

A Festival of Lessons and Carols
2 January 2021 – 4.00 pm

Organ: Prelude on the hymn tune Divinum Mysterium - David Hahn

Hymn 102, Once in Royal David's City

*The soloist sings the first verse, the quartet sings the second;
all join in for the remaining verses.*

**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.**

**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, the scorned, the lowly lived on earth our Savior holy.**

**For he is our lifelong pattern; daily, when on earth he grew;
he was tempted, scorned, rejected, tears and smiles like us he knew.
Thus he feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all our gladness.**

**And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;
for that child who seemed so helpless 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 round,
we shall see him; but in heaven, where his saints his throne surround:
Christ, revealed to faithful eye, set a God's right hand on high.**

The Bidding Prayer and Lord's Prayer

The people are seated for the readings after the prayers.

I GENESIS 3:1-15, 22-24

Adam and Eve rebel against God and are cast out of the Garden of Eden.

Adam Lay Ybounden - Boris Ord

II ISAIAH 40:1-11

God comforts his people and calls on them to prepare for redemption.

Hymn 105, God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

**God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay; remember Christ, our
Savior was born on Christmas Day to save us all from Satan's pow'r when we
were gone astray.**

O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our heav'nly Father a blessed angel came and unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same, how that in Bethlehem was born the son of God by name. R.

"Fear not," then said the angel, "let nothing you affright; this day is born a Savior, the true and radiant light, to free all those who trust in him from Satan's pow'r and might." R.

Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place, and in true love and fellowship each other now embrace; this holy tide of Christmas is filled with heav'nly grace. R.

III MICAH 5:2-4

The one who is to rule Israel will be born in the village of Bethlehem.

Love Came Down at Christmas - Healey Willan

IV LUKE 1:26-38

The Angel Gabriel announces to Mary that she will bear the Son of the Most High.

The Angel Gabriel - John S. Dixon

V LUKE 2:1-20

Jesus is born at Bethlehem and is worshiped by angels and shepherds.

In a Lowly Manger - Timothy Shaw

VI MATTHEW 2:1-12

The Magi are led by a star to worship Jesus.

We Three Kings of Orient Are

The soloists sing verses 1 through 4, the people joining in on the refrain.

All sing verse 5 and the refrain:

Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice; heaven sings alleluia: alleluia the earth replies. O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright; westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!

VII JOHN 1:1-14

John the Evangelist unfolds the mystery of the Incarnation.

O Radiant Christ, Incarnate Word - Robert Buckley Farlee

Hymn 83: O Come, All Ye Faithful, Joyful and Triumphant

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, etc.; O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Child, for us sinners, poor and in the manger, we would embrace thee with love and awe; Who would not love thee, loving us so dearly? R.

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation! Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, glory in the highest! R.**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Almighty God, we give you thanks for surrounding us, as daylight fades, with the brightness of the vesper light. Enfold us in the warmth and beauty of this light, and shine into our hearts the brightness of your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Keep watch dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous,
and all for your love's sake. **Amen.**

May 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 Spirit, rest upon you and remain with you this Christmastide
and forever more. **Amen.**

Hymn 87, Hark! The Herald Angels 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 hosts proclaim,
Christ is born in Bethlehem!**

Hark! the herald angels sing, glory to the newborn King!

**Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord; Late in time
behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb. Veiled in flesh the Godhead
see; hail the incarnate Deity. Pleased as man with us to dwell;
Jesus, our Immanuel! R.**

**Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die, born to raise us from
the earth, born to give us second birth. Risen with healing in his wings, Light
and life to all he brings, hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace! R.**

Organ: Praeludium in F major - J.S. Bach

A Very Merry Christmas to All!

(text of choral works on the last page)

Texts Translations of Choral Works

Adam Lay ybounden

- 15th century English anonymous; music, Boris Ord 1897-1961

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 gratias!

Love Came Down at Christmas

- words, Christina Rossetti 1830-1894; music, Healey Willan 1880-1968

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 others, love for plea and gift and sign.

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

- Basque Carol, para. Sabine Baring-Gould 1834-1924;
music "Gabriel's Message", Basque Carol, harm. Edgar Pettman 1865-1943

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 favored lady," Gloria!

"For know a blessed Mother thou shalt be, all generations laud and honor thee, thy Son
shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold, most highly favored 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 favored 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 favored lady," Gloria!

In a Lowly Manger

- words, Fanny Crosby 1820-1915, alt.; music, Timothy Shaw

In a lowly manger, sleeping, calm and still the baby see, 'tis the Holy Child of promise
Light of all the world is he. Alleluia. Blessed Savior, dear Redeemer, Son of David,
Prince of Peace, Rock of Ages, Hope of Nations, Lord, your reign will never cease.
Alleluia. In a lowly manger, sleeping, Blessed Savior, Prince of Peace.

O Radiant Christ

- words, Ruth Duck b. 1947; music, Robert Buckley Farlee, b. 1959

O Radiant Christ, Incarnate Word, eternal love revealed in time. Come, make your home
without out hearts that we may dwell in light sublime. Our bartered, busy lives burn
dim, too tired to care, too numb to feel. O come and shine upon our shadowed world,
your radiance bathes with power to heal. Your glory shone at Jordan's stream, the font
where we were born anew. Attune your church to know you are near, illumine all we say
or do. O light of nations, fill the earth, our faith and hope and love renew. Come lead the
peoples to your peace as stars once led the way to you.