

Good News and Great Joy

The Eve of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ
Thursday, 24 December 2020


4 PM A Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols



The Cathedral
Church of **Saint John**
the **Divine**

125
YEARS

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM DEAN DANIEL

 ON Sunday, December 13th, the Cathedral and its magnificent choir offered a glorious Christmas concert on the front steps of the Cathedral to a crowd of about 500 people standing on the sidewalk and street. Soon after the concert ended and the choir had departed, a man stood on the top step in front of the great bronze doors and began firing the two guns he held. The audience quickly began to flee and two policemen engaged the shooter who kept yelling “Shoot me! Kill me!” The policemen urged him to put down his weapons, but the man refused and was ultimately killed. A tragic end to a beautiful moment in the life of the Cathedral.

I must commend the Cathedral staff, especially our Security team and Maintenance team, for their bravery in that awful moment; how thankful we all are for their competence and heroism. The Cathedral community is still feeling the aftershocks and sorting out the many levels of this terrible experience. There are some bullet marks on the central portal column and they will be repaired. There are two bullet marks on the great bronze doors (named “The Portals of Paradise”) and I will leave them there as reminders of our need for redemption and that violence exists in human life even as we approach our heavenly goal.

The Sub Dean and I are speaking with members of the staff individually and in groups to care for them as together we sift through the experience and trauma. The Vicar of St. Saviour is gathering with the congregation with wonderful pastoral care. We will get through this, wounded in some ways but strong and hopeful and healed as we move ahead.

Even in this moment in our life, with the violence experienced on Sunday and the Pandemic plowing its ragged furrow through our nation and world, the Christmas message is proclaimed in all its glory and message of hope.

The message of Christmas is about trust. The birth of Jesus, God taking on our mortal flesh to proclaim in a stupendous way that God places his trust in humanity. And for humanity, the Christmas message is that we can place our trust in God. Ian Markham, the Dean of Virginia Theological Seminary, puts it this way:

“The Christian hope says to us all that the moment we are in is the moment when we must trust. The act of trust is the act of knowing that God is present in our journey; the act of trust is knowing that we have an obligation to be there for others...”

Christmas is God’s profound statement that we can put our trust in God since now God and humans are eternally and irrevocably bound together; and no evil can break that bond. The Christmas message is that we can put our hope in God, and that hope will not be disappointed.

Christmas also proclaims the trust God places in us. In the Garden of Eden humankind learned to distrust God, with terrible consequences, lived out in violence, hatred, division, exploitation and discord. The birth of Jesus, the God-man, is God’s proclamation that he is rebuilding the creation and renewing the human heart. Fallible and frail as our spirits are, God trusts us! In the divine trust planted in our souls, a call is issued. Part of that call is to look at last Sunday’s tragedy through the lens of this trust God has placed in us.

Last Sunday’s event does not exist in isolation. It is linked to the larger misery and tragedy of humanity and creation. It is also linked to the Christmas call and the trust God has placed in us as ambassadors of the inbreaking new creation God announced at Jesus’ birth.

The call Christmas issues is a call to our Cathedral and all Christians to care in more and concrete ways. The call is to renew our commitment as Christians to work for an eradication of gun violence, the brutality of prison life, a stronger safety net for troubled youth and those suffering from mental illness. The trust God places in us means we must be there for others: in their sorrows, their difficulties, their hopes and fears. We are called to work for justice, equity and equality, to end hunger and discrimination in all its forms, to protect the environment and insure the dignity of every person.

The proclamation of Jesus’ birth is that God is with us and all humanity in an unshakable and unbreakable way. The message is that God has placed his trust in us. To respond to that divine gift of trust is to live in hope, generosity, kindness and goodwill. And that is the true gift of Christmas.

A blessed and joyful Christmastide to you from the Cathedral of St. John the Divine!

