ST JOHN'S COLLEGE CHAPEL



EPIPHANY CAROL SERVICE

Saturday 21^{st} and Sunday 22^{nd} January 2023 at 6 pm

ST JOHN'S COLLEGE CHAPEL

Our Chapel is one of the most recognisable buildings in Cambridge and is home to a lively and inclusive community. You are always welcome here, whatever your beliefs or background.

St John's has a distinguished tradition of religious music and, since the 1670s, has maintained a world-famous College Choir, whose main duty is singing the daily services (Tuesday to Sunday) in the College Chapel during the University Term. The College also has a second choir, St John's Voices, who sing the choral service on Monday. You will find details of all our choral services on the Chapel page of the College website.

For members of College, this is your Chapel, and we hope that you will come here for refreshment, encouragement, peace and perhaps occasionally even challenge. It is usually open from 8am until 7.30pm.

The Revd Dr Mark Oakley Dean The Rev'd Andrew Hammond Chaplain

Please note that rubrics asking you to stand are only for those who are able to; and join in the spoken texts printed in **bold**.



The Chapel is fitted with a hearing induction loop for those who are hearingimpaired.

THIS SERVICE

The season of Epiphany continues the great season of Christmas up to its culmination in the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas). Its central story is that of the three wise men from the east, the Magi. Their coming to the Christ-child in Bethlehem shows that in Jesus' birth God reaches out to all the people of the world, Jewish and Gentile.

This service reprises the whole sweep of the Christmas story, from the Annunciation to Mary through to the Presentation, with the story of the Magi at its heart. We are celebrating the fact and meaning of a birth which utterly changed the course of history. Jesus is Emmanuel, 'God with us'. As the earliest theologians put it, God became human that we might become divine.

ORGAN MUSIC BEFORE THE SERVICE

Played by George Herbert:

Trois Pièces (Trois Improvisations) for Organ

i. Prélude

ii. Petit Canon

iii. Improvisation Nadia Boulanger (1887–1979)

The Dawn of Redeeming Grace

Judith Bingham

(b. 1952)

Oriens * Anna Semple (b. 1997)

Played by Alex Robson:

Variations sur Lucis Creator

i. Thème

ii. Variation 1

iii. Variation 2 - Thema fugatum

Jehan Alain

(1911–1940)

Canonic variations on Von Himmel Hoch BWV 769

i. Canone all' ottava

ii. Canone alla quinta

iii. Canone alla settima

iv. Canon per augmentationem

v. Canto fermo in canone J.S. Bach (1685–1750)

Noël: Grand Jeu et Duo

Louis-Claude Daquin
(1694–1772)

^{*} This work was commissioned by the Master and Fellows, with support from the Herbert Howells Organ Music Fund.

ORDER OF SERVICE

The service begins with the Chapel in darkness; the congregation is seated.

FIRST READING

JOHN 1. 1–14 Read by the Dean.



In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

INTROIT: A TENDER SHOOT

A tender shoot hath started Up from a root of grace, As ancient seers imparted, From Jesse's holy race, It blooms without a blight, Blooms in the cold bleak winter Turning our darkness into light.

This shoot Isaiah taught us From Jesse's root should spring, The Virgin Mary brought us The branch of which we sing, Our God of endless might Gave her this child to save us Thus turning darkness into light.

Words Anonymous, 16th century translated by William Bartholomew (1793–1867)

Music Otto Goldschmidt (1829–1907)

Please stand for the hymn.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Of the Father's heart begotten, ere the world from chaos rose, he is Alpha: from that Fountain all that is and hath been flows; he is Omega, of all things yet to come the mystic Close, evermore and evermore.

By his word was all created; he commanded and 'twas done; Earth and sky and boundless ocean, universe of three in one, all that sees the moon's soft radiance, all that breathes beneath the sun, evermore and evermore.

O how blest that wondrous birthday, when the Maid the curse retrieved, brought to birth mankind's salvation, by the Holy Ghost conceived; and the Babe, the world's Redeemer, in her loving arms received, evermore and evermore.

Sing, ye heights of heaven, his praises; angels and Archangels, sing! wheresoe'er ye be, ye faithful, let your joyous anthems ring, every tongue his name confessing, countless voices answering, evermore and evermore.

Words Prudentius (348–c. 413) translated by Roby Furley Davis (1866–1937)

BIDDING PRAYER

We are gathered to celebrate with joy the revelation of God's glory in the birth of Jesus, who is Emmanuel, God-with-us. We will recall the visit of the Magi bringing their homage and their gifts, laden with meaning; and we will hear again the prophetic words of Simeon revealing the Christ-child as the light who will bring light to all people.

As we rejoice in this, the Word made flesh, who called us out of darkness into light, so we pray that his love and faithfulness may be known in all the world.

