Sunday, December 13, 2015
4:00 and 7:00 PM
Mead Chapel, Middlebury College

Laurel M. Jordan, Chaplain
Jeff Buettner, Director of Choral Activities
Middlebury College Choir
Lessons & Carols
FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

The Carillon

Prelude

Noëls — Jeffrey Buettner

1. Joseph est bien Marie
2. Tous les bourgeois de Châtres
3. A minuit fut fait un Reveil
4. Vous qui desire sans fin
5. O Dieu, que n’étois-je en vie

Magnificat - Maurice Duruflé

Vom Himmel hoch - Johann Pachelbel

Prelude on Irby (“Once In Royal David’s City”) - David Willcocks

* Processional Hymn

(Choir & Congregation)

ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID’S CITY

1. (Solo: Emma Gee ’16)
   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.

2. (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 mean and lowly
   Lived on earth our Savior holy.

3. (Choir and Congregation)
   And through all his wondrous childhood
   He would honor and obey,
   Love, and watch the lowly maiden,
   In whose gentle arms he lay:
   Christian children all must be
   Mild, obedient, good as he.

4. (Choir and Congregation)
   For he is our childhood’s pattern,
   Day by day like us he grew.
   He was little, weak, and helpless,
   Tears and smiles like us he knew.
   And he feeleth for our sadness,
   And he shareth in our gladness.

5. (Choir and Congregation)
   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.

6. (Choir and Congregation)
   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;
   When like stars his children crowned
   All in white shall wait around.

*(Words by Cecil Francis Alexander;
  music by H. J. Gauntelett; setting by David Willcocks)*

* (indicates congregation standing)
The Bidding Prayer

Laurel Macaulay Jordan ’79
Chaplain of the College

The Lord’s Prayer (in unison)

Genesis 12:1–4a
Jonathan O’Dell ’18, 4:00 p.m.
Jim Ralph, 7:00 p.m.
Dean of Faculty Development and Research
Rehnquist Professor of American History and Culture

First Lesson

Choir

Felix Mendelssohn

Weihnachten
(sung in German)

Rejoice, you people of the earth, and praise God!
The redeemer is come, whom the Lord has promised.
He has revealed his justice to the world. Hallelujah!
(from Sechs Sprüche, op. 79, no. 1)

* Advent Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
(Choir & Congregation)

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Refrain

2. O come, O Wisdom from on high,
Who orders all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go.
Refrain

6. O come, O Dayspring, from on high,
And cheer us by your drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death’s dark shadows put to flight.
Refrain

7. O come, Desire of nations, bind
All peoples in one heart and mind;
O bid our sad divisions cease,
And be for us the Prince of Peace.
Refrain

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

(Words from Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710; music 15th c. French)
Second Lesson

Isaiah 9:2, 6–7
Jamie Hand ’16.5, 4:00 p.m.
Emily Fairchild ’18, 7:00 p.m.

Choir

Tuikkikaa, oi joulun tähtöset
(sung in Finnish)

Twinkle, O stars of Christmas,
like the starry eyes of children.
Tell the story of Christmas,
a mood as new and nice as before.

Glow, O songs of Christmas,
sing for joy with voices high resounding.
Let the musical flame blossom,
let it tell of the excitement
of a mood as new and nice as before.

Once the story of Christmas will have an end,
the music be filled with sadness.
Once will the eyes be filled with tears,
flowing waters of pain,
and for this reason, twinkle O starry eyes.

(Elsa Koponen; English by Matti Suomenaro ’16.5)

Third Lesson

Isaiah 40:1–8
Matthew Jennings, 4:00 p.m.
Editorial Director, Communications
Robert Erickson ’18, 7:00 p.m.
**Advent Hymn**  
**Comfort, Comfort Now My People**  
(Choir & Congregation)

1. “Comfort, comfort now my people, speak of peace,” thus says our God.  
   “Comfort those who sit in darkness, mourning ’neath their sorrows’ load.  
   Speak unto Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them;  
   tell them that their sins I cover, and their warfare now is over.”

