

The Cathedral Church of St. Paul

in the City of Detroit

December 21, 2024

Nine Lessons and Carols

Five O'Clock

with the Cathedral Choir



The Very Reverend Timothy True
Interim Dean of the Cathedral

The Right Reverend Dr. Bonnie A. Perry
Eleventh Bishop of the Diocese of Michigan

WELCOME! Our vision is to be an extraordinary spiritual gathering place where people of all backgrounds and ages are welcome to question and learn, pray, worship and serve; being loved by God in ways that change and improve their lives and the lives of others.

CONCERNING THE SERVICE

Though it seems an ancient liturgy, the service of Nine Lessons and Carols has its roots in Victorian England. Organized by Bishop Benson of Truro, it was first observed in Truro Cathedral at Christmas, 1880 as a gift to the community. The popular format spread to other areas of England and it was first observed in the Chapel of King's College, Cambridge in 1918. It is certainly best known through the broadcast from King's College on Christmas Eve, heard annually by well over a *billion* people worldwide.

The service is simplicity itself: nine lessons (readings) from scripture that tell the story of humankind's fall from grace to its redemption made possible by the birth of Jesus Christ. Interspersed among the readings are carols, hymns, anthems, and motets sung by the choir and the congregation that reflect, respond to, and comment on the readings. Lessons are read by choristers, parishioners, clergy, and representatives of the Cathedral's larger community. The service always begins with *Once in Royal David's City*, the first verse sung by a single chorister.

The service of Lessons and Carols has spread far from its Truro roots to everywhere in the Anglican Communion. We in Detroit offer this service to the glory of God and as a gift to all who enter our doors and wish them, in the words from Paul's letter to the Philippians, "the peace of God, which passes all understanding," in this approaching Christmastide and always.

Notes on this evening's music can be found on page 12.

A schedule of services for Christmas can be found on the back page of this bulletin.

If you wish to make an offering in support of the mission and ministry of this Cathedral, you are invited to place it in the box in the Great Crossing as you exit this evening.

CATHEDRAL SERVICES

Sundays

Morning Prayer, 7:30 a.m.

Holy Eucharist, 8:15 a.m.

Sung Holy Eucharist with Choir, 11:00 a.m.

*Evensong, 4:00 p.m.

The 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. services are also livestreamed on our YouTube channel.

Weekdays, resuming January 7

Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m., Holy Eucharist in Nativity Chapel

Thursdays at 8:00 a.m., Morning Prayer in Grace Chapel

The Office of Compline is offered each evening at 8:00 p.m. on our Facebook page.

*Choral Evensong is generally offered on the second and fourth Sundays of the month, and Cathedral Evensong (sung by the cantors and congregation) on the first and third Sundays of the month, September through May. *Please note that Evensong will not be offered on December 29.*

NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

Please silence all electronic devices.

This service is also livestreamed on our YouTube channel.

Unauthorized video or audio recording is strictly prohibited.

Prior to the service, beginning at 4:45 p.m., the following music is played on the Great Organ.

Toccata on Veni Emmanuel

Evelyn Simpson-Curenton (b. 1953)

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Eugene W. Hancock (1929-1994)

Toccatina on "Go Tell It"

Gerald Bales (1919-2002)

Adoration

Florence Price (1887-1953)

At the bell, please stand. From the Great West End the Choir begins.

AT THE PROCESSION, CAROL

Solo

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.

2. Choir only

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 and mean and lowly
lived on earth our Savior holy.

The congregation joins at verse 3.

3 For he is our child hood's pat - tern, day by day like us___ he___ grew; he was
4 We, like Ma - ry, rest con - found - ed that a sta - ble should dis - play hea - ven's
5 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing___ love, for that
6 Not in that poor low - ly___ sta - ble with the ox - en stand - ing___ by, we shall
lit - tle, weak and help - less, tears and smiles like us___ he knew; and he
Word, the world's cre - a - tor, cra - dled there on Christ - mas___ Day, yet this
child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove: and he
see him, but in heav - en, set at God's right hand___ on___ high; when like
feel - eth for our sad - ness, and he shar - eth in___ our___ glad - ness.
child, our Lord and bro - ther, brought us love for one___ an - oth - er.
leads his chil - dren on___ to the place where he___ has___ gone.
stars his chil - dren crowned, all in white shall wait___ a - round.