The Right Reverend Clifton Daniel III
10th Dean, Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine

FESTIVAL OF LESSONS & CAROLS

The Right Reverend Andrew ML Dietsche, *Officiant**XVI Bishop of New York*

The Right Reverend Clifton Daniel III

10th Dean, Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine

The Cathedral Choir, Chorale, & Choristers

David Briggs, *Artist in Residence*Susanna Phillips, *soprano*

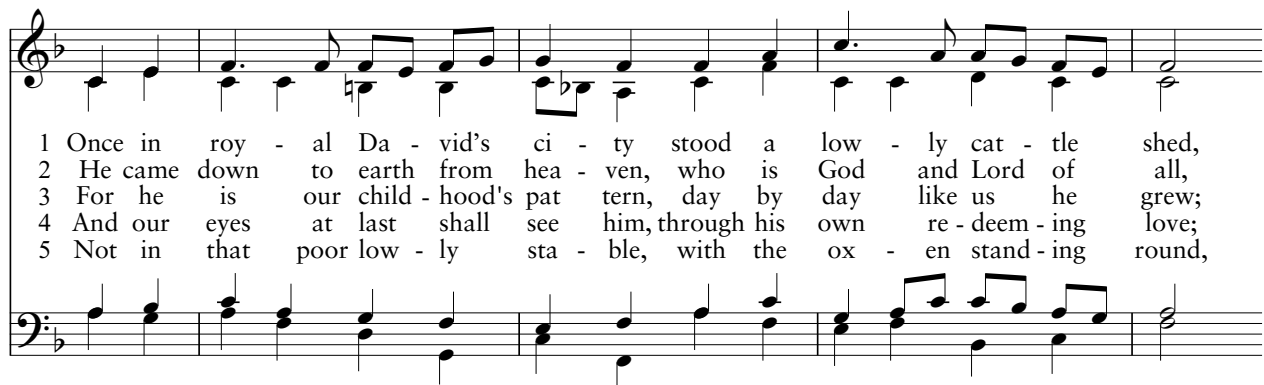
The Cathedral Orchestra

PRELUDE

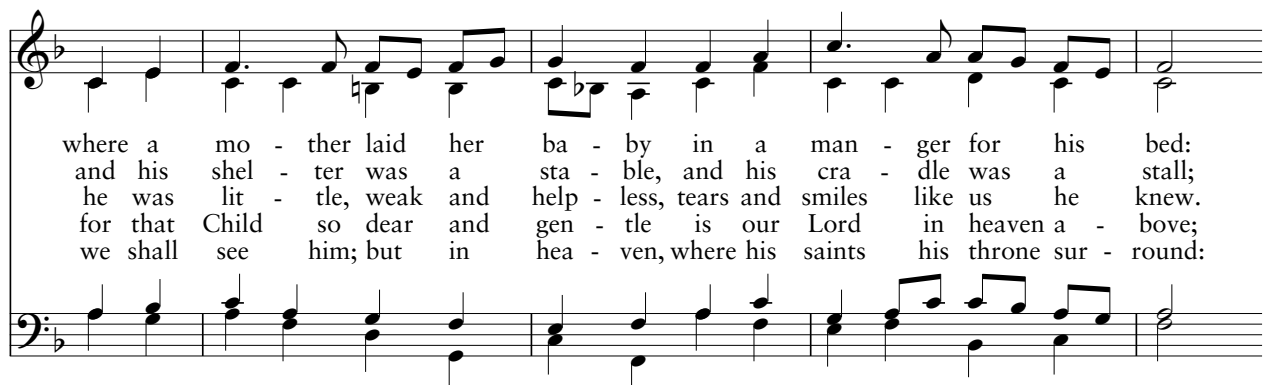
Sun Singer

Paul Winter (b. 1939) & Paul Halley (b. 1952)

HYMN

All join in singing.


1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's ci - ty stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,
 2 He came down to earth from hea - ven, who is God and Lord of all,
 3 For he is our child - hood's pat tern, day by day like us he grew;
 4 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing love;
 5 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand - ing round,



where a mo - ther laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed:
 and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;
 he was lit - tle, weak and help - less, tears and smiles like us he knew.
 for that Child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heaven a - bove;
 we shall see him; but in hea - ven, where his saints his throne sur - round:



Ma - ry was that mo - ther mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
 with the poor, the mean, the low - ly, lived on earth our sav - ior ho - ly.
 and he feel - eth for our sad - ness, and he shar - eth in our glad - ness.
 and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.
 Christ, re - vealed to faith - ful eye, set at God's right hand on high.

