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Gerald R. Wolfe, Organist
The St. Nicholas Choir of Grace Church

A Service of Lessons and Carols for Advent

Grace Episcopal Church
Elmira, New York
December 10, 2000
7:00 p.m.

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

The Reverend Father Donald W. Matthews, *Officiant*

PRELUDE

Come, Savior of the Nations

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

The people stand.

The choir sings the Matin Responsory.

Matin Responsory

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525-1594)

I look from afar: and lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth. Go ye out to meet him and say: Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel? High and low, rich and poor, one with another, go ye out to meet him and say: Hear, O thou Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep, Tell us, art thou he that should come? Stir up thy strength, O Lord, and come to reign over thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

PROCESSIONAL

Hymn Come, Thou Redeemer of the Earth

Veni, redemptor gentium

adapt. Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

arr. David Willcocks (b. 1919)

The people join in singing the hymn at verse six.

1. Come, thou Redeemer of the earth,
And manifest thy virgin birth:
Let every age adoring fall;
Such birth befits the God of all.
2. Begotten of no human will,
But of the Spirit, thou art still
The Word of God in flesh arrayed,
The promised fruit to man displayed.
3. The virgin womb that burden gained
With virgin honor all unstained;
The banners there of virtue glow;
God in his temple dwells below.

*The hymns of the people are found in
the blue-cover "The Hymnal 1982."*



These programs are made possible with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts Decentralization Program administered locally by the Arts of the Southern Finger Lakes.



These programs are underwritten in part by a grant from The Community Foundation of the Elmira-Corning Area, Inc.

4. Forth from his chamber goeth he,
That royal home of purity,
A giant in twofold substance one,
Rejoicing now his course to run.
5. From God the Father he proceeds,
To God the Father back he speeds;
His course he runs to death and hell,
Returning on God's throne to dwell.
6. All laud, eternal Son, to thee
Whose advent sets thy people free,
Whom with the Father we adore,
And Holy Ghost for ever more.

The people remain standing.

A BIDDING PRAYER

Officiant

Dearly Beloved, as we await the great festival of Christmas let us prepare ourselves so that we may be shown its true meaning. Let us hear, in lessons from Holy Scripture, how the prophets of Israel foretold that God would visit and redeem his waiting people. Let us rejoice, in our carols and hymns, that the good purpose of God is being mightily fulfilled. Let us celebrate the promise that our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, will bring all people and all things into the glory of God's eternal kingdom. The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the Gospel preached to them.

But first, let us pray for the world which God so loves, for those who have not heard the good news of God, or who do not believe it; for those who walk in darkness and the shadow of death; and for the Church in this place and everywhere, that it may be freed from all evil and fear, and may in pure joy lift up the light of the love of God.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer to God, in the words which Christ himself taught us:

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 trespass
against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

The people sit.

THE INVITATORY

Benedicamus Domino

Peter Warlock (1894-1930)

Procedenti puero
Eya, nobis annus est!
Virginis ex utero
Gloria! Laudes!
Deus homo factus est et immortalis.

*A child comes forth from the virgin's womb.
Behold! Our year has come!
Glory! Praises!
God immortal became man.*

Sine viri semine
Eya, nobis annus est!
Natus est de virgine
Gloria! Laudes!
Deus homo factus est et immortalis.

*Born of a virgin without the seed of man.
Behold! Our year has come!
Glory! Praises!
God immortal became man.*

Sine viri copia
Eya, nobis annus est!
Natus est ex Maria
Gloria! Laudes!
Deus homo factus est et immortalis.

*Born of Mary without the aid of man.
Behold! Our year has come!
Glory! Praises!
God immortal became man.*

In hoc festo determino
Eya, nobis annus est!

Benedicamus Domino!
Gloria! Laudes!
Deus homo factus est et immortalis.

*On this established feast day,
Let us bless the Lord!
Behold! Our year has come!
Glory! Praises!
God immortal became man.*

THE FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH XL, 1-8
DONALD DIEFENDORF, *READER*

*The Prophet proclaims good news
to a people in exile.*

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD's hand double for all her sins. The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness. Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: 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 voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and all the goodliness thereof is as the flower of the field: The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass. The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL

In Venisti enim Gratiam
Tomás Luis de Victoria (1549-1611)

Ne timeas, Maria,
in venisti enim gratiam,
apud Dominum.

*Be not afraid, Maria,
You have been acclaimed the chosen one
by the Lord our God.*

Ecce concipies in utero,
et paries filium,
et vocabitur altissimi filius.

*And now you will conceive in your womb,
And you shall bear us a Son,
And shall call His name the Son
of the most high.*

THE SECOND LESSON: JEREMIAH XXIII, 5-6
DENIS C. KINGSLEY, *READER*

*The Lord promises to send his people
a righteous King.*

Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth, In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL

THE ST. NICHOLAS CHOIR

Balulalow Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)

O my deare hert, young Jesu sweit,
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 sweit unto thy gloir;
The knees of my hert sall I bow,
And sing that richt Balulalow.