Words Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895); vs. 4 James Waring McCrady (b. 1938)

Music *Irby*, H. J. Gauntlett, harm. Arthur Mann; vs. 6 descant by David Bartlett (1947-2023)

Please remain standing as the Dean continues with

THE BIDDING PRAYER

BELOVED in Christ, as we approach the great festival of Christmas, let it be our care and delight to hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger.

Therefore, let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the story of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by this Holy Child.

But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace on earth and goodwill among all God's people; for unity within the Church Christ came to build, and especially in our city, our community, and our diocese.

And because it would rejoice his heart, let us remember, in his name, the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry, and the oppressed; the sick and them that mourn, the lonely and the unloved, the aged and the little children; all those who do not know the Lord Jesus or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore, and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom in the Lord Jesus we are one for evermore.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the Throne of Heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us:

All say

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.

Please be seated.

CAROL

NOËL: Verbum caro factum est. *Noël, the Word is made flesh*

This night there is a child y born that sprang out of Jesse's thorn;
We must sing and say therefor, *Noël*...

Jesus is the childes name, and Mary mild is his dame;
All our sorrow shall turn to game: *Noël*...

It fell upon high midnight: the starres shone both fair and bright;
The angels sang with all their might. *Noël*...

Now kneel we down on our knee, and pray we to the Trinity
Our help, our succour for to be; *Noël*...

Words 15th century, anon.

Music Tamsin Jones (b. 1972)

THE FIRST LESSON

Genesis 3:8-14, 22-24

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

read by Miss Mollie Kornmiller, a chorister

CAROLS

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 clerkès finden written in their book.

Ne had the apple taken been,
Ne had never our Lady abeen heavené queen
Blessèd be the time that apple taken was,
Therefore we moun singen, *Deo gracias!*

Words English, 15th century
Music Boris Ord (1897-1961)

THE tree of life my soul hath seen,
Laden with fruit, and always green:
The trees of nature fruitless be
Compared with Christ the apple tree

His beauty doth all things excel:
By faith I know, but ne'er can tell
The glory which I now can see
In Jesus Christ the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought,
And pleasure dearly I have bought:
I missed of all; but now I see
'Tis found in Christ the apple tree.

I'm weary with my former toil,
Here I will sit and rest a while:
Under the shadow I will be,
Of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

This fruit does make my soul to thrive,
It keeps my dying faith alive;
Which makes my soul in haste to be
With Jesus Christ the apple tree.

Words Anonymous
Music Elizabeth Poston (1905-1987)

THE SECOND LESSON

Genesis 22:15-18

God promises Abraham that through his descendants, all nations on earth will be blessed.

read by Ms. Rosa Blakley, parishioner, All Saints Episcopal Church, Detroit

CAROL

ANCIENT prophets first foretold him: *Fum, fum, fum.*
John the Baptist did extol him: *Fum, fum, fum*
Come join the marching throng of Christians,
Come, and away to fill the churches
With your voices praising Heaven: Fum, fum, fum

Hear the prophet tell his story: *Fum, fum, fum*
Christ is coming in his glory: *Fum, fum, fum*
Come join the marching throng...

Hear, you people round about me: *Fum, fum, fum*
Come and have your sins forgiven: *Fum, fum, fum*
Come join the marching throng...

Words and Music Traditional Catalan carol, arr. William Llewellyn (1925-2023)

THE THIRD LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.
read by Mr. Mike Dagle, Senior Warden of the Cathedral

Please stand as you are able and sing

CAROL

Vss. 1-2 all; vs. 3 upper voices; vs. 4 lower voices; vs. 5 all



1 Hills of the north, re-joice, _____ ech - o - ing songs a - rise,
2 Isles of the south - ern seas, _____ sing to the list - ening earth,
3 Lands of the east a - rise, _____ he is your bright - est morn,
4 Shores of the ut - most west, _____ lands of the set - ting sun,
5 Shout as you jour - ney on, _____ songs be in ev - 'ry mouth,



1 hail with u - nit - ed voice _____ him who made earth and skies.
2 car - ry on ev - 'ry breeze _____ hope of a world's new birth.
3 greet him with joy - ous eyes, _____ praise shall his earth a - dorn.
4 wel - come the heaven - ly guest, _____ in whom the dawn has come.
5 lo, from the north they come, _____ from east and west and south.



