

O Holy Night

arr. D. Clydesdale

Nathanael Hein, soloist

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining, it is the night of the dear Savior's birth! Long lay the world in sin and error pining till He appeared and the soul felt its worth! A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn. *Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices! O night divine, O night when Christ was born. O night, O night divine.*

Truly He taught us to love one another; His law is love and His gospel is peace. Bonds shall we make until we all are brothers, and in His name all oppression shall cease.

Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we; let all within us praise His holy name.

Refrain

Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay close by me forever, and love me, I pray; bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

Ding Dong, Merrily on High

C. Alwes

Voices in Accord

Ding dong, merrily on high; in heaven the bells are ringing. Ding dong, verily the sky is riven with angels singing. Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis.

Even so here below, let steeple bells be swungen, and io, by priest and people sungen.

Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

Pray, you dutifully prime, your matin chime, ye ringers, may you beautifully rhyme

your evetime song ye singers: Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

Shepherds' Dance

R. Elliot

Heather Hinton

WELCOME

Darren Cushman Wood

*PASSING THE PEACE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth!

People: Sing to the Lord, bless God's name; proclaim God's salvation from day to day!

Leader: Declare the Lord's glory among the nations, God's marvelous works among all the peoples!

People: For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised!

*PROCESSIONAL CAROL *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

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.

True God of true God, Light from Light Eternal, lo, he shuns not the Virgin's womb;

Son of the Father, begotten, not created; Refrain

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;

O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God, all glory in the highest; Refrain

*LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE Jeff Eggert

Leader: Tonight we gather with joyful hearts to receive God's greatest gift.

People: Joy to the world, the Lord has come!

Leader: Tonight we hear again the good news that was given for all people.

People: Joy to the world, the Lord has come!

Leader: Tonight we join in steadfast wonder at God's amazing love.

People: Joy to the world, the Lord has come!

Leader: Tonight we welcome the Savior whose birth has changed our lives.

People: Joy to the world, the Lord has come!

Congregational Refrain *God is Near* arr. J. Raney

Lis - ten to the an - gels, hear the mes - sage they bring;
 5 tell - ing the news of a com - ing King; fill - ing the
 10 world with hope and good cheer. Je - sus, Em - man - u - el, —
 15 — God is near. —

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Ronnie Bell

FIRST LESSON *Isaiah 9:2-7*
The prophet announces the birth of a ruler to a people in darkness.

*CAROL *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*
It came upon a midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold: "Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all gracious King." The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

For lo! the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old, when with the evercircling years shall come the time foretold when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling, and the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.

SECOND LESSON *Luke 1:26-38* Jill Lyday
The angel announces to Mary that she will give birth to God's promised Son.

ANTHEM *Magnificat* H. Howells
from *Gloucester Service*

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, forever.

THIRD LESSON *Isaiah 7:10-14* Amber Denney
The prophet declares the birth of the child as the sign of hope.

*CAROL *People Look East*
People look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year. Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table. People, look east and sing today: Love, the Guest is on the way.

Angels announce with shouts of mirth him who brings new life to earth. Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming. People, look east and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.

FOURTH LESSON *Matthew 1:18-25* Jill Lyday
The annunciation to Joseph

ANTHEM *The Hands That First Held Mary's Child* D. Forrest
The hands that first held Mary's child were hard from working wood. From boards they sawed and planed and filed and splinters they withstood. This day they gripped no tool of steel, they drove no iron nail, but cradled from the head to heel our Lord, newborn and frail. When Joseph marveled at the size of that small breathing frame, and gazed upon those bright new eyes and spoke the infant's name, the angel's words he once had dreamed poured down from heaven's height, and like the host of stars that beamed blessed earth with welcome light. "This child shall be Emmanuel, not God upon the throne, but God with us, Emmanuel, as close as blood and bone." The tiny form in Joseph's palms confirmed what he had heard, and from his heart rose hymns and psalms for heaven's human word. The tools that Joseph laid aside a mob would later lift and use with anger, fear, and pride to crucify God's gift. Let us, O Lord, not only hold the child who's born today, but charged with faith may we behold to follow in His way.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING Ronnie Bell
Your contribution will help to support the Bishop's Christmas Offering, North Church's Bread & Bowl, and North Church's Farmers Market.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *In the Bleak Mid-Winter* R. Allain
In the bleak mid-winter frosty wind made moan, Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone; snow had fallen, snow on snow, in the bleak mid-winter long ago. Our God, heaven cannot hold him nor Earth sustain; heaven and Earth shall flee away when he comes to reign: in the bleak mid-winter a stable place sufficed the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ. Angels and archangels may have gathered there, Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air; but only his mother in her maiden bliss worshipped the Beloved with a kiss. What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb; if I were a wiseman I would do my part; yet what I can I give him; give my heart.

