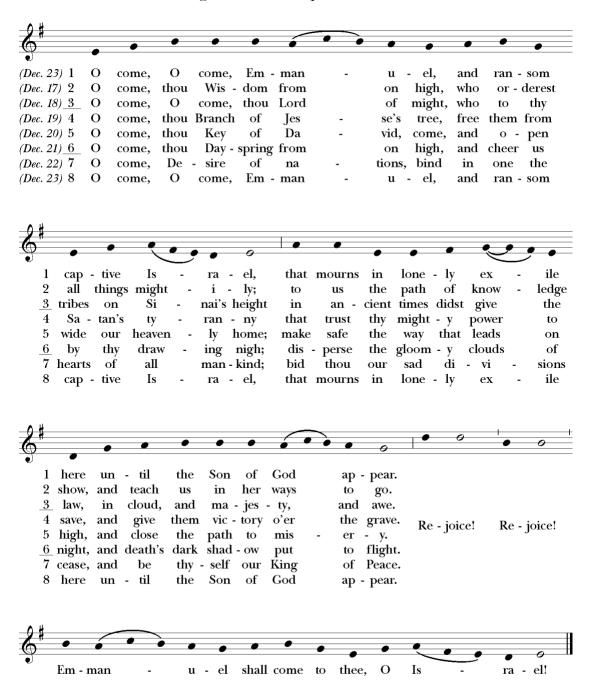
### Please stand.

## THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

Officiant Stay with us Christ, for it is evening.

People Make the Church bright with your radiance.

We will light the individual, pew, and altar candles at this time.



The stanzas may be used as antiphons with "The Song of Mary" on the dates given.

# THE PRAYER FOR LIGHT Let us pray.

Almighty God, we give you thanks for surrounding us, as daylight fades, with the brightness of the vesper light; and we implore you of your great mercy that, as you enfold us with the radiance of this light, so you would shine into our hearts the brightness of your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** 

Grant us, Lord, the lamp of charity which never fails, that it may burn in us and shed its light on those around us, and that by its brightness we may have a vision of that holy City, where dwells the true and never-failing Light, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** 

O Lord God Almighty, as you have taught us to call the evening, the morning, and the noonday one day; and have made the sun to know its going down: Dispel the darkness of our hearts, that by your brightness we may know you to be the true God and eternal light, living and reigning for ever and ever. **Amen.** 

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.** 

Please be seated.

### THE BIDDING PRAYER

Dear People of God: In the season of Advent, it is our responsibility and joy to prepare ourselves to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go even to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger.

CAROL Oh mi Belen Conrad Susa

Sung by Cantate Carlisle

¡Oh, mi Belén! Llegó tu hora bien amada, ¡oh, mi Belén! La luz que irradias sin cesar,

Oh, mi Belén!

es como un faro que nos guía en nuestra ruta, noche y día.

Oh, my Bethlehem! Your hour has come, beloved, oh, my Bethlehem! The light that shines without ceasing, is like a beacon that guides us on our way, night and day. Beloved in Christ, 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 Savior, Jesus Christ, will bring all people and all things into 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 in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen

You may extinguish your candles now or at any other time in the service. Please be seated.

### THE FIRST LESSON: GENESIS 3:1-15

Adam and Eve rebel against God and are cast out of the Garden.

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die." But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So, when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." The LORD God said to the serpent,

"Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.

I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel."

The Word of God. [No congregational response.]

Benjamin Britten

### Procession

Hodie Christus natus est:

hodie Salvator apparuit:

hodie in terra canunt angeli:

laetantur archangeli:

hodie exsultant justi dicentes:

Gloria in excelsis Deo. Alleluia!

Today Christ is born;

Today the Saviour has appeared.

Today the angels sing,

The archangels rejoice.

Today the righteous rejoice, saying,

Glory to God in the highest, Alleluia!

### THE SECOND LESSON: ISAIAH 40: 1-11

The Prophet proclaims good news to a people in exile.

Comfort, O comfort my people,

says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,

and cry to her

that she has served her term,

that her penalty is paid,

that she has received from the LORD's hand

double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,

make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up,

and every mountain and hill be made low;

the uneven ground shall become level,

and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,

and all people shall see it together,

for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry out!"

And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All people are grass,

their constancy is like the flower of the field.

The grass withers, the flower fades,

when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;

surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

The Word of God. [No congregational response.]

**CAROL** 

What Songs were Sung Sung by The Rev. Canon Christopher Streeter John Jacob Niles

We cannot tell, we do not know
What stars shone down so long ago,
When Mary birthed her own sweet Son
And peace and love became as one.

