The 106th Annual Christmas Carol Service

Featuring the Harvard University Choir
December 2015
Welcome to the Memorial Church and to America’s oldest carol service. In 1910, the newly appointed University Organist and Choirmaster, Archibald T. Davison, and Plummer Professor of Christian Morals, Edward C. Moore, devised the first annual Christmas Carol Service for Harvard University. The liturgy they prepared has remained virtually unchanged since: three lessons from scripture, interspersed with choral and congregational carols, beginning with “Adeste, fideles” sung in Latin. Over a century later, this service continues to be a cherished part of the festive season for the Harvard and Cambridge communities. As a courtesy, we ask that you silence all electronic devices. Photography and the use of recording equipment are not permitted during the service.
How bright the radiance of the tree,
Evergreen, everlasting.

The tradition of the Christmas carol began in medieval Europe and has since blossomed into a repertoire that is one of the great treasures of the Christian world. Each generation and culture enhances our understanding of the Christmas miracle through reinterpretation and replenishment: while we rejoice with the angels, we also reflect on the mystery of the Deity becoming human. Like a flourishing tree, this collection is nourished by the renewed attentions of poets, artists, and musicians; it is evergreen, everlasting.

Our service opens in the Memorial Room, which documents the names of Harvard’s men who perished in World War One; during the ongoing centenary of that sad conflict, this very building adds its note of poignancy to the proceedings. Towards the end of the service, the congregation is invited to participate in the singing of “Silent Night” in English or in German: this practice memorializes that most moving episode of one hundred one years ago when, on Christmas Day 1914, soldiers from both sides of the trenches laid down their arms and climbed into no-man’s land to sing this cherished carol.

In that same spirit of remembrance and commemoration we note the death of one of the giants of twentieth-century choral music, Sir David Willcocks. Sir David was Director of Music at King’s College, Cambridge from 1957 to 1974 during which time his iconic broadcasts and recordings set new standards of excellence in British choral singing. His Christmas carols and arrangements are ubiquitous, and this evening we present two of his most famous descants as well as his beloved arrangement of the Sussex Carol. We celebrate the seventieth birthday of John Rutter—a frequent collaborator of Sir David Willcocks and the other towering figure in contemporary carol composition—with his All Bells in Paradise, and we mark the 150th anniversary of the birth of Finnish composer Jean Sibelius with his beautiful En etsi valtaa, loistoa.

The centerpiece of this year’s service is James Woodman’s powerful triptych The Midwife’s Tale, commissioned by the Boston Cecilia in 1996. Mr. Woodman, a former Composer in Residence at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston, writes of the work:

Although they have faded from view now, vibrant legends about the life of Christ flourished in medieval times, frequently eclipsing the Bible itself in influencing art and literature. The text of The Midwife’s Tale is derived from one such narrative found in the Arundel Manuscript, a compilation of earlier sources which dates from the 8th century. It contains an extraordinary account of the Nativity by the apocryphal figure of Zachel, a midwife enlisted by Joseph to attend to Mary at the time of birth. Against a dramatic background of cosmic upheaval, Zachel tells the story of her astonishing experience: The birth she has witnessed is not one of a human child, for Mary has given birth to Light! Her awe, comprehension, and delight warmly invite our empathy.

In addition, our service features the world premiere of two American carols: See, Amid the Winter’s Snow, by David Ashley White, Professor of Composition at the University of Houston and an active voice in contemporary church music; and Christus natus est, by Composer in Residence Carson Cooman. Festive works by Peter Philips, Gareth Treseder, Daniel Read, Steve Pilkinson, and Daniel Pinkham complete our music list, which ends with a popular guaracha from seventeenth-century Mexico.

Both of the organs housed in the Memorial Church—the Charles B. Fisk and Peter J. Gomes Memorial Organ in the rear gallery, and the Jane Slaughter Hardenbergh Memorial Organ in Appleton Chapel—are featured throughout the service in hymn and choral accompaniments. To bookend the service, Assistant University Organist and Choirmaster Thomas Sheehan presents festive voluntaries, including Bach’s majestic Canonic Variations on Martin Luther’s Christmas hymn “Vom Himmel hoch da komm’ ich her.”
The congregation is asked to remain silent upon entering the Memorial Church.