1 He comes in right-eous-ness and love, he brings sal - va - tion from a - bove.
2 In Christ shall all be made a - new, his word is sure, his prom - ise true.
3 The God whom you have longed to know in Christ draws near, and calls you now.
4 He brings a nev - er end - ing light who tri - umphed o'er our dark - est night.
5 In Je - sus all shall find their rest, in him shall all the earth be blest.

Words based on a poem by C.E. Oakley (1832-1865)

Music *Tenmile*, Ray Stilwell (b. 1941)

Please be seated.

THE FOURTH LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-10

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

read by Ms. Maureen Stapleton, Interim Executive Director, Midtown Detroit, Inc.

CAROL

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

Thou shalt know him when he comes,
Not by his crown or by his gown,
But his coming known shall be,
By the holy harmony which his coming makes in thee.

Words Anonymous

Music Mark Sirett (b. 1952)

THE FIFTH LESSON

Saint Luke 1:26-35, 38

The angel Gabriel greets the Blessed Virgin Mary.

read by Dr. Irvin Reid, Eugene Applebaum Chair in Community Engagement
and Director for the Forum on Contemporary Issues in Society, Wayne State University

CAROL

ANGELUS Domini nuntiavit Mariae, et concepit de Spiritu sancto.
An angel of the Lord visited Mary, and she conceived by the Holy Spirit.

Ave Maria, gratia plena: Dominus tecum,
benedicta tu in mulieribus,
et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus.
*Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee,
blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb Jesus.*

Maria dixit: Ecce ancilla Domini,
fiat mihi secundum verbum tuum.
*Mary said: Behold, I am a servant of the Lord,
let it be done to me, according to your word.*

Et verbum caro factum est et habitavit in nobis.
And the word became flesh and dwelt among us.

Sancta Maria, Mater Dei ora pro nobis peccatoribus,
nunc et in hora mortis nostrae. Amen.
*Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.*

Words The Angelus

Music Franz Biebl (1906-2001)

THE SIXTH LESSON

Saint Luke 2:1-7

St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

read by the Right Reverend Dr. Bonnie A. Perry, Bishop of the Diocese of Michigan

CAROL

O holy night! the stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of our dear Savior's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till He appear'd and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born.

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming,
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand.
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,
Here come the wise men from the Orient land.
The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger;
In all our trials born to be our friend.
He knows our need, to our weaknesses no stranger,
Behold your King, Before Him lowly bend!

Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love and His gospel is peace.
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother;
And in His name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
Let all within us praise His holy name.
Christ is the Lord! O praise His Name forever,
His power and glory evermore proclaim.

Words Cappeau de Roquemaure (1808-1877); trans. and adapt. John Sullivan Dwight (1813-1893)

Music Adolphe Adam (1803-1856), arr. John Rutter (b. 1945)

THE SEVENTH LESSON

Saint Luke 2:8-16

The shepherds go to the manger.

read by the Reverend Ben Adams, Pastor, All.together Campus Ministry

CAROL

IN the bleak midwinter
Frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen,
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 incarnate,
Jesus Christ.

Enough for him, whom Cherubim
 Worship night and day
 A breast full of milk
 And a manger full of hay.
 Enough for him, whom angels
 Fall down before,
 The ox and ass and camel
 Which adore.

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.

Words Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)
Music Harold Darke (1888-1976)

Please stand as you are able and sing as indicated.

CAROL



All 1 The first No - well the an-gel did say was to cer-tain poor shep-herds in fields as they lay;
Choir 2 They look - ed up and saw a star shin-ing in the east be- yond them far,
High voices 3 And by the light of that same star three wise men came from coun - try far;
Choir 4 This star drew nigh to the north west, o'er Beth - le - hem it took its rest,
Low voices 5 Then en - tered in those wise men three full rev - erent - ly up - on their knee,



1 in fields as they lay, keep-ing their sheep, on a cold win-ter's night that was so deep.
 2 and to the earth it gave great light, and so it con - tin-ued both day and night.
 3 to seek for a king was their in - tent, and to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.
 4 and there it did both stop and stay right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.
 5 and of - fered there in his pres - ence their gold, and myrrh, and frank - in - cense.



