



LESSONS AND CAROLS OF CHRISTMAS
SUNDAY 23RD DECEMBER 2018, 3:30PM
MONDAY 24TH DECEMBER 2018, 8:00PM

Please stand for the PROCESSION, during which the choir sings:

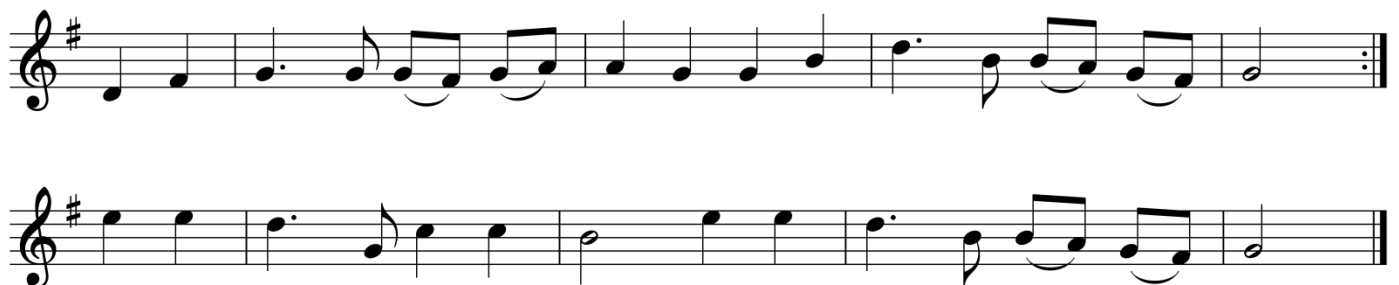
Torches, torches, run with torches
All the way to Bethlehem!
Christ is born and now lies sleeping;
Come and sing your song to him.

Ah, Ro-ro, Ro-ro, my baby,
Ah, Ro-ro, my love, Ro-ro;
Sleep you well, my own heart's darling,
While we sing you our Ro-ro.

Sing, my friends, and make you merry,
Joy and mirth and joy again;
Lo, he lives, the king of heaven,
Now and evermore. Amen.

*Words by J. B. Trend
Music by J. Joubert*

Stand to sing:



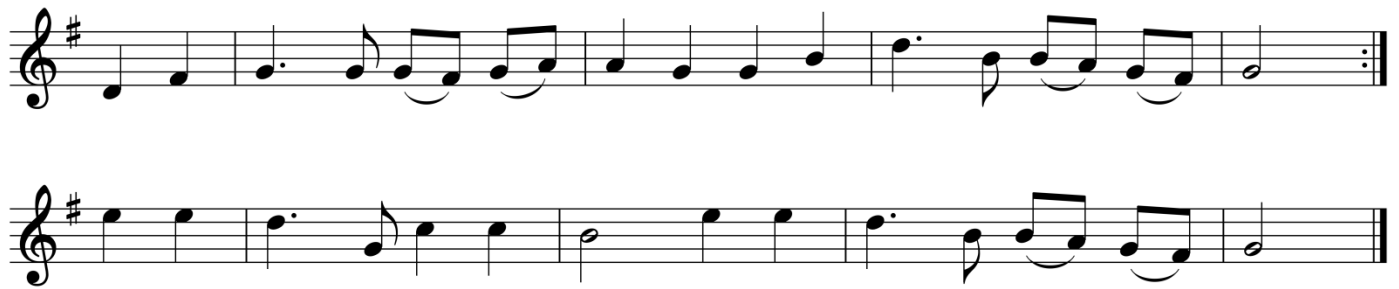
Choir:

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.

All:

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.



Choir:

And through all his wondrous childhood
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.

All:

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.

Remain standing for the OPENING PRAYER:

O God the Son, highest and holiest, you humbled yourself to share our birth and death; Bring us, with the shepherds and wise men, to kneel before your

lowly cradle, that we may come to sing with your angels your glorious praises in heaven; where, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, you live and reign, God, world without end.

All say:

Amen.

As our Saviour has taught us, so we pray,
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.

Sit whilst the choir sings:

I wonder as I wander, out under the sky,
how Jesus the Saviour did come for to die
for poor on'ry people like you and like I.
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.

When Mary birthed Jesus, 'twas in a cow's stall,
with wise men and farmers and shepherds and all.
But high from the heavens a star's light did fall,
and promise of ages it then did recall.

