

25 December 2024

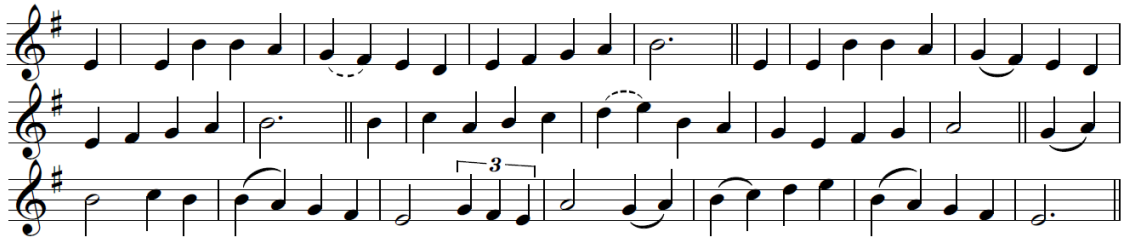
Christmas



St. George's Cathedral, Kingston

Cover image: Nativity scene, Parthenios ca.1790- ca.1848

Setting: *Missa de Angelis*



God rest you merry, gentlemen,
let nothing you dismay!
for Jesus Christ our Saviour
was born on Christmas Day,
to save us all from Satan's power
when we had gone astray:
*O tidings of comfort and joy,
comfort and joy;
O tidings of comfort and joy!*

2 From God our heavenly Father
A blessed angel came,
And unto certain shepherds
Brought tidings of the same,
How that in Bethlehem was born
The Son of God by name:

3 The shepherds at those tidings
Rejoiced much in mind,
And left their flocks a-feeding

In tempest, storm, and wind,
And went to Bethlehem straightway
This blessed Babe to find:

4 And when to Bethlehem they
came,
where Christ the infant lay,
they found him in a manger
where oxen fed on hay;
His mother Mary kneeling
Unto the Lord did pray:

5 Now to the Lord sing praises,
All you within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood
Each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas
All others doth deface:
*O tidings of comfort and joy,
comfort and joy;
O tidings of comfort and joy!*

English Traditional Melody

English carol, 18th cent.

O

UR 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 them that trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. *Amen.*

A

LMIGHTY God, unto whom all hearts be open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O

UR Lord Jesus Christ said: Hear O Israel, The Lord our God is one Lord; and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength. This is the first and great commandment And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

People. Lord, have mercy upon us, and write both these thy laws in our hearts, we beseech thee.

Then is sung by all.

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Then the Priest shall say:

The Lord be with you;
People. **And with thy spirit.**
Let us pray.

Then may follow this Collect for the King.

A

LMIGHTY God, whose kingdom is everlasting, and power infinite: Have mercy upon the whole Church; and so rule the heart of thy chosen servant Charles, our King and Governor, that he, knowing whose minister he is, may above all things seek thy honour and glory: and that we and all his subjects, duly considering whose authority he hath, may faithfully serve, honour, and humbly obey him, in thee, and for thee, according to thy blessed Word and ordinance; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with thee and the Holy Ghost liveth and reigneth, ever one God, world without end. *Amen.*

Then shall be said THE COLLECT OF THE DAY, together with any other Collects appointed to be said.

ALMIGHTY God, who hast given us thy only begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and as at this time to be born of a pure Virgin: Grant that we being regenerate, and made thy children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by thy Holy Spirit; through the same our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit, ever one God, world without end. *Amen.*

The first lesson is written in the book of Isaiah, in the 52nd chapter, beginning at the seventh verse.

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says

to Zion, 'Your God reigns.' Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Depart, depart, go out from there! Touch no unclean thing; go out from the midst of it, purify yourselves, you who carry the vessels of the LORD. For you shall not go out in haste, and you shall not go in flight; for the LORD will go before you, and the God of Israel will be your rearguard.

See, my servant shall prosper; he shall be exalted and lifted up, and shall be very high. Just as there were many who were astonished at him —so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of mortals— so he shall startle¹ many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of him; for that which had not been told them they shall see, and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate.

Here endeth the Lesson

PSALM 98.

O SING unto the LORD a new song; / for he hath done marvellous things.

2 With his own right hand, and with his holy arm, / hath he gotten himself the victory.

3 The LORD hath declared his salvation: / his righteousness hath he openly shown in the sight of the nations.

4 He hath remembered his mercy and his faithfulness toward the house of Israel; / and all the ends of the world have seen the salvation of our God.

5 SHOW yourselves joyful unto the LORD, all ye lands: / sing, rejoice, and give thanks.

6 Praise the LORD upon the harp: / sing to the harp with a psalm of thanksgiving.

7 With trumpets also and the sound of the horn, / O show yourselves joyful before the LORD, the King.

8 LET the sea make a noise, and all that is therein; / the round world, and they that dwell therein.

9 Let the floods clap their hands, and let the hills be joyful together
before the LORD; / for he is come to judge the earth.
10 With righteousness shall he judge the world, / and the peoples with
equity.

