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.
Music Notes

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

The tradition of the Christmas carol began in medieval Europe and has since blossomed into a repertoire that is one of the great treasures of the musical world. Each generation enhances our understanding of the Christmas miracle through reinterpretation and replenishment: by the renewed attentions of poets, artists, and musicians, this beloved narrative retains its freshness and relevance. Tonight—with those long months of enforced isolation still fresh in our memories—we remain grateful for the gift of in-person singing to an in-person congregation, as we offer a variety of musical and poetic 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 Beneath a Dark, Familiar Sky by David Hurd. One of the foremost composers of American church music today, Dr. Hurd is also widely renowned as an organist, choral director, and educator. He was Professor of Sacred Music and Director of Chapel Music at the General Theological Seminary in New York City for nearly four decades and is currently Director of Music at the Church of Saint Mary the Virgin. His new work is a powerful setting of words by American poet Michael Hudson and pairs rich choral writing with a portentous organ part. Composer in Residence Carson Cooman’s new carol Beyond sets a poignant tone. Elizabeth Kirschner’s reflective words are given extra potency through the addition of a solo viola, played by Senior Choir Secretary Sophie Choate.

We note the anniversaries of composers César Franck, William Mathias, Heinrich Schütz, Howard Skempton, and Ralph Vaughan Williams, and we mourn the passing last month of American composer Ned Rorem with his beautiful carol While All Things Were in Quiet Silence.

Tonight’s organ music, performed by Assistant University Organist and Choirmaster David von Behren, features several American settings of carol melodies from around the world, culminating in Craig Phillips’s ebullient Toccata on “Antioch,” the famous hymn tune by Lowell Mason, whose music was first published and promoted by Boston’s Handel and Haydn Society.

Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!
THE 113TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

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

PRELUDE

Rhapsody on a German Carol, Op. 1237 (2017)  
Carson Cooman ’04 (b. 1982)

Christmas Bells (2021)  
Howard Skempton (b. 1947)

from L’organiste (1889)  
César Franck (1822–1890)

Chant de la creuse
Vieux noël I
Vieux noël II

Three Carol Settings (2021)  
Marianne Kim (b. 1972)

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (Theme and Variations)
Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming
On Christmas Night All Christians Sing (“Sussex Carol”)

Two Carol Settings (1976)  
Keith Chapman (1945–1989)

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly
Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

INTROIT

“The Blessed Son of God” from Hodie (1953/54)  
Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)

The blessed son of God only
In a crib full poor did lie;
With our poor flesh and our poor blood
Was clothed that everlasting good.

Kyrie eleison. (Lord, have mercy)

The Lord Christ Jesu, God’s son dear,
Was a guest and a stranger here;
Us for to bring from misery,
That we might live eternally.

Kyrie eleison.

All this did he for us freely,
For to declare his great mercy;
All Christendom be merry therefore,
And give him thanks for evermore.

Kyrie eleison.

Martin Luther (1483–1546), translated to English by Myles Coverdale (1488–1569)
HYMN IN PROCESSION

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

Adeste fideles
Attributed to John Francis Wade (1711–1786)
Descant by David Willcocks (1919–2015)
Organ interludes by John Ferris (1926–2008)
re-gem an-ge-lo-rum:
gen-i-tum, non fac-tum:
cel-sis De-o: ve-ni-te a-do-
quis nos re-da-ma-ret?
ver-bum ca-ro fac-tum:
remus, ve-ni-te a-do-re-mus, ve-
ni-te a-do-re-mus Do-mi-num.
SENTENCES FROM SCRIPTURE AND WELCOME

FIRST LESSON
Luke 1:26–38

CAROL
While All Things Were in Quiet Silence (1986)  
Ned Rorem (1923–2022)

While all things were in quiet silence, and that night was in the midst of her swift course, thine Almighty Word, O Lord, leaped down out of thy royal throne. Alleluia

Antiphon for Matins of the First Sunday of Christmas

CAROL
Ave maris stella (2019)  
Judith Weir (b. 1954)

Ave maris stella,  
Dei mater alma,  
atque sempre virgo,  
felix caeli porta.

Sumens illud ave,  
Gabrielis ore,  
funda nos in pace,  
mutans Hevae nomen.

Solve vincla reis,  
profer lumen caecis,  
mala nostra pelle,  
bona cuncta posce.

Virgo singularis,  
inter omnes mitis,  
nos culpis solutos,  
mites fac et castos.

Vitam praesta pura,  
iter para tutum,  
ut videntes Jesum  
sempre collaetemur.

