

The Cantata Singers



Candlelight Service for Advent

Sunday, December 6, 1987

Grace Church, Elmira

THE CANTATA SINGERS

William O. Payne III, Music Director

Welcome to Grace Church and the Cantata Singers Advent program. As you will note, this year the Singers are incorporating their music into a service of Evensong (the sung version of Evening Prayer) and our audience therefore becomes a congregation. We ask that you join us in worship by making the responses where indicated and by joining in the singing of the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and all three hymns. Of course, if you are not comfortable doing so, please feel free to just listen and enjoy.

Service of Light and Evensong

Second Sunday of Advent

Introit: Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Edward C. Bairstow

(After the choir enters, all stand and the officiant greets the people with these words)

Priest: Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God

(The officiant reads a short lesson, the Prayer for Light, and the Advent collect)

2 Corinthians 4:5-6

It is not ourselves that we proclaim; we proclaim Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your servants, for Jesus' sake. For the same God who said, "Out of darkness let light shine," has caused his light to shine within us, to give the light of revelation - the revelation of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, we give you thanks for surrounding us, as daylight fades, with the brightness of the vesper light; and we implore you of your great mercy that, as you enfold us with the radiance of this light, so you would shine into our hearts the brightness of your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Advent Collect

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in

great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(The candles at the Altar are now lighted, as are other candles and lights. The congregation may be seated)

Anthem: There Shall a Star From Jacob Felix Mendelssohn

Hymn 59 Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding Merton
(Congregation standing)

The Invitatory: Preces and Responses William Byrd

Cantor: O Lord, open thou our lips.

Choir: And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

Cantor: O God, make speed to save us.

Choir: O Lord, make haste to help us.

Cantor: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost;

Choir: As it was in the beginning, is now, and
ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Cantor: Praise ye the Lord.

Choir: The Lord's Name be praised.

(Congregation may be seated)

For the psalm: Turn Thou To Thy God Leo Sowerby

First Lesson Baruch 5: 1-9

Reader: The Word of the Lord

Congregation: Thanks be to God

Mary's Magnificat Andrew Carter

Second Lesson Philippians 1: 1-8

Reader: The Word of the Lord

Congregation: Thanks be to God

Nunc Dimittis

Alexander Gretchaninof

The Gospel Lesson Mark 1: 1-8

Reader: The Word of the Lord

Congregation: Thanks be to God

The Apostles' Creed

(Officiant, choir, and congregation together, all standing)

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;

who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the
right hand of God the Father almighty.

From thence he shall come to judge
the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn 57 Lo! He comes, with clouds descending Helmsley

The Prayers: Preces and Responses William Byrd

Cantor: The Lord be with you.

Choir: And with thy spirit.

Cantor: Let us pray.

Choir and congregation: 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 tres-
pass against us. And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. For thine is the king-
dom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and
ever. Amen.

Cantor: O Lord, show thy mercy upon us.
Choir: And grant us thy salvation.
Cantor: O Lord, save the State.
Choir: And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.
Cantor: Endue thy ministers with righteousness.
Choir: And make thy chosen people joyful.
Cantor: O Lord, save thy people.
Choir: And bless thine inheritance.
Cantor: Give peace in our time, O Lord.
Choir: For it is thou, Lord, only, that makest
us dwell in safety.
Cantor: O God, make clean our hearts within us.
Choir: And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

The Collect of the Day

A Collect for Sundays

A Collect for Aid against Perils

A Prayer for mission

(The congregation may be seated)

Anthem: Nativity Madrigals , Daniel Pinkham
(see program notes for text)

Welcome and Announcements Father Kuenkler

Anthem of Thanksgiving: Rejoice in the Lord John Redford

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Almighty God, who has given us grace at this time
with one accord to make our common supplication unto
thee, and hast promised through thy well-beloved Son
that when two or three are gathered together in his
Name thou wilt be in the midst of them: Fulfill now,
O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants as
may be best for us; granting us in this world know-
ledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life
everlasting. Amen.

