



Carol Service

St Machar's Cathedral

Wednesday 8 December 2021 at 7.30pm

*The music is sung by the
University of Aberdeen Chapel Choir*

*Stuart Muir
Director of Chapel and Ceremonial Music*

*Andrew Forbes
Organist*

*Music before the service also will be played by
Matthew McVey
David and June Gordon Memorial Organ Scholar*

ORDER OF SERVICE

PROCESSIONAL CAROL

Solo: 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.

Choir: He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall.
With the poor and meek and lowly
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

Congregation: And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love;
for that Child so dear and helpless
is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.

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,
where his children gather round,
bright like stars, with glory crowned.

H J Gauntlett (1805-1876)

C F Alexander (1818-1895)

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Rev Marylee Anderson
Chaplain to the University

BIDDING PRAYER

Rev Sarah Brown
St Machar's Cathedral

THE FIRST LESSON

Genesis 1: 1-5, 26-28

Ondrej Kucerák
Vice President for Education

CAROL BY CHOIR

See him born
Traditional French Carol;
arr. Ian Higginson (b1959)

THE SECOND LESSON

Isaiah 9: 2,6,7

Christianna Hellwig
Masters Student in Music

CAROL

It came upon the 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 you
from heaven's all-gracious King!'
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.

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.

But with the woes of sin and strife
the world has suffered long;
beneath the angels' hymn have rolled
two thousand years of wrong;
and warring humankind hears not
the love-song which they bring;
oh, hush the noise and still the strife
to hear the angels sing.

And you, 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.

For lo! The days are hastening on,
by prophet bards foretold,
when, with the ever-rolling years,
still dawns the Age of Gold,
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendours fling,
and all the world give back the song
which now the angels sing.

Traditional melody adapted A S Sullivan (1842-1900)

E H Sears (1810-1876)

THE THIRD LESSON

Luke 1: 26-38

Dr Robert Heimburger
Research Fellow, Divinity

CAROL BY CHOIR

Sussex Carol
Fraser Wilson (b1984)

THE FOURTH LESSON

Matthew 1: 18-23

Graeme Mutch
Sacrist

CAROL

O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to all on earth.
For Christ is born of Mary;
and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.

How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming;
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.

O Holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in;
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel.

English traditional melody:
harm. R Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)
& T Armstrong (1898-1994)

P Brooks (1835-1893)

THE FIFTH LESSON

Luke 2: 1-16

*(Doric Translation by Stephen Robertson MBE,
dedicated to the memory of our former Rector)*

Dr Fiona-Jane Brown
Elphinstone Institute

CAROL BY CHOIR

Nou lat us sing

John Wedderburn - Gude and Godlie Ballatis (1567)

CAROL

Angels from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story
now proclaim Messiah's birth:

*Come and worship
Christ, the new-born King,
Come and worship,
worship Christ, the new-born King.*

Shepherds in the fields abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
yonder shines the infant Light:

Wise men, leave your contemplations;
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of nations;
ye have seen his natal star:

Though an infant now we view him,
he will share his Father's throne,
gather all the nations to him;
every knee shall then bow down:

*French Carol Melody,
harm. Martin Shaw (1875 -1958)*

J Montgomery (1771-1854)

THE SIXTH LESSON

Matthew 2: 1-12

Tracey Slaven
University Secretary and
Chief Operating Officer

CAROL BY CHOIR

Brighter Sun
text: George Gascoigne (1525-1577);
music: Sam Scheibe (b1999)

THE MEDITATION

Rev David Hutchison
Chaplain to the University

CAROL BY CHOIR

Silent Night
Franz Gruber (1787-1863); arr. Bob Chilcott (b1955)

PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Fr Emmet O'Dowd
Honorary Roman Catholic Chaplain

CAROL

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;
 O come, let us adore him,
 O come, let us adore him,
 O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

God of God,
Light of light,
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
very God,
begotten, not created;

Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above,
'Glory to God
in the highest':

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born for our salvation;
Jesus, to thee be glory given:
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing:

*Text and Melody: J F Wade (c1711-1786);
arr. David Willcocks (1919-2015)*

THE SEVENTH LESSON

John 1: 1-14

Simon Bains
University Librarian & Head of Library Services

CAROL BY CHOIR

Sir Christèmas
William Matthias (1934-1992)

CAROL

Hark! the herald angels sing,
'Glory to the new-born King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies,
with the angelic hosts proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem'.
*Hark! the herald angels sing,
'Glory to the new-born King'.*

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail, the Incarnate Deity,
pleased as Man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel!

Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that man no more may die,
born to raise the sons of earth,
born to give them second birth:

F Mendelssohn (1809-1847)
adapt W H Cummings (1831-1915)

C Wesley (1707-1788)

THE BLESSING

Rev Marylee Anderson
Chaplain to the University

RECESSIONAL

Choral Prelude on *In dulci jubilo*, BWV 729
J S Bach (1685-1750)

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

At the close of the service the congregation is asked to remain standing until the Academic Procession has retired to the back of the Cathedral.

An offering will be taken on retiring in aid of the Open to All Fund. “Open to all” was the founding motto of the University of Aberdeen and one that still resonates deeply today, over 525 years later. We are passionate about making higher education open to all. The Open to All Fund supports students who struggle to access higher education despite being academically capable. It helps to ensure wider access to the very best in education, co-curricular activities, and vital services.

Find out more about the Open to All Fund at www.abdn.ac.uk/giving/opentoall

*We wish to express our gratitude and thanks to the
Minister and Kirk Session of the Cathedral Church of St Machar
for allowing us to hold the service here this evening.*

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