The Son of God, as scriptures said, Was Virgin-born in a tiny shed, Where simple shepherds stood hard by While heavenly sound filled up the sky.

Now let us stand, uncovered all, Before this creche in lowly stall, Where kings and angels dignify God's gift, His Son, in humility. We do not know, we cannot tell What songs were sung, what starlight fell, Or why the holy mystery stands For so many years in so many lands.

We cannot tell, we do not know What stars shone down so long ago, When Mary birthed her own sweet Son And peace and love became as one.

# THE THIRD LESSON: JEREMIAH 31:31-34

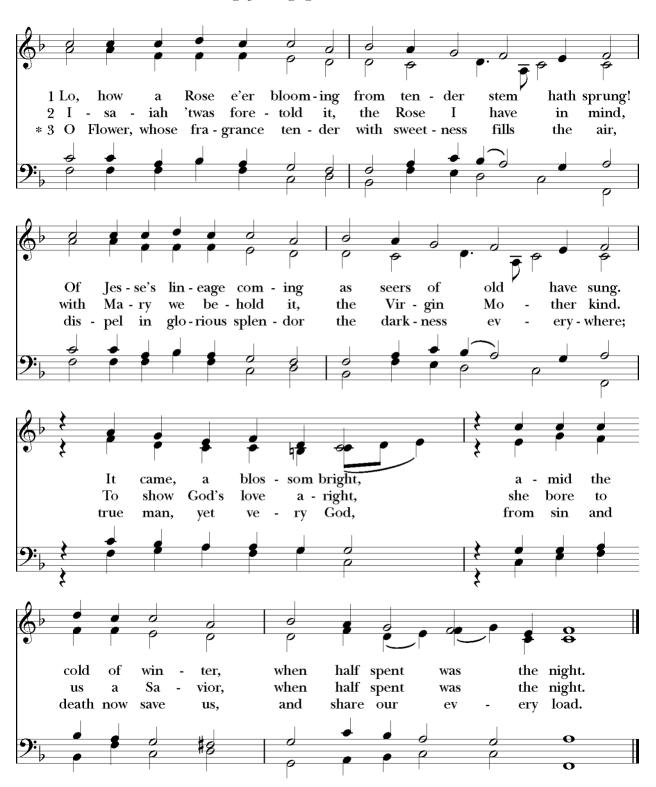
A New covenant is promised which will be written in our hearts.

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt-- a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

The Word of God. [No congregational response.]

# **CAROL**

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming Sung by Congregation



Please be seated.

### THE FOURTH LESSON: MICAH 5:2-4

The one who is to rule Israel will be born in the village of Bethlehem.

"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
though you are small among the clans of Judah,
out of you will come for me
one who will be ruler over Israel,
whose origins are from of old,
from ancient times."
Therefore, Israel will be abandoned
until the time when she who is in labor bears a son,
and the rest of his brothers return
to join the Israelites.
He will stand and shepherd his flock
in the strength of the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.
And they will live securely, for then his greatness
will reach to the ends of the earth.

The Word of God. [No congregational response.]

CAROL

There is no Rose Sung by Cantate Carlisle by Benjamin Britten

#### There is no Rose

There is no rose of such vertu as is the rose that bare Jesu. Alleluia, alleluia.

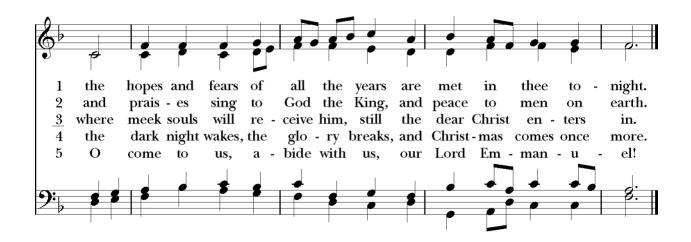
For in this rose conteined was heaven and earth in litel space, Res miranda, res miranda.

By that rose we may well see there be one God in persons three, Pares forma, pares forma, There is no rose of such virtue As is the rose that bore Jesus. Alleluia.

For inside the Rose (called Mary) Were heaven and earth in a single, little space. Miraculous thing.

By that rose, we now may see, There be one God in persons three. Created in the Parent's image. The aungels sungen the shepherds to: The angels sang to the shepherds, Gloria in excelsis Deo! Glory to God in the highest! Gaudeamus, gaudeamus. We rejoice. Leave we all this werldly mirth, Leave we all this wordly mirth, and follow we this joyful birth. And follow we this joyful birth. We cross over to Christ's world. Transeamus. Alleluia, res miranda, Alleluia, miraculous thing, pares forma, created in the Parent's image, gaudeamus, we rejoice, we cross over to Christ's world. Transeamus.