Refrain (All)
 No - well, No - well, No - well, No - well, born is the King of Is - ra - el.

All 6 Then let us all with one accord
 sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
 that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
 and with his blood our life hath bought.

Words English carol, 18th century
Music *The First Nowell*, English, 17th century; harm. John Stainer (1840-1901),
 arr. David Willcocks (1919-2015)

Please be seated.

THE EIGHTH LESSON

Saint Matthew 2:1-11

The Wise Men are led by the star to Jesus.

read by the Reverend Anthony C. Estes, Associate Priest, Detroit Church Partnership

CAROL

BETHLEHEM of noblest cities none can once with thee compare;
Thou alone the Lord from heaven didst for us incarnate bear.

Fairer than the sun at morning was the star that told his birth;
To the lands their God announcing, seen in fleshly form on earth.

By its lambent beauty guided see the eastern kings appear;
See them bend their gifts to offer, gifts of incense, gold, and myrrh.

Solemn things of mystic meaning: incense doth the God disclose,
Gold a royal child proclaimeth, myrrh a future tomb foreshows.

Holy Jesu, in thy brightness to the Gentle world displayed,
With the Father and the Spirit endless praise to thee be paid.

Words Prudentius (348-410); translated by Edward Caswell (1814-1878)

Music Malcolm Archer (b. 1952)

Please stand as you are able for the Ninth Lesson.

THE NINTH LESSON

Saint John 1:1-14

St. John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

read by the Very Reverend Timothy True, Interim Dean of the Cathedral

Please be seated.

CAROL

THEY saw the light shine out afar on Christmas in the morning;
And straight they knew it was the star that came to give them warning;
Then did they fall on bended knee, the light their heads adorning,
And praised the Lord, who let them see his glory in the morning.

For three short years he went abroad and set men's hearts a-burning;
That mission turned the world to God and brought the night to morning;
He bore for man repulse and pain, ingratitude, and scorning;
He suffered, died, he rose again at Easter in the morning.

O every thought be of his grace, on each day in the morning;
And for his kingdom's loveliness, our souls be ever yearning.
So may we live, to heaven our hearts in hope for ever turning;
Then may we die, as each departs, in joy at our new morning.

Lift up your heads, rejoice and dance, forget the days of mourning!
The waves of light advance, advance, the fire of love is burning.
Farewell to hate and stupid fears, to ignorance and sorrow!
He who was with us through the years shall bring us to the morrow!

Words *The Golden Carol*, adapt. Percy Dearmer (1867-1937)

Music Traditional English tune, arr. John R. Wood, 20th century

Please stand.

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

WE beseech you, O Lord, to pour your grace into our hearts, that we who have known the Incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ, announced by an angel to the Virgin Mary, may by his cross and passion be brought to the glory of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

All sing

HYMN

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - umph - ant, O come ye, O come ye to
2 God from God, Light from Light e - ter - nal, robed in flesh in the
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion, sing, all ye cit - i - zens of
Beth - le - hem; come, and be - hold him, born the King of An - gels:
Vir - gin's womb; on - ly be - got - ten Son of the Fa - ther;
heav'n a - bove. Glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est!

Refrain
O come let us a - dore him, O come let us a - dore him, O
come let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord.

Words trans. F. Oakeley, W.T. Brooke and others

Music *Adeste fideles*, 18th century, arr. David Willcocks (1919-2015)

The Bishop then continues with

THE BLESSING

Please remain standing as the Procession exits the Cathedral. The following music is played on the Great Organ.

