



BIRMINGHAM CITY
University



BCU CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

Thursday 2 December, 3 - 4.30pm
with the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire Camerata

**Birmingham
Cathedral,**
by kind permission
of the Dean and
Chapter

Organist:
Harvey Stansfield

Conductors:
Elisei Stefanescu
R Isaac Boulter





WELCOME ON BEHALF OF THE CATHEDRAL

The Very Reverend Matt Thompson,
Dean of Birmingham

Once in Royal David's City (ALL, please stand)

Conducted by Elisei Stefanescu

(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.*

(CHOIR) *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 Saviour Holy.*

(ALL) For he is our childhood's pattern
Day by day like us he grew,
He was little, weak and helpless,
Tears and smiles like us he knew:
And he feeleth for our sadness,
And he shareth in our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see him
Through his own redeeming love,
For that Child so dear and gentle,
Is our Lord in heaven above:
And he leads his children on
To the place where he is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable
With the oxen standing by,
We shall see him: but in heaven
Set at God's right hand on high,
Where like stars his children crowned
All in white shall wait around.

Bidding prayer: Revd Sqn Ldr Adrian (Santa) Klos, Chaplain,
Royal Centre for Defence Medicine (RCDM)

First reading

Isaiah 9:2-6

Christ's Birth and Kingdom are foretold by Isaiah

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness - on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Read by:

Mark Hopton, Pro-Chancellor and Chairman
of the Board of Governors

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Camerata: Lute-Book Lullaby, by W. Ballet, arr. G. Shaw

Conducted by R Isaac Boulter

O Little Town of Bethlehem (ALL, please stand)

Conducted by R Isaac Boulter

O Little town of Bethlehem how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

O Morning stars together proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King, goodwill and peace on earth;
For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming; but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel!

Second reading

Luke 1:26a-38

The Birth of Jesus Foretold

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

Read by:

Sharon Davidson, Careers Consultant

Camerata: The Nativity Carol, by J Rutter

Conducted by Elisei Stefanescu

Third reading

Luke 2:1-7

The Birth of Jesus

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Read by:

Professor Andrew Kulman,
Deputy Head of Birmingham Institute of Creative Arts

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Silent Night (ALL, please stand)

Conducted by Elisei Stefanescu

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, Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,
Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia.
Christ the Saviour is born, Christ the Saviour is born.

CHOIR ONLY

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, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

ALL

Silent night, holy night,
Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King.
Christ the Saviour is born, Christ the Saviour is born.

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Camerata: Infant Holy, Infant Lowly, arr. D Willcocks

Conducted by Elisei Stefanescu

Fourth reading

Luke 2:8-16

The Shepherds and the Angels

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid;

for see - I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

Read by:

Victoria Aurora Bennett-Salvador, Union President,
Birmingham City University Students' Union

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Camerata: For Unto Us a Child Is Born, by G F Handel

Conducted by R Isaac Boulter

Fifth reading

Matthew 2:1-12

The Visit of the Wise Men

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Read by:

Julie Blake, Research Impact Officer

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Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (ALL, please stand)

Conducted by R Isaac Boulter

Hark! The herald angels sing "Glory to the new-born King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled":

Joyful all ye nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies,
With the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem".
Hark the herald angels sing "Glory to the new-born King".

Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come Offspring of a virgin's womb:
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark the herald angels sing "Glory to the new-born King".

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, Risen with healing in his wings;
Mild he lays his glory by, Born that we no more may die
Born to raise those of the earth, Born to give them second birth.
Hark the herald angels sing "Glory to the new-born King".

Sixth reading (please stand)

John 1:1-14

The Word Became Flesh

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Read by:

Sr Christina McCann, RC Chaplain

Camerata: Ding Dong Merrily, arr. D Rutter

Conducted by Elisei Stefanescu

The prayers:

Jenifer Cummings, RC Chaplain
Sr Meinar, Media and Communication student
Stephanie Chua Yoke Ping, PhD student

God's gift to the world of Himself, in the person of Christ, his son,
offers humankind the vision of a world of peace and justice for all.
Let us pray that our Christmas celebration may hasten the arrival of
the Kingdom of God in our midst.

Come, Lord Jesus.
Response (ALL): **"Into our hearts and into our world."**

The collect: Dr David Veale, Anglican Chaplain

Almighty God, you make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the
birth of your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as we joyfully receive him
as our Redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him when
he shall come to be our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the
unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

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

Camerata: Легенда (Legyenda), by P I Tchaikovsky

Conducted by R Isaac Boulter

Announcements

O Come All Ye Faithful (ALL, please stand)

Conducted by R Isaac Boulter

O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him, born the King of Angels.
O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

God of God, Light of Light,
Lo! He abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God, Begotten, not created:
O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation
Sing all ye citizens of heaven above
Glory to God, in the highest,
O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

The blessing: Revd Sqn Ldr Adrian (Santa) Klos, Chaplain, RCDM

May God the Father, who loved the world so much that he sent his only Son,
give you grace to prepare for life eternal. **Amen.**

May God the Son, who comes to us as redeemer and judge,
reveal to you the path from darkness to light. **Amen.**

May God the Holy Spirit, by whose working the Virgin Mary conceived the
Christ, help you bear the fruits of holiness. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be
among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

**There will be a collection after the service in aid of
Acorns Children's Hospice and St Chad's Sanctuary.**

*Your donation is purely optional. The online collection will
remain open after the service, if you wish to contribute,
you can find the link in your registration email.*

*Please do not use the Cathedral's gift aid envelopes
if you wish to contribute to this charity.*

Grateful thanks to all students and staff who have
so kindly contributed to and supported this service.

Please join us for some wine, soft drinks
and mince pies after the service.

In the event of...

In the event of fire or other emergency, please remain seated until advised to evacuate.

This is normally through the entrance door and the door by the accessible toilet.

The assembly point is on the lawn on the north side of the cathedral (Colmore Row side).

Acknowledgements

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