Sit laus Deo Patri,  
summo Christo decus,  
Spiritu Sancto,  
tribus honor unus. Amen.

Hail, star of the sea,  
Blessed Mother of God,  
And ever virgin,  
Happy gate of heaven.

Receiving that “Hail”  
From the mouth of Gabriel,  
Establish us in peace,  
Transforming the name of Eve.

Loosen the chains of the guilty,  
Bring forth light to the blind,  
Dispel out evil,  
Pray for all good things.

O unique Virgin,  
Gentle above all others,  
Set us free from sin,  
Meek and pure.

Grant a pure life,  
Prepare a safe way:  
That seeing Jesus  
We may ever rejoice.

To God the Father be praise,  
Glory to Christ on high,  
Honor to the Holy Spirit,  
Three in one. Amen.

Hymn at Vespers for feasts of the Virgin Mary
HYMN

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

The congregation standing

Es ist ein Ros'

Alte catholische geistliche Kirchengesäng, 1599
Harmonized by Michael Praetorius, 1609

1 Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
2 Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind,
3 O Flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,

Of Jesse's lineage coming as seers of old have sung.
with Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind.
disper in glorious splendor the darkness everywhere,

It came, a blossom bright, amid the cold of winter,
To show God's love a right, she bore to us a Saviour,
true man, yet very God, from sin and death now save us,

when half spent was the night.
when half spent was the night.
and share our every load.

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CAROL
O magnum mysterium, FP 152/1 (1952)  
Francis Poulenc (1899–1963)

O magnum mysterium  
et admirabile sacramentum,  
ut animalia viderent Dominum natum  
jacentem in praesepio.  
Beata Virgo, cuius viscera meruerunt  
portare Dominum Christum.

O great mystery  
and wonderful sacrament,  
that animals should see the new-born Lord  
lying in a manger!  
Blessed is the Virgin, whose womb  
was worthy to bear Christ the Lord.

Fourth Responsory for Matins of Christmas Day

CAROL
Carl Rütti (b. 1949)

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.  
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

SECOND LESSON
Luke 2:1–14
CAROL

Methinks I See ("Shiloh") (publ. 1786)  
William Billings (1746–1800)

Methinks I see an heavenly host,  
Of angels on the wing!  
Methinks I hear their cheerful notes,  
So merrily they sing,  
Let all your fears be banished hence,  
Glad tidings I proclaim;  
For there’s a savior born today,  
And Jesus is his name.

Lay down your crooks, and quit your flocks,  
To Bethlehem repair;  
And let your wandering steps be squared  
By yonder shining star.  
Seek not in courts or palaces,  
Nor royal curtains draw;  
But search the stable, see your God  
Extended on the straw.

Then suddenly a heavenly host,  
Around the shepherds throng,  
Exulting in the threefold God  
And thus address their song.  
To God the Father, Christ the Son,  
And Holy Ghost adored:  
The first and last, the last and first,  
Eternal praise afford.

William Billings

CAROL

Beneath a Dark, Familiar Sky (2022)  
David Hurd (b. 1950)

Commissioned for the 113th Annual Christmas Carol Service, December 2022

Beneath a dark, familiar sky  
the silent air was stirred;  
a sudden rush like many wings  
announced a startling word:  
a word more distant than the stars  
above the stony ground  
and closer than the beating hearts  
that marked the sudden sound.

The shepherds rose to face the sky,  
then turned and fell face down;  
this night it seemed that Life itself  
was pressing toward the ground  
to take, to hold, to celebrate  
the substance of the earth  
and gather all creation in  
a reconciling birth.

The stars aligned to point a path,  
the shepherds rose and ran,  
swept up in an epiphany  
they longed to understand.  
This longing also gathers us  
to rise and go with them,  
and find our way among the ways  
that meet in Bethlehem.

Michael Hudson (b. 1950)
Angels We Have Heard on High

The congregation standing

French Melody, harmonized by Edward Shippen Barnes (1887–1958)

1. Angels we have heard on high,
   Singing sweetly through the night,
   And the mountains in reply echoing their brave delight.

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?
   Why these songs of happy cheer?
   Goodwill is brought to humankind
   And peace to all the earth.

3. Come to Bethlehem and see
   Him whose birth the angels sing;
   What great brightness did you see?
   What glad tidings did you hear?
   Come, adore on bended knee
   Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.

4. See him in a manger laid
   Whom the angels praise above;
   Ma-ry, Jo-seph, lend your aid,
   While we raise our hearts in love.