If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,
a star in the sky, or a bird on the wing,
or all of God's angels in heaven for to sing,
he surely could have it, 'cause he was the King.

Words by J. J. Niles
Music arranged by J. Rutter

Sit for a READING: Isaiah 11, vv. 1-9

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;

but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;

for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

The choir sings:

Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen,
aus seiner Wurzel zart,
wie uns die Alten sunge,
von Jesse kam die Art
und hat ein Blümlein bracht

*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 floret*

mitten im kalten Winter,
wohl zu der halben Nacht.

*in the middle of the cold winter
well at half the night.*

Das Röslein, das ich meine,
davon Jesaia sagt,
ist Maria die reine
die uns das Blümlein bracht.
Aus Gottes ewgern Rat
hat sie ein Kind geboren
wohl zu der halben Nacht.

*The rosebud that I mean,
of which Isaiah told
is Mary, the pure,
who brought us the floret.
At God's immortal word,
she has borne a child
well at half the night.*

Das Blümelein, so kleine,
das duftet uns so süß,
mit seinem hellen Scheine
vertreibt's die Finsternis.
Wahr Mensch und wahrer Gott,
hilft uns aus allern Leide,
rettet von Sünd und Tod.

*The floret, so small
that smells so sweet to us
with its clear light
dispels the darkness.
True man and true God,
he helps us from all trouble,
saves us from sin and death.*

Music by H. Praetorius & H. Distler

A PRAYER:

We thank you Lord God, for your word spoken of old through prophets and apostles and recorded for us in holy scripture; and most of all for your final Word, spoken to us in your Son Jesus Christ, who became human, lived amongst us, and brought your salvation. Grant that through the written word we may behold the glory of the incarnate Word, who is now exalted to the right hand of the Majesty on high, and to whom we ascribe all praise, honour and dominion.

Let this be good news for each one of us at this time as we open our hearts to your love and welcome Jesus as our Saviour.

All say:

Amen.

A READING: Isaiah 40, vv. 1-9

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry out!"

And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.
The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand forever.

Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
"Here is your God!"

All stand to sing:



Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, Love divine;
Love was born at Christmas,
Star and angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead,
Love incarnate, Love divine;
Worship we our Jesus;
but wherewith for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token,
Love be yours and love be mine,
Love to God and all men,
Love for plea and gift and sign.

A PRAYER:

Into this holy place at this Christmas time, O Lord, we come to worship that little Child whose nature revealed your own and what ours might be. Glory be to God for the wonder of his love made known to us in the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ. Glory be to God for the gift of his Son, who took our flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother and shared our human life. Glory be to God for the great salvation he has sent to us and to all people, bringing joy to the world. For these manifold blessings and for all the wonder of Christmas, glory be to God for ever and ever.

All say: Amen.

A READING: Luke 1, vv.26-38

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, favoured 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 favour 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 forever, 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. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with 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.

The choir sings:

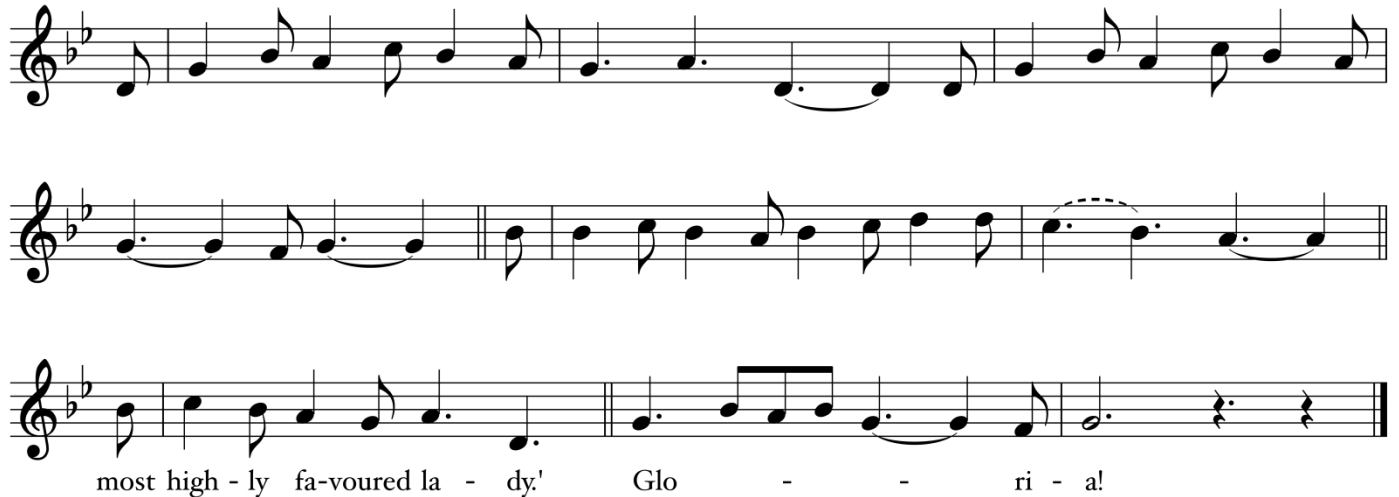
I sing of a maiden
That is makeless:
King of all kinges
To her son she ches.

