



*A Service of Lessons
& Carols for Christmas*
from ST. THOMAS' CATHEDRAL
Mumbai

• CHRISTMAS EVE •
Thursday December 24, 2020 at 6 P.M.

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*This is a pre-recorded service which will be broadcast
on the Cathedral's YouTube channel.*

A SERVICE of LESSONS and CAROLS for CHRISTMAS

CHRISTMAS EVE 2020

Introductory remarks

By the Revd Avinash T. Rangayya

Hear the Revd Avinash Rangayya, the Presbyter of St Thomas' Cathedral remind us that much like the hardships of 2020, the first Christmas so many years ago was also not an easy one. The Christ Child came in our midst to be one with us in our pain and suffering.

Let us hear again in scripture and song the story of the Nativity of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Let us in heart and mind go 'to see this thing which is come to pass and the Babe lying in a manger'. May the gift of the Christ Child renew in us again the feelings of comfort and joy.

"Once in Royal David's City"

Hymn

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.

Words: Mrs. C. F. Alexander (1818 - 1895)

Music: Henry John Gauntlet (1805 - 1876)

The Bidding Prayer

The Presbyter

BELOVED IN CHRIST, be it this Christmas time our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels; 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.

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. Yet first, because this of all things would rejoice Jesus' heart, let us pray to him for the needs of the whole world, and of all people; for peace upon the earth he came to save; for love and unity within the Church he did build; for good-will among all the nations of the earth.

And particularly at this time let us remember the poor, the cold, the hungry, the oppressed; the sick and those who mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and little children; and all 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 all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we forevermore are one.

All reply **Amen.**

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ Himself hath taught us:

**Our Father, who 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 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 Presbyter says

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 reply **Amen.**

“O Holy Night”

Song

O HOLY NIGHT! The stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of the dear Saviour's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till 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! Oh, hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born;
O night, O holy night, O night divine!*

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! Then ever, ever praise we,
His power and glory evermore proclaim!
His power and glory evermore proclaim!*

*Words: Cappeau De Roquemaure (1808 - 1877)
Music: Adolphe Adam (1803 - 1856)*

The First Lesson

Isaiah 9

The prophet foretells the coming of the Saviour.

THE PEOPLE that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon His kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgement and with justice from hence-forth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

Reader This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

“Unto us a boy is born”

Carol

Unto us a boy is born!
King of all creation,
Came he to a world forlorn,
The Lord of every nation.

Cradled in a stall was he
With sleepy cows and asses;
But the very beasts could see
That He all men surpasses.

Herod then with fear was filled:
"A prince," he said, "in Jewry!"
All the little boys he killed
At Bethlehem in his fury.

Now may Mary's Son, who came
So long ago to love us,
Lead us all with hearts aflame
Unto the joys above us.

Omega and Alpha He!
Let the organ thunder,
While the choir with peals of glee
Doth rend the air asunder.

Piae Cantiones, 1582 (arr. Geoffrey Shaw)

The Angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

AND IN the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the Virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His father David: and He shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of His Kingdom there shall be no end. Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

Reader This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Angels' Carol

Have you heard the sound
of the angel voices
ringing out so sweetly,
ringing out so clear?
Have you seen the star
shining out so brightly
as a sign from God
that Christ the Lord is here?

Have you heard the news
that they bring from heaven
To the humble shepherds
who have waited long?
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Hear the angels sing their joyful song.

He is come in peace
in the winter's stillness,
like a gentle snowfall
in the gentle night;
He is come in joy
like the sun at morning
filling all the world
with radiance and with light.

He is come in love
as the child of Mary;
In a simple stable
we have seen his birth:
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Hear the angels singing:
'Peace on earth'.

He will bring new light
to a world in darkness
like a bright star shining
in the skies above.
He will bring new hope
to the waiting nations
when he comes to reign
in purity and love.

Let the earth rejoice
at the Saviour's coming
let the heavens answer
with the joyful morn:
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Hear the angels singing 'Christ is born'.

John Rutter (b. 1945)

“Away in a manger”

Carol

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head:
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven, to live with Thee there.

Words: Anonymous 19th cent.
Music: W. J. Kirkpatrick (1838 - 1921)
Arr. David Willcocks

The Third Lesson

St Luke 2

St Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

AND IT came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Cæsar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. 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 Judæa, 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.

Reader This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Calypso Carol

See him lying on a bed of straw:
draughty stable with an open door;
Mary cradling the babe she bore
the prince of glory is his name.

*O now carry me to Bethlehem
to see the Lord appear again:
just as poor as was the stable then,
the prince of glory when he came.*

Michael Perry (1942 - 1996)

“Angels we have heard on high”

Carol

Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echo back their joyous strains.

Refrain Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be
Which inspire your heavenly song?

Traditional French carol

The shepherds go to the manger.

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.

Reader This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

“In the bleak mid-winter”

Carol

In the bleak mid-winter
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 mid-winter
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 mid-winter
A stable-place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty —
Jesus Christ.

Enough for Him, whom Cherubim
Worship night and day,
A heart full of mirth
And a manger full of hay;
Enough for Him, whom Angels
Fall down 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: Christina Rossetti (1830 - 1894)
Music: Harold Darke (1888 - 1976)

The wise men are led by a star to Jesus.

NOW WHEN Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judæa 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 Judæa: for thus it is writ-ten 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, inquired 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 be-fore 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.

Reader This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

“We three kings”

Carol

We three kings of Orient are;
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.