Words: Sts. 1–2, 4–6, Cecil Francis Alexander (1818–1895), alt.; st. 3, James Waring McCrady (b. 1938);

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Music: *Irby*, melody Henry John Gauntlett (1805–1876); harm. Arthur Henry Mann (1850–1929);

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The Bshop says

THE BIDDING PRAYER

BELOVED in Christ, be it this Christmas Eve our care
and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the
message of the angels: in heart and mind to go even
unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and
with the Magi adore the Child lying in his Mother's arms.

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 Cathedral 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; for unity and
fellowship in the Church, in these United States of America,
in this Cathedral Church and City and Diocese of New York.

And let us at this time remember in his name the poor and
the helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick
in body and in mind and them that mourn; the lonely and
the unloved; the unemployed and homeless; the aged and the
little children; and all who know not the loving kindness of
God.

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 one can number, whose hope was in the
Word made flesh, and with whom we for evermore are one.

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

INVITATORY CAROL

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day John Rutter (b. 1945)

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.
Sing O my love, O 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.
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.

Traditional English Carol

From Christmas Eve 2019

Then All join in saying

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,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Bishop says

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.

People Amen.

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF GENESIS

*Read by Ms. Lorraine Simmons,
Congregation of Saint Saviour*

THEY heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, 'Where are you?' He said, 'I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.' He said, 'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?' The man said, 'The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.' Then the Lord God said to the woman, 'What is this that you have done?' The woman said, 'The serpent tricked me, and I ate.'

The Lord God said to the serpent,
 'Because you have done this,
 cursed are you among all animals
 and among all wild creatures;
 upon your belly you shall go,
 and dust you shall eat
 all the days of your life.
 I will put enmity between you and the woman,
 and between your offspring and hers;
 he will strike your head,
 and you will strike his heel.' (3:8-15)

Lector Here ends the reading.

CAROL

Jesus Christ the Apple Tree Elizabeth Poston (1905-1987)

THE tree of life my soul hath seen,
 Laden with fruit and always green:
 The trees of nature fruitless be
 Compared with Christ the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel:
 By faith I know, but ne'er can tell,
 The glory which I now can see
 In Jesus Christ the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought,
 And pleasure dearly I have bought:
 I missed of all, but now I see
 'Tis found in Christ the apple tree.

I'm weary with my former toil,
 Here I will sit and rest a-while:
 Under the shadow I will be
 Of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,
 It keeps my dying faith alive;
 Which makes my soul in haste to be
 With Jesus Christ the apple tree.

*Divine Hymns or Spiritual Songs,
 Joshua Smith (New Hampshire, 1784)*

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF GENESIS

Read by Ms. Yvonne O'Neal,
Congregation of Saint Saviour

THE angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, 'By myself I have sworn, says the Lord: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice.' (22:15-18)

Lector Here ends the reading.

HYMN

Sung by All.



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, And or - der all things,
3 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind All peo - ples in one
4 O come, thou Day - spring, come and cheer Our spi - rits by thine



Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here Un -
far and nigh; To us the path of know - ledge show, And
heart and mind; Bid en - vy, strife, and quar - rels cease; Fill
ad - vent here; Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night, And



til the Son of God ap - pear. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -
cause us in her ways to go.
the whole world with heav - en's peace.
death's dark shad - ows put to flight.



man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Words: Laurence Hull Stookey (1986)

Music: *Veni Emmanuel*, plainsong, Mode 1, *Processionale*, 15th cent.; adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890)

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF
THE PROPHET ISAIAH

*Read by Mr. Kevin de l'Aigle,
Congregation of Saint Saviour*

THE people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onwards and for evermore.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this. (9:2, 6–7)

Lector Here ends the reading.

CAROL

Sung by the Choir.

For unto us a child is born, George Frideric Handel (1685–1759)
from *Messiah*, HWV 56

FOR unto us a child is born, 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.

