

HARVARD

The Memorial Church



The 111th Annual Christmas Carol Service
The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ: Christmas Eve

Thursday, December 24, 2020

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

Christina Rossetti's beloved words resonate poignantly during this year of enforced isolation and heartbreaking loss, when the love embodied in the Christ Child is so sorely needed. And though the format of this year's carol service is different, the sentiment remains: to provide comfort, hope, and joy while contemplating this most familiar of narratives.

Throughout this term, the Harvard University Choir has been meeting online and its sense of community has remained vibrant and strong. Rehearsing via Zoom has fairly severe limitations (due to the sound latency, our singers are all muted...), but there is something magical in knowing that dotted around the world—we have members Zooming in from their homes all around the country as well as the UK, France, and India—our choristers are singing the same piece of music at the same time: the universe's sound waves making the connections that our human ears cannot.

This year's musical offerings include a new carol by Composer in Residence Carson Cooman '04, as well as works by several composers who have connections with Harvard and the Memorial Church—Daniel Pinkham '43, Barry Rose, and Mark Miller. Footage of the congregational hymns is taken from previous carol services, which not only highlights the glories of a full and festive church but makes this service truly inter-generational. Furthermore, the tradition of ending our service with Silent Night (sung in German and English, memorializing that most moving episode of 1914 when soldiers from both sides of the trenches laid down their arms and climbed into no-man's land to sing this carol) is enhanced this year with the participation of Harvard University Choir alumni.

Today's online service was painstakingly stitched together by our colleagues in Harvard's Media Production Center under the direction of Tony Di Bartolo, Johnny DeKam, and Jerry MacDonald. My heartfelt thanks go to the whole team for their superlative efforts, as well as to our wonderful clergy and staff. We are also grateful for connections that have been forged and rekindled during this time: our partnership with First-Plymouth Congregational Church, Lincoln, Nebraska, where Assistant University Organist and Choirmaster David von Behren recorded the organ music, has been especially welcome; likewise, our ties with the Phillips Brooks House Association, where charitable offerings to Y2Y and the Harvard Square Homeless Shelter will be received.

Established in 1910, Harvard University's carol service—which was designed as a seasonal offering to the Harvard and Cambridge communities—has given hope and sustenance during the best and the worst of times. In this, its 111th iteration (and its first exclusively online presentation), we hope that it might provide some nourishment during this difficult period: preparing it has certainly done so for me personally, and for our amazing students.

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

Edward Jones, University Organist and Choirmaster

THE IIITH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

PRELUDE

Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella
Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Keith Chapman (1945–1989)

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

The candle, representing Christ, is lit. During this time congregants are invited to light their candle.

Leader: Keep watch! Pay attention, take notice, and lift up your eyes! Who is it in the manger sleeping? Who is this child so holy and true?

People: The blessed Christ-child lie there. Welcome to earth, you noble guest, through whom all are blest.

Leader: Sweet child, your cradle is where ass and ox are fed, a narrow trough for your bed. You have only hay and straw so rough on which to put your head.

People: O tender child, come, make yourself a bed soft and pure within our hearts. Leave your grassy manger and enter our hearts to make your rest.

Leader: Jesus, the brightness of dawn, is here. The word became flesh, has lived and is living among us still. We light the Christ candle this day, as we light it let the glory of the Lord shine around you, and be not afraid.

INTROIT

Lord, When You Came to Earth

*Alice Tegnér (1864–1943)
Arranged by Barry Rose (b. 1934)*

Lord, when you came to earth,
Humbled by virgin birth,
Born of a maiden mild,
Mary the undefiled;
Told by the prophets long,
God's own beloved Son,
Now is salvation won,
You come to save us;
Hear as we sing the true story of Christmas!

See, in the cattle stall,
Jesus the child for all,
Lying in helpless state,
He whom the nations wait.
Long since the world began,
This is God's timeless plan,
Sending his Son, a man,
Dying to save us;
We kneel to worship the glory of Christmas!

Come to that stable bare,
Watch o'er his mother's care,
Join with the kings to see
Meekness in majesty.
Follow the star today,
Hear what the Gospels say,
This is the only way;
Christ comes to save us;
Born in a manger, the true light of Christmas!