THE THIRD LESSON: ZECHARIAH IX, 9-10
NATALIE DENTON, *READER*

*The Lord promises that the King will
come to Israel in peace.*

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion, shout O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass. And I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim, and the horse from Jerusalem, and the battle bow shall be cut off: and he shall speak

peace unto the heathen: and his dominion shall be from sea even to sea, and from the river even to the ends of the earth.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL

The people stand and join in singing the hymn.

Hymn 74 Blest be the King whose coming
Valet will ich dir geben

The people sit.

THE FOURTH LESSON: HAGGAI II, 6-9
VIRGINIA MARSDEN, READER

*The Prophet foretells the advent
of the desire of all nations.*

For thus saith the LORD of hosts; Yet once, it is a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land; And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts. The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the LORD of hosts: and in this place will I give peace, saith the LORD of hosts.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL

O Magnum Mysterium
Tomás Luis de Victoria (1549-1611)

O magnum mysterium,
et admirabile sacramentum,
ut animalia viderent Dominum natum,
jacentem in præsepio.

*O great mystery
and wondrous sacrament,
that animals should see the newborn Lord,
lying in a manger.*

O beata Virgo,
cujus viscera meruerunt
portare Dominum Jesum Christum.
Alleluia!

*Blessed is the virgin
whose womb was worthy
to bear the Lord Jesus Christ.
Alleluia!*

THE FIFTH LESSON: ISAIAH XXXV, 1-6

ROBERTA J. McDONALD, READER

*The Prophet foretells the glory
of the kingdom of God.*

The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the LORD, and the excellency of our God. Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees. Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence; he will come and save you. Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL

Es ist das Heil uns kommen her
Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

Es ist das Heil uns kommen her,
von Gnad und lauter Güten,
Die Werke helfen nimmer mehr,
sie mögen nicht behüten,
Der Glaub sieht Jesum Christum an,
der hat genug für uns all getan,
er ist der Mittler worden.

*The Son of God is come to earth,
adorned with gifts and graces.
Our works and actions have no worth;
our deeds are all in vain.
By faith we see God's very Son
and all the works that He has done;
He is the blessed Savior.*

THE SIXTH LESSON: LUKE I, 26-35, 38

DEBRA C. TODD, READER

*The angel Gabriel salutes
the Blessed Virgin Mary.*

And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou art high favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL

Magnificat Herbert Murrill (1909-1952)

My soul doth magnify the Lord,
and my spirit hath rejoiced
in God my Savior.
For he hath regarded
the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold from henceforth
all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me,
and holy is his Name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him
throughout all generations.
He hath showed strength with his arm;
he hath scattered the proud in the
imagination of their hearts.

He hath put down the mighty
from their seat,
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen
his servant Israel,
as he promised to our forefathers,
Abraham and his seed for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to
the Holy Ghost:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and
ever shall be.
World without end. Amen.

The people stand and join in singing the hymn.

Offertory Hymn 258 Virgin-born, we bow
before thee *Psalm 86*

The people sit.

THE SEVENTH LESSON: MARK I, 1-15
FATHER MATTHEWS, READER

*The Jesus proclaims the coming
of the kingdom of God.*

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God; As it is written in the prophets. Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee. The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. And there went out unto him all the land of Judæa, and they of Jerusalem, and were all baptized of him in the river of Jordan, confessing their sins. And John was clothed with camel's hair, and with a girdle of a skin about his loins; and he did eat locusts and wild honey; and preached, saying, There cometh one mightier than I after me, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to stoop down and unloose. I indeed have baptized you with water: but he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost. And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan. And

straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him: And there came a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. And immediately the Spirit driveth him into the wilderness. And he was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted of Satan; and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered unto him. Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL

Creation's Alleluia John Rutter (b. 1945)

The people stand.

THE COLLECT

Officiant We wait for thy loving kindness,
O Lord.

People In the midst of thy temple.

Officiant Let us pray.

O God, who makest us glad with the yearly expectation of thy coming, Grant that we, who with joy receive thy only-begotten Son as our Redeemer, may without fear behold him when he shall come to be our Judge, even thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end.

People Amen.

THE BLESSING

Officiant

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the faint-hearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honour all people; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you, and remain with you forever.

People Amen.

Recessional Hymn 56 O come, O come,
Emmanuel *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*

POSTLUDE

In Dulci Jubilo

J.S. Bach

The Advent wreath is given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Arthur Scott Welliver. The flowers on the high altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Nancy Hollands Welliver by her children.

You are cordially invited to attend a reception in Welliver Hall immediately after the service.

THE ST NICHOLAS CHOIR

Laurel Griffith
Jill Griffith
Dawn Davidson
Amelia Matthews
Evelyn Matthews
Christopher Mix
Michael Mix
Mary Kate Renshaw
Paul Renshaw
Catherine Sentigar
John Sentigar

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