Isaiah 9:6

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF
THE PROPHET MICAH

*Read by Ms. Marsha Ra,
Warden, Congregation of Saint Saviour*

THEN you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock
in the strength of the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth. (5:2–4)

Lector Here ends the reading.

CAROL

Sung by All.

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!
 3 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.
 cast out our sin and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;
 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ-mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - ma - nu - el!

Words: Phillips Brooks (1835–1893)

Music: *St. Louis*, Lewis H. Redner (1831–1908)

**A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL
ACCORDING TO LUKE**

*Read by Mr. Neil Reilly,
Congregation of Saint Saviour*

IN the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.'

Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her. (1:26-35, 38)

Lector Here ends the reading.

CAROL

*Sung by the Choir.**Ave Maria*

Franz Biebl (1906–2001)

ANGELUS Domini nuntiavit Maria
et concepit de Spiritu sancto.

Ave Maria, gratia plena,
Dominus tecum.
Benedicta tu in mulieribus
et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus.

Maria dixit: Ecce ancilla Domini,
fiat mihi secundum verbum tuum.

Et verbum caro factum est
et habitavit in nobis.

Sancta Maria, mater Dei,
ora pro nobis peccatoribus.
Sancta Maria, ora pro nobis
nunc et in hora mortis nostræ. Amen.

*The angel of the Lord spoke to Mary,
and she conceived by the Holy Spirit.*

*Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with you.
Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.*

*Mary said: Behold the handmaid of the Lord,
let it be done to me according to your word.*

*And the word was made flesh,
and dwelt among us.*

*Holy Mary, mother of God,
pray for us sinners.
Holy Mary, pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.*

The Angelus

A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

*Read by Mr. Thomas Perry,**Program Manager, Cathedral Community Cares*

IN those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. (2:1, 3-7)

Lector Here ends the reading.

CAROL

Sung by All.

1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing Glo - ry to the new - born King!
 2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
 3 (*unison*) Hail the heav'n - 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, Ris'n 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 th'in - car - nate De - i - ty!
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,

with the'an - gel - ic host pro - claim, Christ is born in Beth - le - hem.
 Pleased as man with man to dwell; Je - sus, our Em - ma - nu - el.
 Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them se - cond birth.

Refrain

Hark! the he - rald an - gels sing Glo - ry to the new - born King.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707–1788), alt.

Music: Mendelssohn, Felix Mendelssohn (1809–1847), arr. and descant: David Willcocks (1919–2015)

**A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL
ACCORDING TO LUKE**

*Read by Mr. Aries Dela Cruz,
Congregation of Saint Saviour*

IN that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace
among those whom he favors!'

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. (2:8-16)

Lector Here ends the reading.

CAROL

*Sung by the Choir.**Cantique de Noël*

Adolphe Adam (1803–1856)

MINUIT, Chrétiens, c'est l'heure solennelle,
 Où l'Homme-Dieu descendit jusqu'à nous
 Pour effacer la tache originale
 Et de Son Père arrêter le courroux.
 Le monde entier tressaille d'espérance
 À cette nuit qui lui donne un Sauveur.
 Peuple, à genoux! Attends ta délivrance!
 Noël! Noël! Voici le Rédempteur!
 Noël! Noël! Oh nuit, oh nuit divine!

De notre foi que la lumière ardente
 Nous guide tous au berceau de l'Enfant,
 Comme autrefois une étoile brillante
 Y conduisit les trois chefs d'Orient.
 Le Roi des rois naît dans une humble crèche:
 Puissants du jour, fiers de votre grandeur,
 À votre orgueil, c'est de là qu'un Dieu prêche.
 Courbez vos fronts devant le Rédempteur!
 Noël! Noël! Oh nuit, oh nuit divine!

Le Rédempteur a brisé toute entrave:
 La Terre est libre et le Ciel est ouvert!
 Il voit un frère où n'était qu'un esclave,
 L'amour unit ceux qu'enchaînait le fer.
 Qui Lui dira notre reconnaissance?
 C'est pour nous tous qu'il naît, qu'il souffre et meurt.
 Peuple, debout! Chante ta délivrance!
 Noël! Noël! Chantons le Rédempteur!
 Noël! Noël! Oh nuit, oh nuit divine!

