



*Royal Holloway Chapel*  
**A Service of Lessons and Carols**  
*4<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> December 2021*

## *Introduction*

Welcome to the Chapel of Royal Holloway, University of London, for this celebration of Christmas through readings and music.

The angels' song to the shepherds declares 'Glory to God in the Highest, and peace to all people on earth.' And so it is our joy to welcome representatives of the Jewish and Islamic faiths, to this service, acknowledging our shared heritage as well as our differences.

The Multifaith Chaplaincy works to represent and support people of all faiths in University life, and to build relationships and understanding among different faith groups. This is reflected in our choices of readings and readers.

We hope that, whatever your beliefs, you will find joy and inspiration in the music and readings this evening, and that in our celebration you may know the light of God's love for you, revealed in the person of Jesus, and be strengthened to share that love with others.

*The Revd Dr Orion Edgar, Anglican Chaplain  
Fr John Dickson, Roman Catholic Chaplain*

**Please ensure that all mobile phones are switched off before the service begins.**

## **Organ Music before the Service**

Concerto in B minor – Signor Meck, arr Johann Gottfried Walther (1684–1748)

Three Advent chorale preludes by J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme - BWV 645

Kommst du nun - BWV 650

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland - BWV 659

*Played by George Nicholls, Senior Organ Scholar*

*All STAND when the choir and ministers enter*

## Hymn: Once in Royal David's City

### *Solo*

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.

4. 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.

### *Choir*

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.

5. 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.

Music: Henry John Gauntlett, arr. Mann & Willcocks  
Words: C.F. Alexander

### *All*

3. And through all his wondrous  
childhood  
he would honour and obey,  
love and watch the gentle  
mother  
in whose tender arms he lay;  
Christian children all must be  
Mild, obedient, good as he.

## Welcome

*The congregation are invited to SIT.*

## Bidding Prayer

# Adam lay ybounden

## *The choir sing*

*Adam lay ybounden,  
Bounden in a bond;  
Four thousand winter,  
Thought he not too long.*

*And all was for an apple,  
An apple that he took.  
As clerkes finden,  
Written in their book.*

*Ne had the apple taken been,  
The apple taken been,  
Ne had never our ladie,  
Abeen heav'ne queen.*

*Blessed be the time  
That apple taken was,  
Therefore we moun singen.  
Deo gratias!*

Music: Boris Ord (1897-1961)  
Text: Anonymous English 15<sup>th</sup> century

## First Reading: **God's Promise of Peace**

### *Isaiah 40.1-11*

## **This is the truth sent from above**

### *The choir sing*

*This is the truth sent from above,  
The truth of God, the God of love,  
Therefore don't turn me from your door,  
But hearken all both rich and poor.*

*The first thing which I do relate  
Is that God did man create;  
The next thing which to you I'll tell  
Woman was made with man to dwell.*

*Thus we were heirs to endless woes,  
Till God the Lord did interpose;*

*And so a promise soon did run  
That he would redeem us by his Son*

*And at that season of the year  
Our blest Redeemer did appear;  
He here did live, and here did preach,  
And many thousands he did teach.*

*Thus he in love to us behaved,  
To show us how we must be saved;  
And if you want to know the way,  
Be pleased to hear what he did say.*

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

# Hymn: O Little Town of Bethlehem

*We STAND to sing*

*All*

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. For Christ is born of Mary,  
and gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep,  
the angels keep  
their watch of wond'ring love.  
O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth!  
And praises sing to God the King,  
and peace to men on earth.

*Choir*

3. How silently, how silently,  
the wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of his heav'n.  
No ear may hear his coming,  
but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will  
receive him still,  
the dear Christ enters in.

*All*

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!

