

# **The Cantata Singers**

**Will Wickham, Musical Director  
The Reverend Father Donald Matthews, Officiant  
Gerald Wolfe, Organist  
Grace Church St. Nicholas Choir**

## ***Advent Service of Lessons & Carols***



**Sunday December 13, 1998**

**7:00 P.M.  
Grace Episcopal Church  
Corner of Church & Davis Streets  
Elmira, New York**

## THE ORDER OF SERVICE

The Reverend Father Donald Matthews, Officiant

### PRELUDE

*Sleeper, Wake! A Voice is Calling*

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

### PROCESSIONAL

*The people stand*

*Once in Royal David's City*

H.J. Gauntlett (1805-1876)

arr. David Willcocks (b. 1919)

*St. Nicholas Choir Sings*

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.

*The Cantata Singers Sing*

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 Savior holy.
3. And through all his wondrous childhood  
He would honour and obey,  
Love, and watch the lowly maiden,  
In whose gentle arms he lay  
Christian children all must be  
Mild, obedient, good as he.



*The People Sing*

4. For he is our childhood's pattern  
Day by day like us he grew,  
He was little, weak and helpless  
Tears and smiles like us he knew;  
And he feeleth for our sadness  
And he shareth in our gladness.
5. 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.
6. 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.

*The people remain standing*

**A BIDDING PRAYER**

Beloved in Christ, in this season of Advent, let it be our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the Angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem, to see 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 his holy Child; and let us look forward to the yearly remembrance of his birth with hymns and songs of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world; for peace and goodwill over all the earth; for the mission and unity of the Church for which he died, and especially in this country and within this city.

And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us at this time remember in his name the poor and helpless; the hungry and the oppressed; the sick and those who mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and 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 his pure and lowly Mother, and 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 for evermore are one.

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 by 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 people sit*

*Of the Father's Heart Begotten*

Piae Cantiones (1582)  
arr. David Willcocks

**THE FIRST LESSON: (GENESIS 2:4b-9, 15-25)**

**Reader: Natalie Denton**

*People: Thanks be to God*

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel* 15<sup>th</sup> Century French Melody  
arr. David Willcocks

**THE SECOND LESSON:** (GENESIS 3:1-22)  
**Reader: Denis Kingsley**

*People: Thanks be to God*

*Behold a Star from Jacob Shining*  
Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809-1847)

**THE THIRD LESSON:** (ISAIAH 40:1-11)  
**Reader: Virginia Marsden**

*People: Thanks be to God*

*People stand and sing*

*Blest be the King* Melchior Teschner (1584-1635)

1. Blest be the King whose coming is in the name of God!  
For Him let doors be opened, no hearts against him barred!  
Not robed in royal splendor, in power and pomp, comes he;  
But clad as are the poorest, such his humility!
2. Blest be the King whose coming is in the name of God!  
By those who truly listen his voice is truly heard;  
Pity the proud and haughty, who have not learned to heed  
The Christ who is all Promise, who has atonement made.
3. Blest be the King whose coming is in the name of God!  
He only to the humble reveals the face of God.  
All power is his, all glory! All things are in his hand,  
All ages and all peoples, till time itself shall end!
4. Blest be the King whose coming is in the name of God!  
He offers to the burdened the rest and grace they need.  
Gentle is he and humble! And light his yoke shall be,  
For he would have us bear it so he can make us free!

*The People Sit*

**THE FOURTH LESSON:** (ISAIAH 7:10-15)  
**Reader: Michele Sanford**

*People: Thanks be to God*

*Lo, How a Rose*  
*Lo, How a Rose*

Praetorius  
Hugo Distler (1933)  
arr. Maynard Klein

**THE FIFTH LESSON:** (JEREMIAH 31:31-34)  
**Reader: Roberta McDonald**

*People: Thanks be to God*

*The people stand and sing*

*The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came*  
Edgar Pettman (1865-1943)

1. The angel Gabriel from heaven came  
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;  
"All hail," said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary,  
Most highly favored lady," Gloria!
2. "For know a blessed Mother thou shalt be,  
All generations laud and honor thee,  
Thy 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 pleaseth God," she said  
"My soul shall laud and magnify his 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!