Gloria in Excelsis Deo

Gloria in Excelsis Deo

Gloria in Excelsis Deo

Gloria in Excelsis Deo

Gloria in Excelsis Deo

Gloria in Excelsis Deo

Gloria in Excelsis Deo
When snow falls
we think it covers the world
although we know
it does not:
a meadow full
is not an earth full.
Love and light are the same
yet look how veils of it blow
beyond where even we
had imagined.

Elizabeth Kirschner (b. 1955)

CAROL
Ding Dong! Merrily on High (arr. 1970)  
16th-century French carol
Arranged by David Willcocks

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)
THIRD LESSON
Matthew 2:1–11

CAROL
In the Bleak Midwinter (2013)  
Becky McGlade (b. 1974)

In the bleak midwinter
Frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone:
Snow had fallen snow on snow,
Snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter,
Long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him,
Nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away
When he comes to reign:
In the bleak midwinter
A stable-place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty,
Jesus Christ.

What can I give him,
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd,
I would bring a lamb,
If I were a wise man
I would do my part,—
Yet what I can I give him,
Give my heart.

Christina Rossetti (1830–1894)

CAROL
“Sir Christèmas” from Ave Rex, Op. 45, No. 4 (1969)  
William Mathias (1934–1992)

Nowell, nowell.
Who is there that singeth so,
I am here, Sir Christèmas.
Welcome, my lord Sir Christèmas!
Welcome to all, both more and less!
Come near, come near, come near,
Nowell, nowell.

Dieu vous garde, beaux sieurs,
(Tidings I you bring:
A maid hath borne a child full young,
Which causeth you to sing:
Nowell, nowell.

Christ is now born of a pure maid,
Born of a pure maid;
In an ox-stall he is laid,
Wherefore sing we at a brayde:
Nowell, nowell.

Buvez bien, buvez bien
(Drink well, drink well
Par toute la compagnie.
Make good cheer and be right merry,
And sing with us now joyfully
Nowell, nowell.

Attributed to Richard Smerte (1435–1477)
HYMN
Personent hodie
The congregation standing

1 Personent hodie
2 In mun-do nas-ci-tur,
3 Ma-gi tres ve-ne-runt,
4 Om-nes cle-ri-cu-li,

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

voc-es pu-er-ulae, lau-dan-tes iu-cun-de
pan-nis in-vol-tur, pra-se-pi po-ni-tur
par-vu-lum in-qui-runt, Beth-le-hem a-de-unt,
par-i-ter pu-e-ri, can-ten-t ut an-ge-li:

qui no-bis est na-tus, sum-mo De-o da-tus,
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,
Id-e-o, -o, -o,

et de vir-gi-ne-o ven-tre pro-cre-a-tus.
per-di-dit spo-li-a prin-ceps 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
“Dank sagen wir” from Historia der Geburt Jesu Christi, SWV 435 (1664)  Heinrich Schütz (1585–1672)


Now let us all thank you, God our Lord, Christ Jesus, who has with his birth shone upon us, and redeemed his people with his passion from the devil’s deceit. Now let us all praise him with music, with all his angels, singing: “Praised be God in the highest!”

Sequence for Midnight Mass of Christmas, translated to German by Johann Spangenberg (1484–1550)

CAROL
Candlelight Carol (1984)  John Rutter

How do you capture the wind on the water?
How do you count all the stars in the sky?
How can you measure the love of a mother,
Or how can you write down a baby’s first cry?

Candlelight, angel light, firelight and star-glow
Shine on his cradle till breaking of dawn.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
(Glory to God in the highest)

Angels are singing; the Christ child is born.

Shepherds and wise men will kneel and adore him,
Seraphim round him their vigil will keep;
Nations proclaim him their Lord and their Savior,
But Mary will hold him and sing him to sleep.

Find him at Bethlehem laid in a manger:
Christ our Redeemer asleep in the hay;
Godhead incarnate and hope of salvation:
A child with his mother that first Christmas Day.

John Rutter

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

Stille Nacht!

1 Stil - le Nacht! Hei l i - ge Nacht! Al le schläft, ein sam wacht
2 Stil - le Nacht! Hei l i - ge Nacht! Hir ten erst kund - ge macht
3 Stil - le Nacht! Hei l i - ge Nacht! Got tes Söh n, o wie lacht

nur das trau te heil - i - ge Paar. Hol der Knab' im lock ig ten Haar,
durch der Eng el Al le lu ja, tön t es laut bei Fer ne und Nah:
Lieb' aus dei nem gött li - chen Mund, da uns schlägt die ret ten de Stund'.