*Music: Trad. Eng., arr. Vaughan Williams, descant by David Willcocks  
Words: Philips Brooks*

*Please BE SEATED after the hymn.*

## Second Reading: God purifies his people

*Malachi 3.1-5*

# The Holly and the Ivy

## *The choir sing*

*The holly and the ivy,  
When they are both full grown,  
Of all the trees that are in the wood,  
The holly bears the crown.  
The rising of the sun  
And the running of the deer,  
The playing of the merry organ,  
Sweet singing in the choir.*

*The holly bears a blossom,  
As white as the lily flower,  
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ,  
To be our sweet Saviour.  
The rising of the sun  
And the running of the deer,  
The playing of the merry organ,  
Sweet singing in the choir.*

*The holly bears a berry,  
As red as any blood,  
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ  
For to do us sinners good.  
The rising of the sun  
And the running of the deer,  
The playing of the merry organ,  
Sweet singing in the choir.*

*The holly bears a prickly,  
As sharp as any thorn,  
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ  
On Christmas Day in the morn.  
The rising of the sun  
And the running of the deer,  
The playing of the merry organ,  
Sweet singing in the choir.*

*The holly bears a bark,  
As bitter as any gall,  
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ  
For to redeem us all.  
The rising of the sun  
And the running of the deer,  
The playing of the merry organ,  
Sweet singing in the choir.*

*The holly and the ivy,  
When they are both full grown,  
Of all the trees that are in the wood,  
The holly bears the crown.  
The rising of the sun  
And the running of the deer,  
The playing of the merry organ,  
Sweet singing in the choir.*

Traditional, arr. Ola Gjeilo (b. 1978)

## Third Reading: An angel appears to Mary

*Qu'ran 19.16–21*

# Hymn: The Angel Gabriel

*We STAND to sing*

1 The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
With wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame.  
"All hail," said he, "O lowly maiden Mary,  
Most highly favored lady." Gloria!

2 "How blest among all women you shall be,  
Whom ev'ry age will praise continually.  
Your Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,  
"Most highly favored lady." Gloria!

3 Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head.  
"To me be as it pleases God," she said.  
"My soul shall laud and magnify God's holy name."  
Most highly favored lady. Gloria!

4 Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born  
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn.  
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:  
"Most highly favored lady." Gloria!

*Please BE SEATED after the hymn.*

## A Spotless Rose

*The Choir sing*

*A spotless Rose is blowing,  
Sprung from a tender root,  
Of ancient seers' foreshowing,  
Of Jesse promised fruit;  
Its fairest bud unfolds to light  
And in the dark midnight,  
Amid the winter cold,  
A spotless Rose unfolds.*

*The Rose which I am singing,  
Whereof Isaiah said,  
Is from its sweet root springing,  
In Mary, purest Maid;  
For, through our God's great love and  
might,  
And in the dark midnight,  
Amid the winter cold,  
The blesse'd Babe she bare.*

# Fourth Reading: The birth of Jesus

*Luke 2. 1; 3-7*

## Before the paling of the stars

*The choir sing*

*Before the paling of the stars,  
Before the winter morn,  
Before the earliest cock crow,  
Jesus Christ was born:  
Born in a stable,  
Cradled in a manger,  
In the world his hands had made  
Born a stranger.  
Priest and king lay fast asleep  
In Jerusalem;  
Young and old lay fast asleep  
In crowded Bethlehem;*

*Saint and angel, ox and ass,  
Kept a watch together  
Before the Christmas daybreak  
In the winter weather.  
Jesus on his mother's breast  
In the stable cold,  
Spotless lamb of God was he,  
Shepherd of the fold:  
Let us kneel with Mary maid,  
With Joseph bent and hoary,  
With saint and angel, ox and ass,  
To hail the King of Glory.*

Cecilia McDowall (b. 1951)

## The Sussex Carol

*On Christmas night all Christians sing  
To hear the news the angels bring  
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  
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  
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  
All out of darkness we have light  
Which made the angels sing this night  
Glory to God and peace to men  
Now and forever more, Amen.*

Traditional, arr. David Willcocks (1919-2015)

# Fifth Reading: **Good News told to Shepherds**

*Luke 2.8–16*

## **While Shepherds Watched**

*We STAND to sing*

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 all mankind"

"To you, in David's town this day  
Is born of David's line  
The 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 on the earth be peace  
Goodwill henceforth from heaven to men  
Begin and never cease.