*The People Sit*



*Magnificat*

Herbert Howells (1946)

**THE SIXTH LESSON:** (ISAIAH 64: 1-9a)

**Reader: Donald Diefendorf**

*People: Thanks be to God*

*The Blessed Dawn*

Bill Wickham (1991)

**THE SEVENTH LESSON:** (ZEPHANIAH 3:14-18)

**Reader: Debra Todd**

*People: Thanks be to God*

*Angelus ad pastores ait*

Hans Leo Hassler (1564-1612)

*(Gabriel said unto the Shepherd)*

*The People Stand and Sing*

*Angels we Have Heard on High*

French Carol

arr. Edward Shippen Barnes (1887-1958)

1. Angels we have heard on high,  
Singing sweetly through the night,  
And the mountains in reply  
Echoing their brave delight

REFRAIN:

Gloria in excelsis Deo  
Gloria in excelsis Deo

2. Shepherds why this jubilee?  
Why these songs of happy cheer?  
What great brightness did you see?  
What glad tidings did you hear?      REFRAIN
3. Come to Bethlehem and see  
Him whose the birth the angels sing  
Come, adore on bended knee  
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.      REFRAIN

4. See him in a manger laid  
Whom the angels praise above;  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,  
While we raise our hearts in love.      REFRAIN

*The People Sit*

**THE EIGHTH LESSON:** (ISAIAH 65:17-25)

**Reader: Gerald Wolfe**

*People: Thanks be to God*

*Creator of the Stars of Night*

Plainsong  
arr. Dale Wood (1965)

**A FREEWILL OFFERING WILL BE TAKEN**

**THE NINTH LESSON:** (LUKE 1:26-38)

**Reader: Father Donald Matthews**

*People: Thanks be to God*

*People stand and sing*

*O Come All Ye Faithful*

John Francis Wade (1711-1786)

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 from God, Light from Light eternal,  
Lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb,  
Only begotten Son of the Father,  
O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him  
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.
3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
Glory to God, glory in the highest  
O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him

O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

4. Yea, Lord we greet thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory given;  
Word of the father now in flesh appearing;  
O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him  
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

### THE COLLECT

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour 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, now and ever. Amen.

### THE BLESSING

The Peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord: And the Blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. Amen.

*People remain standing*

*Hark the Herald Angels Sing* Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

*The St. Nicholas Choir Sings*

1. Hark! The herald angels sing glory to the newborn king!  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph from the skies;  
With angelic host proclaim Christ is born in Bethlehem!  
Hark! The herald angels sing glory to the newborn king!

### *The People Sing*

2. Christ by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord!  
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the God-head see, hail the incarnate Deity,  
Pleased as man with us to dwell; Jesus our Emmanuel!  
Hark! The herald angels sing glory to the newborn king!
3. Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,  
Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.  
Risen with healing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,  
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness! hail, the heaven-born  
Prince of Peace!  
Hark! The herald angels sing glory to the newborn king!

### POSTLUDE

*In Dulci Jubilo*

Johann Sebastian Bach

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The Cantata Singers would like to extend special thanks to the following individuals who have helped to make this program possible.

**The Reverend Father Donald Matthews, Officiant**  
**Gerald Wolfe, Organist & St. Nicholas Choir Director**  
**Frances McLaren, Rehearsal Accompanist**  
**Thomas Ellison, Crucifer**  
**Ralph & Debra Todd, Torch Bearers**  
**Robert Simonds, Reception Coordinator**  
**Michele Sanford, Grace Church Secretary**  
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## THE CANTATA SINGERS

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Lou Bleiler  
Ruth Bruning  
Kristy Dyer  
Robin Fitzgerald  
Dorothy Hoos  
Ann Jennings  
Jane Kerber  
Susan Nagle  
Wendi Primerano  
Peg Rich  
Susan Tanner  
Katie Wickham

### TENOR

Matthew Carney  
David Gahan  
Peter Morlock  
Lydia Wickham

### ALTO

Lucy Cunnings  
Meghan Fitzgerald  
Pat Hauser  
Betty Hughes  
Frances McLaren  
Mimi Petrillose  
Jane Poliseo  
Cora Range  
Lou Sand  
Betsy Sentigar  
Florence Suffern  
Frances Vedder

### BASS

Jim Fink  
David Hauser  
Michael Wald

## THE GRACE CHURCH ST. NICHOLAS CHOIR

Patrick Ellison  
Jill Griffith  
Laurel Griffith  
Colby Kent

Amelia Matthews  
Evelyn Matthews  
Michael Mix  
Paul Renshaw

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