*Midnight! Christians, this is the solemn hour
 When God-as-Man came down to us
 To wipe away the stain of original sin
 And halt the wrath of His Father.
 The whole world quivers in hope
 On this night which gives it a Savior.
 People, fall on your knees! Behold your salvation!
 Noël! Noël! Behold the Redeemer!
 Noël! Noël! O night, O night divine!*

*May the burning light of our faith
 Guide us all to the Infant's crib,
 As of old a shining star
 Guided the Three Kings there from the East.
 The King of Kings is born in a lowly manger:
 You mighty ones of today, proud of your own power,
 It is to your arrogance that God preaches.
 Bow your heads before the Redeemer!
 Noël! Noël! O night, O night divine!*

*The Redeemer has broken every fetter:
 The earth is free and heaven is opened!
 He sees a brother where there had been only a slave;
 Love binds together those whom iron had chained.
 Who will tell him our gratitude?
 It is for us all that he was born, that he suffers and dies.
 People, stand up! Sing out your salvation!
 Noël! Noël! Sing of the Redeemer!
 Noël! Noël! O night, O night divine!*

Placide Cappeau (1808–1877)

**A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL
ACCORDING TO MATTHEW**

*Read by The Reverend Paul Anthony Daniels II,
Assisting Priest*

IN the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, ‘Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.’ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

“And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.”

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, ‘Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.’ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

(2:1-12)

Lector Here ends the reading.

CAROL

Sung by All.

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant,
 2 God of God, Light of Light,
 3 (*unison*) Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 4 (*unison*) Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing,

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;
 Je - su, to thee be glo - ry giv'n;

Come, and be - hold him Born the King of An - gels:
 Ve - ry God, Be - got - ten not cre - a - ted:
 Glo - ry to the God In the high - est:
 Word of the Fa - ther, Now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

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

Words: John Francis Wade (1711–1786); tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802–1880) and others

Music: *Adeste fideles*, present form of melody att. John Francis Wade (1711–1786); harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906; descant: David Willcocks

THE BEGINNING OF THE HOLY GOSPEL
ACCORDING TO JOHN*Read by The Right Reverend Clifton Daniel III,
Dean*

IN the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (1:1-14)

Lector Here ends the reading.

CAROL

Sung by the Choir.

O magnum mysterium

Morten Lauridsen (b. 1943)

MMAGNUM mysterium
et admirabile sacramentum,
ut animalia viderent Dominum natum
jacentem in præsepio.
Beata Virgo,
cujus viscera meruerunt portare
Dominum Jesum Christum. Alleluia.

*O great mystery
and wonderful sacrament,
that animals should see the newborn Lord
lying in a manger.
O blessed Virgin,
whose womb was worthy to bear
Christ the Lord. Alleluia.*

Responsory at Matins, Christmas Day

THE GREETING

The Right Reverend Clifton Daniel III

10th Dean, Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine

CAROL

Sung by All.

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm, all is bright
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake at the sight,
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God, love's pure light

round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child. Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild,
 glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far, hea - venly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia;
 ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,

sleep in hea - ven - ly peace, sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.
 Christ, the Sa - vior, is born, Christ, the Sa - vior, is born!
 Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

Words: Joseph Mohr (1792–1848); tr. John Freeman Young (1820–1885)

Music: *Stille Nacht*, melody Franz Xaver Gruber (1787–1863); harm. Carl H. Reinecke (1824–1910)

THE BLESSING

*The Bishop pronounces a blessing,
and the People respond*

Amen.

CAROL

Sung by All.