2. Hark, the voice of one who’s crying in the desert far and near,  
   bidding all to full repentance since the Kingdom now is here.  
   O that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way;  
   let the valleys rise to meet him and the hills bow down to greet him.

3. O make straight what long was crooked, make the rougher places plain;  
   let your hearts be true and humble, as befits God’s holy reign.  
   For the glory of the Lord now o’er earth is shed abroad,  
   and all flesh shall see the token that God’s word is never broken.

(Words by Johann Olearius; music from Genevan Psalter, 1551)

**Fourth Lesson**  
Isaiah 11:1–9  
Sarah Stroup, 4:00 p.m.  
Associate Professor of Political Science  
Asia Miles-Funches ’18, 7:00 p.m.

**Carol**  
**Lo, How a Rose e’er Blooming**  
(Choir & Congregation)

1. Lo, how a Rose e’er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!  
   Of Jesse’s lineage coming as seers of old have sung.  
   It came, a blossom 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 Savior,  
   when half spent was the night.

(Words 15th c. German; music by Michael Praetorius)

**Fifth Lesson**  
Luke 1:26–33, 38  
Katy Smith Abbott, 4:00 p.m.  
Dean of the College  
Meaghan Hickey ’18, 7:00 p.m.
DIXIT MARIA
(sung in Latin)

Mary said to the Angel:
Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord, let it be to me, according to your word.
(Luke 1:38)

Sixth Lesson

Luke 2:1–7
Marquise McGraw, 4:00
Assistant Professor of Economics
Keegan Callanan, 7:00
Assistant Professor of Political Science

Angels we have heard on high

1. Angels we have heard on high,
   sweetly singing o'er the plains,
   And the mountains in reply
   echoing their joyous strains.
   Gloria in excelsis Deo!

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?
   Why your joyous strains prolong?
   What the gladsome tidings be,
   Which inspire your heavenly song?
   Gloria in excelsis Deo!

3. Come to Bethlehem and see
   Christ whose birth the angels sing;
   Come adore on bended knee.
   Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
   Gloria in excelsis Deo!

4. See him in a manger laid,
   Whom the choirs of angels praise;
   Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
   While our hearts in love we raise.
   Gloria in excelsis Deo!

(Choir & Congregation)

(Words and music French traditional carol)

AmuWoro ayi Otu nWa
(sung in Igbo/Nigerian)

For unto us now a child is born, unto us a son is given.
The mighty God, Prince of Peace, father everlasting. (Isaiah 9:6)

Seventh Lesson

Luke 2:8–20
Wanning Seah ’16, 4:00 p.m.
Masha Lafen ’15.5, 7:00 p.m.
**VILLANCICO DE LA FALTA DE FE**

*(sung in Spanish)*

In the sky a star is shining, moving slowly, new and bright,
the star of God that leads us to the gate of Bethlehem.
Being wise, the sages saw it, as the heavens gave it birth;
but men, being but men, look, but still do not see the star.
Balthazar has skin like honey, as dark as the nettle tree;
Caspar seems so frail, so gentle, of many lives is he.
Melchior is so enlightened, and his faith all men inspires
that whoever sees him marvels, for his eyes, they burn with fire.

Wise men pass through deserts, pass through crowds along their way,
and woods that may never flower as the wise men pass them by.
Many years and years roll onward, as the wise men journey on;
with hearts and minds in wonder, they travel to Bethlehem.
Snow is falling all around them, as they journey endlessly.
Snow is lying all around them, and their feet are tired and cold,
and the star still shines in heaven, shining out a light of gold.

(Luis Rosales; English by Tim Morris)

Annie Beliveau ’18, soloist

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**Eighth Lesson**

**Matthew 2:1-12**

John Simms ’17, 4:00 p.m.