Prelude

Prelude and Fugue in E major, BWV 566

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

In dulci jubilo (Four Variations)

James Woodman (b. 1957)

Commissioned for the 85th Annual Christmas Carol Service, December 1994

Canonic Variations on “Vom Himmel hoch da komm’ ich her,” BWV 769

Johann Sebastian Bach

Variations sur un Noël angevin

Gaston Litaize (1909–1991)

Introit

Christus natus est

Carson Cooman ’04 (b. 1982)

Composed for the 106th Annual Christmas Carol Service, December 2015

In Bethlehem
On Christmas morn,
The lowly gem
Of love was born.
Hosanna! Christus natus est. (Hosanna! Christ is born.)

While beasts in stall,
On bended knee,
Did carol all
Most joyously:
Hosanna! Christus natus est.

He was not born
For bird and beast,
But suffered scorn
To save the least.
Hosanna! Christus natus est.

Who lies in ditch?
Who begs his bread?
Who has no stitch
For back or head?
Hosanna! Christus natus est.

The manger still
Outshines the throne,
Christ must and will
Come to his own.
Hosanna! Christus natus est.

Countee Cullen (1903–1946), alt.
HYMN IN PROCESSION

Adeste, fideles
First verse sung by the choir alone
The congregation standing

Adeste, fideles
Attributed to John Francis Wade (1711–1786)

Descant by David Willcocks (1919–2015)
Organ interludes by John Ferris (1926–2008)

Adeste, fideles
First verse sung by the choir alone
The congregation standing

[Music notation for Adeste, fideles]
re - gem an - ge - lo - rum:
gen - i - tum, non fac - tum:
cel - sis De - o: ve - ni - te a - do -

ver - bum ca - ro fac - tum:

re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve -

ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
SENTENCES FROM SCRIPTURE AND WELCOME

FIRST LESSON

Luke 1:26–38

CAROL

O beatum et sacrosanctum diem
Peter Philips (ca. 1560–1628)

O beatum et sacrosanctum diem,
in qua Dominus noster de Virgine Maria pro nobis nasci dignatus est.
Gaudeat itaque universus orbis, et cantemus illi
in sono tube, cithara, psalterio et organo.
Congratulemur cum multitudine angelorum exercitus
semper suas laudes cantantibus. Noë.

O blessed and most holy day
on which our Lord was born of the Virgin Mary for our sake.
Let the whole world therefore rejoice, and let us sing to him
to the sound of the trumpet, strings, the harp and the organ.
Let us rejoice with the numerous hosts of angels
ceaselessly singing his praise. Noel.

Antiphon for the Feast of the Nativity

CAROL

“The End” (No. 1) from The Midwife’s Tale
James Woodman

The end drew near—time, nearly gone—
all felt strangely, beautifully wrong.
All felt strangely, beautifully wrong.
From deepest Heaven God flew racing
toward us, fearful, Judgment facing.
All felt strangely, beautifully wrong.

The winds dropped to earth—
like stones stood the trees—
the streams slowed—then stopped—
still fell the seas—
voices were hushed, as if
withered by frost—
great Earth itself stood
motionless—lost—

Perfect silence, perfect fear,
time exhausted, world’s end near:
All felt strangely, beautifully wrong.

Adapted from the Arundel Manuscript by James Woodman
HYMN

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming
The congregation standing

Es ist ein Ros
Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng, 1599
Harmonized by Michael Praetorius, 1609

1 Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom-ing from ten - der stem hath sprung!
2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the Rose I have in mind,
3 O Flower, whose fra-grance ten - der with sweet - ness fills the air,

Of Jes - se's lin-eage com - ing as seers of old have sung.
with Ma - ry we be - hold it, the Vir - gin Mo - ther kind.
dis - pel in glo-ri ous splen - dor the dark - ness ev - ery - where,

It came, a blos - som bright, a - mid the cold of win - ter,
To show God's love a - right, she bore to us a Sa - vivor,
true man, yet ve - ry God, from sin and death now save us,

when half spent was the night.
when half spent was the night.
and share our ev - ery load.
Blessed Be That Maid Marie  
Gareth Treseder (b. 1985)

Blessed be that Maid Marie;  
Born he was of her body;  
Very God ere time began,  
Born in time the Son of Man.

Eya! Ihesus bodie  
Natus est de Virgine.  
(Eya! Jesus is today  
Born of the Virgin.)

In a manger of an ass  
Jesu lay and lulled was;  
Born to die upon the Tree

Pro peccante homine.  
Eya! Ihesus bodie  
Natus est de Virgine.  
(For the sin of man.  
Eya! Jesus is today  
Born of the Virgin.)

