

# A Festival of Lessons and Carols

Sunday, 17 December, 2017

Five o'clock p.m.

Saint Mary's Basilica



Presented by  
Valley Chamber Chorale

Dr. Christopher Samuel, conductor  
Simon Pick, accompanist  
Very Rev. Michael Weldon, O.F.M., Rector

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (*Veni Emmanuel*)

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive  
 2. O come, Thou Day - spring, come and cheer Our spir - its by Thine  
 3. O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, And or - der all things,  
 4. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind All peo - ples in one

Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here, Un -  
 ad - vent here; Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night, And  
 far and nigh; To us the path of knowl - edge show, And  
 heart and mind. Bid en - vy, strife, and quar - rels cease; Fill

*Chorus*

til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 death's dark shad - ows put to flight. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -  
 cause us in her ways to go.  
 the whole world with heav - en's peace.

man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

## **GREETING & BIDDING PRAYER**

Dear People of God: In this Christmas Season, let it be our duty and delight to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger.

Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy Child Jesus, and let us make this place glad with our carols of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and especially for his Church in our country and in this city.

And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, as well as all those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ.

Finally, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore.

The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and to the fellowship of the citizens above, may the King of Angels bring us all.

**Amen.**



**THE FIRST LESSON**

**Genesis 3: 8-15**

*God announces in the Garden of Eden  
that the seed of woman shall bruise the serpent's head.*

**Anthem**

The Truth Sent From Above

R. Vaughan Williams

This is the truth sent from above,  
The truth of God, the God of love,  
This is the truth sent from above;  
The truth of God, the God of love,  
Therefore don't run me from your door,  
But hearken all both rich and poor.

The first thing which I do relate  
Is that God did man create;  
The next thing which to you I'll tell  
Woman was made with man to dwell.

Thus we were heirs to endless woes,  
Till God the Lord did interpose;  
And so a promise soon did run  
That he would redeem us by his son.

And at that season of the year  
Our blest Redeemer did appear:  
He here did live, and here did preach,  
And many thousands he did teach.

**THE SECOND LESSON**

**Genesis 22: 15-18**

*God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed  
shall the nations of the earth be blessed.*

**Organ Voluntary**

If You But Trust in God to Guide You

J. S. Bach

*If you but trust in God to guide you with gentle hand through all your ways,  
you'll find that God is there beside you when crosses come, in trying days.  
Trust then in God's unchanging love; build on the rock that will not move.*

**THE THIRD LESSON**

**Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7**

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

**Anthem**

Awake, Arise!

Howard Helvey

Awake, arise! Lift up thy voice,  
Which as a trumpet sell!  
Rejoice in Christ! Again rejoice,  
And on his praises dwell!

Let us not doubt, as doubted some,  
when first the Lord appeared;  
but full of faith and reverence come,  
what time his voice is heard.

And even as John, who ran so well,  
confess upon our knees  
the Prince that locks up death and hell,  
and has himself the keys.

And thus through gladness and surprise  
the saints their Savior treat;  
nor will they trust their ears and eyes  
but by his hands and feet:

Those hands of liberal love indeed  
in infinite degree,  
those feet still frank to move and bleed  
for millions and for me.

O Dead, arise! O Friendless, stand  
by seraphim adored!  
O Solitude, again command  
thy host from heaven restored!

**THE FOURTH LESSON**

**Micah 5: 2-4**

*The prophet Micah foretells the glory of Bethlehem.*

CAROL

O Little Town of Bethlehem



1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!
2. For Christ is born of Ma - ry, And gath - ered all a - bove,
3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, The won - drous gift is giv' n!
4. O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem! De - scend to us, we pray;



1. A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep The si - lent stars go by;
2. While mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won - d'ring love.
3. So God im - parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of his heav' n.
4. Cast out our sin and en - ter in; Be born in us to - day.



1. Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing Light:
2. O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth!
3. No ear may hear his com - ing, But in this world of sin,
4. We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;



1. The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.
2. And prais - es sing to God the King, And peace to all on earth.
3. Where meek souls will re - ceive him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.
4. O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Em - man - u - el!

Text: 86 86 76 86; Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893. Music: Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908.

THE FIFTH LESSON

Luke 1: 26-38

*The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.*

## **Anthem**

Mary's Magnificat

Andrew Carter

Softly a light is stealing  
Sweetly a maiden sings,  
Ever wakeful, ever wistful,  
Watching faithfully, thankfully tenderly her King of kings.

My soul doth magnify, doth magnify the Lord:  
And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.

Mary her song to Jesus  
Softly, serenely sings:  
"I will love you, I will serve you,  
May my lullaby glorify, magnify my King of kings."

Lullaby, lullaby.

## **THE SIXTH LESSON**

**Luke 2: 1-7**

*Saint Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.*

## **Anthem**

Hodie Christus natus est

arr. Andre Vierendeels

*Hodie Christus natus est  
hodie Salvator apparuit:  
hodie in terra canunt Angeli,  
laetantur Archangeli:  
hodie exsultant justi, dicentes:  
Gloria in excelsis Deo, alleluia.*

Today is Christ born;  
today the savior has appeared.  
today the angels sing,  
the archangels rejoice:  
today the righteous rejoice, saying:  
Glory to God in the highest. Alleluia!

