The 112th Annual Christmas Carol Service

The Harvard University Choir
Welcome to America's oldest carol service, presented by the Memorial Church at Harvard University. In 1910, the newly appointed University Organist and Choirmaster, Archibald T. Davison, and Plummer Professor of Christian Morals, Edward C. Moore, devised the first annual Christmas Carol Service for Harvard University. The liturgy they prepared has remained virtually unchanged since: three lessons from scripture, interspersed with choral and congregational carols, beginning with “Adeste, fideles” sung in Latin. Over a century later, this service continues to be a cherished part of the festive season for the Harvard and Cambridge communities. As a courtesy, we ask that you silence all electronic devices. Photography and the use of recording equipment are not permitted during the service.
One of the great treasures of the Christian world is the abundant heritage of Christmas songs; for, in the words of Robert Herrick:

What sweeter music can we bring
Than a carol, for to sing
The birth of this our heavenly King?

Indeed this most familiar of narratives—with its unlikely cast of angels and shepherds, kings and camels—continues to be a source of inspiration for poets and composers alike: through its constant retelling, this miraculous story retains its freshness. Tonight—after these long months of enforced isolation—it is a joy to sing in-person to an in-person congregation, as we offer a variety of contemporary reflections on the Christmas message.

Our service opens in one of Harvard’s most poignant spaces, the Memorial Room, which documents the names of those Harvard men who perished in World War One, and contains the powerful centerpiece Sacrifice by the American sculptor and author Malvina Hoffman. Towards the end of the service, the congregation is invited to participate in the singing of “Silent Night” in English or in German: this practice memorializes that most moving episode of over one hundred years ago when, on Christmas Day 1914, soldiers from both sides of the trenches laid down their arms and climbed into no-man’s land to sing this cherished carol.

The continuing vitality of the American carol tradition is heard throughout the service, foremost in the world premiere of Dormi, Jesu! by Jaebon Hwang, Director of Music Ministries and Organist at First United Methodist Church in San Diego. A graduate of the University of Southern California with a degree in organ performance, she also earned degrees in composition and film scoring from the Korea National University of the Arts and New York University. It is also a thrill to revisit Alice Parker’s perky reimagining of Supply Belcher’s While Shepherds Watched, which premiered at the 100th Annual Christmas Carol Service in 2009.

The official installation of the Reverend Matthew Ichihashi Potts as Pusey Minister featured Composer in Residence Carson Cooman’s setting of W. H. Auden, and this evening’s service continues that celebration with a repeat performance. The choral offerings conclude with the poignant final section of Ruth Watson Henderson’s large-scale choral work From Darkness to Light, which was commissioned by the American Guild of Organists and premiered at its 2002 National Convention in Philadelphia.

Tonight’s organ music, performed by Assistant University Organist and Choirmaster David von Behren, features American settings of carol melodies from around the world, culminating in Keith Chapman’s ebullient setting of the French carol, “Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella.”

Awake the voice! Awake the string!
The 112th Annual Christmas Carol Service

The congregation is asked to remain silent upon entering the Sanctuary.

Prelude

Carson Cooman ’04 (b. 1982)
Advent Medley (2020)  
Eurydice V. Osterman (b. 1950)
Voluntary on French Carols (2018)  
Michael Helman (b. 1956)
Sussex Carol (2018)
I Saw Three Ships  
Gustav Holst (1874–1934), arr. Douglas E. Wagner (b. 1952)
Good Christian Friends, Rejoice  
Richard Purvis (1913–1994)
Pastorale on “Forest Green” (1949)  
Brenda Portman (b. 1980)
from Variations on the Huron Carol (2017)
Preamble  
Keith Chapman (1945–1989)
Tambourin
Reverie
March
Away in a Manger (1976)

Introit

In the Stillness (2007)  
Sally Beamish (b. 1956)

In the stillness of a church
Where candles glow,
In the softness of a fall
Of fresh white snow,
In the brightness of the stars
That shine this night,
In the calmness of a pool
Of healing light,
In the clearness of a choir
That softly sings,
In the one-ness of a hush
Of angels’ wings,
In the mildness of a night
By stable bare,
In the quietness of a lull
Near cradle fair,
There’s a patience as we wait
For a new morn,
And the presence of a child
Still to be born.