We pray for God's creation, that we may have reverence for the natural order and respect for every person, made in the image and likeness of God; and we pray for those who are in need, for the lonely, the fearful, the sick and the bereaved, and for all who have no-one to pray for them.

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has 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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

May God open our eyes to see his glory and open our hearts to be a blessing to his people, now and always.

Amen.

I: THE WORD MADE FLESH

SENTENCE

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the shadow of death, upon them has the light shined.

Arise, shine, for your light has come: And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

COLLECT

All

Almighty God, you have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him and to be born of a pure virgin: grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

All Amen.

Please sit.

SECOND READING

LUKE 1. 26-38

The angel of the Lord brings tidings to Mary.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.'

But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.'

Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.'

Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.'

Then the angel departed from her.

CAROL: THE ANGEL GABRIEL

The angel Gabriel from heaven came, His wings as drifted snow his eyes as flame: 'All hail' said he, 'thou lowly maiden Mary, Most highly favoured lady!' Gloria!

'For known a blessed Mother thou shalt be; All generations laud and honour thee: Thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold. Most highly favoured lady!' Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head. 'To me be as it pleaseth God!' she said. 'My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name.' Most highly favoured lady!' Gloria!

Of her Emmanuel, the Christ, was born In Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn, And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say; 'Most highly favoured lady!' Gloria!

Words Sabine Baring-Gould (1834–1924)

Music Basque carol arranged by Edgar Pettman (c. 1866–1943)

MOTET: O ADMIRABILE COMMERTIUM

O admirabile commertium, creator generis humani, animatum corpus sumens, de Virgine nasci dignatus est, et procedens homo sine semine, largitus est nobis suam Deitatem.

O wonderful exchange, the creator of human-kind, taking on a living body was worthy to be born of a virgin, and, coming forth as a human without seed, has given us his deity in abundance.

Words Vespers antiphon in the Octave of Christmas

Music William Byrd (1543–1623)

CAROL: THERE IS NO ROSE

There is no rose of such virtue as is the rose that bare Jesu: Alleluia.

For in this rose contained was

heaven and earth in little space: Res miranda. [A marrellous thing]

By that rose we may well see

there be one God in persons three: Pares forma. [Equal in form]

The angels sungen the shepherds to:

Gloria in excelsis deo: Gaudeamus. [Let us rejoice]

Then leave we all this worldly mirth and follow we this joyous birth: Transeamus.

[Let us follow]

Words Anonymous, 14th century

Music Simon Preston (1938–2022)

THIRD READING

MATTHEW 1. 18-25

Christ is born in Bethlehem.

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.'

All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.'

When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

CAROL: THE CRADLE IN BETHLEHEM

There was no cradle for Jesus When He was small, Only a rough wooden manger In a poor stall; Yet the baby who lay there so lowly Was king of us all.

There was no lamp in the stable
That winter night,
Only a shepherd's dim lantern
Gave fitful light;
Yet the star that burn'd over the roof tree
Made all Heaven bright.

No man made music for Jesus, Songs they made none; Only Heav'n's angels were praising Father and Son In a song that will ring down the ages Till ages are done.

We sing the glory of Jesus As they sang then. Soon may the whole earth re-echo That song again: Praise and glory to God in the highest, Good will toward men.

Words Harry Rodney Bennett (1890–1948)

Music Roger Quilter (1877–1953)

CAROL: CHORALE AFTER AN OLD FRENCH CAROL

Our father, whose creative Will Asked being for us all, Confirm it that Thy Primal Love May weave in us the freedom of The actually deficient on The justly actual.

Though written by Thy children with A smudged and crooked line
Thy word is ever legible,
Thy Meaning unequivocal,
And for Thy Goodness, even sin
Is valid as a sign.

Inflict Thy promises with each Occasion of distress,
That from our incoherence we May learn to put our trust in Thee,
And brutal fact persuade us to
Adventure, Art, and Peace.

Words W.H. Auden (1907–1973)

Music Benjamin Britten (1913–1976)

Please stand for the hymn.

HYMN

Bethlehem, of noblest cities none can once with thee compare; thou alone the Lord from heaven didst for us incarnate bear.

Fairer than the sun at morning was the star that told his birth; to the lands their God announcing, seen in fleshly form on earth.

By its lambent beauty guided see the eastern kings appear; see them bend, their gifts to offer, gifts of incense, gold and myrrh.

Solemn things of mystic meaning: incense doth the God disclose, gold a royal child proclaimeth, myrrh a future tomb foreshows.

Holy Jesu, in thy brightness to the Gentile world displayed, with the Father and the Spirit endless praise to thee be paid.

