

NEW COLLEGE CHAPEL



A Service of  
Readings and Music  
for the Season of Christmas

SUNDAY 4 DECEMBER, 2011

3.00 p.m.

**Nativity**

Immensity cloister'd in thy dear womb,  
Now leaves his well-belov'd imprisonment,  
There he hath made himself to his intent  
Weak enough, now into our world to come;  
But O, for thee, for him, hath th' inn no room?  
Yet lay him in this stall, and from the Orient,  
Stars, and wise men will travel to prevent  
The effect of Herod's jealous general doom.  
See'st thou, my Soul, with thy faith's eyes, how he  
Which fills all place, yet none holds him, doth lie?  
Was not his pity towards thee wondrous high,  
That would have need to be pitied by thee?  
Kiss him, and with him into Egypt go,  
With his kind mother, who partakes thy woe.

From *La Corona* by John Donne (1572–1631)

ORGAN MUSIC BEFORE THE SERVICE

|   |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| <i>Wir Christenleut</i> (BWV 612)<br><i>Christum wir sollen loben schon</i> (BWV 611)                     | J. S. Bach (1685–1750)          |
| <i>Adeste fideles</i> (Cathedral Windows, no. 4)<br><i>Resonet in laudibus</i> (Cathedral Windows, no. 3) | Sigfried Karg-Elert (1877–1933) |
| <i>Les Bergers</i> (La Nativité)<br><i>Desseins éternels</i> (La Nativité)                                | Olivier Messiaen (1908–1992)    |
| <i>Noël</i> (Esquisses Byzantines, no. 8)   | Henri Mulet (1878–1967)         |

ORDER OF SERVICE

**The congregation remains seated in silence as the choir and clergy process from the vestry into the antechapel.**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| MOTET<br><i>Deus qui claro lumine</i>   | Music by Cecilia McDowall (b. 1951)  |
| <i>Deus qui claro lumine<br/>diem fecisti, Domine,<br/>tuam rogamus gloriam,<br/>dum pronus dies volvitur.</i>          | God, who created<br>the clear light of day,<br>we celebrate thy glory, Lord,<br>at the going down of the sun.                      |
| <i>Iam sol urgente vespero<br/>occasum suum graditur<br/>mundum concludens tenebris<br/>suum observans ordinem.</i>     | Now the evening sun swiftly sets,<br>enfolding the world in darkness<br>according to his ordained path.                            |
| <i>Tu vero, excelse Domine,<br/>precantes tuos famulos<br/>diurnos lassos opera<br/>ne sinas umbris opprimi.</i>        | Truly, Almighty Lord, you do not<br>allow your supplicating servants<br>to be oppressed by the darkness<br>of their daily labours. |
| <i>Ut non fuscatis mentibus<br/>dies abscedat saeculi<br/>sed tua tecti gratia<br/>cernamus lucem prosperam.</i>        | Let not the light of day<br>depart from our confused minds,<br>but let us, shielded by thy grace,<br>perceive thy kindly light.    |
| <i>Praesta, Pater piissime,<br/>Patrique compar unice,<br/>cum Spiritu Paraclito<br/>regnas per omne saeculum. Amen</i> | Be near, Almighty God,<br>Father, and Holy Spirit,<br>and reign over us for evermore.<br>Amen                                      |

**All stand for the introduction and opening prayers.**

Chaplain Since Christ the Light of the World has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts and lives: grace be with you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**All And also with you.**

Chaplain 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; for unity and fellowship within the Church he came to build, and especially in this city and diocese of Oxford, and in this University and College.

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 those 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 one 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.

Chaplain  
**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.**

Chaplain

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.**

**All sit.**

CAROL

*What sweeter music*

Music by Richard Rodney Bennett (b. 1936)

What sweeter music can we bring  
Than a carol, for to sing  
The birth of this our heav'nly King?  
Awake the voice! Awake the string!

