

# THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. PAUL

The Very Reverend Joseph Caldwell Alsay  
*Dean-Elect*

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

December 20, 2025  
Nine Lessons and Carols  
Five O'Clock  
*with the Cathedral Choir*



4800 Woodward Avenue at Warren Avenue  
Detroit, Michigan 48201

**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.*

*You may also donate through E-giving here:*



## 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.

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 28 or January 4.*

# 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.*

Variations on *Vom himmel hoch*

Walter Pelz (1926-1984)

Three Hispanic Carols

George Lachenauer (b. 1933)

Cantad al Señor (Sing to the Lord)

¿Con qué pagaremos? (With what shall we buy?)

De Tierra Lejana Venimos (From a distant land we come)

Love Came Down at Christmas

Joe Utterback (b. 1944)

Variations on a Medieval Carol

Robert Hebble (1934-2020)

*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

**B**ELOVED 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*

**O**UR 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

**O** hearken ye who would believe,  
The gracious tidings now receive:  
*Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

The mighty Lord from heaven and earth,  
Today is come from human birth.  
*Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

O hearken ye who long for peace  
Your troubled search now may cease.  
*Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

For at his cradle you shall find  
God's healing grace for all mankind.  
*Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

O hearken ye who long for love,  
And turn your hearts to God above.  
*Gloria in excelsis Deo.*  
The angel's song the wonder tells:  
Now Love Incarnate with us dwells!  
*Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

*Words* Wihla Hutson (1901-2002)

*Music* Alfred Burt (1920-1954)

## 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 Helena Barnett, a chorister

## CAROLS

**A**DAM 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, 15<sup>th</sup> century  
*Music* Boris Ord (1897-1961)

**T**HE 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 Miss Anouk Spencer, Deputy Head Chorister

## CAROL

**T**HE Lord will surely come and not delay, and He will bring to light the things hidden in darkness. The Lord will surely come and will manifest Himself to all nations. Therefore, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God, without blemish. *Kyrie eleison.*

*Words* Philippians 2 and the Benedictus antiphon for Advent IV  
*Music* Gerre Hancock (1934-2012)

Please stand as you are able and sing

## CAROL



1 On this day earth shall ring  
2 His the doom, ours the mirth;  
3 God's bright star o'er his head,  
4 On this day an - gels sing;



with the song chil - dren sing to the Lord, Christ our King,  
when he came down to earth Beth - le - hem saw his birth;  
Wise Men three to him led; kneel they low by his bed,  
with their song earth shall ring, prais - ing Christ, hea - ven's King,



born on earth to save us; him the Fa - ther gave us.  
ox and ass be - side him from the cold would hide him.  
lay their gifts be - fore him, praise him and a - dore him.  
born on earth to save us; peace and love he gave us.

### Refrain



Id - e - o - o - o, Id e - o - o - o,



Id - e - o glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!

**Words** *Piae Cantiones*, 1582, tr. Jane M. Joseph (1894-1929)

**Music** *Personet hodie*, melody from *Piae Cantiones*.

Please be seated.

## THE THIRD LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

*Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.*

read by Mr. Phillip Allmond, a Cathedral Usher and Member of the Vestry

## CAROL

**O** Radiant Dawn,  
Splendor of eternal Light,  
Sun of Justice:  
Come, shine on those who dwell in darkness  
and the shadow of death.

Isaiah had prophesied,  
"The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
Upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom  
a light has shone."

**Words** *O Oriens*, from the Great 'O' antiphons

**Music** James MacMillan (b. 1959)

## THE FOURTH LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-10

*The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.*  
read by Mr. John LaDuke, Senior Warden of the Cathedral

## CAROL

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

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

The holly bears a blossom,  
As white as the lily flower:  
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ,  
To be our sweet Saviour.

The holly bears a berry,  
As red as any blood:  
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ,  
For to do us sinners good.

