THE 106TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE



Featuring the Harvard University Choir December 2015

Verification of the Memorial Church and to America's oldest carol service. 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

How bright the radiance of the tree, Evergreen, everlasting.

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 Christian world. Each generation and culture enhances our understanding of the Christmas miracle through reinterpretation and replenishment: while we rejoice with the angels, we also reflect on the mystery of the Deity becoming human. Like a flourishing tree, this collection is nourished by the renewed attentions of poets, artists, and musicians; it is evergreen, everlasting.

Our service opens in the Memorial Room, which documents the names of Harvard's men who perished in World War One; during the ongoing centenary of that sad conflict, this very building adds its note of poignancy to the proceedings. 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 one hundred one 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.

In that same spirit of remembrance and commemoration we note the death of one of the giants of twentieth-century choral music, Sir David Willcocks. Sir David was Director of Music at King's College, Cambridge from 1957 to 1974 during which time his iconic broadcasts and recordings set new standards of excellence in British choral singing. His Christmas carols and arrangements are ubiquitous, and this evening we present two of his most famous descants as well as his beloved arrangement of the Sussex Carol. We celebrate the seventieth birthday of John Rutter—a frequent collaborator of Sir David Willcocks and the other towering figure in contemporary carol composition—with his All Bells in Paradise, and we mark the 150th anniversary of the birth of Finnish composer Jean Sibelius with his beautiful En etsi valtaa, loistoa.

The centerpiece of this year's service is James Woodman's powerful triptych *The Midwife's Tale*, commissioned by the Boston Cecilia in 1996. Mr. Woodman, a former Composer in Residence at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston, writes of the work:

Although they have faded from view now, vibrant legends about the life of Christ flourished in medieval times, frequently eclipsing the Bible itself in influencing art and literature. The text of *The Midwife's Tale* is derived from one such narrative found in the *Arundel Manuscript*, a compilation of earlier sources which dates from the 8th century. It contains an extraordinary account of the Nativity by the apocryphal figure of Zachel, a midwife enlisted by Joseph to attend to Mary at the time of birth. Against a dramatic background of cosmic upheaval, Zachel tells the story of her astonishing experience: The birth she has witnessed is not one of a human child, for Mary has given birth to Light! Her awe, comprehension, and delight warmly invite our empathy.

In addition, our service features the world premiere of two American carols: See, Amid the Winter's Snow, by David Ashley White, Professor of Composition at the University of Houston and an active voice in contemporary church music; and Christus natus est, by Composer in Residence Carson Cooman. Festive works by Peter Philips, Gareth Treseder, Daniel Read, Steve Pilkington, and Daniel Pinkham complete our music list, which ends with a popular guaracha from seventeenth-century Mexico.

Both of the organs housed in the Memorial Church—the Charles B. Fisk and Peter J. Gomes Memorial Organ in the rear gallery, and the Jane Slaughter Hardenbergh Memorial Organ in Appleton Chapel—are featured throughout the service in hymn and choral accompaniments. To bookend the service, Assistant University Organist and Choirmaster Thomas Sheehan presents festive voluntaries, including Bach's majestic Canonic Variations on Martin Luther's Christmas hymn "Vom Himmel hoch da komm" ich her."

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The congregation is asked to remain silent upon entering the Memorial Church.

PRELUDE

Prelude and Fugue in E major, BWV 566

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

In dulci jubilo (Four Variations)

James Woodman (b. 1957)

Commissioned for the 85th Annual Christmas Carol Service, December 1994

Canonic Variations on "Vom Himmel hoch da komm' ich her," BWV 769

Johann Sebastian Bach

Variations sur un Noël angevin

Gaston Litaize (1909-1991)

INTROIT

Christus natus est

Carson Cooman '04 (b. 1982)

Composed for the 106th Annual Christmas Carol Service, December 2015

In Bethlehem On Christmas morn, The lowly gem Of love was born.

Hosanna! Christus natus est.

(Hosanna! Christ is born.)

While beasts in stall, On bended knee, Did carol all Most joyously: Hosanna! *Christus natus est.*

He was not born
For bird and beast,
But suffered scorn
To save the least.
Hosanna! Christus natus est.

Who lies in ditch? Who begs his bread? Who has no stitch For back or head? Hosanna! *Christus natus est.*

The manger still
Outshines the throne,
Christ must and will
Come to his own.
Hosanna! Christus natus est.

Countee Cullen (1903-1946), alt.