Katrina Shepherd
HYMN IN PROCESSION

Adeste, fideles
First verse sung by the choir alone
The congregation standing

Attributes to John Francis Wade (c.1711–1786)
Descant by David Wilcock (1919–2015)
Organ interludes by John Ferris (1926–2008)

1 A - des - te, fi - de - les, læ - ti tri - um - phan - tes, ve - ni - te, ve - ni - te in
2 De - rum de De - o, lu - men de - lo rum, can - tet nunc au - la cæ -
3 Can - tet nunc i - o cho - rus an - ge - ban - tem, Pi - is fo - ve - a - mus am -
4 Pro - no - his e - ge - num, et fo - no cu - er - na, Je - su, ti - bi sit
5 Er - go qui na - tus Di - e ho - di - Beth - le - hem: na - tum vi - de - te

Adeste, fideles
re-gem an-ge-lo-rum:
gen-i-tum, non fac-tum:

cel-sis De-o: ve-ni-te a-do-

re-mus, ve-ni-te a-do-re-mus, ve-

ni-te a-do-re-mus Do-mi-num.
FIRST LESSON
Luke 1:26–38

CAROL

Little Lamb who made thee 
Dost thou know who made thee 
Gave thee life & bid thee feed. 
By the stream & o’er the mead; 
Gave thee clothing of delight, 
Softest clothing wooly bright; 
Gave thee such a tender voice, 
Making all the vales rejoice! 
Little Lamb who made thee 
Dost thou know who made thee 

Little Lamb I’ll tell thee, 
Little Lamb I’ll tell thee! 
He is called by thy name, 
For he calls himself a Lamb: 
He is meek & he is mild, 
He became a little child: 
I a child & thou a lamb, 
We are called by his name. 
Little Lamb who made thee 
Dost thou know who made thee 

Little Lamb God bless thee. 
Little Lamb God bless thee.

William Blake (1757–1827)

CAROL
Dormi, Jesu! (2021)  Jaebon Hwang (b. 1982)

Commissioned for the 112th Annual Christmas Carol Service, December 2021

Dormi, Jesu! Mater ridet 
Quae tam dulcem somnum videt, 
Dormi, Jesu! blandule! 
Si non dormis, Mater plorat, 
Inter fila cantans orat, 
Blande, veni, somnule.

Sleep, sweet babe! my cares beguiling: 
Mother sits beside thee smiling; 
Sleep, my darling, tenderly! 
If thou sleep not, mother mourneth, 
Singing as her wheel she turneth: 
Come, soft slumber, balmily!

Traditional Latin and Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772–1834)
Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming

1 Lo, how a Rose e’er bloom-ing from ten-der stem hath sprung!
2 I - sa - iah ’twas fore-told it, the Rose I have in mind,
3 O Flower, whose fra-grance ten-der with sweet-ness fills the air,

Of Jes-se’s lin-eage com-ing as seers of old have sung.
with Ma-ry we be-hold it, the Vir - gin Mo - ther kind.
dis-pel in glo-rious splen-dor the dark-ness ev - ery - where;

It came, a blos-som bright, a - mid the cold of win - ter,
To show God’s love a - right, she bore to us a Sa-vior,
true man, yet ve-ry God, from sin and death now save us,

when half spent was the night.
when half spent was the night.
and share our ev - ery load.
CAROL
Balulalow (2012)  

O my dear heart, Young Jesu sweet,  
Prepare thy cradle in my spreit,  
And I shall rock thee in my heart,  
And nevermore from thee depart.  
Balulalow.

But I shall praise thee evermore,  
With songes sweet unto thy gloir.  
The knees of my heart shall I bow,  
And sing that richt Balulalow.

James, John, and Robert Wedderburn (fl. 1567)

CAROL
What Sweeter Music (1987)  

What sweeter music can we bring  
Than a carol, for to sing  
The birth of this our heavenly King?  
Awake the voice! Awake the string!

Dark and dull night, fly hence away,  
And give the honor to this day  
That sees December turned to May.

Why does the chilling winter’s morn  
Smile, like a field beset with corn?  
Or smell like a meadow newly shorn  
Thus on the sudden? Come and see  
The cause, why things thus fragrant be:

’Tis he is born. whose quickening birth  
Gives life and lustre, public mirth,  
To heaven and the under-earth.

We see him come, and know him ours,  
Who, with his sunshine and his showers,  
Turns all the patient ground to flowers.

The darling of the world is come,  
And fit it is, we find a room  
To welcome him, to welcome him.

The nobler part of all the house here, is the heart.  
Which we will give him: and bequeath  
This holly, and this ivy wreath.  
To do him honor, who’s our King,  
And Lord of all this reveling.

Robert Herrick (1591–1674), alt.

SECOND LESSON
Luke 2:1–14
CAROL
While Shepherds Watched (2009)
Alice Parker (b. 1925)
freely after Supply Belcher (1751–1836)
Commissioned for the 100th Annual Christmas Carol Service, December 2009

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 you and all mankind.”
And glory shone around.

“To you, in David’s town, this day
Is born of David’s line
A Savior, who is Christ the Lord,
And this shall be the sign.”
And glory shone around.