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

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

*Words and Music* Traditional English, arr. Reginald Jacques (1894-1969)

## THE FIFTH LESSON

Saint Luke 1:26-35, 38

*The angel Gabriel greets the Blessed Virgin Mary.*  
read by Canon Jeremy David Tarrant  
Canon Precentor & Organist and Choirmaster

## CAROL

A maiden most gentle and tender we sing:  
Of Mary the mother of Jesus our King.  
*Ave Maria.*

How blessed is the birth of her heavenly child,  
Who came to redeem us in Mary so mild.  
*Ave Maria.*

The archangel Gabriel foretold by his call  
The Lord of creation, and Savior of all.  
*Ave Maria.*

Three Kings came to worship with gifts rich and rare,  
And marvelled in awe at the babe in her care.  
*Ave Maria.*

Rejoice and be glad at this Christmas we pray;  
Sing praise to the Savior, sing endless 'Ave.'  
*Ave Maria.*

*Words* paraphrased from The Venerable Bede (d. 735)  
*Music* French tune, arr. Andrew Carter (b. 1939)

## 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

**W**HILE 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.*

*Words* Antiphon of Matins for the First Sunday of Christmas  
*Music* Ned Rorem (1923-2022)

*Please stand as you are able and sing*

## CAROL



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
2 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is giv'n!  
3 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, des - cend to us, we pray;

A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by,  
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.  
cast out our sin and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light;  
No ear may hear his com - ing; but in this world of sin,  
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad ti - dings tell:

the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.  
O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el.

*Words* The Right Rev'd Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)  
*Music* Forest Green, arr. Vaughan Williams (1872-1958); desc. Thomas Armstong (1898-1994)

# THE SEVENTH LESSON

Saint Luke 2:8-16

*The shepherds go to the manger.*

read by the Reverend Canon Sister Veronica Dunbar  
Canon for Spirituality and Race, the Diocese of Michigan

## CAROL

**I***N dulci júbilo* Let us our homage show!      with sweet jubilation  
Our heart's joy reclineth *In praeseptio!*      in a manger  
And like a bright star shineth *Matris in gremio!*      in mother's lap  
*Alpha es et O! Alpha es et O!*      you are Alpha and omega

*O Jesu, parvule!* My heart is sore for Thee!      O infant Jesus  
Hear me, I beseech Thee, *O puer optime,*      O best of boys  
My prayer, let it reach Thee, *O princeps gloriae!*      O Prince of Glory  
*Trahe me post te! Trahe me post te!*      draw me after you

*O Patris caritas! O Nati lenitas!*      O love of the Father, O mercy of the Son  
Deeply were we stained, *Per nostra crimina;*      through our sins  
But thou for us hast gained *Coelorum gaudia.*      the joys of heaven  
O that we were there! O that we were there!

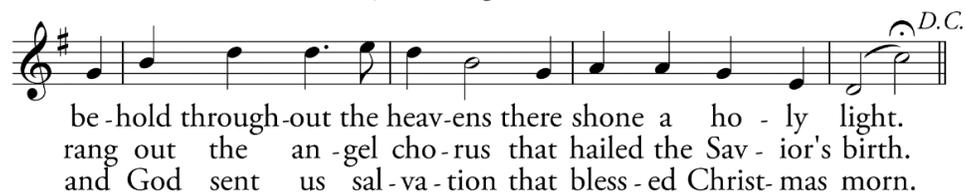
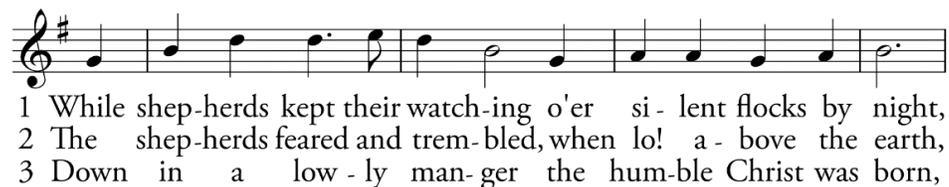
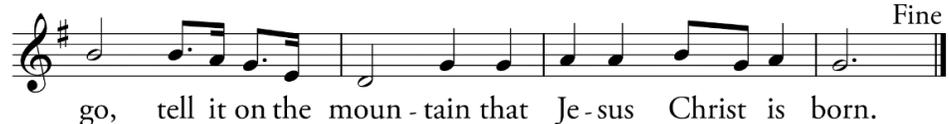
*Ubi sunt gaudia,* If that they be not there?      where are joys?  
There are angels singing *Nova cantica,*      new songs  
There the bells are ringing, *In Regis curia.*      in the courts of a King  
O that we were there! O that we were there!