The second lesson is written in the letter to the Hebrews, in the first
chapter, beginning at the first verse.

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the
prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he
appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is
the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and
he sustains^[b] all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification
for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become
as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent
than theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say, 'You are my Son; today I have
begotten you'? Or again, 'I will be his Father, and he will be my Son'? And
again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, 'Let all God's
angels worship him.' Of the angels he says, 'He makes his angels winds, and
his servants flames of fire.'

But of the Son he says, 'Your throne, O God, is^l for ever and ever, and the
righteous sceptre is the sceptre of your kingdom. You have loved
righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed
you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.'

And, 'In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the
work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out
like clothing; like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing^l they will be
changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end.'

Here endeth the Lesson

Then shall be sung the Gradual:

The Holy Gospel is written in the Gospel according to John, in the first chapter, beginning at the first verse.

Then shall the people sing or say:

Glory be to thee, O Lord.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

The Gospel of Christ.

And after the reading of the Gospel they shall sing or say:

Praise be to thee, O Christ.

Then shall be sung or said this Creed by the Priest and people.

I

BELIEVE in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,

And of all things visible and invisible:

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, Begotten of the Father before all worlds; God, of God; Light, of Light; Very God, of very God; Begotten, not made; Being of one substance with the Father; Through whom all things were made: Who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven, And was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, And was made man, And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried, And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, And ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of the Father. And he shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead: Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord, The Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, Who spake by the Prophets. And I believe One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins. And I look for the Resurrection of the dead, And the Life of the world to come. Amen.

The Sermon

Offertory Sentence:

Brethen, you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that you through his poverty might become rich.

2 Corinthians 8.9

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THE OFFERTORY



Good King Wenceslas looked out
on the feast of Stephen,
when the snow lay round about,
deep and crisp and even.
Brightly shone the moon that night,
though the frost was cruel,
when a poor man came in sight,
gathering winter fuel.

2 “Hither, page, and stand by me,
if thou knowest it, telling:
yonder peasant, who is he?
Where and what his dwelling?”
“Sire, he lives a good league hence,
underneath the mountain,
right against the forest fence,
by St. Agnes’ fountain.”

3 “Bring me flesh and bring me wine,
bring me pinelogs hither;
thou and I will see him dine,
when we bear them thither.”
Page and monarch, forth they went,
forth they went together,
through the rude wind’s wild lament,
and the bitter weather.

4 “Sire, the night is darker now,
and the wind blows stronger;
fails my heart, I know not how;
I can go no longer.”
“Mark my footsteps, my good page,
tread thou in them boldly.
Thou shalt find the winter’s rage
freeze your blood less coldly.”

5 In his master’s steps he trod,
where the snow lay dinted;
heat was in the very sod
which the saint had printed.
Therefore, Christians all, be sure,
wealth or rank possessing,
ye who now will bless the poor,
shall yourselves find blessing.

Blessed be thou, Lord God of Israel, for ever and ever. All that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine. All things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee.

1 Chronicles 29.10.11.14

Then shall one of the Ministers ask the prayers of the people.

Let us pray for Christ's holy Catholic Church.

Let us pray for peace on earth and for the unity of all Christian people.

Let us remember before God those of our brethren who have departed this life and are at rest.

A

LMIGHTY and everliving God, who by thy holy Apostle hast taught us to make prayers and supplications, and to give thanks, for all people: We humbly beseech thee most mercifully to accept our alms and oblations, and to receive these our prayers, which we offer unto thy Divine Majesty; beseeching thee to inspire continually the universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord: And grant that all they that do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

We beseech thee also to lead all nations in the way of righteousness; and so to guide and direct their governors and rulers, that thy people may enjoy the blessings of freedom and peace: And grant unto thy servant CHARLES our King, and to all that are put in authority under him, that they may truly and impartially administer justice, to the maintenance of thy true religion and virtue.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all Bishops, Priests, and Deacons, and specially to thy servant William our Bishop, that they may both by their life and doctrine set forth thy true and living Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments: Prosper, we pray thee, all those who proclaim the Gospel of thy kingdom among the nations: And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and specially to this congregation here present, that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive

thy holy Word; truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

And we most humbly beseech thee of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succour all them, who in this transitory life are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity, especially those for whom our prayers are desired.

We remember before thee, O Lord, all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear: and we bless thy holy Name for all who in life and death have glorified thee; beseeching thee to give us grace that, rejoicing in their fellowship, we may follow their good examples, and with them be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant this, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

Then shall the Priest or one of the Ministers say:

Y

E that do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbours, and intend to lead the new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways: Draw near with faith, and take this holy Sacrament to your comfort; and make your humble confession to Almighty God, meekly kneeling upon your knees.

Then shall this general Confession be made by all those that are minded to receive the holy Communion, both Priest and people humbly kneeling.