Schlaf' in himm li scher Ruh!
“Christ der Ret ter ist da!
Christ in dei ner Ge burt!

Schlaf' in himm li scher Ruh!
Christ der Ret ter ist da!”
Christ in dei ner 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, heavenly 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

*André J. Thomas* (b. 1952)

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to all men of goodwill.  
We praise thee, we bless thee, we adore thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great glory.  
Lord God, King of Heaven, Father, Almighty One,  
Glory be to Jesus Christ, Lamb of God, the Father’s only son.  
Oh, thou who take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Receive our prayers.  
Thou who sits at the right hand of God the Father almighty in heaven, have mercy on us!  
For thou only art holy, only thou art the Lord. Only thou art holy, only thou art most high.  
In the name of the Father, in the name of the Son, in the name of the Holy Ghost,  
In the glory of the Father, Amen.

adapted from the Ordinary of the Mass

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CAROL

Ar hyd y nos (arr. 2012)

Holl amranta’r sêr ddywedant  
Ar hyd y nos  
“All the stars’ twinkles say  
All through the night”

“Dyma’r ffordd i fro gogoniant,”  
Ar hyd y nos.  
“All this way to the realm of glory,”  
All through the night.

Golau arall yw tywyllwch  
I arddangos gwir brydferthwch  
Teulu’r nefoedd mewn tawelwch  
Ar hyd y nos.  
“Other light is darkness  
To show true beauty  
The heavenly family in peace  
All through the night.”

O mor siriol, gwena’r seren  
Ar hyd y nos.  
“O, how cheerful smiles the star,  
All through the night”

I oleuo’i chwaer ddaearan  
Ar hyd y nos.  
“To light its earthly sister  
All through the night.”

Nos yw henaint pan ddaw cystudd  
Ond i harddu dyn a’i hwyrrddyd  
Rhown ein golau gwan i’n gilydd  
Ar hyd y nos.  
“Old age is night when affliction comes  
But to beautify man in his late days  
We'll put our weak light together  
All through the night.”

Traditional Welsh

arr. Edward Elwyn Jones (b. 1977)

John Ceiriog Hughes (1832–1887)
HYMN

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing
The congregation standing

Mendelssohn
Felix Mendelssohn (1809–1847)
Adapted by William H. Cummings (1831–1915)
Descant by David Wilcocks

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 second birth.

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

POSTLUDE
Toccata on “Antioch” (1996)  
Craig Phillips (b. 1961)

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  
Sophie Choate, Senior Choir Secretary  
Soren Choi, Junior Choir Secretary  
Maliya Ellis, Social Secretary  
Frank Kelley, Voice Teacher
SPRING 2023

CHORAL EVENSONG
Thursday, February 16, 5:45 pm
Thursday, March 23, 5:45 pm
Thursday, April 20, 5:45 pm
Harvard University Choir

LUNCHETIME CONCERTS
Wednesday, February 15, 12:15 pm
Carson Cooman performs the meditative cycle of ten piano nocturnes (2020–21) by German-Sorbian composer Felix Bräuer

Tuesday, March 7, 12:15 pm
David von Behren and Carson Cooman perform chamber music for violin and piano by Thea Musgrave, Dobrinka Tabakova, Carlotta Ferrari, Howard Skempton, Carson Cooman, and others

Wednesday, April 12, 12:15 pm
The Uppsala University Chamber Ensemble (Sweden) and pianist Paul-André Bempechat perform chamber music

Wednesday, May 17, 12:15 pm
Carson Cooman and David von Behren perform an organ recital

CHORAL CONCERTS
Sunday, March 5, 4 pm
Harvard University Choir performs The Web of Life: Litanies for the Earth by Alfred V. Fedak and music by Gwyneth Walker

Tuesday, April 4, 7 pm
Holy Week Musical Meditation
Harvard University Choir and Harvard Baroque Chamber Orchestra perform Agostino Steffani’s Stabat Mater

Friday, April 28, 7:30 pm
Harvard University Choir and orchestra perform The Revelations of Divine Love by Carson Cooman

Sunday, May 7, 4 pm
Harvard Ferris Choral Fellows and Harvard Baroque Chamber Orchestra perform Acis and Galatea by George Frideric Handel

Visit the Memorial Church’s website for updated information and additional events:
memorialchurch.harvard.edu