

EXETER COLLEGE OXFORD



CAROL SERVICE for Alumni

December 2020

WELCOME TO THIS SERVICE BROADCAST FROM
EXETER COLLEGE CHAPEL

This year be share in the mystery and delight of Christmas, of the message of God's unconditional love shown to humanity through a broadcast service. It's not the same as being able to gather in the candle-lit chapel, meeting with old friends, or rekindling memories of being at Exeter. But it is hoped that, nonetheless, it can bring a moment of calm and peace at the end of a stressful and busy year, and remind us all that the light of God's love is inextinguishable, no matter how dim or faint it may, at times, seems.

We are able to broadcast this service because we have, over the summer, installed an audio recording system. If you would like to contribute towards the cost of this installation you may do so [here](#). Any contribution would be most gratefully received.

The Service is conducted by the Chaplain and Official (Bishop Radford)
Fellow, the Reverend Andrew Allen.
The Choir is conducted by the Parry Wood Organ Scholar, Christopher
Holman, and the Organ is played by the Junior Organ Scholar, Miles
Swinden.

The Introit

In dulci jubilo let us our homage shew;
Our heart's joy reclineth *in praesepio*,
And like a bright star shineth *Matris in gremio*;
Alpha es et O.

O Jesu parvule, My heart is sore for thee;
Hear me, I beseech thee, *O puer optime*;
My prayer let it reach thee, *O princeps gloriae*;
Trahe me post te.

O Patris caritas! O nati lenitas!
Deeply we were stained *per nostra crimina*;
But thou for us hast gained *caelorum gaudia*:
Oh, that we were there!

Ubi sunt gaudia, where, if that that they be not there?
There are angels singing *nova canticum*.
There the bells are ringing
in regis curia. O that we were there!

Words and music: old German carol
arr. Robert Pearsall

THE BIDDING PRAYER

Beloved in Christ, be it this Christmastide 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 tale of the loving purposes of God; how through God's loving kindness and acceptance he did not disown us, but sent his Son to be our glorious and loving Redeemer. But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace on earth and goodwill among all people. And because this of all things 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 destitute, the outsider, and those we choose to ignore. 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 man can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom in the Lord Jesus we are for ever one.

Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that 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.

May the God of love bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life, and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. **Amen.**

Of the Father's heart begotten
Ere the world from chaos rose,
He is Alpha: from that Fountain,
All that is and hath been flows;
He is Omega, of all things
Yet to come the mystic Close,
Evermore and evermore.

By his word was all created:
He commanded, and 'twas done:
Earth and sky and boundless ocean,
Universe of three in one.
All that sees the moon's soft radiance,
All the breathes beneath the sun,
Evermore and evermore.

This is he, whom seer and sybil
Sang in ages long gone by;
This is he of old revealed
In the page of prophecy;
Lo! he comes, the promised Saviour;
Let the world his praises cry!
Evermore and evermore.

Sing, ye heights of heaven, his praises;
Angels and Archangels, sing!
Wheresoe'er ye be, ye faithful,
Let your joyous anthems ring,
Every tongue his name confessing,
Countless voices answering:
Evermore and evermore.

Words: Prudentius, trans. R. Davis
Music: from Piaae Contiones

THE PROPHET ISAIAH SPEAKS OF HOPE

And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord; And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth: with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins. The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

Isaiah 11

A spotless Rose is blowing
Sprung from a tender root,
Of ancient seers' foreshowing,
Of Jesse promised fruit;
Its fairest bud unfolds to light
Amid the cold, cold winter
And in the dark midnight.

The Rose which I am singing,
Whereof Isaiah said,
Is from its sweet root springing
In Mary, purest Maid;
For through our God's great love and might
The blessed babe she bare us
In a cold, cold winter's night.

Words: unknown, 14th century, trans. C. Winkworth

Music: H. Howells

BETHLEHEM

And thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting. Therefore will he give them up, until the time that she which travaileth hath brought forth: then the remnant of his brethren shall return unto the children of Israel. And he shall stand and feed in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God; and they shall abide: for now shall he be great unto the ends of the earth. And this man shall bring peace.

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,
And peace to men 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 giv'n;
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his heav'n.
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!

Words: P. Brooks

Music: trad. English, arr. R. Vaughan Williams

GOD CHOOSES MARY TO BEAR THE CHRISTCHILD

I sing of a maiden
That is makelees:
King of alle kinges
To her sone she chees.

He cam also stille
Ther his moder was
As dewe in Aprille
That falleth on the gras.

He cam also stille
To his modres bowr
As dewe in Aprille
That falleth on the flowr.

He cam also stille
Ther his moder lay
As dewe in Aprille
That falleth on the spray.

Moder and maiden
Was nevere noon but she:
Wel may swich a lady
Godes moder be.

Unknown, 14th century

Ave maris stella, Dei Mater alma,
atque semper Virgo, felix caeli porta.

Sumens illud Ave Gabrielis ore,
funda nos in pace, mutans Hevae nomen.

Solve vincula reis, profer lumen caecis
mala nostra pelle, bona cuncta posce.

Sit laus Deo Patri, summo Christo decus,
Spiritui Sancto, tribus honor unus. Amen.

*Hail, Star of the Sea, nurturing Mother of God
and ever-Virgin, happy Gate of Heaven.*

*Receiving that "Ave", from the mouth of Gabriel,
Establish us in peace, transforming the name of Eve.*

*Loosen the chains of the guilty, send forth light to the blind,
Dispel our evil, entreat for us all good things.*

*Praise be to God the Father, to the Most High Christ,
and to the Holy Spirit; honour to the Three. Amen.*

*Words: Codex Sangallensis, 9th century
Music: Guillaume DuFay*

THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:;) To be taxed with Mary his

espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

Luke 2

See, amid the winter's snow,
Born for us on earth below,
See the tender Lamb appears,
Promised from eternal years.