Barry Rose

HYMN

Adeste fideles

attrib. John Francis Wade (c.1711–1786)

ADESTE FIDELES IRREGULAR
attrib. John Francis Wade (c.1711–1786)

1 A - des - te, fi - de - les, læ - ti tri - um -
2 Can - tet nunc i - o cho - rus an - ge -
3 Pro no - bis e - ge - num, et fœ - no cu -
4 Er - go qui na - tus Di - e ho - di -

phan - tes, ve - ni - te, ve - ni - te in
lo - rum, can - tet nunc au - la cœ -
ban - tem, Pi - is fo - ve - a - mus am -
er - na, Je - su, ti - bi sit

Beth - le - hem: na - tum vi - de - te
les - ti - um: glo - ri - a in ex -
plex - i - bus; sic nos a - man - tem
glo - ri - a: Pa - tris æ - ter - ni

re - gem an - ge - lo - rum:
cel - sis De - o: ve - ni - te a - do -
quis nos re - da - ma - ret?
ver - bum ca - ro fac - tum:

re - mus, 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

There Is No Rose, Op. 14 (1954)

John Joubert (1927–2019)

There is no rose of such virtue
As is the rose that bare Jesu: Alleluia.

For in this rose contained was
Heaven and earth in little space: Res miranda. *(Wonderful thing)*

By that rose we may well see
There be one God in Persons Three: Pares forma. *(Equal in form)*

Then leave we all this worldly mirth
And follow we this joyous birth: Transeamus. *(Let us follow)*

Anonymous, 15th century

HYMN

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Es ist ein Ros entsprungen
 stanzas 1, 2: German, 15th cent.,
 trans. Theodore Baker, 1894, alt.

stanza 3: Friedrich Layritz (1808-1859),
 trans. Harriett Reynolds Krauth Spaeth, 1875

ES IST EIN ROS 87 87 D

Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng, 1599
 harm. Michael Praetorius, 1609

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

Before the Marvel of This Night (1979/82)

Carl Schalk (b. 1929)

Before the marvel of this night
Adoring, fold your wings and bow,
Then tear the sky apart with light
And with your news the world endow.
Proclaim the birth of Christ and peace,
That fear and death and sorrow cease:
Sing peace, sing peace, sing gift of peace!

Awake the sleeping world with song,
This is the day our God has made.
Assemble here, celestial throng,
In royal splendor come arrayed.
Give earth a glimpse of heavenly bliss,
A teasing taste of what they miss:
Sing bliss, sing bliss, sing endless bliss!

The love that we have always known,
Our constant joy and endless light,
Now to the loveless world be shown,
Now break upon its deathly night.
Into one song compress the love
that rules our universe above:
Sing love, sing love, sing God is love!

Jaroslav J. Vajda (1919–2008)

SECOND LESSON

Luke 2: 1–14

CAROL

Christ Is Born (2009)

Mark A. Miller (b. 1967)

Alleluia, Christ is born.

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

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

Christina Rossetti (1830–1894)
Adapted by Mark A. Miller

HYMN

Angels We Have Heard On High

Les anges dans nos campagnes
French
James Chadwick (1813–1882), alt.

GLORIA 77 77 with Refrain
French melody
harm. Edward Shippen Barnes (1887–1958), alt.

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;
4 See him in a man - ger laid whom the an - gels praise a - bove;

and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.
What great bright - ness did you see? What glad tid - ings did you hear?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.
Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.

Glo - - - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -

- ri - a in ex-cel-sis De - o.

CAROL

Legend of the Little Child, Op. 1363 (2020)

Carson Cooman '04 (b. 1982)

*Written for the 111th Annual Christmas Carol Service,
The Memorial Church, Harvard University*

All day the city cried:
“The king comes,
Prepare!” Awe
Of the singing! Midnight,
the cries renewed: “He is here!”
Where the star flared
We ran: there
No throne; a stable.
A Mother cold,
Shivering: at her feet
A little king, crying,
Like music awakening.

Euan Tait (b. 1968)

THIRD LESSON

Matthew 2: 1–11

CAROL

I Believe This Is Jesus (1977)

*African American Spiritual
Arranged by Undine Smith Moore (1904–1989)*

I believe this is Jesus; come and see.
The Light of God shines in his face,
He offers all his pardoning grace.
Yes, Lord.