Dismissal

Priest: Let us bless the Lord

Congregation: Thanks be to God
Hymn 60 Creator of the Stars of Night plainsong
Motet: Qui Natus Est de Virgine Will Wickham

SOLI DEO GLORIA

The Cantata Singers take pleasure in presenting their
concerts without admission charge. The continuation
of this practice depends largely upon your contribu-
tion at each concert. If you would like to be added
to our mailing list for future events, please leave
your name and address in the collection plate.

SAVE THE DATES

for Cantata Singers performances later this season
February 28th at St. Peter and St. Paul's, Elmira, a
Sunday evening performance of Gesualdo's "Responses
for Good Friday".

May 8th at Grace Church, Elmira, the annual Festival
Bach. We are hoping to present the St. Matthew Pas-
sion, if we can get the commitment from enough sing-
ers. Anyone interested in joining us for the two
performances should leave his or her name with the
Director and plan on joining us for Sunday night
rehearsals starting January 3rd. (Singers must sing
the Lenten concert to be eligible to sing the Bach.)

NATIVITY MADRIGALS

GUARDIAN OWL

Company coming by night,
 who *are* you? Whoop?
 I live here. I have the right
 to know what's new.
 Have you come in fear, in flight?
 Is the hang of your life askew?

Then welcome, come so far,
 so much ado.
 I guard the stable a star
 is pointing to.
 Enter, the door's ajar,
 to fit the fullest of you.

Go in, I'll check you off.
 You're overdue.
 Don't push or pinch or shove
 for a better view.
 Just say your name with love
 when I ask, Who *are* you? Whoop?

GET UP! SAID MARY

Get up! said Mary to the three grown
 men on their knees.
 And since her child was newly born,
 they rose, somewhat stiff, to please
 the serious mother, who
 was shooing off assorted nosy
 animals, *shoo! shoo!*
 that sniffed her infant's toes.

Sh! (with severity) It's too much
 commotion for so small
 a thing. Let him breathe. Don't touch!
 Oh what a frightening stableful!

Go now, all of you. Let me raise him
 as one among others, a regular
 boy. Thanks to your praise,
 and what you say about a star.
 I mean, these first few days:
 don't make me look too far.

WHAT DID THE BABY GIVE THE KINGS?

Three things:

Firstly, a promise, as of every birth
 that freshens earth,
 like dawn which hints anew
 that what was dreamed may come yet true.

Then hope,
 as when you're thrown a rope
 on nearly drowning in a tidal wave.
 This gift as well the baby gave.

Lastly, a laugh like rising sun
 before the day had quite begun,
 so still a mirth, a note
 so quiet in the throat
 of morning, Kings could only guess
 at all its shining tunefulness

Amazed, as monarchs are
 who bring their royal wealth from far,
 the Kings turned back with gifts so rare,
 so right,
 they hovered in the homeward air
 like earthly light.

HOW THEY BROUGHT THE GOOD NEWS

Fish of the sea couldn't come--
 not over dry ground.
 They loitered in sight of the Holy Land,
 and listened for word from Bethlehem.

Close as they dared, whales swam,
 trying not to cough.
 Dolphins surmounted the vaults of surf.
 Starfish hushed the spitting foam.

Deep denizens left their gloom
 for the surface, this once.
 The shallows uncovered half their fins.
 Freshwater gills left lake and stream.

Crabs took a chance or a whim
 to climb the shale
 with crooked claw and jagged shell.
 They hustled back when they heard of Him.

They took the word to the tide--
 which was going out.
 Minnow told plaice, plaice told pout.
 Hear all about it! News! they cried.

AFTER

After the taming, after
 the manger moment, the baby,
 the bowing down, the gifts,
 the gathering round for one
 last look--thereafter, when kings
 go home and shepherds tend
 again their flocks and stars
 resume their usual course--

oh then let creatures leave
 according to their kind,
 lion fierce and serpent
 fanged and boar a brute
 undaunted by that stable
 pause: the wild of world
 natural still, still
 a glory like a birth.