**Words** German 14<sup>th</sup> century, tr.

**Music** German, 14<sup>th</sup> century, arr. Robert Lucas de Pearsall (1795-1856), adapt. W. J. Westbrook (1831-1894)

*Please stand as you are able and sing*

## CAROL



**Words** Luke 2:8-20, adapt. John W. Work, Jr. (1871-1925)

**Music** Traditional Spiritual, adapt. and arr. William Farley Smith (1941-1997)

*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, the Detroit Church Partnership

**CAROL**

**H**ERE is the little door, lift up the latch, oh lift!  
We need not wander more but enter with our gift;  
Our gift of finest gold,  
Gold that was never bought nor sold;  
Myrrh to be strewn about his bed;  
Incense in clouds about his head;  
All for the Child who stirs not in his sleep.  
But holy slumber holds with ass and sheep.

Bend low about his bed, for each he has a gift;  
See how his eyes awake, lift up your hands, O lift!  
For gold, he gives a keen-edged sword  
(Defend with it Thy little Lord!),  
For incense, smoke of battle red.  
Myrrh for the honoured happy dead;  
Gifts for his children terrible and sweet,  
Touched by such tiny hands and  
Oh such tiny feet.

*Words* Frances Chesterton (1869-1938)

*Music* Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

*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 Joseph Caldwell Alsay, Dean-Elect of the Cathedral

*Please be seated.*

**CAROL**

**T**OMORROW 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 oh! 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.

Then afterwards baptized I was;  
 The Holy Ghost on me did glance,  
 My Father's voice heard from above,  
 To call my true love to my dance.

*Words* Sandys' *Christmas Carols, Ancient and Modern*, 1833.

*Music* John Gardner (1917-2011)

*Please stand.*

*Officiant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Officiant* Let us pray.

**W**E 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*, 18<sup>th</sup> 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)

Variations sur un Noël bourguignon

André Fleury (1903-1995)

# LEADING THIS EVENING'S SERVICE

## *Officiant*

The Very Reverend Joseph Caldwell Alsay, Dean-Elect of the Cathedral

The Cathedral Choir

### *Trebles*

Helena Barnett  
Jeanette Dorie  
Anna Ekevag  
Mollie Kornmiller  
Aynsleigh McMillan  
Ash Romero  
Eliza Sokoli  
Aubrey Simon *Head Chorister*  
Anouk-Valentina Spencer *Deputy Head Chorister*

### *Sopranos*

Abigail McKay Cherry  
Carolyn Hall  
Erin McClellan  
Jhané Perdue  
Ruth Podgorny-Richards *Chorister Proctor*  
Jocelyn Turner

### *Altos*

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

### *Tenors*

Chad Johnson  
Valentino Peacock  
Adam Simon  
Samuel Schaefer

### *Basses*

Adam Denk  
Jovia McNeal  
Dean Moore III  
John O'Brien  
Cameron Smith  
Ray Stilwell

Canon Jeremy David Tarrant, Organist and Choirmaster  
Edward Poston, Associate Organist and Communications Coordinator