*We see him come, and know him ours,  
Who, with his sunshine and his showers,  
Turns all the patient ground to flowers.*

Dark and dull night, fly hence away,  
And give the honour to this day  
That sees December turned to May.  
If we may ask the reason, say:

*We see him come, and know him ours,  
Who, with his sunshine and his showers,  
Turns all the patient ground to flowers.*

The darling of the world is come,  
And fit it is, we find a room  
To welcome him. The nobler part  
Of all the house here, is the heart.

*We see him come, and know him ours,  
Who, with his sunshine and his showers,  
Turns all the patient ground to flowers.*

Which we will give him: and bequeath  
This holly, and this ivy wreath.  
To do him honour, who's our King,  
And Lord of all this revelling.

Words: Robert Herrick (1591–1674)

All stand for the HYMN, as the choir and clergy process into the chapel. The first verse is sung by the choir alone.

**Choir**

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;  
When like stars his children crowned  
All in white shall wait around.**

At the end of the hymn, all sit for the lesson.

THE FIRST LESSON  
*The Prophetic Call*

Micah 5: 2–4

Reader: the Warden

MOTET  
*Virga Jesse*

Music by Anton Bruckner (1824–1896)

*Virga Jesse floruit:  
Virgo Deum et hominem genuit:  
pacem Deus reddidit,  
in se reconcilians ima summis. Alleluia.*

The rod of Jesse hath blossomed:  
a Virgin hath brought forth God and man:  
God hath restored peace,  
reconciling in Himself the lowest with the highest.  
Alleluia.

CHORUS  
*And the glory of the Lord*

Music by G. F. Handel (1685–1759)

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,  
and all flesh shall see it together;  
for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

THE SECOND LESSON  
*The Coming of the Glory of the Lord*

Isaiah 60: 1–6, 19

Reader: the Sub-Warden

CAROLS  
*Wolcum Yole*

Music by Benjamin Britten (1913–1976)

Wolcum, Wolcum,  
Wolcum be thou hevenè king,  
Wolcum, Yole!  
Wolcum, born in one morning,  
Wolcum, for whom we sall sing!

Wolcum be ye, Stevene and Jon,  
Wolcum, Innocentes every one,  
Wolcum, Thomas marter one,  
Wolcum be ye, good New Yere,  
Wolcum Twelfth Day both in fere,  
Wolcum seintes lefe and dere.

Candelmesse, quene of bliss,  
Wolcum bothe to more and lesse.  
Wolcum be ye that are here,  
Wolcum alle and make good cheer.  
Wolcum alle another yere.

*There is no rose*

Music by Benjamin Britten

There is no rose of such vertu,  
As is the rose that bare Jesu.  
*Alleluia.*

For in this rose containèd was  
Heaven and earth in litel space.  
*Res miranda. [A marvellous thing]*

By that rose we may well see  
There be one God in persons three,  
*Pares forma. [Equal in form]*

The aungels sungen the shepherds to:  
*Gloria in excelsis Deo.*  
*Gaudeamus.* [Let us rejoice]

Leave we all this werdly mirth,  
And follow we this joyful birth.  
*Transeamus.* [Let us go forth]

THE THIRD LESSON  
*The Annunciation*

Luke 1: 26–38

Reader: A Fellow

CAROLS  
*That yongë child*

Music by Benjamin Britten

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.

*Balulalow*

Music by Benjamin Britten

O my deare hert, young Jesu sweet,  
Prepare thy creddil in my spreit,  
And I sall rock thee to my hert,  
And never mair from thee depart.

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

The congregation then stands to sing the HYMN.

1. 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:  
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:

After the hymn, all sit for the lesson.

THE FOURTH LESSON  
*The Birth of Jesus*

Luke 2: 1–7

Reader: a member of the college staff

CAROLS

*In freezing winter night*

Music by Benjamin Britten

Behold, a silly tender babe,  
In freezing winter night,  
In homely manger trembling lies  
Alas, a piteous sight!

The inns are full, no man will yield  
This little pilgrim bed.  
But forced he is with silly beasts  
In crib to shroud his head.

This stable is a Prince's court,  
This crib his chair of State;  
The beasts are parcel of his pomp,  
The wooden dish his plate.

The persons in that poor attire  
His royal liveries wear:  
The Prince himself is come from heav'n;  
This pomp is prizèd there.

