



The Queen's Chapel of the Savoy



THE IMPERIAL SOCIETY OF KNIGHTS BACHELOR
Podcast Service of Lessons and Carols for Christmas
Thursday 17 December 2020 Broadcast at 6pm

Once in royal David's city
(Solo first verse sung by Darragh Keane a chorister of The Queen's Chapel of the Savoy)

Once in royal David's city
Stood 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.

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.

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.

Words: Mrs C. F. Alexander (1818-1895)
Tune: 'Irby', H. J. Gauntlett (1808-1876), rev. A. H. Mann (1850-1929)
Descant: Philip Berg (b. 1959)

WELCOME
The Chaplain

BIDDING PRAYER

My sisters and brothers in the name of Christ welcome to this Carol Service. Christmas draws near and we prepare for our celebration of the birth of God's beloved Son. Through the days of Advent we follow the light of Christ, and we travel in spirit with Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem to acclaim with the multitude of the heavenly host the coming of the Prince of Peace. Through Scripture and silence, prayer and song, let us hear again the wonderful story of our redemption, and, hearing, let us rejoice and respond with lively faith. Amen.

Zion hört die Wächter singen
Das Herz tut ihr vor Freuden springen,
Sie wachet und steht eilend auf.
Ihr Freund kommt vom Himmel prächtig,
Von Gnaden stark, von Wahrheit mächtig,
Ihr Licht wird hell, ihr Stern geht auf.
Nun komm, du werthe Kron,
Herr Jesu, Gottes Sohn!
Hosianna!
Wir folgen all
Zum Freudensaal
Und halten mit das Abendmahl.

*(Zion hears the watchmen singing
The maidens' hearts with joy are springing
They wake and quickly to Him go.
Their Friend comes in Heav'nly splendor
With graceful strength, with mercy tender
Their light is bright, their star doth glow.
Now come, thou worthy One;
Lord Jesus, God's own Son
Hosanna!
We follow all
To that glad hall
To our Lord's table we are called.)*

Words: P. Nicolai (1556 – 1608)

Music: Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

First Lesson

Isaiah 9: 2, 6 & 7 (The Prophecy of the Messiah's Birth);
Read by Sir Michael Hirst

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. 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. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, good will to men,
From heaven's all gracious King!”
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife
The world hath suffered long;
Beneath the angel-strain have rolled
Two thousand years of wrong;
And man, at war with man, hears not
The love song which they bring:

O hush the noise, ye men of strife,
And hear the angels sing!

For lo! the days are hastening on,
By prophet-bards foretold,
When, with the ever-circling years
Shall come the age of gold;
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendours fling,
And all the world give back the song
Which now the angels sing.

Words: Edmund Sears (1810 – 76)

Music: Traditional English, adapted by Sir Arthur Sullivan (1842 –1900)

Second Lesson

Matthew 1:18-23 (The Birth of Emmanuel)
Read by The Rt Hon Sir Gary Hickenbottom

The birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,' which means, 'God is with us.'

When Christ was born of Mary free
In Bethlehem that fair city,
Angels sang with mirth and glee,
In excelsis Gloria.

Shepherds beheld these angels bright
To them appeared with great light
And said, "God's son is born this night."
In excelsis Gloria.

A king has come to save his kind,
In the scripture as we find;
Therefore this song have we in mind:
In excelsis Gloria.

Then, dear Lord, through your great grace,
Grant us in time to see your face,
Where we may sing to your solace.
In excelsis Gloria.

Words: 15th century

Music: Timothy Hamilton (b. 1973)

Third Lesson

John 1; 1-14 (The Incarnation of the Word of God)
Read by Professor Sir Colin Berry

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.

God rest you merry, gentlemen,
Let nothing you dismay,
For Jesus Christ our Saviour
Was born upon this day,
To save us all from Satan's power
When we were gone astray:
[Refrain] *O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

From God our heav'nly Father,
A blessèd angel came,
And unto certain shepherds
Brought tidings of the same,
How that in Bethlehem was born
The Son of God by name: *Refrain*

The shepherds at those tidings
Rejoicèd much in mind,
And left their flocks a-feeding,
In tempest, storm, and wind,
And went to Bethlehem straightway,
This blessèd babe to find: *Refrain*

But when to Bethlehem they came,
Whereat this infant lay,
They found him in a manger,
Where oxen feed on hay;
His mother Mary kneeling,
Unto the Lord did pray: *Refrain*

Now to the Lord sing praises,
All you within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood
Each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas
All others doth deface: *Refrain*

The Chaplain

THE COLLECT FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

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, 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 for ever. Amen.

THE SOCIETY'S COLLECT

Almighty and eternal God, we thank thee on this day for our forebears who by their vision gathered in the spirit of faith and service to form the unity of the Imperial Society of Knights Bachelor. Grant to us the same vision and the strength of heart and mind to uphold their purpose, united in fellowship to honour and serve our Sovereign Lady The Queen, her Crown and her dignity; this we pray in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE BLESSING

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 th' angelic host proclaim,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.
*Hark! the herald-angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.*

Hail the heav'n-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.
*Hark! the herald-angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.*

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788) and others
Music : Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809-1847)

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

I Saw Three Ships

English Traditional Carol, arr. for voices and organ by
Philip Berg MVO (b. 1959).
Transcribed for saxophone ensemble, and played, by
Alfie Beston (current chorister).

Chaplain

The Reverend Canon Thomas Woodhouse MA
Chaplain of The Queen's Chapel of the Savoy

Steward

Sqn Ldr Thomas Leyland, BSc, RAF (rtd)

Master of the Music

Philip Berg, MVO, FRCO, ARCM

Sub Organist

Justin Luke, ARCO

The Gentlemen of The Queen's Chapel of the Savoy:

Mark Draper

Tim Hamilton

Sebastian Harris

Nicholas Mitchell

James Oldfield

Peter Thresh

Choristers of The Queen's Chapel of the Savoy