### *Verger*

Emery Dumas

### *Acolyte*

Matthew O'Brien

### *Technology*

Florence Williams  
Dr. Alan Cooper

## 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.

### **O hearken ye** (follows the Bidding Prayer)

The Alfred Burt Carols have been a staple of American Christmas music for nearly eighty years, and they were created by three Michigan musicians, and more specifically, three musicians from this diocese. While Rector of All Saints Episcopal Church, Pontiac, the Reverend Bates Burt began composing short carols, writing both the music and text, to send as Christmas cards. His son, the jazz musician Alfred Burt carried on this tradition and while the junior Burt wrote the music, he called upon Wilha Hutson, the Organist and Choirmaster of All Saints Church to write the texts. *O hearken ye* is one example of that collaboration. Ms. Hutson continued this tradition for decades after Alfred Burt's early death. Raised in Detroit, Ms. Hutson was for several years in the 1920's the Assistant Organist and Director of the Girls Choir of this Cathedral.

### **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.

### **The Lord will surely come** (follows the Second Lesson)

The American organist, improviser, conductor, and composer Gerre Hancock was Organist and Master of the Choristers at St. Thomas Church, New York for thirty-three years and his work there influenced generations of church musicians. His Advent anthem, *The Lord will surely come*, is typical of Hancock's compositional style. The Kyries which punctuate the text from the Matins of Advent IV and the letter to the Philippians are set to the plainsong hymn for Advent *Conditore alme siderum*.

### **On this day, earth shall ring**

The Christmas hymn *Personet hodie* first appeared in the sixteenth century, but both text and tune are evidently based on an earlier Latin hymn, *Intonet hodie voces ecclesiae*, dating from about 1360. The Latin refrain, "Ideo gloria in excelsis" (Therefore, glory to God in the highest) is preserved in Jane Joseph's English translation, which remains the standard text in modern usage of this hymn.

### **O Radiant Dawn** (follows the Third Lesson)

The Scottish composer and conductor James MacMillan is increasingly recognized as one of the finest composers of our time. His Roman Catholic faith and the traditional music of his homeland are both profound influences on his work. His *Strathclyde Motets* date from the early 2000's and consist mainly of communion motets, setting propers of the mass for various Sundays and feasts. *O Radiant Dawn* is a setting of *O Oriens*, from the Great 'O' Antiphons. These are the antiphons that accompany the *Magnificat* at Evening Prayer from December 17 through 23.

### **The Holly and the Ivy** (follows the Fourth Lesson)

Here we have a relatively new song on a fairly old theme. The first print editions date from circa 1814, but the pairing of holly and ivy as a Christian symbol dates back to the Middle Ages; it was often called "Christ's thorn." The "incoherent and oddly irrelevant" chorus (New Oxford Book of Carols) has been included in every extant printing. However, English folk music has a penchant for odd irrelevance that neither begins nor ends with this carol. The author may have been trying to evoke a scene in which the world is wholly at peace: the sun and the deer are behaving as they ought, and there is merry music coming from the church. Because the refrain always follows a line about the goodness of Jesus (to be our sweet savior, for to redeem us all, to do poor sinners good) the writer may be trying to imply a cause-and-effect relationship. The Incarnation happened and Jesus saved us; therefore all is well.

### **A maiden gentle** (follows the Fifth Lesson)

Amongst the vast choral music output of English composer Andrew Carter are a number of carols for Christmas. *A maiden most gentle* is a paraphrased text from The Venerable Bede, paired with a traditional French tune in an arrangement typical of Carter's attractive style.

### **While all things were in quiet silence** (follows the Sixth Lesson)

The American composer Ned Rorem is well-known for his song cycles and chamber music. He also contributed a great many pieces to the sacred choral repertoire – anthems, motets, service settings. *While all things were in quiet silence* is the first of a group of seven motets for the liturgical year, dating from the late 1980's.