HYMN

Personent hodie

Piæ cantiones, 1582

PERSONENT HODIE 666 66 66 66

Piæ cantiones, 1582

adapt. Gustav Holst, 1924



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

Evergreen (1974)

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)

FOURTH LESSON

Matthew 2: 1–11

PRAYERS AND LORD'S PRAYER

In unison:

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, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

CAROL

Jesus, the Light of the World (1895)

George D. Elderkin (1845–1928)

Hark! the herald angels sing.
Jesus, the light of the world.
Glory to the newborn King.
Jesus, the light of the world.

*We'll walk in the light, beautiful light.
Come where the dewdrops of mercy are bright.
Shine all around us by day and by night,
Jesus, the light of the world.*

Joyful, all you nations, rise.
Jesus, the light of the world.
Join the triumph of the skies.
Jesus, the light of the world.

Christ, by highest heaven adored.
Jesus, the light of the world.
Christ, the everlasting Lord.
Jesus, the light of the world.

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Jesus, the light of the world.
Hail the sun of righteousness!
Jesus, the light of the world.

*Charles Wesley (1707–1788)
Adapted by George D. Elderkin*

SERMON

CAROL

Silent Night

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

Silent night, holy night,
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon Virgin Mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

*Silent night, holy night,
Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ the Savior is born!*
(sung in German)

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.

Joseph Mohr (1792–1848)
Translated by John Freeman Young (1820–1885)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Carol Rhapsody (1941)

Richard Purvis (1913–1994)

OUR MISSION

The Memorial Church of Harvard University is a space of grace in the center of the Yard, rooted in the good news of Jesus Christ. Affectionately known as “MemChurch,” we pursue partnerships within and beyond Harvard, empowering community members to serve the world as well-informed, compassionate, moral citizens. Through worship and ministry outreach, MemChurch aims to promote justice and mercy by confronting life’s challenges, differences, and our own imperfections with courage, empathy, and an ethic of love. By doing so, the Memorial Church seeks to educate minds, expand hearts, and enrich lives.

CAROLS OFFERING

The Memorial Church is delighted to partner with Harvard’s Phillips Brooks House Association for the carols offering, which will be split equally between two wonderful local charities: Y2Y and the Harvard Square Homeless Shelter. You can donate directly on PBHA’s website (pbha.org) and designate the gift to “Memorial Church Carol Service Offering” or send a check to:

PBHA

1 North Harvard Yard

Cambridge, MA 02138

Attn: Tonni Allen

READERS

Lighting of the Christ Candle: Judy, David, and Noah Williams

First Lesson: The Reverend Westley P. Conn, *Ministry Fellow*

Second Lesson: Jessica Young Chang MDiv '22

Third Lesson: Patricia Bellinger, *Chief of Staff and Strategic Advisor to President Bacow*

Prayers and Lord's Prayer: The Reverend Alanna C. Sullivan, *Associate Minister*

Preacher: Professor Stephanie Paulsell, *Interim Pusey Minister*

MUSICAL PARTICIPANTS

Director: Edward Elwyn Jones, *Gund University Organist and Choirmaster*

Organ and Piano: David von Behren, *Assistant University Organist and Choirmaster*

Organ (*Legend of the Little Child*): Carson Cooman, *Research Associate in Music
and Composer in Residence*

HARVARD UNIVERSITY CHOIR

Kath Courtemanche and Rena Cohen, *Choir Secretaries*

Frank Kelley, *Voice Teacher*

Sopranos: Caitlin Beirne, Natalie Choo, Rena Cohen, Elizabeth Corbus,

Kath Courtemanche, Maliya Ellis, Olympia Hatzilambrou, Ines Hynett,

Amy Smith-Dengler, Rebecca Stewart, Benjamin Wenzelberg, Elizabeth Wu

Altos: Ruva Chigwedere, Rosie Du, Sanika Mahajan, Cana McGhee, Katherine McPhie

Tenors: Alex Chen, Joey Griffith, Arhan Kumar, Jasper Schoff

Basses: Christian Carson, Will Cooper, Henrique Neves, Christopher Ong, Sebastian Rojas

For *Silent Night*, the current choir is joined by
Harvard University Choir alumni spanning five decades.

Special thanks to First-Plymouth Congregational Church, Lincoln, Nebraska where the
organ and piano music for this service was recorded.