In dulci jubilo, BWV 729

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Noël, Laissez paître vos bêtes

Jean-Jacques Beauvarlet-Charpentier (1734-1794)

LEADING THIS EVENING'S SERVICE

Officiant

The Very Reverend Timothy True, Interim Dean of the Cathedral

The Cathedral Choir

Trebles

Helena Barnett
Jeanette Dorie
Anna Ekevag
Mollie Kornmiller
Kinsley Romero
Adam Simon
Allison Simon
Aubrey Simon
Anouk-Valentina Spencer

Sopranos

Abigail McKay Cherry
Carolyn Hall
Mary Grahame Hunter
Erin McClellan
Ruth Podgorny-Richards, *Chorister Proctor*
Jocelyn Turner

Altos

Rianna Baker
Elaine Belz
Barbara Bosler
James Hooker
Jean Klein
Meriem Lanseur
Jennifer Melick
Bren O'Connor
Paula Styer

Tenors

Noah Dakho
Brandon Graves
Valentino Peacock
Samuel Schaefer

Baritones

Adam Denk
Joseph Edmonds
Dean Moore III
John O'Brien
Ray Stilwell

Canon Jeremy David Tarrant, Organist and Choirmaster
Dr. Sarah Simko, Associate Organist and Communications Coordinator

Acolyte

Linda O'Brien

Technology

Florence Williams
Dr. Alan Cooper

MUSIC MEMORIALS

Gifts have been made for the purchase of musical scores for the Choir.

Ave Maria is given to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for the Cathedral Choir by Carolyn Hall, 2024.

O holy night is given to the glory of God in honor of Phyllis and Earl Swain by Kathi Tarrant, 2019.

NOTES ON THE MUSIC

Once in Royal David's City

This text and the tune composed specifically for it received little attention until it became inextricably associated with the service of Nine Lessons and Carols as sung at King's College, Cambridge. The text first appeared in 1848 in the collection *Hymns for Little Children* by Cecil Frances Alexander, and was given this tune by Henry Gauntlett a year later. Mrs. Alexander's original third verse is replaced in our singing of this carol with one by James McCrady. The arrangement of the final verse with descant sung this evening was written by David Bartlett, Organist and Choirmaster of this cathedral from 1982-2000.

Noël: Verbum caro factus est (follows the Bidding Prayer)

This anonymous fifteenth-century text contrasts both the joy and the mystery of Christ's birth. As was common practice in the medieval period, we see Latin exclamations at the ends of the verses in macaronic fashion, the mixing of Latin with French, English, or German text. While the carol is heard this evening in musical clothes from the 21st century, the writing pays homage to the medieval roots of the text. Tamsin Jones is both an educator and composer, whose emphasis lies in music for choirs.

Adam lay ybounden (follows the First Lesson)

In spite of the grim harshness of life in the Middle Ages (or perhaps because of it), medieval devotional writers were often surprisingly cheerful and optimistic in their outlook. *Adam lay ybounden* is a good example of this attitude, treating the familiar medieval theme of the *felix culpa*, or "fortunate fall" - had Adam not sinned, man would not have been redeemed through the birth of Jesus, and Mary would have never been queen of heaven. Medieval minds delighted in these kinds of paradoxes, and so did this carol's writer.

Jesus Christ the Apple Tree

The first known publication of this text appeared in London's *Spiritual Magazine* in 1761 and became common in American hymnals after its inclusion in Baptist minister Joshua Smith's compilation, *Divine Hymns* in 1784. The poem may have been inspired by tree-of-life imagery found in the Song of Solomon, the Gospel of St. Luke, and in Revelation; the writer might also have sought to provide a Christian motivation for the English tradition of orchard wassailing or wishing health to apple trees on Christmas Eve. English composer Elizabeth Poston's setting of this text remains the best known to contemporary audiences.

Fum, fum, fum (follows the Second Lesson)

The Catalan carol, *Fum, fum, fum*, is sung here in an arrangement for treble voices by the organist, composer, and music educator William Llewellyn. The syllable, "fum" is a vocal representation of a drum.

Hills of the north, rejoice (follows the Third Lesson)

This nineteenth century Advent hymn has long been known in England, paired with Martin Shaw's tune, *Little Cornard*. It entered our Cathedral hymn repertoire in Advent 2021 with a new, exuberant melody by Ray Stilwell. Mr. Stilwell enjoyed a long, distinguished career in church music and education, and is a former Assistant Organist of the Cathedral. He is a baritone in the Cathedral Choir.

