Solo: How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his heaven.
Choir only: 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.

Bishop Phillips Brooks

*English traditional
arr Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)*

All remain seated for

THE FOURTH LESSON

Matthew 1: 18-23
The Birth of Jesus

All remain seated while the Chamber Choir sings

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 ladie,
Abeen heav'ne queen.

Blessed be the time
That apple taken was,
Therefore we moun singen.
Deo gracias!

15th century

Boris Ord (1897-1961)

Ubi caritas et amor
Deus ibi est.
Congregavit nos in unum Christi
amor.
Exsultemus et in ipso jucundemur.
Timeamus et amemus Deum vivum.
Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero.

*Where there is charity and love,
God is there.
The love of Christ has gathered us
together.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.
Let us revere and love the living God.
And from a sincere heart let us love
one another.*

Ubi Caritas

Maurice Durufle (1902-1986)

ALLELUYA!
A new work is come on hand
Through might and grace of God's son
To save the lost of every land.
For now is free that erst was bound.
We may well sing Alleluya!

Now is fulfilled the prophecy
Of David and of Jeremy
And also of Isaiah.
Sing we therefore both loud and high
Alleluya!

Alleluya, this sweetè song
Out of a green branch it sprung;
God send us the life that lasteth long.
Now joy and bliss be him among
That thus can sing Alleluya!

15th century

Peter Wisbart (1921-1984)

All remain seated for

THE FIFTH LESSON

Luke 2: 8-16
The Birth is announced to the shepherds

All stand to sing

GOOD King Wenceslas looked out,
On the Feast of Stephen,
When the snow lay round about,
Deep and crisp and even;
Brightly shone the moon that night,
Tho' the frost was cruel,
When a poor man came in sight,
Gath'ring winter fuel.

Tenors & Basses: "Hither, page, and stand by me,
If thou know'st it, telling,
Yonder peasant, who is he?
Where and what his dwelling?"

Sopranos & Altos: "Sire, he lives a good league hence,
Underneath the mountain;
Right against the forest fence,
By Saint Agnes' fountain."

Tenors & Basses: "Bring me flesh, and bring me wine,
Bring me pine logs hither:
Thou and I will see him dine,
When we bear them thither."

All: Page and monarch, forth they went,
Forth they went together;
Thro' the rude wind's wild lament
And the bitter weather.

Sopranos & Altos: "Sire, the night is darker now,
And the wind blows stronger;
Fails my heart, I know not how,
I can go no longer."

Tenors & Basses: "Mark my footsteps, good my page;
Tread thou in them boldly:
Thou shalt find the winter's rage
Freeze thy blood less coldly."

All: In his master's steps he trod
Where the snow lay dinted;
Heat was in the very sod
Which the saint had printed.
Therefore, Christian men, be sure,
Wealth or rank possessing,
Ye who now will bless the poor,
Shall yourselves find blessing.

J M Neale (1818-66)

*from Piaae Cantiones
arr Reginald Jacques (1894-1969)*

All sit while the Choir sings

SLEEP, Holy Babe! upon Thy mother's breast;
Great Lord of earth and sea and sky,
How sweet it is to see Thee lie
In such a place of rest.

Sleep, Holy Babe! Thine Angels watch around,
All bending low with folded wings,
Before Th' incarnate King of kings,
In rev'rent awe profound.

Sleep, Holy Babe! while I with Mary gaze
In joy upon that Face awhile,
Upon the loving Infant smile
Which there Divinely plays.

Sleep, Holy Babe! Ah! take Thy brief repose,
Too quickly will Thy slumbers break,
And Thou to lengthened pains awake,
That Death alone shall close.

Edward Caswall (1814-78)

Alex Campkin OW (b 1984)

All remain seated for

THE SIXTH LESSON

Matthew 2: 1-12
The Magi visit the infant Christ

All remain seated while the Choir sings

THO' poor be the chamber,
Come here, come and adore:
Lo! the Lord of Heaven
Hath to mortals given
Life for evermore,.

Shepherds, whose flocks were folded beside you,
Tell what was told by angel voices near.
"To you this night is born
He who will guide you
Thro' paths of peace to living waters clear."

Tho' poor be the chamber...

Kings from a far land draw near and behold Him,
Led by the beam whose warning bade you come;
Your crowns cast down, with robe royal enfold Him,
Your King descends to earth from brighter home.

Tho' poor be the chamber...

Winds to the cedars proclaim the joyful story,
Wave of the sea, the tidings bear afar:
The night is gone! Behold in all its glory.
All broad and bright rises th' Eternal Morning Star.

Tho' poor be the chamber...

Anon

Charles Gounod (1818-1893)

All stand. The candles will be lit during the singing of the following 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...

Sing, choirs of Angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God
In the highest:
O come...

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

Adeste Fideles
tr Frederick Oakley (1802-80)

Anon (probably 18th century)
arr David Willcocks (b 1919)

All remain standing for

THE SEVENTH LESSON

John 1:1-14
The Incarnation of the Word of God

All remain standing for the Collect and Blessing.

O God, who makest us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of thy only Son, Jesus Christ: grant that, as we joyfully receive him for our redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him when he shall come to be our judge; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

CHRISt, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

All remain standing to sing

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 the 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 the 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:

Charles Wesley OW (1707-88)

*Felix Mendelssohn (1809-47)
descant by David Willcocks (b 1919)*

During the last carol the Procession will leave the Abbey. The Congregation are asked to wait until the Procession has passed before they leave their seats.

Candles should be extinguished carefully.

Music after the Service

Toccata on 'Vom Himmel Hoch' Garth Edmundson (1900-1971)

RETIRING COLLECTION

The Pullen Day Care Centre in Pimlico is run by the charity Age Concern. Westminster has had links with the Centre for several years, and the Centre currently welcomes eight regular volunteers from our Remove year. It offers an opportunity for the elderly to meet, relax and enjoy time and a nutritious meal together, and the staff support 15 clients each day. They provide hairdressing, assisted bathing and shopping services. Sometimes special visits are organised and those with mobility difficulties are offered transport to and from their homes. Two such visits involve a trip to Westminster for a Christmas and summer party hosted by some of our pupils. The Centre also offers a specialised service on Thursdays for those suffering from dementia.

Afghanaid is a small but highly effective charity with over 20 years experience of grass-roots work in Afghanistan. Their projects are almost entirely staffed by Afghan nationals who work in rural areas targeting the very poor with innovative development work.

Afghanistan has one of the world's highest infant mortality rates, and for women, one of the lowest life expectancy rates. Afghanaid has helped improve the health and lives of thousands of women through introducing better maternity care practices, developing literacy, building community networks for greater empowerment and helping train women in making themselves more independent economically through carpet weaving, tailoring and other skills.

Their work also includes establishing alternative livelihoods for the rural poor (alternatives to poppy growing) such as bee-keeping and vegetable gardens, encouraging farmers to diversify and survive. Through their veterinary work they have vaccinated over a million animals, a vital resource to people suffering from the direct effects of conflict and drought. Afghanistan is presently experiencing drought in many of its provinces - thus making this veterinary work all the more crucial.

Guests are warmly invited for refreshments as follows:

House	Venue
Ashburnham	Ashburnham (6 Dean's Yard)
Busby's	Busby's
College	College
Dryden's	School
Grant's	Grant's
Hakluyt's	School
Liddell's	Liddell's
Milne's	Milne's (5a Dean's Yard)
Purcell's	School
Rigaud's	Rigaud's
Wren's	Lecture Room (first floor of Ashburnham House in Little Dean's Yard)

Anyone who is not linked to a particular House will be very welcome up School.

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