



**Saturday  
12 December 2020**

**Order of Service**



THE ROYAL SCHOOL OF CHURCH MUSIC  
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## **THE RSCM BIG CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE 2020**

### **ORDER OF SERVICE**

## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to this very special, unique service, in a Christmas period like no other. Virtual services are now a common currency – impossible to imagine 12 months ago – but this one is different in that it is designed to encourage you to participate, as freely as you feel able. There may be a ban on congregational singing in churches, but singing along at home is actively to be welcomed.

This service is a result of a partnership between the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) and the Churches Conservation Trust (CCT); a team from the two organisations has worked very hard over a long period of time to enable the service to come to fruition: to all of them a sincere thank you is due. RSCM and CCT are both passionate about the central role of the parish church in community – as a place for people to use and love, to come together, and a place where music can provide a connection which brings those churches to life, not least in worship.

You can engage with this service in one of 3 ways:

1. Simply watch
2. Join in with the congregational carols
3. Sing with the choir – it's not too late to download the music pack from the RSCM webshop ([www.rscmshop.com](http://www.rscmshop.com))

You may be separated from your friends and family – but you can join in simultaneously with them, wherever you are – do encourage them to do so. You don't need to actually have this service in front of you to follow along; the words for the congregational carols are displayed on the screen (YouTube) or available as captions (Facebook).

The music was recorded specially in the church of All Saints, Cambridge, and the readings were recorded there also, as well as remotely. All Saints is in the care of the CCT, a jewel in the crown of the Arts and Crafts movement with a beautiful interior.

We are so grateful to all those who have given their time in support, most especially to our special guests for their contributions, and to the international choirs who have additionally added their voice to O come, all ye faithful. We are proud to unite people together in song from across the world and celebrate – yes, celebrate – Christmas together.

## Acknowledgements

The RSCM and Churches Conservation Trust wish to thank the following, without whose collaboration this would not have been possible; His Royal Highness, The Prince of Wales; the specially-assembled singers who made the recording sessions of the music a joyful and uplifting experience; the international choirs who have locked arms with us in sending in their submissions; John Rutter for agreeing to come and record his carol with the assembled choir; the readers and other contributors to the service who have so kindly given of their time; and all the other people who have worked to make this possible.

The organist for the service is Martyn Rawles, Organist and Assistant Director of Music of Lichfield Cathedral; the choir is conducted by Hugh Morris, RSCM Director.

**OPENING ORGAN VOLUNTARY: IN DULCI JUBILO**

Composed by Dieterich Buxtehude

played by HUGH MORRIS, Director of the RSCM

**INTRODUCTION BY HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS, THE PRINCE OF WALES**

**THE GATHERING**

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN: O come, O come, Emmanuel**

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here,  
until the Son of God appear:

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

2 O come, true branch of Jesse, free  
thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
from depths of hell thy people save,  
and give them victory o'er the grave:

3 O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
our spirits by thine advent here;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadows put to flight:

4 O come, thou Key of David, come,  
and open wide our heavenly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery:

5 O come, O come, thou Lord of Might,  
who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height,  
in ancient times didst give the law  
in cloud and majesty and awe:

JOHN MASON NEALE (1818–1866)  
*translated from* LATIN ADVENT ANTIPHONS

**BIDDING PRAYER**

THE VERY REVEREND DR JOHN HALL, Chair of RSCM Council

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 from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by this Holy Child.

But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace on earth and goodwill among all his 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 little children; all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

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.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the Throne of Heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us:

**All 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 Almighty God 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.

**All Amen.**

## **THE WORD OF GOD**

### **First Reading: Isaiah 9.2,6,7**

The prophecy of the Messiah's birth

Read by PETER AIERS – Chief Executive of the Churches Conservation Trust

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.

### **Carol: And the glory of the Lord**

from 'Messiah' – George Frederic Handel

**READING: Advent Calendar**

Rowan Williams

Read by THE RIGHT REVEREND DR ROWAN WILLIAMS

He will come like last leaf's fall.

One night when the November wind  
has flayed the trees to the bone, and earth  
wakes choking on the mould,  
the soft shroud's folding.

He will come like frost.

One morning when the shrinking earth  
opens on mist, to find itself  
arrested in the net  
of alien, sword-set beauty.

He will come like dark.

One evening when the bursting red  
December sun draws up the sheet  
and penny-masks its eye to yield  
the star-snowed fields of sky.

He will come, will come,  
will come like crying in the night,  
like blood, like breaking,  
as the earth writhes to toss him free.  
He will come like child.

**HYMN: O little town of Bethlehem**

- 1 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.
  
- 2 O morning stars, together  
    proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King,  
    and peace to all the earth.  
For Christ is born of Mary;  
    and, gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
    their watch of wondering love.
  
- 3 How silently, how silently,  
    the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
    the blessings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming;  
    but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still  
    the dear Christ enters in.
  
- 4 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.

PHILLIPS BROOKS (1835–1893)

**Second Reading: Luke 1.26–38**

The Annunciation to Mary

Read by MARGARET CASELY-HAYFORD – Chair of Shakespeare’s Globe Theatre

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. And he came to her and said, ‘Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.’ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.’ Mary said to the angel, ‘How can this be, since I am a virgin?’ The angel said to her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.’ Then Mary said, ‘Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.’ Then the angel departed from her.