*Please BE SEATED after the hymn*



# Il est né le divin enfant

## *The choir sing*

*Il est né le divin enfant,  
Jouez hautbois, résonnez musettes !  
Il est né le divin enfant,  
Chantons tous son avènement !*

*He is born, the Heav'nly Child,  
Oboes play; set bagpipes sounding.  
He is born, the Heav'nly Child,  
Let all sing His nativity.*

*Depuis plus de quatre mille ans,  
Nous le promettaient les prophètes  
Depuis plus de quatre mille ans,  
Nous attendions cet heureux temps.  
Il est né le divin enfant...*

*'Tis four thousand years and more,  
Prophets have foretold His coming.  
'Tis four thousand years and more,  
Have we waited this happy hour.  
He is born, the Heav'nly Child...*

*Ah ! Qu'il est beau, qu'il est charmant !  
Ah ! que ses grâces sont parfaites !  
Ah ! Qu'il est beau, qu'il est charmant !  
Qu'il est doux ce divin enfant !  
Il est né le divin enfant...*

*Ah, how lovely, Ah, how fair,  
What perfection is His graces.  
Ah, how lovely, Ah, how fair,  
Child divine, so gentle there.  
He is born, the Heav'nly Child...*

*Une étable est son logement  
Un peu de paille est sa couchette,  
Une étable est son logement  
Pour un dieu quel abaissement !  
Il est né le divin enfant...*

*In a stable lodged is He,  
Straw is all He has for cradle.  
In a stable lodged is He,  
Oh how great humility!  
He is born, the Heav'nly Child...*

*O Jésus ! O Roi tout-puissant  
Tout petit enfant que vous êtes,  
O Jésus ! O Roi tout-puissant,  
Régnez sur nous entièrement !  
Il est né le divin enfant...*

*Jesus Lord, O King with power,  
Though a little babe You come here.  
Jesus Lord, O King with power,  
Rule o'er us from this glad hour.  
He is born, the Heav'nly Child...*

Trad. French ,arr. John Rutter (b. 1945)

## The Sixth Reading: **Malcolm Guite: Epiphany**

# Seeing the Star

## *The choir sing*

*Seeing the star, the Wise Men rejoiced with great joy,  
And entering the house they offered the Lord gold, incense and myrrh.*

Music: Ben Ponniah (b. 1984) *First performance*

Text: *Vesper Antiphon for Epiphany*

## Hymn: O Come All Ye Faithful

### *We STAND to sing*

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;  
*O come let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord.*

3. Lo! star-led chieftains,  
Magi, Christ adoring,  
Offer him incense, gold and myrrh;  
we to the Christ child  
bring our heart's oblations;  
*O come let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord.*

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*

Music: John Francis Wade (1711-1786), descant by David Willcocks

Words: trans. F. Oakley, W.T. Brook and others

*Please REMAIN STANDING for the gospel reading.*

# Seventh Reading: The word became flesh

*John 1.1–14*

## Tomorrow shall be my Dancing Day

*Please BE SEATED as the choir sing*

*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, O my love, O 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:*

Traditional Cornish, arr. Louis Halsey (b. 1929)

## Hymn: Hark, the Herald Angels Sing

*We STAND to 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 man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
*Hark, the herald angels sing  
glory to the new-born King.*

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 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.*

Music: Felix Mendelssohn. Verse 3 arr. David Willcocks  
Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788) and others

*Please REMAIN STANDING.*

## **Final Prayers and Blessing**

### **Organ Voluntary: In dulci jubilo**

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

*Followed by improvisation on Gregorian Christmas melodies,  
by George Nicholls, Senior Organ Scholar*

CD recordings of the College Choir will be available for purchase at the back of the chapel after the service.

Please speak to one of the sellers or visit their website for more information:

[www.chapelchoir.co.uk](http://www.chapelchoir.co.uk)

For information on services in the Chapel at Royal Holloway:  
find us on Facebook at Royal Holloway Chaplaincy.

[www.rhul.ac.uk/chaplaincy](http://www.rhul.ac.uk/chaplaincy)



**The Chaplaincy & Choirs of Royal Holloway**  
Wish you a joyful Christmas Season  
And a peaceful new year

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