Sweet and blissful was the song
Chanted of the angel throng,
“Peace on earth, Alleluya!
In excelsis gloria!”

Eya! Ihesus bodie  
Natus est de Virgine.  
(Eya! Jesus is today  
Born of the Virgin.)

Fare three kings from far-off land,
Incense, gold and myrrh in hand;
In Bethlem the Babe they see,
Stellae ducti lumine.

Eya! Ihesus bodie  
Natus est de Virgine.  
(Led by the light of a star.  
Eya! Jesus is today  
Born of the Virgin.)

Make we merry on this fest,
In quo Christus natus est;
On this Child I pray you call,
To assoil and save us all.

Eya! Ihesus bodie  
Natus est de Virgine.  
(Eya! Jesus is today  
Born of the Virgin.)

Traditional English text, ca. 15th century

See, Amid the Winter’s Snow  
David Ashley White (b. 1944)

Commissioned for the 106th Annual Christmas Carol Service, December 2015

See, amid the winter’s snow,
Born for us on Earth below,
See, the tender Lamb appears,
Promised from eternal years!

Lo! within a manger lies  
He who built the starry skies;  
He who, throned in height sublime,  
Sits among 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 Savior’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!

Edward Caswall (1814–1878)

SECOND LESSON

Luke 2:1–14

CAROL

While Shepherds Watched (“Sherburne”) Daniel Read (1757–1836)

While shepherds watched their flocks by night
All seated on the ground,
The 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 humankind.”

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

“The heavenly babe you there shall find
To human view displayed,
All 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 peace to all the earth.
Goodwill is brought to humankind
Through this, the Savior’s birth.”

Nahum Tate (1652–1715), alt.
CAROL

All Bells in Paradise

Deep in the cold of winter,
Darkness and silence were everywhere;
Softly and clearly, there came through the stillness
A wonderful sound to hear:

All bells in paradise, I heard them ring,
Sounding in majesty the news that they bring;
All bells in paradise, I heard them ring,
Welcoming our Savior, born on earth a heavenly King.
All bells in paradise, I heard them ring:
"Glory to God on high," the angel voices sing.

Lost in awe and wonder,
Doubting, I asked what this sign might be:
Christ our Messiah revealed in a stable,
A marvelous sight to see.

All bells in paradise, I heard them ring,
Sounding in majesty the news that they bring;
All bells in paradise, I heard them ring,
Welcoming our Savior, born on earth a heavenly King.

He comes down in peace, a child in humility,
The keys to the kingdom belong to the poor;
Before him shall kneel the kings with their treasures,
Gold, incense, and myrrh.

All bells in paradise, I heard them ring,
Sounding in majesty the news that they bring;
All bells in paradise, I heard them ring,
Welcoming our Savior, born on earth a heavenly King.
All bells in paradise, I heard them ring:
"Glory to God on high," the angel voices sing.
The angel voices sweetly sing.

John Rutter (b. 1945)
Angels we have heard on high, singing sweetly through the night,
Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why these songs of happy cheer?
Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
See him in a manger laid whom the angels praise above;

and the mountains in reply echoing their brave delight.
What great brightness did you see? What glad tidings did you hear?
Come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.

Gloria
CAROL

“Interregnum” (No. 2) from *The Midwife’s Tale*  
*James Woodman*

Transfigured, rapt, of brilliance white,  
she bore the child: the child was Light.

“Amen!” a thousand voices cried;  
a hidden throng Light magnified.

Heavenly dew, fragrance rare  
arose from Light and bathed the air.

The Light increased—outshone the sun—  
the child was Light: the Light, the One.

*Adapted from the Arundel Manuscript by James Woodman*

CAROL

Sussex Carol  
*Traditional English Carol*  
*Arranged by David Willcocks*

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 newborn King.

All out of darkness we have light,  
Which made the angels sing this night:  
“Glory to God and peace to men,  
Now and forevermore. Amen.”

*Traditional English carol*  
*Adapted by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)*  
*and Ursula Vaughan Williams (1911–2007)*
THIRD LESSON

Matthew 2:1–11

CAROL

We Three Kings

John Henry Hopkins, Jr. (1820–1891)
Arranged by Steve Pilkington (b. 1958)

We three kings of Orient are;
Bearing gifts we traverse afar;
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.
   O star of wonder, star of night,
   Star with royal beauty bright,
   Westward leading, still proceeding,
   Guide us to thy perfect light.