**Carol: The first tree in the greenwood**

Composed by ALEXANDER L’ESTRANGE

**Third Reading: Luke 2.1–7**

The birth of Jesus

Read by HARRY L'ESTRANGE – Head Chorister, The Choir of St John's College, Cambridge

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

**HYMN: Once in royal David's city**

- 1 Once in royal David's city  
     stood a 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.
  
- 2 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.
  
- 3 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.

4 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.

CECIL FRANCES ALEXANDER (1818–1895)

#### **Fourth Reading: Luke 2.8–16**

The shepherds go to the manger

Read by ALEXANDER ARMSTRONG

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and 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 heaven,

and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

#### **Carol: What sweeter music**

Composed and Directed by JOHN RUTTER CBE

#### **Poem: Come count the signs of Christmas**

Written and read by THE RIGHT REVEREND TIMOTHY DUDLEY-SMITH OBE

**Carol: Shepherds are kneeling**

Composed by PETER NARDONE

**Fifth Reading: Matthew 2.1–11**

Wise men are led by the star to Jesus

Read by TIMOTHY BENTINCK MBE – Actor

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
 are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
 for from you shall come a ruler  
 who is to shepherd my people Israel." '

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

**HYMN: Silent night**

- 1 Silent night! Holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright  
round the virgin and her child:  
holy infant so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace;  
sleep in heavenly peace!
  
- 2 Silent night! Holy night!  
Shepherds quail at the sight,  
glory streams from heaven afar,  
heavenly hosts sing 'Alleluia,  
Christ the Saviour is born,  
Christ the Saviour is born!'
  
- 3 Silent night! Holy night!  
Son of God, love's pure light:  
radiant beams your holy face  
with the dawn of saving grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

STILLE NACHT! HEILIGE NACHT!  
JOSEPH MOHR (1792–1848)  
*translated by* JOHN FREEMAN YOUNG (1820–1885)

## **Sixth Reading: John 1.1–14**

The Incarnation of the Word of God

Read by THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THERESA MAY MP

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.

## **ADDRESS**

THE VERY REVEREND DR JOHN HALL

**OFFERTORY HYMN: O come, all ye faithful**

- 1 O come, all ye faithful,  
joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
come and adore him  
born the King of Angels:
- O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!*
- 2 God of God,  
Light of Light,  
lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
very God,  
begotten, not created:
- 3 See how the shepherds,  
summoned to his cradle,  
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;  
we too will thither  
bend our joyful footsteps:
- 4 Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
glory to God  
in the highest:

*O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!*

*Adeste, fideles*, (Latin, 18th century)  
translated by FREDERICK OAKELEY (1802–1880)  
and others

## THE PRAYERS

JOANNA FORBES L'ESTRANGE, RSCM Composer and

JENNY RINGO, Churches Conservation Trust Head of Fundraising and Membership

Christ, born in a stable,  
give courage to all who are homeless:

Jesus, Saviour,

**all hear our prayer.**

Christ, for whom the angels sang,  
give the song of the kingdom to all who weep:

Jesus, Saviour,

**all hear our prayer.**

Christ, worshipped by the shepherds,  
give peace on earth to all who are oppressed:

Jesus, Saviour,

**all hear our prayer.**

Christ, before whom the wise men knelt,  
give humility and wisdom to all who govern:

Jesus, Saviour,

**all hear our prayer.**

Christ, whose radiance filled a lowly manger,  
give the glory of your resurrection to all who rest in you:

Jesus, Saviour,

**all hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus Christ,  
Son of the Father,  
full of the Spirit,  
hear our prayer,  
receive our praises,  
fill our lives.

**all Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,  
let us pray in the words our Saviour gave us.

**all** Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who 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.

**THE DISMISSAL****HYMN: Hark! The herald angels sing**

- 1 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 the angelic host proclaim,  
 'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'

*Hark, the herald angels sing  
 glory to the new-born King.*

- 2 Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
 Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
 late in time behold him come,  
 offspring of a Virgin's womb!  
 Veiled in flesh the Godhead see:  
 Hail, the incarnate Deity,  
 pleased as man with us to dwell,  
 Jesus, our Emmanuel.
- 3 Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
 Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
 Light and life to all he brings,  
 risen with healing in his wings.  
 Mild he lays his glory by,  
 born that we no more may die,  
 born to raise the sons of earth,  
 born to give them second birth.

CHARLES WESLEY (1707–1788)  
 and others

**BLESSING**

given by THE RIGHT REVEREND TIMOTHY DUDLEY-SMITH

May the Father,  
who has loved the eternal Son from before the foundation of the world,  
shed that love upon you his children.

May Christ,  
who by his incarnation gathered things earthly and heavenly into one,  
fill you with his peace.

May the Holy Spirit,  
by whose overshadowing Mary became the Godbearer,  
give you grace to carry the good news of Christ.

And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be with you and those you love and for whom you pray  
this Christmas and for evermore.

**all Amen.**

**Organ Voluntary: Postlude on Mendelssohn**

Composed by David Willcocks

Played by HUGH MORRIS

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