A

LMIGHTY God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all people: We acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and

wickedness, Which we from time to time most grievously have committed, By thought, word, and deed, Against thy Divine Majesty. We do earnestly repent, And are heartily sorry for these our misdoings. Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; For thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, Forgive us all that is past;

And grant that we may ever hereafter Serve and please thee In newness of life, To the honour and glory of thy Name; Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Then shall the Priest (or the Bishop if he be present) stand up, and turning himself to the people, pronounce this Absolution:

A

LMIGHTY God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all them that with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him: Have mercy upon you; pardon and deliver you from all your sins; confirm and strengthen you in all goodness; and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Then shall the Priest say:

Hear what comfortable words our Saviour Christ saith unto all that truly turn to him.

C

COME unto me all that labour and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you.

St Matthew 11. 28.

God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

St John 3. 16.

Hear also what Saint Paul saith.

This is a true saying, and worthy of all to be received, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

1 Timothy 1. 15.

Hear also what Saint John saith.

If any one sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the propitiation for our sins.

1 St John 2. 1, 2.

THANKSGIVING AND CONSECRATION

T

THE Lord be with you;

People. **And with thy spirit.**

Priest. Lift up your hearts;

People. **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Priest. Let us give thanks unto our Lord God;

People. **It is meet and right so to do.**

Then shall the Priest turn to the Lord's Table, and say:

I

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places give thanks unto thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God, Creator and Preserver of all things.

BECAUSE thou didst give Jesus Christ thine only Son to be born as at this time for us; who, by the operation of the Holy Spirit, was made very man of the substance of the Virgin Mary his mother; and that without spot of sin, to make us clean from all sin. THEREFORE with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee and saying:

H

OLY, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts, Heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.

BLESSED is he that cometh in the Name of the Lord: Hosanna in the highest.

Then shall the Priest proceed with the Prayer of Consecration and the Breaking of the Bread before the people.

B

LESSING and glory and thanksgiving be unto thee Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of thy tender mercy didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the Cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memorial of that his precious death, until his coming again.

Hear us, O merciful Father, we most humbly beseech thee; and grant that we receiving these thy creatures of bread and wine, according to thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took Bread; and, when he had given thanks, he brake it; and gave it to his disciples, saying, Take, eat; this is my Body which is given for you: Do this in remembrance of me. Likewise after supper he took the Cup; and, when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all, of this; for this is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the remission of sins: Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me.

Wherefore, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, we thy humble servants, with all thy holy Church, remembering the precious death of thy beloved Son, his mighty resurrection, and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming again in glory, do make before thee, in this sacrament of the holy Bread of eternal life and the Cup of everlasting salvation, the memorial which he hath commanded; And we entirely desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, most humbly beseeching thee to grant, that by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood,

we and all thy whole Church may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion; And we pray that by the power of thy Holy Spirit, all we who are partakers of this holy Communion may be fulfilled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; through Jesus Christ our Lord, by whom and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end.

And all the people shall answer:

Amen.

After a short period of silence the Priest shall say:

T

HE peace of the Lord be always with you;

People. **And with thy spirit.**

Then shall the Priest kneel down at the Lord's Table, and shall, together with all that shall receive the Communion, humbly say this prayer following:

W

E do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, Trusting in our own righteousness, But in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy So much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord, Whose property is always to have mercy: Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, So to eat the Flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, And to drink his Blood, That our sinful bodies may be made clean by his Body, And our souls washed through his most precious Blood, And that we may evermore dwell in him, And he in us. *Amen.*

Then shall the Priest first receive

THE COMMUNION

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive communion in this Church. Please move to the rail at the direction of the ushers. You may receive the bread in open and outstretched hands, responding: "Amen." Gluten-free wafers are available; please make your need known to the minister. If you prefer not to receive wine from the common cup, you may simply touch the base of the chalice, again responding: "Amen." Should you wish to receive a blessing, please indicate that to the priest by crossing your arms over your chest.

T

THE Body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for thee, preserve thy body and soul unto everlasting life: Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for thee, and feed on him in thy heart by faith with thanksgiving.

T

THE Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for thee, preserve thy body and soul unto everlasting life: Drink this in remembrance that Christ's Blood was shed for thee, and be thankful.

O

**LAMB of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.**

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us thy peace.

When all have communicated, then shall the Priest say the Lord's Prayer, the people repeating with him every petition.

Let us pray.

O

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 them that 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.*

Then shall the Priest say

A

ALMIGHTY and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee that thou dost graciously feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ; assuring us thereby of thy favour and goodness towards us; and that we are living members of his mystical body, which is the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs through hope of thy everlasting kingdom.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee. And although we are unworthy, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offences; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end. *Amen.*

Then shall be said or sung Gloria in Excelsis.

G

LORY be to God on high, and in earth peace, good will towards men. We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great glory, O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesu Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.

For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord; thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. *Amen.*

Then the Bishop shall let them depart with this Blessing.

T

HE 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.*

CLOSING HYMN



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

2 The cattle are lowing, the baby
awakes,
but little Lord Jesus no crying he
makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down
from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is
nigh.

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

Away in a Manger

Attributed to Martin Luther



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The Right Reverend William Cliff, Bishop of Ontario
The Very Reverend Douglas Michael, Dean of Ontario



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