Born a king on Bethlehem’s plain;
Gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
Over us all to reign.
   Refrain

Frankincense to offer have I,
Incense owns a deity nigh,
Prayer and praising, voices raising,
Worshiping God on high.
   Refrain

Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
Sealed in the stone cold tomb.
   Refrain

Glorious now behold him arise,
King and God and sacrifice;
Alleluia, Alleluia
Sounds through the earth and skies.
   Refrain

John Henry Hopkins, Jr.
HYMN

Personent hodie
The congregation standing

Adapted by Gustav Holst (1874–1934)

Piæ cantiones, 1582
adapt. Gustav Holst, 1924

1 Per-son-ent ho-di-e
2 In mun-do nas-cì-tur,
3 Ma-gi tres ve-ne-runt,
4 Om-nes cle-ri-cu-li,

Vo-ces pu-er-ulæ, lau-dan-tes iu-cun-de
pan-nis in vol-vi-tur, praæ-se-pi po-ni-tur
par-vu-lum in-qui-runt, Beth-le-hem a-de-unt,
par-i-ter pu-e-ri, can-tent ut an-ge-li:

qui no-bis est na-tus, sum-mo De-o da-tus,
sta-bu-lo bru-to-rum, rec-tor su-per-no-rum.
stel-lu-lam se-quen-do, ip-sum a-do-ran-do,
ad-ven-is-ti mun-do, lau-des ti-bi fun-do.

et de vir-vir, et de vir-vir,
Per-di-it, dit, dit, per-di-it, dit, dit,
au-rum,thus, thus, au-rum thus, thus, thus,
Id-e-o, -o, -o, id-e-o, -o, -o

et de vir-gi-ne-o ven-tre pro-cre-a-tus.
per-di-it spo-li-a prin-ces in-fer-no-rum.
au-rum,thus, et myrr-ham e-i of-fe-ren-do.
id-e-o glo-ri-a in ex-cel-sis De-o!
En etsi valtaa, loistoa
En kaipaa kultaakaan,
ma pyydän taivaan valoa
ja rauhaa päälle maan.
Se joulu suo, mi onnen tuo
ja mielet nostaa Luojan luo!
Ei valtaa eikä kultaakaan,
vaan rauhaa päälle maan.

Anonymous Swedish original translated into sung Finnish by Zachris Topelius (1818–1898)
English verse translation by Ida Kashinen (1924), adapted by Alexandra Glynn (2008)
The congregation seated Franz Xaver Gruber (1787–1863)
The hymn may be sung in German or in English
Descants by Murray Forbes Somerville (b. 1948)

Stille Nacht!

Stille Nacht! / Silent Night

Stille Nacht

The hymn may be sung in German or in English

English version on next page

Stille Nacht!

1 Stil - le Nacht! Heil - i - ge Nacht! Al - les schlägt, ein - sam wacht
2 Stil - le Nacht! Heil - i - ge Nacht! Hir - ten erst kund - ge - macht
3 Stil - le Nacht! Heil - i - ge Nacht! Got - tes Sohn, o wie lacht

nur das trau - te heil - i - ge Paar. Hol - der Knab’ im lock - ig - ten Haar,
durch der Eng - el Al - le - lu - ja, tont es laut bei Fer - ne und Nah:
Lieb’ aus dei - nem gött - li - chen Mund, da uns schlägt die ret - ten - de Stund’.

Schlaf’ in himm - li - scher Ruh! Schlaf’ in himm - li - scher Ruh!
“Christ der Ret - ter ist da!” Christ der Ret - ter ist da’
Christ in dei - ner Ge - burt! Christ in dei - ner Ge - burt!
Silent Night

1 Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
2 Silent night, holy night, shep-herds quake at the sight,
3 Silent night, holy night, Son of God, Love's pure light,

round yon Virgin Mo-ther and child. Ho-ly in-fant, so
glo ries stream from heav-en a-far, heaven-ly hosts sing
ra diant beams from thy ho-ly face, with the dawn of re-
al-le-lu-ia, Christ, the Sa-vior, is born! Christ, the Sav-ior is born.
deem ing grace, Je-sus, Lord at thy birth, Je-sus, Lord at thy birth.
CAROL

Evergreen

How fine the sweetness from the bough,
Evergreen, ever living,
Like the prayer offered now
For a whole world’s forgiving;
While the Christ Child is sleeping,
Worlds of woe in his keeping,
Worlds of joy in his dream.
Lord, redeem us!
That when thou art waking,
The hearts we uplift
Shall be thy Christmas gift
And be well worth thy taking.