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re - ceive her King; let ev - ery
 2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our songs em - ploy, while fields and
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest the ground; he comes to
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na - tions prove the glo - ries

heart pre - pare him room, and heaven and na - ture sing, and
 floods, rocks, hills and plains, re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -
 make his bless - ings flow far as the curse is found, far
 of his right - eous - ness, and won - ders of his love, and

1 and heaven and na - ture
 2 re - peat the sound - ing
 3 far as the curse is
 4 and won - ders of his

heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 won - ders of his love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

sing, and heaven and na - ture sing,
 joy, re - peat the sound - ing joy,
 found, far as the curse is found,
 love, and won - ders of his love,

Words: Joseph Mohr (1792–1848); tr. John Freeman Young (1820–1885)
 Music: *Stille Nacht*, melody Franz Xaver Gruber (1787–1863); harm. Carl H. Reinecke (1824–1910); Descant: Kent Tritle (b. 1960)

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

In dulci jubilo, BWV 729 Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)
 Sortie on “In dulci jubilo” David Briggs (b. 1962)

AUDIO & VIDEO PRODUCTION

Jonathan Estabrooks, Samuel Kuffuor-Afriyie, Raymond Nagem, Jie Yi, Bryan Zaros, *Video Designers*
 George Wellington, *Audio Engineer*
 Alejandro Ullo, *Videographer*

MUSICIANS

The Cathedral Choir

Soprano

Lianne Coble-Dispensa
 Halley Gilbert
 Linda Jones
 Amy Justman
 Jamet Pittman
 Nola Richardson

Alto

Alison Cheeseman
 Tracy Cowart
 Katie Geissinger
 Kirsten Sollek

Tenor

Andrew Fuchs
 Eric Sorrels
 Michael Steinberger
 Lee Steiner

Bass

Joseph Beutel
 Scott Dispensa
 Greg Purnhagen
 Peter Stewart

The Cathedral Chorale

Daphne Aronson
 Angela Barrett
 Kristin Bergfeld
 Yona Corn
 Deborah Di Taranto
 Anna Goodlett
 Jennifer Hirst
 Peter Howland

*Andrew Jurden
 Margaret Kelly
 Sean Kelly
 Susan Kern
 Anja Kieferle
 Elyn Leverone
 Benjamin Liberatore
 Susan Mendelsohn

Judith Mosely
 Anne Paxton
 DiAnn Pierce
 Becca Pulliam
 Rumiko Saiki
 Berenike Schott
 Ron Sheppard
 William Simpson

Masayo Sonoda
 Glenda Strother
 Rebecca Darlington Townsend
 Albert Watson
 Hatsumi Wilentz

*Choral Scholar

The Cathedral Choristers

Class of 2021

Paula Arevalo
 Julian Boyce
 Lucas Ocasio
 Mia Stubner
 Sage Vital

Class of 2022

Simone Barbosa
 Hudson Brown
 Caroline Carey
 Liam Etienne
 Alison Imohiosen
 Grace Oborn
 Angela Ortiz
 Avery Pflueger
 Max Sheehan
 Avery Vilela

Class of 2023

Henry Alston
 Lauren Imohiosen
 Loretta Keefe
 Annabelle Sahl

Class of 2024

Elizabeth Brandt
 Maksym Charles
 Julia Demopoulos
 Natasha German
 Clara Grossman*
 Elinor Kuramoto
 Finnegan McCarthy
 Maria Milkov
 Libby Wagner

Class of 2025

(Lower School Novices)

Theo Chen
 Cecilia John
 Sofie Charles
 Evan Pflueger
 Henry Sheff
 Ella Sheehan
 Nate Sullivan

*Upper School Novice

The Cathedral Orchestra

Violin

Cyrus Beroukhim
 Andrea Schultz

Bass

Troy Rinker

Oboe

BJ Karpen
 William Meredith

Harp

Lynette Wardle

Viola

Orlando Wells

Flute

Sato Moughalian

Trumpet

Gareth Flowers
 Jonathan Heim

Timpani

Benjamin Herman, Jr.

Violoncello

Arthur Fiacco, Jr.

UPCOMING EVENT**THURSDAY, 31 DECEMBER**

7 PM

Online New Year's Eve Concert for Peace.