*Hail! Thou ever-blessed morn!
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem."*

Lo, within a manger lies
He who built the starry skies;
He, who throned in height sublime,
Sits amid the cherubim!

Say, ye holy shepherds, say,
What your joyful news today;
Wherefore have ye left your sheep
On the lonely mountain steep?

"As we watched at dead of night,
Lo, we saw a wondrous light;
Angels singing 'Peace on earth'
Told us of the Saviour's birth."

Sacred Infant, all divine,
What a tender love was thine;
Thus to come from highest bliss
Down to such a world as this!

Teach, O teach us, Holy Child,
By thy face so meek and mild,
Teach us to resemble thee
In thy sweet humility!

*Words: E. Caswall
Music: J. Goss, arr. D. Willcocks*

THE ANIMALS WITNESS THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

Christmas Eve, and twelve of the clock.
“Now they are all on their knees,”
An elder said as we sat in a flock
By the embers in hearthside ease.

We pictured the meek mild creatures where
They dwelt in their strawy pen,
Nor did it occur to one of us there
To doubt they were kneeling then.

So fair a fancy few would weave
In these years! Yet, I feel,
If someone said on Christmas Eve,
“Come; see the oxen kneel,

“In the lonely barton by yonder coomb
Our childhood used to know,”
I should go with him in the gloom,
Hoping it might be so.

T. Hardy

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
All seated on the ground,
an angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around.

"Fear not," said he for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled mind
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind.

"To you, in David's town, this day
Is born of David's line
A Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
And this shall be the sign:

"The heavenly Babe you there shall find
To human view displayed
And meanly wrapped in swathing bands
And in a manger laid."

Thus spake the seraph, and forthwith
Appeared a shining throng
Of angels praising God, who thus
Addressed their joyful song

"All glory be to God on high
And to the earth be peace;
Goodwill henceforth from heaven to men
Begin and never cease.

Words: N. Tate
Music: T. Este

THE GLORY OF GOD IS REVEALED TO THE SHEPHERDS

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, 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, and on earth peace, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

Luke 2

Masters in this hall, hear ye news today.
Brought from over the sea and ever I you pray.
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell sing we clear!
Holpen are all folk on Earth, born is God's Son so dear!
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell sing we loud!
God today hath poor folk raised and cast a-down the proud.
Going o'er the hills, through the milk-white snow,
Heard I ewes bleat, while the wind did blow.
Shepherds, many a one, sat among the sheep,
No man spoke more word than they had been asleep.
Shepherds should of right leap and dance and sing,
Wherefore do you sit before this wondrous thing.
Then to Bethlem town, we went two and two,
And in a sorry place, heard the oxen low.
Ox and ass there were down on bended knee,
Wondrous joy had I this little babe to see.

This is Christ the Lord, masters be ye glad!
Christmas is come in, and no folk should be sad.

Words: William Morris, Exeter College 1856

Music: Caitlin Harrison

THE WISE MEN FOLLOW THE STAR

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel. Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also. When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

Matthew 2

In the bleak midwinter, 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 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 Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Enough for him, whom cherubim, worship night and day,
A breastful of milk, and a mangerful of hay;
Enough for him, whom angels fall 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: C. Rossetti
Music: H. Darke

THE LIGHT OF GOD IS REVEALED

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to

become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me. And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace. For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

John 1

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, Christ the Lord.

See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
We too will thither bend our joyful footsteps;

Lo! star-led chieftains, Magi, Christ adoring,
Offer him incense, gold, and myrrh;
We to the Christ Child bring our heart's oblations:

Child, for us sinners, poor and in the manger,
Fain we embrace thee with awe and love;
Who would not love thee, loving us so dearly?

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God, glory in the highest;

Yea, Lord, we greet thee: born for our salvation,
Jesu, to thee be glory given.
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.

Words: Latin, trans F. Oakley

Music: probably by J. Wade, arr. D. Willcocks

THE PRAYERS

Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given.
Let us bring before God the needs of the world.

Christ, born in a stable,
give courage to all who are homeless.
Jesus, Saviour,
hear our prayer.

Christ, for whom the angels sang,
give us joy to sing your praises.
Jesus, Saviour,
hear our prayer.

Christ, worshipped by the shepherds,
give peace on earth to all who are outcast or oppressed.
Jesus, Saviour,
hear our prayer.

Christ, before whom the magi knelt,
give humility and wisdom to all who govern.
Jesus, Saviour,
hear our prayer.

Christ, whose radiance filled a lowly manger,
give the glory of your resurrection to all who have died.
Jesus, Saviour,
hear our prayer.

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the
fellowship of the Holy Ghost be with us all evermore.
Amen.**

Sleep, baby, sleep; what ails my dear?
What ails my darling thus to cry?
Be still, my child, and lend thine ear
To hear me sing thy lullaby.
Sweet baby, sleep, and nothing fear,
For whosoever thee offends,
By thy protector threatened are,
And God and angels are thy friends.
Be still, my dear; sweet baby, sleep.

*Words: George Wither
Music: Elizabeth Stirling*

THE BLESSING

May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds,
the perseverance of the wise men,
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,
and the peace of the Christ-child be yours this Christmastide.
And the blessing of the God of love: Father, Son, and Holy Ghost
be upon you now and for ever. **Amen.**

Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With th’angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
*Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn 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 th'incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus our Emmanuel.

Hail the heaven born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that man no more may die.
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.

The Lord preserve your going out and your coming in:
From this time forth for ever more. Amen.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

In dulci jubilo, BWV 729 *J.S. Bach*