With joy approach, O Christian wight!  
Do homage to thy King,  
And highly praise this humble pomp  
Which He from heaven doth bring.

Words: Robert Southwell (1561? –1595)

*Deo gracias*

Music by Benjamin Britten

*Deo gracias! Deo gracias!*  
Adam lay ibounden, bounden in a bond,  
Four thousand winter thought he not to long.

And all was for an appil,  
An appil that he tok,  
As clerkès finden written in their book.

Ne had the appil takè been,  
The appil takè been,  
Ne haddè never our lady  
A ben hevenè queen.

Blessèd be the time  
That appil takè was.  
Therefore we moun singen,  
*Deo gracias! Deo gracias!*

THE FIFTH LESSON  
*The Shepherds and the Angels*

Luke 2: 8–20

Reader: a post-graduate

CAROL

*Illuminare, Jerusalem*

Music by Judith Weir (b. 1954)

Jerusalem rejos for joy:  
Jesus, the sterne of most beauty,  
In thee is rissin as richtous roy,  
Fro dirkness to illumine thee.  
With glorious sound of angel glee  
Thy prince is born in Bethlehem  
Which sall thee mak of thralldome free:  
*Illuminare, Jerusalem.*

With angellis licht in legionis  
Thou art illuminit all about.  
Three kingis of strange region-is  
To thee are cumin with lusty rout.  
All drest with dyamantis,  
Reverst with gold in ev'ry hem,  
Sounding attoneis with a shout:  
*Illuminare, Jerusalem.*

The regeand tirant that in thee rang,  
Herod, is exileit and his offspring,  
The land of Juda that josit wrang,  
And rissin is now thy richtous king.  
So he so mychtie is and digne,  
When men his glorious name does nem,  
Heaven, erd and hell mak-is inclyning:  
*Illuminare, Jerusalem.*

MOTET

*O magnum mysterium*

Music by Morten Lauridsen (b. 1943)

*O magnum mysterium et admirabile sacramentum,  
ut animalia viderunt Dominum natum,  
iacentem in praesepio!  
Beata Virgo, cuius viscera meruerunt  
portare Dominum Christum. Alleluia!*

O great mystery, and wondrous sacrament,  
that animals should see the new-born Lord,  
lying in their manger!  
Blessed is the Virgin whose womb was worthy  
to bear the Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia!

THE SIXTH LESSON  
*The Visit of the Magi*

Matthew 2: 1-12

Reader: a chorister

CAROL  
*The Magi*

Music by Andrew Carter (b. 1939)

Came three kings a-questing  
Caspar, Melchior, Balthazar,  
Ever seeking, never resting,  
Hasting t'ward the Star,  
Caspar, Melchior, Balthazar.  
*Gold brought one,  
Gold brought Caspar,  
Kneeling in worship.*

Came three wise men yearning,  
Caspar, Melchior, Balthazar,  
Through the desert wending, turning,  
Onward with the Star,  
Caspar, Melchior, Balthazar.  
*Myrrh brought one,  
Myrrh brought Melchior,  
Kneeling in worship.*

Came three sages winding,  
Caspar, Melchior, Balthazar,  
Hoping, trusting, searching, finding  
Peace beneath the Star,  
Caspar, Melchior, Balthazar.  
*Frankincense brought one,  
Frankincense brought Balthazar,  
Kneeling in worship.*

May we with the magi kneeling,  
Caspar, Melchior, Balthazar,  
Find in faith your love and healing:  
*Christ, the Morning Star,*  
*Christ, the Morning Star.*

Words: Andrew Carter

CAROL  
*What cheer?*

Music by Rhian Samuel (b. 1944)

*What cheer? Good cheer!*  
*Be merry and glad this good New Year!*

Lift up your hearts and be glad  
In Christ's birth, the angel bade,  
Say each to other if any be sad: *What cheer?*

Now the king of Heav'n his birth hath take  
Say each to other for his sake,  
Joy and mirth we ought to make, *What cheer?*

The good man of this place as one,  
You to be merry he prayeth you here,  
And with good heart he doth you say: *What cheer?*

I tell you all, with heart so free,  
Right welcome ye be to me  
Be glad and merry, for charity,  
And with good heart, we do to you say:  
*What cheer? Good cheer, good cheer, good cheer!*  
*Be merry and glad this good New Year!*

All stand for the HYMN.