He came all so stille
There his mother was,
As dew in Aprille
That falleth on the grass.
He came all so stille
To his motheres bowr,
As dew in Aprille
That falleth on the flowr.
He came all so still
There his mother lay,
As dew in Aprille
That falleth on the spray.

Mother and maiden
Was never none but she;
Well may such a lady
Godes mother be.

Words: The Venerable Bede
Music: French, arr. A. Carter

All stand to sing:



The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
'All hail,' said he, 'thou lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favoured lady,'
Gloria!

'For known a blessed mother thou shalt be,
All generations laud and honour thee,
Thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold;
Most highly favoured lady.
Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
'To me be as it pleaseth God', she said,
'My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name':
Most highly favoured lady.
Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel the Christ was born
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,

And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say
‘Most highly favoured lady’.
Gloria!

A PRAYER:

O God our Father, we ask that your Son's birth as a little child may deliver us from the old slavery that holds us fast beneath the yoke of sin. Lord Jesus, by the example you gave in the poverty of your birth, teach us not to become so engrossed in material things that we lose sense of the true values of life. Spirit of love, inspire us with generosity towards people in misfortune and distress. We remember those with no homes, the sick, the bereaved, the lonely, the unemployed. For all those whose lives are insecure, or empty or aimless, may they find in the one born at Bethlehem all that they need today, and much more besides. Give peace among the nations, peace in our land, peace in our homes, and peace in our hearts, as we remember the birth of the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ our Lord.

All say:

Amen.

The choir sings:

Hark! how the bells, sweet silver bells, all seem to say throw cares away.
Christmas is here bringing good cheer to young and old; meek and the bold,
Ding dong, ding dong, that is their song with joyful ring all carolling.
One seems to hear words of good cheer from everywhere filling the air.
Oh how they pound, raising the sound, o'er hill and dale, telling their tale.
Gaily they ring while people sing songs of good cheer; Christmas is here!
Merry Christmas!
On they send, on without end with joyful tone to every home.

Words: P. Wilhousky

Music: M. Leontovich

A READING: Luke 2, vv. 1-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. 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.

The choir sings:

Lulajże Jezuniu, moja Perełko,
Lulaj ulubione me Pieścidełko.
Lulajże Jezuniu, lulaj, że lulaj
A ty go matulu w płaczu utulaj

*Hush little Jesus, my pearl,
Hush my favourite little delight.
Hush little Jesus, hush, hush
But you lovely mother, solace him in
tears*

Zamknijże znużone płaczem
powieczki,
Utulże zemdlone łkaniem usteczki.

*Close your little eyelids, tired of
weeping,
Solace the little lips, fainted from
sobbing.*

Lulajże Jezuniu, lulaj, że lulaj
A ty go matulu w płaczu utulaj

*Hush little Jesus, hush, hush
But you lovely mother, solace him in
tears.*

Words: Polish traditional
Music: arr J. Sykulski

All stand to sing:



Silent night, Holy night
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin, mother and child
Holy infant, tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, Holy night
Shepherds quake, at the sight

Glories stream from heaven above
Heavenly hosts sing Hallelujah.
Christ the Saviour is born,
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
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

The choir sings:

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

Fall on your knees!
Oh hear the angel voices¹
O night divine!
O night when Christ was born.