## **THE SEVENTH LESSON**

**Luke 2: 8-16**

*The shepherds go to the manger.*

## **Anthem**

Christus natus est

Music by Richard Proulx  
arr. T. Ohnesorg

*Gloria in excelsis Deo,  
Et in terra pax.*

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace on earth.

In Bethlehem on Christmas morn,  
*Christus natus est.*

Christ is born.

The lowly gem of love was born.  
*Christus natus est.*

Bright in her crown of fiery star,  
*Christus natus est.*

Judea's town shone from afar:  
*Christus natus est.*

While beasts in stall on bended knee,  
*Christus natus est.*

Did carol all most joyously:  
*Christus natus est.*

The manger still outshines the throne;  
*Christus natus est.*

Christ must and will come to his own.  
*Christus natus est.*

## **THE EIGHTH LESSON**

**Matthew 2: 1-11**

*The wise men are led by the star.*

## **Anthem**

In the Bleak Midwinter

arr. Robert Lau

In the bleak mid-winter  
Frosty wind made moan;  
Earth stood hard as iron,  
Water like a stone;  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,  
Snow on snow,  
In the bleak mid-winter  
Long ago.

Heaven cannot hold him  
Nor earth sustain,  
Heav'n and earth shall flee away  
When he comes to reign:  
In the bleak mid-winter  
A stable place sufficed  
And there the Lord God incarnate,

Angels and Archangels gathered there,  
Cherubim and seraphim  
Thronged the air;  
But his mother only  
In her maiden bliss  
Worshipped the Beloved  
With a kiss.

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 can I give him, give him my heart.



*Saint John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.*

**Anthem**

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

arr. Drummond Wolfe

Let all mortal flesh keep silence,  
And with fear and trembling stand;  
Ponder nothing earthly-minded,  
For with blessing in His hand,  
Christ our God to earth descendeth,  
Our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary,  
As of old on earth He stood,  
Lord of lords, in human vesture,  
In the body and the blood;  
He will give to all the faithful  
His own self for heav'nly food.

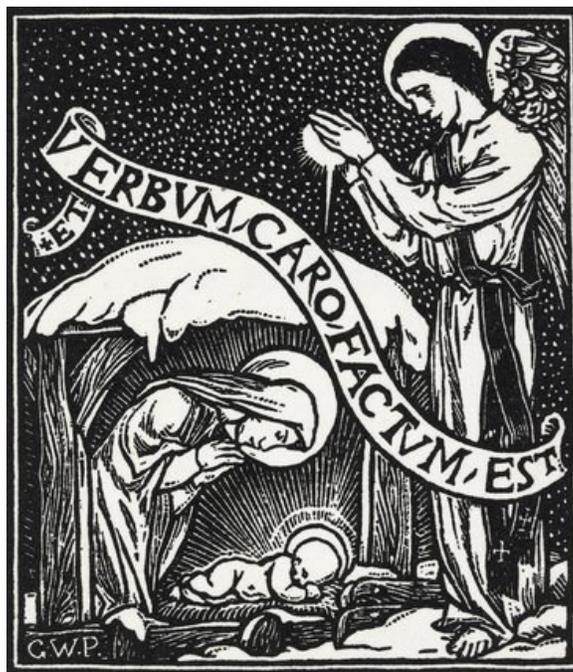
At His feet the six-winged seraph,  
Cherubim with sleepless eye,  
Veil their faces to the presence,  
As with ceaseless voice they cry:  
"Alleluia, Alleluia,



# HOMILY

## INTERCESSIONS AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Fa-ther, who art in heav - en, hal-losed be thy name;  
thy king-dom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heav - en.  
Give us this day our dai - ly bread; and for-give us our tres-pass-es  
as we for-give those who tres-pass a-gainst us; and lead us  
not in - to temp-ta - tion, but de - liv - er us from e - vil.



## COLLECT AND BLESSING

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness.

**Amen.**

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel.

**Amen.**

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor.

**Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever.

**Amen.**



RECESSIONAL HYMN

Once in Royal David's City



Men only 1. Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a  
 Women only 2. He came down to earth from heav - en who is  
 Choir only 3. *And our eyes at last shall see Him, through His*  
 All Sing 4. **Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the**



low - ly cat - tle shed, where a moth - er laid her  
 God and Lord of all, and His shel - ter was a  
*own re - deem - ing love; for that child so dear and*  
**ox - en stand - ing by, we shall see Him; but in**



ba - by in a man - ger for His bed: Mar - y was that  
 sta - ble, and His cra - dle was a stall; with the poor and  
*gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove; and He leads His*  
**heav - en, set at God's right hand on high; there His chil - dren**



moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.  
 meek and low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.  
*chil - dren on to the place where He is gone.*  
**gath - er round, bright like stars, with glo - ry crowned.**

*We invite you to give generously in the freewill offering.*

*Please join us for a reception outside in the garden (to the west of the church).*

*Today's program is partially underwritten by a generous gift from  
 Mr. Dennis and Dr. Denise Link.*