

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 12, 1999

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.
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.

The People Sing

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

Jubilate Deo..... Benjamin Britten

THE FIRST LESSON: (GENESIS 3:8-15, 179-19)

Reader: John O'Hern

People: Thanks be to God

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus..... Henry G. Ley

THE SECOND LESSON: (GENESIS 22:15-18)

Reader: Amy Matthews

People: Thanks be to God

Drop Down, Ye Heavens.....Heathcote Stathan

THE THIRD LESSON: (ISAIAH 9:2, 6, 7)

Reader: Don Diefendorf

People: Thanks be to God

The People stand and sing

Blest be the King Whose Coming..... 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 11:1-3a, 4a, 6-9)

Reader: Evie Matthews

People: Thanks be to God

Rejoice in the Lord..... John Redford

THE FIFTH LESSON: (Luke 1: 26-35, 38)

Reader: Nonnie Denton

People: Thanks be to God

Magnificat..... Ralph Vaughn Williams

THE SIXTH LESSON: (Luke 2: 1, 3-7)

Reader: Margaret Matthews

People: Thanks be to God

The people stand and sing

What Child is This? Greensleeves

1. What child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?

Refrain:

This, this is Christ the King
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
The babe, the son of Mary.

2. Why lies he in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.

Refrain

3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come peasant, king, to own him:
The King of kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.

Refrain:

The People Sit

THE SEVENTH LESSON: (Luke 2: 8-16)

Reader: Virginia Marsden

People: Thanks be to God

Quem Vidistis Pastores..... Francis Poulenc

THE EIGHTH LESSON: (Matthew 2:1-12)

Reader: William Palmer

People: Thanks be to God

Noel Nouvelet arr. John Rutter

A FREEWILL OFFERING WILL BE TAKEN

THE NINTH LESSON: (John 1: 1-14)

Reader: Father Donald Matthews

People: Thanks be to God

People stand and sing

O Come All Ye Faithful John Francis Wade (1711-1786)

4. 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;

Refrain:

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,

Refrain:

3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God, glory in the highest

Refrain:

4. Yea, Lord we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the father now in flesh appearing;

Refrain:

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.

The 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!
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

The Cantata Singers 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
Michele Sanford, Crucifer
Ralph & Ryan Todd, Torch Bearers
John O'Hern, Lector Coordinator
R. Whitney Mitchell, Grace Church Secretary
Staff and Parishioners at Grace Episcopal Church

The Cantata Singers would like to thank those who continue to support us through their donations. Without your support, these programs would not be possible. Thank you!

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THE GRACE CHURCH ST. NICHOLAS CHOIR

Jill Griffith
Laurel Griffith
Amelia Matthews
Evelyn Matthews
Michael Mix
Paul Renshaw
Catherine Sentigar

At this service of advent Lessons and Carols this evening, the Cantata Singers join with the Parish family of Grace Episcopal Church in honoring the memory of the Reverend Samuel Whitney Hale, Jr., Rector of Grace Church from 1962-1976. It was during Fr. Hale's tenure that the Cantata Singers were formed within the greater Elmira community and based here in this beautiful place. We offer the music of this season and this time of worship to the greater glory of God and in loving memory of Father Hale.



This event is made possible, in part, with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts Decentralization Program administered locally by the ARTS of the Southern Finger Lakes.