Thou shalt know him (follows the Fourth Lesson)

This anonymous poem has become a Cathedral favorite and is often sung in Advent. The exquisite music, provided by Canadian composer and conductor Mark Sirett is, as one commentator described, "like a flower revealing the beauty and hope that is the promise of a Redeemer."

Ave Maria (follows the Fifth Lesson)

Franz Biebl was the organist and choirmaster of a parish in Fürstenfeldbruck, Bavaria, and of a men's chorus there, for which he composed many works and arrangements. His 1964 motet *Ave Maria* was originally written for lower voices, but Biebl made arrangements of the work for other voicings. This piece was made popular by American ensembles in the 1970s. The text sets part of the traditional Angelus prayer with Ave Maria as a refrain.

O holy night (follows the Sixth Lesson)

Minuit, chrétiens or *Cantique de Noël* is known the world over. The music and text are both from the nineteenth-century. The English translation with which most are familiar also dates from this time and was penned by Unitarian minister John Sullivan Dwight. While originally a solo song, the piece has been arranged for myriad combinations of instruments and voices. It is sung this evening in an arrangement for choir and organ by John Rutter.

In the bleak midwinter (follows the Seventh Lesson)

Christina Rossetti's beloved Christmas poem was not intended as a hymn or carol but was first set to music in 1906 by Gustav Holst for the first edition of *The English Hymnal*, and it is this pairing of text and tune that is most widely known. Harold Darke set the text for choir and organ in 1911 while he was Organist of the Church of St. Michael, Cornhill, London. Darke's setting, heard this evening, omits the original fourth verse of Rossetti's poem, perhaps due to the free rhythm of the text, which does not easily lend itself to a single verse setting.

The first Nowell

The text of this traditional English carol has roots in the fifteenth-century but did not appear in print until the nineteenth-century, when it was included without music in Davies Gilbert's *Some Ancient Christmas Carols*. Another collection of carols that appeared ten years later supplied the tune. Verses two and four (sung by the choir only) are harmonized by Sir David Willcocks, who also provided the last verse arrangement with descant.

Bethlehem of noblest cities (follows the Eighth Lesson)

A prolific composer of music for the church, Malcolm Archer is the former Organist of Bristol, Norwich, and St. Paul's Cathedrals, as well as Director of Music at Winchester College. The mysticism of Prudentius ancient text, *Bethlehem of noblest cities* is masterfully underscored by Archer's writing.

Golden mornings (follows the Ninth Lesson)

The text of this carol has roots in a medieval text, the *Golden Carol*. It is sung this evening in an adaptation of the original words, with two added verses by the nineteenth-century scholar and clergyman, Percy Dearmer. The music is a traditional English tune and arranged by the twentieth-century organist and composer John R. Wood.

O come, all ye faithful

This beloved Christmas hymn first appeared in the manuscripts of John Francis Wade, an eighteenth-century English plainchant scribe. Although the tune and original Latin text are often attributed to Wade, their origin is ultimately unknown. This arrangement's descant for verse three was composed by the late Sir David Willcocks. The last verse, beginning with "Yea, Lord, we greet thee," is not sung tonight but will be added on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day when we sing this hymn at the great Feast of the Nativity.

MUSIC AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. PAUL

The Cathedral has a long tradition of excellence in music, dating to 1831 when the parish purchased its first organ—only the second such instrument in Detroit. For over a century the Cathedral Choirs have presented a great breadth of sacred choral music in liturgies and in concert. Affiliated with the Royal School of Church Music in America, the choirs sing the principal Sunday service at 11:00 a.m. weekly and Choral Evensong twice monthly, as well as occasional services such as the Advent Procession (a service of music and words in preparation for Christmas), and the beloved service of Nine Lessons and Carols, which is traditionally sung during the week before Christmas.

The choirs have sung with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and sing annually on the *Cathedral Music Society* concert series, appearing with our own renowned music staff as well as artists from around the country. The choirs make occasional domestic tours, and in recent years have been heard in Rochester, New York; Toronto; Cleveland; Chicago; Alexandria, Virginia; Cincinnati; and in the Washington National Cathedral. From 2013-2017 the Cathedral Choir performed for the Three Cathedrals Choral Festival with the choirs of St. Paul's Cathedral, Buffalo, and St. Paul's Cathedral, London, Ontario. In July 2014, the Choir made its first trip abroad in fifty years, with residencies at

Chichester Cathedral and London's Southwark Cathedral, as well as concerts in Chichester and Canterbury. Another such tour was made in 2023 with the Choir in residence at Ely, St. Albans, and Southwark cathedrals.