Words Prudentius (348–c. 413) translated by Edward Caswall (1814–1878) Tune STUTTGART adapted from a tune in 'Harmonia Sacra' Gotha by Christian Witt (1660–1716)

II: THE KING OF THE NATIONS

SENTENCE

At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow; in heaven, on earth and under the earth: and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

Nations shall come to your light:

All And kings to your dawning brightness.

COLLECT

Almighty Father, by the leading of a star you revealed your only-begotten Son to the peoples of the earth: in your mercy grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Please sit.

FOURTH READING

Journey of the Magi by T.S. Eliot

'A cold coming we had of it,
Just the worst time of the year
For a journey, and such a long journey:
The ways deep and the weather sharp,
The very dead of winter.'
And the camels galled, sore-footed, refractory,
Lying down in the melting snow.
There were times we regretted

The summer palaces on slopes, the terraces,
And the silken girls bringing sherbet.
Then the camel men cursing and grumbling
And running away, and wanting their liquor and women,
And the night-fires going out, and the lack of shelters,
And the cities hostile and the towns unfriendly
And the villages dirty and charging high prices:
A hard time we had of it.
At the end we preferred to travel all night,
Sleeping in snatches,
With the voices singing in our ears, saying
That this was all folly.

Then at dawn we came down to a temperate valley, Wet, below the snow line, smelling of vegetation, With a running stream and a water-mill beating the darkness, And three trees on the low sky, And an old white horse galloped away in the meadow. Then we came to a tavern with vine-leaves over the lintel, Six hands at an open door dicing for pieces of silver, And feet kicking the empty wine-skins. But there was no information, and so we continued And arriving at evening, not a moment too soon Finding the place; it was (you may say) satisfactory.

All this was a long time ago, I remember,
And I would do it again, but set down
This set down
This: were we led all that way for
Birth or Death? There was a Birth, certainly,
We had evidence and no doubt. I had seen birth and death,
But had thought they were different; this Birth was
Hard and bitter agony for us, like Death, our death.
We returned to our places, these Kingdoms,
But no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation,
With an alien people clutching their gods.
I should be glad of another death.

CAROL: HERE IS THE LITTLE DOOR

Here is the little door, lift up the latch, oh lift!
We need not wander more but enter with our gift;
Our gift of finest gold,
Gold that was never bought nor sold;
Myrrh to be strewn about His Bed;
Incense in clouds about His Head;
All for the Child that stirs not in His sleep,
But holy slumber holds with ass and sheep.

Bend low about His Bed: for each He has a gift;
See how His eyes awake, lift up your hands, oh lift!
For gold, He gives a keen-edged sword
(Defend with it Thy little Lord!)
For incense, smoke of battle red,
Myrrh for the honoured happy dead;
Gifts for His children, terrible and sweet,
Touched by such tiny hands and oh such tiny feet.

Words Frances Chesterton (1869-1938)

Music Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

FIFTH READING

MATTHEW 2. 13-18

The Holy Family become refugees.

After the wise men had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.'

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

'A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.'

ANTHEM: VOX IN RAMA

Vox in Rama audita est ploratus et ululatus, Rachel plorans filios suos; noluit consolari, quia non sunt.

Words Matthew 2. 18

A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.

Music George Kirbye (1565–1634)



Please stand for the hymn.

HYMN

Brightest and best of the sons of the morning, dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid; star of the East, the horizon adorning, guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Cold on his cradle the dew-drops are shining, low lies his head with the beasts of the stall: angels adore him in slumber reclining, maker and Monarch and Saviour of all.

Say, shall we yield him, in costly devotion, odours of Edom and offerings divine?
Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean, myrrh from the forest or gold from the mine?

Vainly we offer each ample oblation, vainly with gifts would his favour secure; richer by far is the heart's adoration, dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

Brightest and best of the sons of the morning, dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid; star of the East, the horizon adorning, guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Words Reginald Heber (1783-1826)

Tune EPIPHANY Joseph Thrupp (1827–1867)

III: LIGHT OF THE WORLD

SENTENCE

But the hour is coming, and now is, when true worshippers will worship in spirit and truth.

And the Lord, whom you seek:

All Shall suddenly come to his temple.

COLLECT

Almighty and ever-living God, clothed in majesty, whose beloved Son was presented in the Temple in substance of our flesh, and was acclaimed the glory of Israel and the light of the nations: grant that in him we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts, and in the world may reflect his glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Please sit.

CAROL: TOMORROW SHALL BE MY DANCING DAY

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day: I would my true love did so chance to see the legend of my play, to call my true love to my dance:

Sing, O my love, O my love, my love, my love; this have I done for my true love.

Then was I born of a virgin pure, of her I took fleshly substance; thus was I knit to man's nature, to call my true love to my dance:

Sing, O my love...

In a manger laid and wrapped I was, so very poor this was my chance, betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass, to call my true love to my dance:

Sing, O my love...