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 the Orient land.
The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger,
In all our trials born to be our friend.

He knows our need,
To weakness no stranger;
Behold your King!
Before him lowly bend!

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.

Christ is the Lord,
then ever, ever praise we,
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim.

Words: Cappeau de Roquemaure

Music: A. Adam, arr. J. Rutter

A PRAYER:

Lord Jesus, you were born into poverty, became a refugee and finally cast out – it is among those people you call us to follow you today to proclaim your good news of righteousness and justice. Give us wisdom as we follow. We celebrate your coming to us long ago and yet you break into our daily life with messages of peace and goodwill, expecting us not to just sing about it but make it happen in our day! Help us to find you in the ordinary place, with faithful people, bringing heaven to earth in your name. Bring us to that manger, to that true rejoicing which will make wisdom, justice and righteousness alive in us. O God, may we daily be renewed in your image and become more like Jesus Christ.

All say:

Amen.

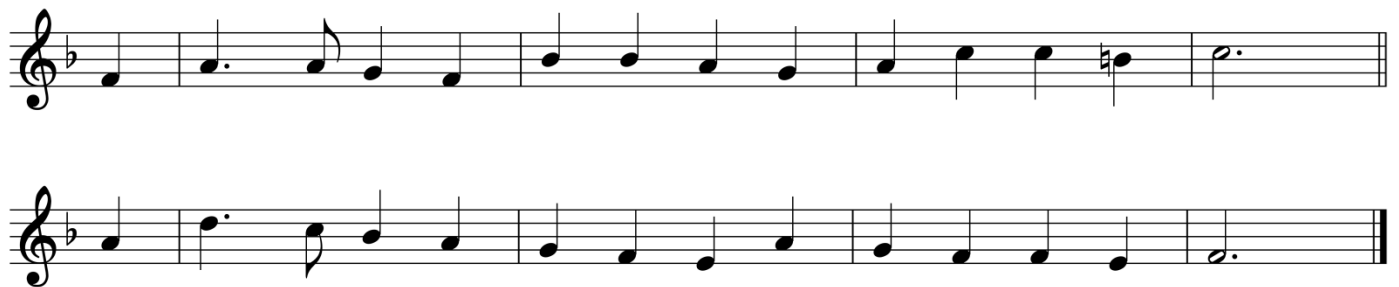
A READING: Luke 2, vv. 8-20

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 Saviour, 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 favours!”

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. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

All stand to sing:



While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground;
the angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around,

"Fear not!" said he, for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind.
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring
to all of humankind,

"To you, in David's town, this day
is born of David's line
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord,
and this shall be the sign,

"The heavenly babe you there shall find

to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
and in a manger laid,

Thus spake the seraph and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God on high,
who thus addressed their song:

"All glory be to God on high,
and to the earth be peace;
good will henceforth from heaven to earth
begin and never cease!"

A PRAYER:

Lord Jesus, when you came to this earth as a little child and lay in the manger at Bethlehem, the angels sang for joy and proclaimed glory to God in the highest. As we celebrate his birth we too would sing and be glad. Accept our worship, the praises of our lips and thanksgiving of our hearts. We give thanks to the Father for the gift of his Son to be our Saviour, for the love of Christ in taking our human nature, for his lowly birth at Bethlehem, and for the great redemption he has brought to us and to all humankind. And with the angelic host we too would cry 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will towards men!'

All say: Amen.

The choir sings:

As Joseph was a walking
He heard an angel sing,
This night shall be born
Our heavenly king.
He neither shall be born
In housen nor in hall,
Nor in the place of Paradise
But in an ox's stall.
Noel, noel, noel.

As Joseph was a walking
He heard an angel sing,
This night shall be born
Our heavenly king.
He neither shall be clothed
In purple nor in pall,
But all in fair linen
As wear babies all.
Noel, noel, noel.

As Joseph was a walking
He heard an angel sing,
This night shall be born
Our heavenly king.
He neither shall be rocked
In silver nor in gold,
But in a wooden cradle
That rocks on the mold.
Noel, noel, noel.

As Joseph was a walking
He heard an angel sing,
This night shall be born
Our heavenly king.
He neither shall be christened
In white wine nor in red,
But in the fair spring water
As we were christened.
Noel, noel, noel.