The treble (youth) choristers come to the choir through the Cathedral Choir School of Metropolitan Detroit. Parents are encouraged to contact the Choir School at any point in the year. Adults who wish to learn more about becoming involved with the Cathedral Choirs are encouraged to contact Mr. Jeremy David Tarrant, Organist and Choirmaster.



The Cathedral Choir School of Metropolitan Detroit is a not-for-profit outreach program of the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in cooperation with Cathedral Community Services. The Choir School provides an excellent, fundamental music education to children in the metropolitan Detroit region, and is open to all youth, regardless of religious affiliation. Choristers focus on vocal technique, musicianship, and citizenship in the context of the liturgical life of the Cathedral. The Choir School is a community that, while focused on music, is a systematic, long-term investment in young people. Children emerge from this experience with a deep love of fine arts, enhanced self-confidence, and an ability to work collaboratively. *To schedule an try-out or to speak further with someone about the program,*

*please contact Mr. Jeremy David Tarrant, Cathedral Organist and Choirmaster: (313) 833-7547
jtarrant@detroitcathedral.org. Visit us on the web at www.detroitcathedral.org.*

The Choir School is an extra-curricular, *tuition-free* opportunity for children with an interest in music and singing. Here are some fast facts:

- No previous musical or voice training is required or expected.
- Children need not be Episcopalian. The Choir is open to children of all faiths and backgrounds.
- Boys and Girls form the treble (soprano) section of the famed Cathedral Choir, involving consistent application of their developing musical skills, while singing the finest in choral music from all periods and in a variety of languages.
- Children gain a thorough grounding in basic musicianship, music reading, and vocal technique through the centuries-old tradition of choral singing.
- A brief, informal try-out assesses a child's readiness for the program.
- Located in the heart of Detroit's cultural center, boys and girls emerge from the program with a deep love of, and appreciation for the fine arts.
- The Cathedral Choir and Choir School are affiliated with the Royal School of Church Music.
- Children showing a strong commitment to the Choir are eligible for reduced-tuition piano lessons and summer camps.
- The Choir's debut CD recording, *Nowell Sing We*, was released in December 2014, and *Evensong for All Saints* was released in October, 2016.
- One of Detroit's treasures, the Cathedral Choir has sung widely in the United States and Canada, and made tours of England in 2014 and 2023.

CHRISTMAS AT THE CATHEDRAL

Saturday, December 21

*Nine Lessons and Carols, 5:00 p.m.
with the Cathedral Choir

Tuesday, December 24 – *Christmas Eve*

Holy Eucharist with hymns and carols, 4:00 p.m.

*Festal Candlelight Eucharist 10:30 p.m.
with the Cathedral Choir

Wednesday, December 25 – *Christmas Day*

*Sung Holy Eucharist, 11:00 a.m.
with members of the Cathedral Singers

Sunday, December 29 – *The First Sunday after Christmas*

Morning Prayer, 7:30 a.m.

*Sung Holy Eucharist, 11:00 a.m.

Please note that the 8:15 and 4:00 services are not offered this day.

The choirs are in recess this day.

Sunday, January 5 – *The Second Sunday after Christmas*

Morning Prayer, 7:30 a.m.

Holy Eucharist, 8:15 a.m.

*Sung Holy Eucharist, 11:00 a.m.

The Choirs are in recess this morning but will sing Evensong.

*Choral Evensong for the Eve of the Epiphany, 4:00 p.m.

with the Cathedral Choir

*These services are also livestreamed on our YouTube channel.

YouTube Channel

[www.youtube.com/c/](http://www.youtube.com/c/CathedralChurchofStPaulDetroit)

CathedralChurchofStPaulDetroit

Everyone is Invited Everyone is Welcome

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4800 Woodward Avenue · Detroit, Michigan 48201 · (313) 831-5000 ·

website: www.detroitcathedral.org · email: info@detroitcathedral.org ·