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)





SENTENCES FROM SCRIPTURE AND WELCOME

FIRST LESSON

Luke 1:26-38

CAROL

O beatum et sacrosanctum diem

Peter Philips (ca. 1560-1628)

O beatum et sacrosanctum diem, in qua Dominus noster de Virgine Maria pro nobis nasci dignatus est. Gaudeat itaque universus orbis, et cantemus illi in sono tubæ, cithara, psalterio et organo. Congratulemur cum multitudine angelorum exercitus semper suas laudes cantantibus. Noë.

O blessed and most holy day on which our Lord was born of the Virgin Mary for our sake. Let the whole world therefore rejoice, and let us sing to him to the sound of the trumpet, strings, the harp and the organ. Let us rejoice with the numerous hosts of angels ceaselessly singing his praise. Noel.

Antiphon for the Feast of the Nativity

CAROL

"The End" (No. 1) from The Midwife's Tale

James Woodman

The end drew near—time, nearly gone—all felt strangely, beautifully wrong.

All felt strangely, beautifully wrong.

From deepest Heaven God flew racing toward us, fearful, Judgment facing.

All felt strangely, beautifully wrong.

The winds dropped to earth—
like stones stood the trees—
the streams slowed—then stopped—
still fell the seas—
voices were hushed, as if
withered by frost—
great Earth itself stood
motionless—lost—

Perfect silence, perfect fear, time exhausted, world's end near: All felt strangely, beautifully wrong.

Adapted from the Arundel Manuscript by James Woodman

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



Blessed Be That Maid Marie

Gareth Treseder (b. 1985)

Blessed be that Maid Marie; Born he was of her body; Very God ere time began, Born in time the Son of Man.

Eya! Ihesus hodie (Eya! Jesus is today Natus est de Virgine. Born of the Virgin.)

In a manger of an ass Jesu lay and lulled was; Born to die upon the Tree

Pro peccante homine.(For the sin of man.Eya! Ihesus hodieEya! Jesus is todayNatus est de Virgine.Born of the Virgin.)

Sweet and blissful was the song Chanted of the angel throng, "Peace on earth, Alleluya!

In excelsis glavia!"

In excelsis gloria!" (Glory in the highest)

Eya! Ihesus hodie Eya! Jesus is today

Natus est de Virgine. Born of the Virgin.)

Fare three kings from far-off land, Incense, gold and myrrh in hand; In Bethlem the Babe they see,

Stellae ducti lumine. (Led by the light of a star.)

Eya! Ihesus hodie Eya! Jesus is today

Natus est de Virgine. Born of the Virgin.)

Make we merry on this fest, In quo Christus natus est; On this Child I pray you call, To assoil and save us all.

(In which Christ is born)

Eya! Ihesus hodie (Eya! Jesus is today Natus est de Virgine. Born of the Virgin.)

Traditional English text, ca. 15th century

CAROL

See, Amid the Winter's Snow

David Ashley White (b. 1944)

Commissioned for the 106th Annual Christmas Carol Service, December 2015

See, amid the winter's snow, Born for us on Earth below, See, the tender Lamb appears, Promised from eternal years!

Lo! within a manger lies He who built the starry skies; He who, throned in height sublime, Sits among the cherubim. Say, ye holy shepherds, say, What your joyful news today? Wherefore have ye left your sheep On the lonely mountain steep?

"As we watched at dead of night, Lo! we saw a wondrous light; Angels singing 'Peace on earth,' Told us of the Savior's birth."

Sacred infant, all divine, What a tender love was thine, Thus to come from highest bliss Down to such a world as this!

Edward Caswall (1814–1878)

SECOND LESSON

Luke 2:1-14

CAROL

While Shepherds Watched ("Sherburne")

Daniel Read (1757-1836)

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 humankind."

"To you, in David's town, this day Is born in David's line A Savior, 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, who thus Addressed their joyful song.

"All glory be to God on high, And peace to all the earth. Goodwill is brought to humankind Through this, the Savior's birth."

Nahum Tate (1652-1715), alt.

All Bells in Paradise

Deep in the cold of winter,

John Rutter (b. 1945)

Darkness and silence were everywhere;
Softly and clearly, there came through the stillness
A wonderful sound to hear:
All bells in paradise, I heard them ring,
Sounding in majesty the news that they bring;
All bells in paradise, I heard them ring,
Welcoming our Savior, born on earth a heavenly King.
All bells in paradise, I heard them ring:
"Glory to God on high," the angel voices sing.

Lost in awe and wonder,
Doubting, I asked what this sign might be:
Christ our Messiah revealed in a stable,
A marvelous sight to see.
All bells in paradise, I heard them ring,
Sounding in majesty the news that they bring;
All bells in paradise, I heard them ring,

He comes down in peace, a child in humility, The keys to the kingdom belong to the poor; Before him shall kneel the kings with their treasures, Gold, incense, and myrrh.