Dominick Tanooh ’18, 7:00 p.m.

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**Carol**

*Carol*

(Choir & Congregation)

1. **People, look East.** The time is near
Of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
Trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look East, and sing today:
Love the Guest is on the way.

2. **Furrows, be glad.** Though earth is bare,
One more seed is planted there.
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
That in course the flower may flourish.
People, look East, and sing today:
Love the Rose is on the way.

3. **Birds, though you long have ceased to build,**
Guard the nest that must be filled.
Even the hour when wings are frozen
Now for fledging time is chosen.
People, look East, and sing today:
Love the Bird is on the way.

4. **Stars, keep the watch.**
When night is dim,
One more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather,
Bright as sun and moon together.
People, look East, and sing today:
Love the Star is on the way.

(Words by Eleanor Farjeon; music French traditional melody)
Offering

The free-will offering received at these services will be directed to HOPE, Elderly Services, and Addison County Home Health and Hospice. Please be as generous as your means permit.

Carol

(Choir & Congregation, please remain seated)

1. (All)
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. (Choir)
Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him
Nor earth sustain;
Heav’n and earth shall flee away
When he comes to reign:
In the bleak mid-winter
A stable place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

3. (Solo: Luis Jose Battista '19)
Angels and archangels
May have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim
Throng’d the air,
But only His mother
In her maiden bliss
Worshipped the Beloved
With a kiss.

4. (All)
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.

(Words by Christina Rossetti; music by Gustav Holst)

Collect

Choir

THE SHEPHERD’S CAROL

Bob Chilcott

We stood on the hills, Lady, our day’s work done,
watching the frosted meadows that winter had won.
The evening was calm, Lady, the air so still,
silence more lovely than music folded the hill.

There was a star, Lady, shone in the night,
larger than Venus it was And bright, so bright.
Oh, a voice from the sky, Lady, it seemed to us then
telling of God being born in the world of men.

And so we have come, Lady, our day’s work done,
our love, our hopes, ourselves, we give to your son.

(Clive Sansom)
Ninth Lesson

John 1:1–5, 9–14
Paul Nelson, 4:00 p.m.
G. Nye and A. Walker Boardman Professor of Mental & Moral Science, Emeritus, Political Science
Emma McDonald ’16, 7:00 p.m.

* Carol

Silent Night! Holy Night!
(Choir & Congregation)

1. Silent night! Holy night!
   All is calm, all is bright,
   Round yon virgin mother and Child!
   Holy infant, so tender and mild,
   Sleep in heavenly peace,
   Sleep in heavenly peace.

   2. Silent night! Holy night!
      Shepherds quake at the sight,
      Glories stream from heaven afar,
      Heavenly hosts sing: “Alleluia;
      Christ the Savior is born,
      Christ the Savior is born.”

   3. Silent night! Holy night!
      Son of God, love’s pure light
      Radiant beams from thy holy face,
      With the dawn of redeeming grace,
      Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
      Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

* Benediction

* Recessional Hymn

O Come, All Ye Faithful
(Choir & Congregation)

1. 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;
   Refrain

   2. See how the shepherds,
      Summoned to his cradle,
      Leaving their flocks draw nigh to gaze;
      We too will thither,
      Bend our joyful footsteps;
      Refrain

   3. Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
      Born that happy morning,
      Jesus, to thee be all glory giv’n.
      Word of the Father,
      Now in flesh appearing.
      Refrain

   4. Sing, choirs of angels,
      Sing in exultation,
      Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
      Glory to God
      In the highest;
      Refrain

Refrain

   O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
   O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