These texts should appear on the printed program
 along with the following line: *Poems copyright by
 Norma Farber and reprinted with permission.*

PATRONS

Mr & Mrs John H Beecher	Mr & Mrs Leonard B Johnson
Mrs William E Biery	David C Mandeville
Dr & Mrs R J Castor	Mr & Mrs Rafael A Martinez
Mr & Mrs Ronald L Chandler	Frederic & Cynthia McFarland
Linn S Chapel Co	John & Frances McLaren
Dr & Mrs William P Cunnings	Mount Savior Monastery
Edmund and Susan Dana	Frederick D Petrie
Mr & Mrs Edmund L Dana	Mr & Mrs Donald Suffern
Eleanor E Habor	Janet Taft
Mr & Mrs Richard M Harrison	Thursday Morning Musicales
Mrs Roswell R Hart	Mr & Mrs W Vedder
George L Howell	Mr & Mrs Richard E Wack
Corning Glass Works Foundation	

SPONSORS

Elizabeth B Bacon	Horseheads Industrial Center
Phillip & Deborah Barton	Wendy and Rob Hovey
Dr & Mrs Anthony Ciccariello	Mr & Mrs Francis K Kennedy
Helen and Albert Clark	Dodd and Myrna Lamberton
Leonard R Criminale	Mr & Mrs Jervis Langdon
Mr & Mrs Richard Denton	Margaret C Locke, Jr
Mr & Mrs Daniel J Donahoe	Tom and Laura McGrath
Gwen Egan	Douglas D McKane, MD
Jane Feerer	George A Mellor
Judith Feitner	Rev B J O'Brien
Mr & Mrs Ralph E Fudge	Mr & Mrs Richard A O'Brien
Dr & Mrs Frank V Hertzog	Martha P Pierce
Charles & Irene Hickman	Doris & Joseph L Solomon
Kent & Janet Hill	Mr & Mrs John E Taylor
Dr & Mrs Augustus Hillman	Mr & Mrs Richard N Wardell
Mr & Mrs John W Hoos	Mr & Mrs Olin E West, Jr.

DONORS

Mrs. Thomas W Atkins	Kevin and Barbara Geoghan
Lorena E Austin	Mr & Mrs Dransfield Hamilton
Richard Bauer	Mr & Mrs Robert D Herrema
Florence and Bill Bruning	Rev Joseph M Jankowiak
Mr & Mrs Joseph C Buck	Marcia & Kurt Katzmar
Rev James P Collins	Mr & Mrs Waldemar Kemp
Jennifer & Andrew Courtney	Anna W Kosmaler
D Joan Cunnings	Mr & Mrs William B Lovell
Mr & Mrs Carl M Edson	Jean Milliken

DONORS (continued)

Notre Dame Convent	Richard C Schockner, Jr
Rev Stephen Parr	Martha and Gail Smith
Constance Read	Jean C Wheaton
Anna K Rice	Isabelle Whitney
In Memory of Dr William R Root II	

This program is partially funded by a decentralized grant from the New York State Council on the Arts, administered locally by the Chemung Valley Arts Council.

THE CANTATA SINGERS

SOPRANO	Wendy Roe Hovey
Ruth Bruning	Joanne Lutomski
Deborah Johnson Courtney	Lou Sand
Nancy L Husisian	Florence Suffern
Jane Kerber	Frances Vedder
Kathy Lovell	Bernice Wickham
Judy McFarland	Carol Wright
Laura McGrath	
Judith Edson Sheasley	TENOR
Kay Kennedy Wack	Paul D Holland
	Richard E Wack
	Will Wickham
ALTO	
Eunice Bowers	
Joan Cunnings	BASS
Mary Dittbrenner	Richard F Bauer
Judith Feitner	Marvin E Bunch
Claudia Hamlin	Marc B Lovell
Patricia Hauser	Richard Schockner
Barbara Horn	Michael K Wald

Judith Feitner, rehearsal accompanist

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Rev. Richard F. Kuenkler, Rector
Grace Episcopal Church
Dr. Kent Hill, Organist and Choirmaster
Grace Church Choir Guild
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church - handbells