Welcoming our Savior, born on earth a heavenly King.

All bells in paradise, I heard them ring,
Sounding in majesty the news that they bring;
All bells in paradise, I heard them ring,
Welcoming our Savior, born on earth a heavenly King.
All bells in paradise, I heard them ring:
"Glory to God on high," the angel voices sing.
The angel voices sweetly sing.

John Rutter

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



"Interregnum" (No. 2) from The Midwife's Tale

James Woodman

Transfigured, rapt, of brilliance white, she bore the child: the child was Light.

"Amen!" a thousand voices cried; a hidden throng Light magnified.

Heavenly dew, fragrance rare arose from Light and bathed the air.

The Light increased—outshone the sun—the child was Light: the Light, the One.

Adapted from the Arundel Manuscript by James Woodman

CAROL

Sussex Carol

Traditional English Carol Arranged by David Willcocks

On Christmas night all Christians sing, To hear the news the angels bring— News of great joy, news of great mirth, News of our merciful King's birth.

Then why should men on earth be so sad, Since our Redeemer made us glad, When from our sin he set us free, All for to gain our liberty?

When sin departs before his grace, Then life and health come in its place; Angels and men with joy may sing, All for to see the newborn King.

All out of darkness we have light, Which made the angels sing this night: "Glory to God and peace to men, Now and forevermore. Amen."

> Traditional English carol Adapted by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958) and Ursula Vaughan Williams (1911–2007)

THIRD LESSON

Matthew 2:1-11

CAROL

We Three Kings

John Henry Hopkins, Jr. (1820–1891) Arranged by Steve Pilkington (b. 1958)

We three kings of Orient are; Bearing gifts we traverse afar; Field and fountain, moor and mountain, Following yonder star.

O star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright, Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light.

Born a king on Bethlehem's plain; Gold I bring to crown him again, King forever, ceasing never, Over us all to reign. Refrain

Frankincense to offer have I, Incense owns a deity nigh, Prayer and praising, voices raising, Worshiping God on high. Refrain

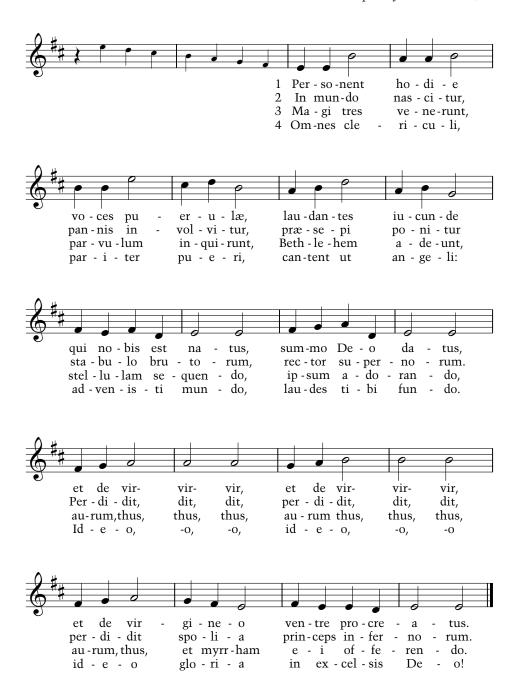
Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume Breathes a life of gathering gloom; Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, Sealed in the stone cold tomb. *Refrain*

Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and sacrifice; Alleluia, Alleluia Sounds through the earth and skies. *Refrain*

John Henry Hopkins, Jr.

Personent hodie
The congregation standing

Personent hodie Piae Cantiones, 1582 Adapted by Gustav Holst (1874–1934)



En etsi valtaa, loistoa

Jean Sibelius (1865-1957)

En etsi valtaa, loistoa, en kaipaa kultaakaan, ma pyydän taivaan valoa ja rauhaa päälle maan. Se joulu suo, mi onnen tuo ja mielet nostaa Luojan luo! Ei valtaa eikä kultaakaan, vaan rauhaa päälle maan.

Suo mulle maja rauhaisa ja lasten joulupuu,
Jumalan sanan valoa,
joss' sieluin kirkastuu!
Tuo kotihin, jos pieneenkin
nyt joulujuhla suloisin.
Jumalan sanan valoa
ja mieltä jaloa!

Luo köyhän niinkuin rikkahan saa joulu ihana!
Pimeytehen maailman tuo taivaan valoa!
Sua halajan, sua odotan, sa Herra maan ja taivahan, nyt köyhän niinkuin rikkaan luo suloinen joulus tuo!

I seek no gold or majesty,
No pearl or shining gem,
But Lord above, I pray to thee
For peace on earth to men.
O Lord divine, my heart is thine!
Oh, let my thoughts to thee incline!
I seek no pearl or shining gem
But peace on earth to men.