Then afterwards baptized I was; the Holy Ghost on me did glance, my Father's voice heard from above, to call my true love to my dance:

Sing, O my love...

Words Traditional English Carol

Music John Gardner (1917–2011)

SIXTH READING

LUKE 2. 21-32

Peace comes to a holy man.

After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.'

NUNC DIMITTIS

Nunc dimittis servum tuum,
Domine, secundum verbum
tuum in pace: quia viderunt
oculi mei salutare tuum
quod parasti ante faciem
omnium populorum:
lumen ad revelationem
gentium, et gloriam
plebis tuae Israel.
Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui
Sancto, sicut erat in principio,
et nunc, et semper, et in
saecula saeculorum. Amen.

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace: according to thy word. For mine eyes have seen thy salvation; which thou hast prepared before the face of all people: to be a light to lighten the Gentiles: and to be the glory of thy people Israel. Glory be 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.

Words Luke 2. 29-32

Music Gustav Holst (1874–1934)



Please stand for the hymn.

HYMN

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness! Bow down before him, his glory proclaim; with gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness, kneel and adore him, the Lord is his Name!

Low at his feet lay thy burden of carefulness, high on his heart he will bear it for thee, comfort thy sorrows, and answer thy prayerfulness, guiding thy steps as may best for thee be.

Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness of the poor wealth thou wouldst reckon as thine: truth in its beauty, and love in its tenderness, these are the offerings to lay on his shrine.

These, though we bring them in trembling and fearfulness, he will accept for the name that is dear; mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness, trust for our trembling and hope for our fear.

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness! Bow down before him, his glory proclaim; with gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness, kneel and adore him, the Lord is his Name!

Words John Monsell (1811–1875)

Tune WAS LEBET Melody from the 'Rheinhardt' MS 1754 Desc.ant by Andrew Nethsingha (b. 1968)

THE COLLEGE PRAYER

Bless, O Lord, the work of this College which is called by the name of thy beloved disciple, and grant that love of the brethren and all sound learning may ever grow and prosper here, to thy honour and glory, and to the good of thy people, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit livest and reignest, one God, world without end.

All Amen.

THE BLESSING

Christ the Son of God perfect in you the image of his glory and gladden your hearts with the good news of his kingdom; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

Please remain standing as the Choir and Clergy depart.

ORGAN MUSIC AFTER THE SERVICE Played by George Herbert

La Nativité du Seigneur: ix. Dieu parmi nous

Olivier Messiaen (1908–1992)

The cover illustration is from the first edition of T. S. Eliot's 'Ariel Poems', by the poster artist Edward McKnight Kauffer. The other images are from illuminated manuscripts in the College collection.

Further details of the Chapel and Choirs are available on our websites: www.joh.cam.ac.uk www.sjcchoir.co.uk stjohnsvoices.org

ST JOHN'S COLLEGE CHOIR

The Director of Music is pleased to receive enquiries from people interested in joining the choir as chorister, choral scholar or organ scholar.

He is always happy to meet them informally to offer advice.

Please contact him at choir@joh.cam.ac.uk

or contact the Choir Administrator on 01223 338718

CHORISTER VOICE TRIALS

Voice trials are held for boys and girls aged 6–9 years old.

For further details please contact the Registrar, Maria Mosher, at St John's College School on o1223 353652 or by email – admissions@sjcs.co.uk

ST JOHN'S VOICES

Those interested in singing in the College's adult mixed-voice choir are encouraged to contact Graham Walker, the Director, on ghw22@cam.ac.uk

Priority is generally given to students of St John's, but singers from outside the College are very welcome to apply.

ST JOHN'S COLLEGE CHAPEL

Dean The Rev'd Dr Mark Oakley

Interim Director of Music Dr Stephen Darlington MBE

Chaplain
The Rev'd Andrew Hammond

Director of St John's Voices Graham Walker

> Assistant Organist George Herbert

Herbert Howells Organ Scholar Alex Robson

St John's Voices Organists
Jack McCabe & Benedict Turner-Berry

Chapel Clerk Stephen Stokes

Assistant Verger
John Boulter

COLLECTION AFTER THE SERVICE



CHILDREN'S CHOIRS

The St John the Divine Children's Choirs were founded in 2013 to provide access to choral singing for children from disadvantaged backgrounds in south London. Links have grown over the years, initially through an annual residential at the College School, and the College is now supporting young people in South London to learn the organ.

Further details can be found at www.joh.cam.ac.uk/partnerships



Founded in 1884, the NSPCC's vision is still to end cruelty to children. It seeks to protect children across the UK, running a wide range of services for both children and adults, including national helplines and local projects.

Further details can be found at www.nspcc.org.uk