As this year unlike any other comes to a close, the Cathedral of St. John the Divine will offer a new, online iteration of the beloved annual New Year's Eve Concert for Peace. A holiday tradition for over 30 years, the Concert for Peace was founded by Leonard Bernstein as a tribute to the people of New York City. In homage to Bernstein's original concept, the Cathedral will use this year's online performance as a way to safely pay tribute to the bravery, selflessness, and ongoing resilience of the city. For more information and to view the performance, visit stjohndivine.org.

CLERGY

The Right Reverend Andrew ML Dietsche, D.D.
Bishop of New York

The Right Reverend Allen K. Shin
Bishop Suffragan of New York

The Right Reverend Mary D Glasspool
Bishop Assistant of New York

The Right Reverend Clifton Daniel III, D.D.
Dean of the Cathedral

The Reverend Canon Patrick Malloy, Ph.D.
Sub-Dean and Canon for Liturgy and the Arts

The Reverend Canon Steven Lee, M.Div.
Canon Pastor and Vicar, Congregation of Saint Saviour

The Reverend Pamela Cooper-White, Ph.D., Assisting Priest

The Reverend Paul Anthony Daniels II, M.Div., Assisting Priest

The Reverend Deacon Kenton J. Curtis, M.S.W., Deacon

LITURGICAL STAFF

Kent Tritle, M.M., Director of Cathedral Music

Raymond Nagem, D.M.A., Associate Director of Music

Bryan L. Zaros, M.M., Associate Choirmaster

Peter Ennis, Chief Sacristan

Douglass Hunt, Organ Curator

Samuel Kuffuor-Afryie, B.M., Organ Scholar

Christina Kay, M.M., Music Administrator

Jie Yi, D.M.A., Music Administrator

CATHEDRAL PRODUCTIONS STAFF

Christian Mardones, Director, Cathedral Productions

Issac Lopez, Interim Production Coordinator & House Manager

Matthew Jacome, Head Carpenter

Melissa Mizell, Lighting Designer

Kate Conover, Head Electrician

ONGOING PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES**THE CATHEDRAL REGATHERS**

Whether in person or on our website, there are many ways to join the Cathedral community and stay in touch. The Cathedral is now open 9:30 AM – 3 PM Mondays – Fridays and 9:30 AM – 5 PM Saturdays – Sundays. Admission for sightseeing is \$5. All those seeking individual prayer, reflection, meditation, or Columbarium visits will be welcomed without charge. Our online community resources and programs, including streaming worship services, messages from the Dean, virtual tours, music recitals, and children's activities, and contact information for Cathedral clergy, are just a few clicks away at stjohndivine.org.

**CATHEDRAL COMMUNITY CARES (CCC)
SUNDAY SOUP KITCHEN**

During this time, the CCC Soup Kitchen remains open each Sunday, serving bagged meals to those in need. For more information or to volunteer, contact Thomas Perry at tperry@stjohndivine.org. Your support and contributions are greatly appreciated as we continue to serve our most vulnerable community members.

THE CONGREGATION OF SAINT SAVIOUR

Chartered in 1992, the Congregation of Saint Saviour is a 400-member strong community of believers who support the Cathedral with our time, talent, and money. We serve as lay ministers, ushers, vergers, readers, acolytes, choir members, and outreach volunteers. Although the Cathedral remains closed to large gatherings, we have created a vibrant online community with opportunities for worship, Bible study, and fellowship. To learn more about 'the heart of the Cathedral,' visit www.saintsaviour.org, or reach out to our Canon Pastor, Steven Lee, at slee@stjohndivine.org.

IMMIGRATION AND SANCTUARY RESOURCES

The Cathedral is a house of worship for all, regardless of immigration status. If you, or members of your family, community or parish, need assistance navigating life as an immigrant of any legal status, we hope to connect you with the resources you need. For information on upcoming programs and more resources from the city and Diocese, visit stjohndivine.org.

SERMONS ARCHIVE NOW ONLINE

Visit the Cathedral's website to stream or download audio from past 11 AM Sunday Choral Eucharist sermons and listen on the go. Visit stjohndivine.org/spiritual/sermons-archive/ to listen and download.

**The Cathedral Church of
Saint John the Divine**

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