Among the children in our home Give blessed harmony.
The light that on the shepherds shone, Oh, let it shine on me!
O word of light, O truth and might, Oh, shed thy blessing glad and bright. O word of grace and pardon free, Give peace and harmony.

Let Christmas come to rich and poor, Its brilliant light unfold, And with the wealth of God allure To heaven's streets of gold. I long for thee, I wait for thee, O Lord, I need thy charity! May rich and poor alike abide In peace at Christmastide.

Anonymous Swedish original translated into sung Finnish by Zachris Topelius (1818–1898) English verse translation by Ida Kashinen (1924), adapted by Alexandra Glynn (2008)

CAROL

"The Beginning" (No. 3) from The Midwife's Tale

James Woodman

Witness to Light's birth, I stood lost in wonder, marveling, fearful, Light's new Life beholding: child, born of starlight, God's new world, an infant, lightning incarnate.

Now filled with boldness, I reached out to touch him, lifted him gently, seeking God to cradle: child, born of moonlight, peaceful, blissful, shining, weightless as lightning.

I gazed, adoring, in the child-god's bright eyes; intent, he gazed back—my delight, my heaven!—child, born of sunlight, radiant, laughing, perfect, eyes flashing lightning!

Adapted from the Arundel Manuscript by James Woodman

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 Franz Xaver Gruber (1787–1863) Descants by Murray Forbes Somerville (b. 1948)

Stille Nacht!



Silent Night



Evergreen

Daniel Pinkham '43 (1923-2006)

How fine the sweetness from the bough, Evergreen, ever living,
Like the prayer offered now
For a whole world's forgiving;
While the Christ Child is sleeping,
Worlds of woe in his keeping,
Worlds of joy in his dream.
Lord, redeem us!
That when thou art waking,
The hearts we uplift
Shall be thy Christmas gift
And be well worth thy taking.

How bright the radiance of the tree, Evergreen, everlasting,
Like the feast day to be
After long years of fasting.
Bright in hope Christmas morning
To the Christ Child returning,
Once again we believe.
Lord, receive us!
When we come before thee,
The heart's joy we bring
Noel! Noel! Shall sing
And for ever adore thee.

Robert Hillyer, Class of 1917 (1895-1961)

CAROL

Convidando está la noche

Convidando está la noche aquí de músicas varias Al recién nacido infante canten tiernas alabanzas.

¡Ay, que me abraso, ay! divino dueño, ay! en la hermosura, ay! de tus ojuelos, ¡ay! ¡Ay, como llueven, ay! ciento luceros, ay! rayos de gloria, ay! rayos de fuego, ¡ay! ¡Ay, que la gloria, ay! del portaliño, ay! ya viste rayos, ay! si arroja hielos, ¡ay! ¡Ay, que su madre, ay! como en su espero, ay! mira en su lucencia, ay! sus crecimientos, ¡ay!

Alegres cuando festivas unas hermosas zagales Con novedad entonaron juguetes por la guaracha.

¡En la guaracha, ay! le festinemos, ay! mientras el niño, ay! se rinde al sueño, ¡ay! ¡Toquen y bailen, ay! porque tenemos, ay! fuego en la nieve, ay! nieve en el fuego, ¡ay! ¡Pero el chicote, ay! a un mismo tiempo, ay! llora y se ríe, ay! qué dos extremos, ¡ay! ¡Paz a los hombres, ay! dan de los cielos, ay! a Dios las gracias, ay! porque callemos, ¡ay!

Juan García de Zéspedes (ca. 1619–1678)

Night gathers a pageant Of musical bands To sing praises To the newborn babe.

Oh, how I burn, divine Lord,
In the beauty of your fair eyes!
Oh, how they shed a thousand stars
Of glorious, fiery tears!
Oh, the glory of Bethlehem, bright
With beams of sunlight and shafts of ice!
Oh, how his mother in the glass as she gazes,
Watches him grow in her mirror reflected!

Joyful and festive, Some fair young people Intone a playful air To the steps of the guaracha.

With a guaracha we'll fête him,
As the child wields to slumber!
So play then and dance as now we admire
The fire in the snow and the snow in the fire!
But oh, how the little one, laughing and crying,
Unites the two extremes at the very same time!
Peace on earth from heaven on high,
And glory to God, and thus make an end!

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing *The congregation standing*

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



A Christmas Triptych on Antioch and In dulci jubilo

Gilbert M. Martin (b. 1941)

RECORDING OF LAST YEAR'S CAROL SERVICE

A recording of the 105th Annual Christmas Carol Service is now available to download for free.

Please visit our website at memorialchurch.harvard.edu for details.

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