

12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

December 26, 2021

Organ Prelude: Choral prelude on "O Little one sweet"

Bruce Nasmith

Words of Welcome

***Hymn: The First Nowell**

No. 136

1. The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds
in fields as they lay,
in fields where they
lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain:
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell!
Born is the King of Israel.

2. They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east
beyond them far,
and to the earth
it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.

(Refrain)

3. And by the light of that same star
three wise men came
from country far;
to search for a king
was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went.

(Refrain)

4. This star drew nigh to the northwest;
o'er Bethlehem
it took its rest;
and there it did
both stop and stay
right over the place where Jesus lay.

(Refrain)

5. Then entered in those wise men three
full reverently
upon their knee,
and offered there
in his presence
their gold and myrrh and frankincense.

(Refrain)

6. Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to
our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven
and earth of nought,
and with his blood mankind hath bought.

(Refrain)

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Blessed be God the creator of all, for God has opened the gates of paradise to all.

God has kept the promise to Israel, to raise up from the house of David the stunning salvation promised by prophets long ago.

Blessed be God the liberator of all, for God has opened a way to abundance and peace to all.

God has kept the promise to the peoples of the earth, to free from bondage to oppression inside and out, those who open themselves to the courage and perseverance God can provide.

Blessed be God the inspirer of all that lives, for God has opened a way to growth and transformation to all.

God has kept the promise to those who believe, to renew and re-invigorate us for life even as we live in the midst of uncertainty and death.

ALL: God, Creator of all life, Saving Word made flesh, Spirit of holiness and transfiguration, we worship you now and forever, Amen.

Special Music: Past Three O'Clock

Trad. English Carol

Introduction

ALL: "On the first day of Christmas, my true love gave to me, A partridge in a pear tree."

Interpretation

Prayer of Approach, Confession & The Lord's Prayer

**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, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

The Peace of Christ be with you all;

And also with you.

**1. In the bleak midwinter,
frosty wind made moan;
earth stood hard as iron,
water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow,
snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.**

**2. Our God, heaven cannot hold him,
nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall welcome him
when he comes to reign:
in the bleak midwinter
a stable place sufficed
the Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.**

**3. Angels and archangels
may have gathered there,
cherubim and seraphim
thronged the air;
but his mother only, in her maiden bliss,
worshipped the
Beloved with a kiss.**

**4. What can I give him,
poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd,
I would bring a lamb;
if I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him: give my heart.**

ALL: "On the second day of Christmas my true love gave to me, two turtle doves..."

Interpretation

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 9: 6, Micah 5: 2

ALL: "On the third day of Christmas, my true love gave to me, three French hens..."

Interpretation

Scripture Reading: I Corinthians 13: 12-13

ALL: "On the fourth day of Christmas my true love gave to me, four calling birds..."

Interpretation

Scripture Reading: Luke 2: 15-20, John 20: 31

ALL: "On the fifth day of Christmas my true love gave to me, five golden rings..."

Interpretation

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.

3. 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.

2. Christ came down
to earth from heaven,
who is God and Lord of all,
sheltered by a humble stable,
cradled in a cattle stall:
with the poor, oppressed and lowly,
lived on earth our Saviour holy,

4. 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;
there God's children gather round,
bright like stars, with glory crowned.

ALL: "On the sixth day of Christmas my true love gave to me, six geese a layin..."

Interpretation

Scripture Reading: Genesis 1: 1-5, 31, 2: 1

ALL: "On the seventh day of Christmas my true love gave to me, seven swans-a-swimming..."

Interpretation

***Hymn: Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming**

No. 151

1. Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming
from tender stem hath sprung,
of Jesse's lineage coming,
as prophets long have sung.
It came, a floweret bright,
amid the cold of winter,
when half-spent was the night.

2. Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
the Rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it,
the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright,
she bore to us a Saviour,
when half-spent was the night.

3. This flower, whose fragrance tender
with sweetness fills the air,
dispels with glorious splendour
our darkness everywhere.
True flesh, yet very God,
from sin and death he saves us
and shares our every load.

4. O Saviour, child of Mary,
who felt our human woe,
O Saviour, King of glory,
who dost our weakness know,
bring us at length, we pray,
to the bright courts of heaven
and to the endless day.

ALL: "On the eighth day of Christmas my true love gave to me, eight maids-a-milking..."

Interpretation

Scripture Reading: Matthew 5: 2-10

ALL: "On the ninth day of Christmas my true love gave to me, nine ladies dancing..."

Interpretation

Scripture Reading: Galatians 5: 16-26

ALL: "On the tenth day of Christmas my true love gave to me, ten lords-a-leaping..."

Interpretation

Scripture Reading: Exodus 20: 1-17, Mark 12: 28-31

ALL: "On the eleventh day of Christmas my true love gave to me, eleven pipers piping..."

Interpretation

Solo: Jesu Bambino

Pietro A. Yon

soloist Shaun Alphonso

Prayers of Thanksgiving & Pastoral Concern

**ALL: "On the twelfth day of Christmas my true love gave to me, twelve drummers
drumming..."**

Interpretation

Anthem: This day the Christ is born

Jim Nasmith

*** The Apostle's Creed**

No. 539

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heave and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

***Hymn: It came upon the midnight clear**

No. 148

1. It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
"To all the earth goodwill and peace,
from heaven's all gracious King!";
the world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.

2. Still through the cloven skies they come
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats
o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains
they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.

3. But with the woes of sin and strife,
the world has suffered long;
beneath the angel strain have rolled
two thousand years of wrong,
but we, through din of war, hear not
the love song which they bring.
Oh hush the noise, Oh still the strife
and hear the angels sing.

4. And ye, beneath life's crushing load,
whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way
with painful steps and slow,
look now! for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing.
Oh rest beside the weary road
and hear the angels sing.

5. For lo! the days are hastening on,
by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth
God's promised splendours fling,
and all the world take up the song,
which now the angels sing.

Benediction

Organ postlude: The Sussex Carol

arr. by Bruce Nasmith

**Remain seated if you are more comfortable*

Thank you to Dr. Harris and Rev. Rebecca, our musicians, Bruce Nasmith, Joanne Nasmith, Anna Bateman, Shaun Alphonso, and Jim Nasmith, and Kome Abel for operating the sanctuary camera.

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