How bright the radiance of the tree,
Evergreen, everlasting,
Like the feast day to be
After long years of fasting.
Bright in hope Christmas morning
To the Christ Child returning,
Once again we believe.
Lord, receive us!
When we come before thee,
The heart’s joy we bring
Noel! Noel! Shall sing
And for ever adore thee.

Robert Hilley, Class of 1917 (1895–1961)

CAROL

Convidando está la noche

Convidando está la noche
aquí de músicas varias
Al recién nacido infante
canten tiernas alabanzas.

¡Ay, que me abraso, ay! divino dueño, ay!
en la hermosura, ay! de tus ojuelos, ¡ay!
¡Ay, como llueven, ay! ciento luceros, ay!
rayos de gloria, ay! rayos de fuego, ¡ay!
¡Ay, que la gloria, ay! del portalino, ay!
yá viste rayos, ay! si arroja hielos, ¡ay!
¡Ay, que su madre, ay! como en su espero, ay!
mira en su lucencia, ay! sus crecimientos, ¡ay!

Alegres cuando festivas
unas hermosas zagales
Con novedad entonaron
juguetes por la guaracha.

¡En la guaracha, ay! le festinemos, ay!
mientras el niño, ay! se rinde al sueño, ¡ay!
¡Toquen y bailen, ay! porque tenemos, ay!
fuego en la nieve, ay! nieve en el fuego, ¡ay!
¡Pero el chicote, ay! a un mismo tiempo, ay!
llora y se rie, ay! ¿qué dos extremos, ¡ay!
¡Paz a los hombres, ay! dan de los cielos, ay!
a Dios las gracias, ay! porque callemos, ¡ay!

Juan García de Zépedes (ca. 1619–1678)

Night gathers a pageant
Of musical bands
To sing praises
To the newborn babe.

Oh, how I burn, divine Lord,
In the beauty of your fair eyes!
Oh, how they shed a thousand stars
Of glorious, fiery tears!
Oh, the glory of Bethlehem, bright
With beams of sunlight and shafts of ice!
Oh, how his mother in the glass as she gazes,
Watches him grow in her mirror reflected!

Joyful and festive,
Some fair young people
Intone a playful air
To the steps of the guaracha.

With a guaracha we’ll fete him,
As the child wields to slumber!
So play then and dance as now we admire
The fire in the snow and the snow in the fire!
But oh, how the little one, laughing and crying,
Unites the two extremes at the very same time!
Peace on earth from heaven on high,
And glory to God, and thus make an end!
HYMN

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

The congregation standing

Mendelssohn

Felix Mendelssohn (1809–1847)

Adapted by William H. Cummings (1831–1915)

Descant by David Willcocks

1 Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the new-born King,
2 Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the ever-lasting Lord!
3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!

peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!
Late in time behold him come, off-spring of the Virgin’s womb.
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings,

Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see, hail the incarnate deity,
mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,

with the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.

Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the new-born King!”
A recording of the 105th Annual Christmas Carol Service is now available to download for free. Please visit our website at memorialchurch.harvard.edu for details.

**Clergy**

Professor Jonathan L. Walton, *Plummer Professor of Christian Morals and Pusey Minister*

The Reverend Dr. Lucy A. Forster-Smith, *Sedgwick Chaplain to Harvard University and Senior Minister*

The Reverend Alanna Copenhaver, *Ministry Fellow*

Adam Cory Vander Tuig MDiv III, *Seminarian*

Danny Ballon MTS II, *Seminarian*

Patrick Jackson MDiv II, *Seminarian and Student at Andover Newton Theological School*

Katherine Blaisdell MDiv III, *Worship Leader*

Sahar Shahid MDiv II, *Multifaith Engagement Intern*

Jorden Mikel Sharick MDiv ’15, *Graduate Intern*

**Harvard University Choir**

Edward Elwyn Jones, *Gund University Organist and Choirmaster*

Thomas Sheehan, *Assistant University Organist and Choirmaster*

Carson P. Cooman, *Research Associate in Music and Composer in Residence*

Joy Wang ’16, *Senior Choir Secretary*

Andy Troska ’17, *Junior Choir Secretary*

Frank Kelley, *Vocal Instructor*

Shannon Larkin, *Vocal Instructor*

Phoebe Carrai, *Director of the Harvard Baroque Chamber Orchestra*

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