Refrain O star of wonder, star of light,
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:

Frankincense to offer have I;
Incense owns a deity nigh;
Prayer and praising, all men raising,
Worship Him God on high:

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

John Hopkins Jr. (1820 - 1891)

St. John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

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: who 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.

Reader This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

“Joy to the World”

Carol

Joy to the world, the Lord has come
Let earth receive her King
Let every heart prepare Him room
And heaven and nature sing.

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

Words: Isaac Watts (1674 - 1748)
Music: George F. Handel (1685 - 1757)
arr. Lowell Mason

The Collect

The Presbyter The Lord be with you.

All And with thy spirit.

The Presbyter Let us pray.

O GOD, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All Amen.

“Holy night! Peaceful night”

Song

Holy night! peaceful night!
Through the darkness beams a light;
Yonder, where they sweet vigil keep
O'er the Babe, who, in silent sleep
Rests in heavenly peace.

Joseph Barnby (1838 - 1896)

The Blessing

The Presbyter

CHRIST who by His incarnation gathered into one all things in heaven and on earth,
fill you with His joy and peace;
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

“Silent night”

Carol

Silent night, holy night
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin Mother and Child
Holy infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight!
Glories stream from heaven afar;
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Saviour is born!

Words: Josephus Mohr (1792 - 1948)

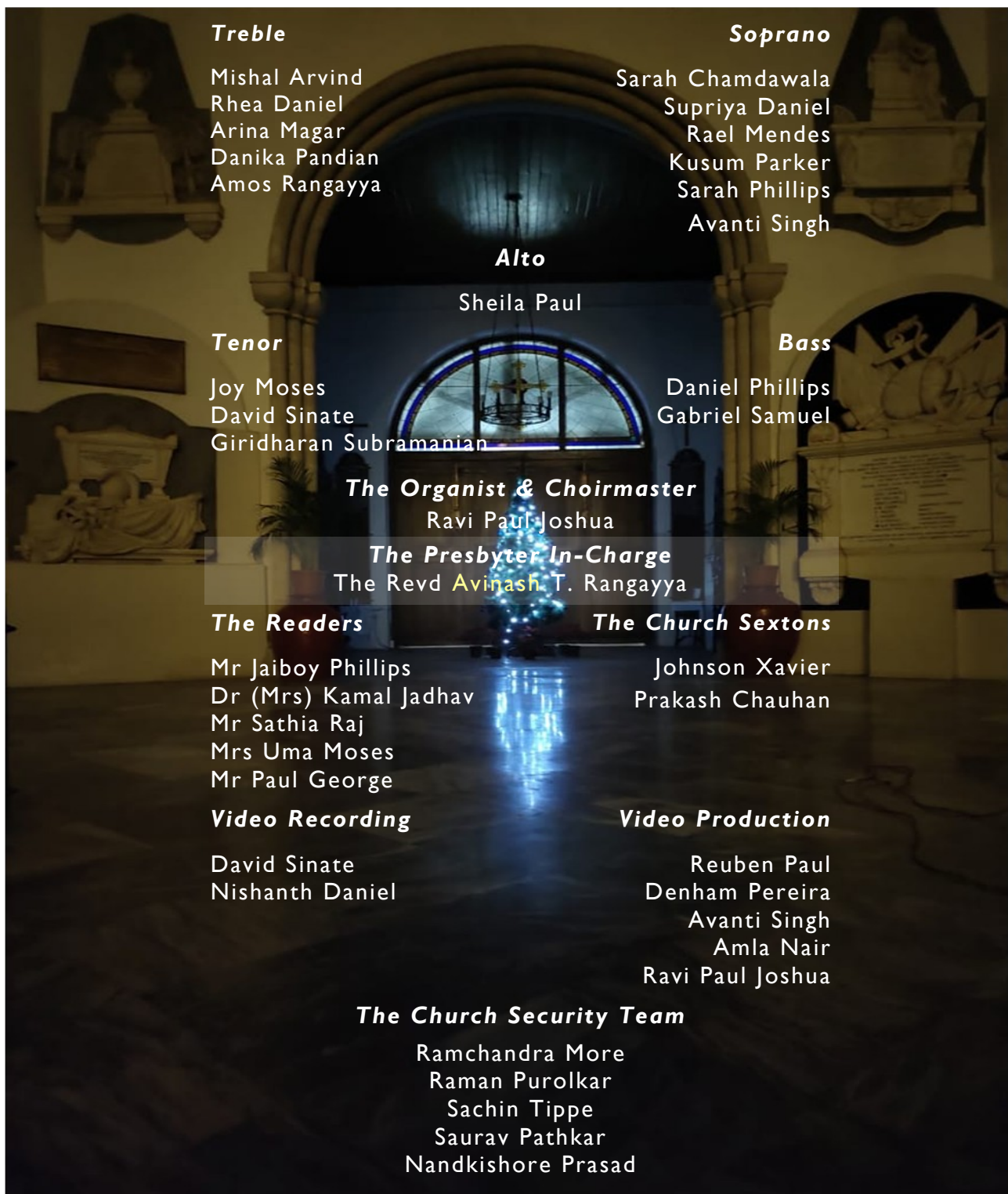
Music: Franz Grüber (1787 - 1863)

*Fantasia on “In Dulci Jubilo”
 (“In sweet jubilation”)*

Postlude

J.S. Bach, BWV 729 (1685 - 1750)

We express our gratitude to all those who have contributed to the recording of this service.



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Amos Rangayya

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Tenor
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