“The heavenly Babe you there shall find
To human view displayed,
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
And in a manger laid.”
And glory shone around.

“All glory be to God on high,
And to the Earth be peace;
Good will henceforth from Heaven to earth
Now come and never cease!”
All glory be to God on high!

Nahum Tate (1652–1715)

CAROL
The Holly and the Ivy (2011)
Matthew Owens (b. 1971)

The holly and the ivy
When they are both full grown;
Of all the trees that are in the wood
The holly bears the crown.

O the rising of the sun
And the running of the deer,
The playing of the merry organ,
Sweet singing in the choir.

The holly bears a blossom
As white as any flower;
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
To be our sweet Savior.

The holly bears a berry
As red as any blood;
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
To do poor sinners good.

The holly bears a prickle
As sharp as any thorn;
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
On Christmas Day in the morn.

The holly bears a bark
As bitter as any gall;
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
For to redeem us all.

Traditional English
1 Angels we have heard on high, singing sweetly through the night,
2 Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why these songs of happy cheer?
3 Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing,
4 See him in a manger laid whom the angels praise above,

And the mountains in reply echoing their brave delight.
What great brightness did you see? What glad tidings did you hear?
Come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.

Gloria
CAROL
Ding Dong! Merrily on High (2007)

Ding dong! Merrily on high
In heav'n the bells are ringing:
Ding dong! Verily the sky
Is riv'n with angel-singing.

_Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

E'en so here below, below,
Let steeple bells be swungen,
And “io, io, io,”
By priest and people sungen!

Pray you, dutifully prime
Your matin chime, ye ringers;
May you beautifully rime
Your evetime song, ye singers.

George Ratcliffe Woodward (1848–1934)

CAROL
Thou Shalt Know Him (1995)

Thou shalt know him when he comes,
Not by any din of drums,
Nor his manners, nor his airs,
Nor by any thing he wears.

Thou shalt know him when he comes,
Not by a crown nor by a gown,
But his coming known shall be,
By the holy harmony
Which his coming makes in thee. Amen.

Mark Sirett (b. 1952)

Anonymous
THIRD LESSON
Matthew 2:1–11

CAROL
Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow (2001)

Star in the East on Christmas morn;
Leads to the place where the Christ was born;
Leave your sheep, and leave your lambs;
Leave your ewes, and leave your rams.
If you take good heed to the angel's words;
You'll forget your flocks, you'll forget your herds.

Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

There's a star in the East on Christmas morn;
It will lead to the place where Christ was born;
Leave your sheep, and leave your lambs;
Leave your ewes, and leave your rams;

Rise up, shepherd, and follow.
Follow the star of Bethlehem.

If you take good heed of the angel's words;
You'll forget your flocks, you'll forget your herds.

Rise up, shepherd, and follow.
Follow the star of Bethlehem.

CAROL
I Wonder As I Wander (1996)

I wonder as I wander out under the sky,
How Jesus the Savior 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.

John Jacob Niles (1892–1980), alt.
HYMN

Personent hodie
The congregation standing

Personent hodie

Adapted by Gustav Holst (1874–1934)
Descant by John Rutter

1 Per - so - nent ho - di - e
2 In mun - do nas - ci - tur,
3 Ma - gi tres ve - ne-runt,
4 Om - nes cle - ri - cu - li,

vo - ces pu - er - u - lae, lau - dan - tes iu - cun - de
pan - nis in - vol - vi - tur, præ - se - pi po - ni - tur
par - vu - lum in - qui - runt, Beth - le - hem a - de - unt,
par - i - ter pu - e - ri, can - tent ut an - ge - li:

qui no - bis est na - tus, sum - mo De - o da - tus,
sta - bu - lo bru - to - rum, rec - tor su - per - no - rum,
stel - lu - lam se - quen - do, ip - sum a - do - ran - do,
ad - ven - is - ti mun - do, lau - des ti - bi fun - do.

et de vir - vir, et de vir - vir,
Per - di - dit, dit, dit,
au - rum, thus, thus, thus,
Id - e - o, -o, -o, -o

et de vir - gi - ne - o ven - tre pro - cre - a - tus.
per - di - dit spo - li - a prin - cep - s in - fer - no - rum.
au - rum, thus, et myrr - ham e - i of - fe - ren - do.
id - e - o glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!
CAROL

Carson Cooman ’04

Written for the installation of the Rev. Matthew Ichibashi Potts as Pusey Minister of the Memorial Church, December 12, 2021

Mary, in a dream of love
Playing as all children play,
For unsuspecting children may
Express in comic make-believe
The wish that later they will know
Is tragic and impossible;
Hear, child, what I am sent to tell:
Love wills your dream to happen, so
Love’s will on earth may be, through you,
No longer a pretend but true.