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 men on 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.

**All remain standing for the lesson.**

THE SEVENTH LESSON  
*The Mystery of the Word*

John 1: 1-14

Reader: the Chaplain

**All sit.**

CAROL

*Tomorrow shall be my dancing day*

Music: trad.,  
arr. Edward Higginbottom (b. 1946)

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day;  
I would my true love did so chance  
To see the legend of my play,  
To call my true love to my dance;  
*Sing, oh! my love, oh! my love, my love, my love,  
This have I done for my true love.*

Then was I born of a virgin pure;  
Of her I took fleshly substance.  
Thus was I knit to man's nature,  
To call my true love to my dance.

In a manger laid, and wrapped I was,  
So very poor, this was my chance,  
Betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass,  
To call my true love to my dance.

Then afterwards baptized I was;  
The Holy Ghost on me did glance,  
My Father's voice heard from above  
To call my true love to my dance.

CAROL

*Sussex Carol*

Music: trad., arr. David Willcocks (b. 1919)

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!'

**All stand for the final prayers.**

PRAYER & BLESSING

Chaplain Almighty and everliving God,  
you have given us a new revelation of your love  
in the coming of your son Jesus Christ  
to be born of the Virgin Mary.  
Grant that as he shared our mortality,  
so we may share his eternity in the glory of your  
kingdom; where he lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

Chaplain Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one  
things earthly and heavenly,  
fill you with peace and goodwill  
and make you partakers of the divine nature;  
and the blessing of God Almighty  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be upon you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

Chaplain As we go forth in peace may our lives reveal God's  
Word made flesh.

All **Thanks be to God.**

All remain standing to sing the final HYMN.

1. Of the Father's heart begotten,  
Ere the world from chaos rose,  
He is Alpha: from that Fountain,  
All that is and hath been flows;  
He is Omega, of all things  
Yet to come the mystic Close,  
*Evermore and evermore.*

2. O how blest that wondrous birthday,  
When the Maid the curse retrieved,  
Brought to birth mankind's salvation,  
By the Holy Ghost conceived;  
And the Babe, the world's Redeemer,  
In her loving arms received,  
*Evermore and evermore.*

3. This is he, whom seer and sibyl  
Sang in ages long gone by;  
This is he of old revealèd  
In the page of prophecy;  
Lo! He comes, the promised Saviour;  
Let the world his praises cry!  
*Evermore and evermore.*

4. Sing, ye heights of heaven, his praises;  
Angels and Archangels, sing!  
Wheresoe'er ye be, ye faithful,  
Let your joyous anthems ring;  
Every tongue his name confessing,  
Countless voices answering,  
*Evermore and evermore.*

The congregation remains standing as the clergy and choir process  
from the chapel.

ORGAN MUSIC AFTER THE SERVICE

*Nun danket alle Gott*  
*Dieu parmi nous* (La Nativité)

Sigfrid Karg-Elert  
Olivier Messiaen

*There will be a collection at the door for the following:*

***Hope for Children***  
***[www.hope-for-children.org](http://www.hope-for-children.org)***

This summer Charles MacRae, a third-year undergraduate in New College, reading classics, will be cycling 360 miles over 6 days in August to raise money for *Hope for Children*.

His route is 'Cycle the Cape', in South Africa, and ends at the Cape of Good Hope. It includes some days of hard ascents up mountains, and days of up to 80 miles in order to compensate for the climbing. The 'Cape of Good Hope' fittingly ties in with the name of the charity, which helps some of the most deprived children in the world: for example, the street children in Uganda and the Philippines. In addition to raising £2400, Charles will need to train hard on a bike in order to complete what will be a gruelling physical challenge, in which he will be accompanied by his brother.

The chapel community hopes that your generosity will support Charles's endeavour.