Please be seated.

#### THE FIFTH LESSON: ISAIAH 35: 1-10

The prophet proclaims that God will come and save us.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,

the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water;

the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there,

and it shall be called the Holy Way;

the unclean shall not travel on it,

but it shall be for God's people;

no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

No lion shall be there,

nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there,

but the redeemed shall walk there.

And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,

and come to Zion with singing;

everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;

they shall obtain joy and gladness,

and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The Word of God. [No congregational response.]

**CAROL** 

Spring Carol
Sung by Cantate Carlisle

Benjamin Britten

# **Spring Carol**

Pleasure it is to hear iwis,

the Birds sing,

The deer in the dale,

the sheep in the vale,

the corn springing.

God's purveyance for sustenance,

It is for man, it is for man.

Then we always

to give him praise,

And thank him than.

It is always a pleasure to hear the birds sing,

To see the deer in the dale,

the sheep in the vale,

the corn springing from the earth.

God supplies sustenance

For us all.

Then we should always

give him praise

And give him thanks.

### THE SIXTH LESSON: ZEPHANIAH 3:14-18

The Lord will be among us; we are summoned to rejoice and sing.

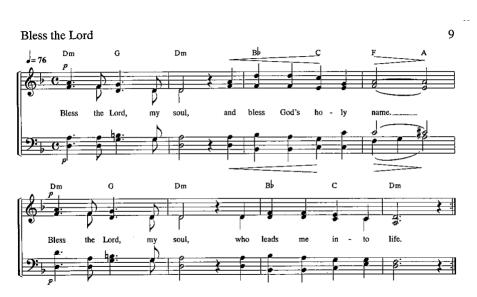
Sing, Daughter Zion; shout aloud, Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, Daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away your punishment, he has turned back your enemy. The Lord, the King of Israel, is with you; never again will you fear any harm. On that day they will say to Jerusalem, "Do not fear, Zion; do not let your hands hang limp. The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing." "I will remove from you all who mourn over the loss of your appointed festivals,

The Word of God. [No congregational response.]

which is a burden and reproach for you.

#### CAROL

Bless the Lord my soul Sung by Congregation Taize Chant #9



#### THE SEVENTH LESSON: LUKE 1:26-38

The Angel Gabriel announces to the Virgin Mary that she will bear the Son of the Most High.

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, favored 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 favor 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 forever, 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.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed.
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm.

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly.

he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

The Word of God. [No congregational response.]

O come, all ye faithful Sung by Congregation





6 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be glory given; Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;

Refrain

## THE CLOSING PRAYER

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the words of darkness and to put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son, Jesus Christ came to us in great humility that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.** 

Please be seated.

CAROL Chichester Psalm 131
Sung by Cantate Carlisle

Leonard Bernstein

Adonai, Adonai,	Lord, Lord,
Lo gavah libi,	My heart is not haughty,
V'lo ramu einai,	Nor mine eyes lofty,
V'lo hilachti	Neither do I exercise myself
Big'dolot uv'niflaot	In great matters or in things
Mimeni.	Too wonderful for me to understand.
Im lo shiviti	Surely, I have calmed
V'domam'ti,	And quieted myself,
Naf'shi k'gamul alei imo,	As a child that is weaned of his mother,
Kagamul alai naf'shi.	My soul is even as a weaned child.
Yahel Yis'rael el Adonai	Let Israel hope in the Lord
Me'atah v'ad olam.	From henceforth and forever.

## THE BLESSING

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.** 

Please stand.

### **CLOSING HYMN**

Lo, He comes with clouds descending Sung by the Congregation 1982 Hymnal #57



## THE DISMISSAL

CelebrantPeopleLet us bless the Lord.Thanks be to God.

## **POSTLUDE**

# **Worship Ministers**

Officiants The Rev. Barbara Hutchinson

The Rev. Dana Blouch-Hanson

Greeters Jim and Carolyn Holt
Crucifer Jeanine Goodwin
Lessons Donna Harpster

Ken Dotson

Barbara Hutchinson

Chris Streeter Kathy Hettinga Jeanine Goodwin Dana Blouch-Hanson

Musicians Kevin Gorman, pianist

Chris Streeter, vocalist

Michelle DiBona Trefren, conductor

Cantate Carlisle, *vocalists* Christina Benson

John Houpt

Myu Kulathungam Heather Leatherman Linda Rosenberry Virginia Stankiewicz

Brian Silva

Dean Van Orden Sue Fry Wickard

Technical Support

Bill Hutchinson