

On Christmas Night All Christians Sing!

**Dr. Mark Bennett, Director of Music
David Knight, Organist**

**December 24, 2024 - 8 pm
St. Francis Episcopal Church**

A Ceremony of Carols (excerpts), Op. 28, Benjamin Britten

Procession:

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

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, Alleluia!

Jasminka Criley, Emily Kingsley, Jill Lynch, Shelley Reece, sopranos

That Yongë Child:

That yongë child when it gan weep With song she lulled him asleep;
That was so sweet a melody It passèd alle minstrelsy.
The nightingalë sang also: Her song is hoarse and nought thereto:
Whoso attendeth to her song And leaveth the first then doth he wrong.
Shelley Reece, soprano

Balulalow:

O my dear hert, young Jesus sweit, Prepare thy creddil in my spreit,
And I sall rock thee in my hert. And never mair from thee depart.
Jill Lynch, soprano

But I sall praise thee evermoir With sanges sweit unto thy gloir;
The knees of my heart sall I bow, And sing that richt Balulalow!

O Come, All Ye Faithful, #83, vv. 1, 3

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;

Refrain:

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; O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;

Refrain

Nine Carols for Male Voices, arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams

The Lord at first

The Lord at first did Adam make Out of the dust and clay,
And in his nostrils breathèd life, E'en as the Scriptures say.

And then in Eden's paradise He placèd him to dwell,
That he within it should remain, To dress and keep it well:

Refrain:

Now let good Christians all begin An holier life to live,
And to rejoice and merry be, For this is Christmas Eve.

Now mark the goodness of the Lord, Which he for mankind bore;
His mercy soon he did extend, Lost man for to restore;
And then, for to redeem our souls From death and hellish thrall,
He said his own dear Son should be The Saviour of us all:

Refrain

Susan Tsuji, tenor

Now for the blessings we enjoy, Which are from heaven above,
Let us renounce all wickedness, And live in perfect love:
Then shall we do Christ's own command, E'en his own written word;
And when we die, in heaven shall Enjoy our living Lord:

Refrain

Jon Keenan, tenor

And now the tide is nigh at hand, In which our Saviour came;
Let us rejoice and merry be In keeping of the same;
Let's feed the poor and hungry souls, And such as do it crave;
And when we die, in heaven we Our sure reward shall have:

Refrain

Coventry Carol

Lullay, thou little tiny child, By by, lullay lullay.
Lullay thou little tiny child, By, bye lullay lullay.

O brothers too, how may we do for to preserve this day
This poor youngling, for whom we do sing By by, lully lullay?

Herod the king, in his raging, charged he hath this day
His men of might, in his own sight, all young children to slay.

That woe is me, poor child for thee! And ever morn and day,
for thy parting neither say nor sing By by, lully lullay!
Susan Tsuji, tenor

What Child is This?, #115, vv. 1-3

What Child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, While shepherds watch are keeping?

Refrain:

This, this is Christ, the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The Babe, the Son of Mary!

Why lies He in such mean estate, Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here The silent Word is pleading. Refrain.

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh, Come, peasant, king to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone Him. Refrain.

Organ Fantasy: *Three French Carols*, arr. David Knight

***Cantique de Noël*, Adolphe Adam**

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 'Til He appeared 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. O night, O Holy night, O night divine!

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 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 weakness is 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!

Jill Lynch & Shelley Reece, sopranos

Myn Liking, R. R. Terry

I saw a fair mayden, sitten and sing. She lulled a lyttle childe, a sweet Lording.

Susie Zimmerman, soprano

Refrain:

Lullay, myn lyking, my dere sonne, my sweeting. Lullay, my dere hert,
mine own dere derling.

That same lord is he that made alle thing; Of all lordis he is Lord, of alle kynges is Kyng.

Refrain

Susan Tsuji, tenor

There was mickle melody at that chylde's birth. All that were in heav'nly bliss,
they made mickle mirth

Refrain

Susie Zimmerman, soprano

Angels bright sang their song to that chyld; Blyssid be thou, and so be she,
so meek and so mild.

Refrain

Susie Zimmerman, soprano

The First Nowell the Angel Did Say, #109, vv. 1, 2

The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain:

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star shining in the east, beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.

Refrain

O Bethlehem, Christin Kieckhafer

O Bethlehem, how still you lie. Above your dreamless sleep silent stars go by.

O Bethlehem, how dark the night.

Within your shadowed streets shines the Everlasting Light.

O Bethlehem, how silently He came. Greatest gift from heaven without wealth or fame.

O Bethlehem, how great your hope and fear, Lay to rest your wearied past,
Your Promised One is near, He is near. O Bethlehem, the Heavens shone bright!

In a field not far away, shepherds witnessed the sight.

O Bethlehem, how the angels sing! O hear them proclaim the birth of the King of kings.
O Bethlehem, he's come to us. O Bethlehem, He abides with us.
O Bethlehem, hear the angels tell how the Great I Am has become Emmanuel.

Evgeny Tonkha, cello

Sussex Carol, Traditional English Carol, arr. Elaine Hagenberg

On Christmas night all Christians sing to hear the news the angels bring. News of great
joy, news of great mirth, News of our merciful King's birth.

Then why should men on earth be so sad, since our Redeemer made us glad. When
from our sin he set us free, All for to gain our liberty?

When sin departs before His grace, Then life and health come in its place. Angels and
men with joy may sing, all for to see the new-born King.

All out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night. "Glory to God
and peace to men, Now and for evermore, Amen.

Joy to the World, #100, v. 1, 2, 4

Joy to the world! The Lord is come! Let Earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare Him room. And Heaven and nature sing!
And Heaven and nature sing! And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing

Joy to the Earth! The Savior reigns! Let us our songs employ
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy!

He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness, And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love, And wonders, wonders of His love.

St. Francis Concert Choir

Soprano: Jasminka Criley, Anna Eakins, Ann Hugh, Emily Kingsley, Jill Lynch, Wendy
Pratt, Shelley Reece, Molly Waltner

Alto: Suellen Eslinger, Kathleen Gremillion, Martha Hynes, Olufemi A. Knight, Susie
Willigrod, Susie Zimmerman

Tenor: Jon Keenan, Sal Malaki, Susan Tsuji, Debby Unoura

Bass: Randy Gremillion, Ed Heinz, Matthew Kellaway, Lloyd Misteale, Emmanuel
Miranda, Jerry Williams