*Words by: 14th Century
Music by: H. Hallgrímsson*

ALL STAND

A READING:

The Christmas Gospel is written in the First Chapter of the Gospel according to St John, beginning at the First verse.

ALL SAY: Glory Be To Thee, O Lord

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.

ALL SAY: Thanks Be To Thee O Lord

All stand to sing:



Hark the herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn 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 newborn King!"

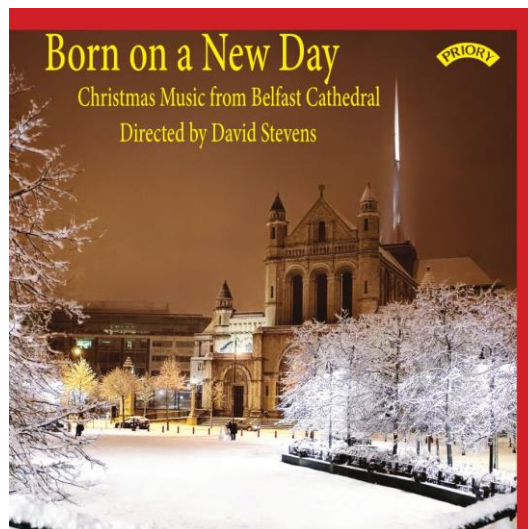
Christ by highest heav'n adored
Christ the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold Him come
Offspring of a Virgin's womb
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see
Hail the incarnate Deity
Pleased as man with man to dwell
Jesus, our Emmanuel
Hark! The herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings
Ris'n 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
Hark! The herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Remain standing for the BLESSING.

*Remain standing whilst the choir and clergy leave, then remain quiet during the
ORGAN VOLUNTARY: In Dulci Jubilo, J.S. Bach.*

If you have enjoyed the music in today's service, please buy
a copy of the choir's CD 'Born on a New Day',
available at the back of the cathedral after the service.



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|--|---|
| 1. Once in royal David's city <i>arr. David Stevens</i> | 11. Joseph and the Angel <i>Haflíði Hallgrímsson</i> |
| 2. The Little Road to Bethlehem <i>Michael Head</i> | 12. Angels we have heard on high <i>arr. John Rutter</i> |
| 3. Nativity <i>Matthew Orlovich</i> | 13. Jesus, Jesus, rest your head <i>arr. Paul Halley</i> |
| 4. Entre le boeuf et l'âne gris <i>arr. Paul Ayres</i> | 14. Sleep, Holy Babe <i>Alexander Campkin</i> |
| 5. The Shepherd's Carol <i>Bob Chilcott</i> | 15. The Lamb <i>John Tavener</i> |
| 6. The Holly and the Ivy <i>arr. Ola Gjeilo</i> | 16. In dulci jubilo <i>arr. Matthew Culloton</i> |
| 7. Gabriel's Message <i>arr. Jim Clements</i> | 17. Morning Song for the Christ Child <i>Peter Sculthorpe</i> |
| 8. Ding dong! Merrily on high <i>arr. Carolyn Jennings</i> | 18. Lulajże Jezuniu <i>arr. Jacek Sykulski</i> |
| 9. A Christmas Lullaby <i>Dan Forrest</i> | |
| 10. The First Nowell <i>arr. Stephen Paulus</i> | |

19. Hark! the Herald angels sing
arr. Stephen Paulus

20. Born on a New Day
John David, arr. Peter Knight



CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2018



Monday 24th Christmas Eve

8.00pm Service of Lessons & Carols for Christmas

11.00pm The First Eucharist of Christmas

Preaching: The Dean

Presiding: The Dean

Tuesday 25th Christmas Day – The Nativity of Our Lord

10:00am The Eucharist

Presiding: Rev R Lawrenson

11:00am Festival Choral Eucharist

Preaching: The Bishop of Down & Dromore

The Rt Revd Harold Millar

Presiding: The Dean

The Cathedral closes at 12:30pm



OUR THANKS TO THE CATHEDRAL CHOIRS, ORGANISTS AND STAFF FOR THEIR
PREPARATION FOR THIS FESTIVAL SERVICE, AND FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION WITH US
AT BELFAST CATHEDRAL.

FROM THE DEAN AND CHAPTER
WE WISH YOU ALL THE JOY AND PEACE OF THE CHRIST CHILD
AT THIS CHRISTMAS TIME.