### **O little town of Bethlehem**

While rector of Holy Trinity Church, Philadelphia, Philips Brooks made a trip to the Holy Land and his experience in and around Bethlehem inspired this much-loved Christmas hymn. While known mainly in the US paired with the tune *St. Louis*, it is known elsewhere with the tune *Forest Green*, a folksong collected and adapted by Ralph Vaughan Williams. Three of the hymn's original five verses are sung this evening to *Forest Green* with a descant by Thomas Armstrong.

### **In dulci jubilo** (follows the Seventh Lesson)

*In dulci jubilo* is traditionally said to have been taught by angels to the German Dominican monk Suso, who records this revelation in his 1328 autobiography. This dates the existence of the carol to at least seventy years before its first appearance in manuscript, circa 1400. Originally in German and Latin, this carol is believed to be the oldest macaronic (mixed-language) German carol and is uncommon in that the verses form a complete thought, uninterrupted by the change in language. This carol is sung in this evening's service in a polyphonic arrangement made in the nineteenth century by Robert Pearsall, and amended later in that century by W.J. Westbrook.

### **Go, tell it on the mountain**

This American hymn has existed since at least the nineteenth century but was not recorded in a collection until 1927 in the Hampton Institute's *Religious folk songs of the Negro*. The carol's well-known chorus is drawn from Luke 2:17, in which the shepherds "made known abroad the saying...concerning the child." The text most commonly sung is from the pen of Joseph W. Work, Jr.

### **Here is the little door** (follows the Eighth Lesson)

Here is the Little Door is one of Herbert Howells' *Three Carol-Anthems* of 1918. The text is a work by Frances Chesterton, also known for her poem "Is it Far to Bethlehem?", and Howells dedicated the piece to her husband, Christian apologist G.K. Chesterton. Although this is a manger poem, it does not shy away from the violence that accompanies the Christmas story, and indeed the entire life of Christ. The piece is suffused with a mysticism appropriate to the Incarnation of Christ as an infant.

### **Tomorrow shall be my dancing day** (follows the Ninth Lesson)

While it may have medieval origins, the text for *Tomorrow shall be my dancing day* is not found in any source earlier than William Sandys' *Christmas Carols, Ancient and Modern*, 1833. While the original text traces the whole life of Christ, John Gardner's popular and indeed, dance-like setting of this carol truncates the text to tell the story of Christ's birth through his Baptism. The "legend of my play" implies a dramatic context and in this carol we find the infant Christ foretelling his own future, as in the many "cradle prophecy carols" of the fifteenth century.

### **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 web at [www.detroitcathedral.org](http://www.detroitcathedral.org)

*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](mailto:jtarrant@detroitcathedral.org). Visit us on*

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

Wednesday, December 24 *Christmas Eve*

Sung Holy Eucharist, 4:00 p.m.

*with the Schola Cantorum*

\*Festal Candlelight Eucharist, 10:30 p.m.

*with the Cathedral Choir*

Thursday, December 25 *Christmas Day*

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

*with members of the Cathedral Singers*

*The Cathedral Choirs are in recess from December 26 through January 4.*

Sunday, December 28 *The First Sunday after Christmas*

Morning Prayer, 7:30 a.m.

Holy Eucharist, 8:15 a.m.

\*Sung Holy Eucharist with Carols, 11:00 a.m.

Thursday, January 1 *The Feast of the Holy Name*

Holy Eucharist in Nativity Chapel, 12:00 Noon

Sunday, January 4 *The Second Sunday after Christmas*

Morning Prayer, 7:30 a.m.

Holy Eucharist, 8:15 a.m.

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

*Please note that Evensong is not offered on December 28 and January 4 but will resume of January 11.*

Tuesday, January 6 *The Feast of the Epiphany*

\*Sung Holy Eucharist, 7:00 p.m.

*with the Cathedral Singers*

\*These services are also livestreamed on our YouTube channel.

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

[CathedralChurchofStPaulDetroit](http://CathedralChurchofStPaulDetroit)

*Everyone is Invited Everyone is Welcome*

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