W. H. Auden (1907–1973)

CAROL
Lully, Lulla, Lullay (2008)  

Philip W. J. Stopford (b. 1977)

Lully, lulla, lullay.

Lully, lullay, 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 mourn and sigh,
For thy parting neither say nor sing, by, by, lully, lullay.

Traditional English, 16th century

PRAYERS AND THE LORD’S PRAYER
HYMN
Stille Nacht! / Silent Night
The congregation seated
The hymn may be sung in German or in English
English version on next page

Stille Nacht!

Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht!
Stille Nacht

Franz Xaver Gruber, 1818

Descants by Murray Forbes Somerville (b. 1948)

Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht!
Stille Nacht

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!
Alles schläft, einsam wacht

Nur das traut heilige Paar.
Hol der Knab im lockigen Haar,
Durch der Engel Al-le-lu-jah, tont es laut bei Ferne und Nah:
Lieb aus deinem göttlichen Mund, da uns schlägt die ret-ten-de Stund'.

Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!
Christ der Ret-ter ist da!
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!
Christ der Ret-ter ist da!

“Christ der Ret-ter ist da!”
Christ in deiner Ge-burt!
“Christ der Ret-ter ist da!”
Christ in deiner Ge-burt!

Christ der Ret-ter ist da!

Christ in deiner Ge-burt!
Silent Night

1 Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
2 Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight,
3 Silent night, holy night, Son of God, Love's pure light,

round yon Virgin Mother and child. Holy infant, so
glories stream from heaven afar, heaven hosts sing
radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of re-

tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.
al-leluia, Christ, the Saviour, is born! Christ, the Saviour is born.
deeming grace, Jesus, Lord at thy birth, Jesus, Lord at thy birth.
CAROL


Huna, blentyn, ar fy mynwes,
Clyd a chynnes ydyw hon;
Breichiaw mam sy’n dynn amdanat,
Cariad mam sy dan fy mron.
Ni chaiff dim amharu’th gyntun,
Ni wna undyn â thi gam;
Huna’n dawel, annwyl blentyn,
Huna’n fwyn ar fron dy fam.

Huna’n dawel heno, huna,
Huna’n fwyn, y tws ei lun;
Pam yr wyt yn awr yn gwenu,
Gwenu’n dirion yn dy hun?
Ai angylon fwy sy’n gwenu
Armat ti yn gwenu’n llon?
Tithau’n gwenu’n ol dan huno,
Huno’n dawel ar fy mron.

Paid ag ofni, dim ond deilen
Gura, gura ar y ddôr;
Paid ag ofni, ton fach unig
Sua, su a lar y mør;
Huna blentyn, nid oes yma
Ddim i roddi iti fraw;
Gwenu’n dawel yn fy mynwes
Ar yr engyl gwynion draw.

CAROL

“Darkness Sang to the Light” from From Darkness to Light (2001)

Tell you, darkness was pierced by the rose
Which vanished in a sun. Tell you, it was
A sun of glory the singing rose was
Saying. From the rose to the woman,
From the woman to the man. From the man
To the sun. From the sun to the earth,
Beasts, and all creeping things. To the waters
Divided. To the light created. And the singing
Rose sang in the lap of Mary.

And the night shall be no more; they need no light of lamp or sun,
For the Lord God will be their light.

Darkness
Sang to the light and the kiss of love was peace.

Wilfred Watson (1911–1998) and Revelation 22:5a
1 Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the new-born King!
2 Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord!
3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!

Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings,

Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies,
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the incarnate deity,
mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,

With the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec-ond birth.

Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the new-born King!”

**BENEDICTION**

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**POSTLUDE**

Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella (1976)  
*Keith Chapman*

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**LESSON READERS**

Sunday
Stephanie Paulsell  
Franziskus Lepionka  
Elizabeth Propst

Tuesday  
Jeromel Dela Rosa Lara  
Abby Fechtman  
Kevin Bryant

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**WORSHIP LEADERS**

The Reverend Matthew Ichihashi Potts, *Pusey Minister in the Memorial Church, Plummer Professor of Christian Morals, Faculty of Divinity*

The Reverend Alanna C. Sullivan, *Associate Minister and Director of Administration*

**Harvard University Choir**

Edward Elwyn Jones, *Gund University Organist and Choirmaster*

David von Behren, *Assistant University Organist and Choirmaster*

Carson Cooman, *Research Associate in Music and Composer in Residence*

Rena Cohen, *Senior Choir Secretary*

Sophie Choate, *Junior Choir Secretary*

Elizabeth Wu, *Social Secretary*

Frank Kelley, *Voice Teacher*