(Words and melody by J. F. Wade; setting by David Willcocks)
Organ, choral, and congregational music for Lessons and Carols provides traditional, conceptual, and interpretive context for the text of the service. This year there is an international aspect to the program on the whole. The organ music is drawn from the traditional organ repertoire of the Christmas season, including “noels” from France, chorale-based prelude and toccata from Germany, and a fantasy by David Willcocks (1919–2015) on a popular English carol. Congregational carols include traditional Advent and Christmas favorites, also generally from those same countries. The choral music includes works by composers from countries in South America, Europe, and Africa, mostly written in the 20th–21st centuries. The texts include Biblical verse and spiritual poetry, and each choral setting is unique in rhythmic, melodic, and harmonic character. The concept of light is shared in several carols in the service, especially recalling experiences of beholding, following and contemplating the star and its light. The character of the music sheds different “light” on that concept, including celebration, awe, and also contemplation of sorrow.

The program celebrates music and tradition, but that is complemented by thoughts of people far away, of those in need and times of need, and of the wonder and trepidation of a young woman bearing a child in an unfamiliar place, under difficult circumstances. The College Choir shares this program in the spirit of artistic beauty, thoughtful inquiry, and joyful community.

—Jeffrey Buettner, DMA
Associate Professor of Music and
Director of Choral Activities, Middlebury College
Welcome and Historical Introduction

We are pleased that you could join us for the 44th annual Lessons and Carols service.

Our service is based on the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols that has been celebrated every year at King’s College, Cambridge, England since 1918. Beginning in the 1930s the King’s College service was broadcast annually to millions worldwide on BBC Radio. It was originally planned by Eric Milner-White, the Dean of King’s College Chapel. He had been a World War I British army chaplain, and became a liturgical pioneer who was convinced that the Church of England needed more imaginative worship. Christmas Eve 1918 was a mere six weeks from the World War I armistice; nearly half of Cambridge University undergraduates had gone off to war and a third of them never came back. Thus the phrase, “all those who rejoice with us, but on another shore and in a greater light,” from the bidding prayer, had particular resonance. Though the music changes each year, the backbone of the service—the prayers and lessons—has remained virtually unchanged in the Cambridge service since those days.

The first Middlebury College service took place in 1971, under the direction of Emory Fanning and Chaplain Charles P. Scott. They were certain that the college’s music department was up to the challenge, and that the community would welcome this colorful and moving celebration of the season. Middlebury’s Lessons and Carols was made famous by two public television specials. Christmas in Vermont: A Celebration of Lessons and Carols was filmed in 1984. And in 1988, Vermont Public Television produced A Vermont Christmas, narrated by actor Burgess Meredith and filmed on location in Middlebury and on the College’s Bread Loaf campus. Each production was rebroadcast, over several years, by over 200 public television stations nationally. Each year the offering is donated to HOPE, Elderly Services, and Addison Home Health and Hospice. Last year’s total from the two services was $3,500, a testament to the generosity of our community.

This is my twentieth Lessons & Carols as chaplain. Over the years I have received questions and requests regarding the prayers and other portions of the service. The overall format of this service provides such a rich opportunity to experience both the emotional resonance and familiarity of tradition, while each year stretching both the congregation and the choir with music that is unfamiliar or new. Over the years that blend of constancy, depth, innovation, and breadth creates a sense of anticipation and joy well suited for the Advent and Christmas seasons. For the Christian community, Advent is not only about the expectation of the birth of Jesus, which has already happened in history, it is also about the rebirth of the earth, the re-infusing of the New Creation into our currently beautiful, but broken world. The hope is expressed every time the Lord’s Prayer is recited in public and private devotion: thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

The Bidding Prayer at the beginning of the service is a close adaptation of Eric Milner-White’s bidding prayer still in use at Cambridge. We are invited into the narrative structure of salvation history and then “bid” to lift our prayers for the needs of the whole world. At the end of the service, the benediction usually used, “go forth into the world in peace, be of good courage,” is a familiar benediction used by many Christian denominations and is adapted from the closing exhortation from Paul’s First Letter to the Thessalonians.

The text that I have used most often to introduce the offering (when the song of the angels is stilled) is based on a poem by Howard Thurman. The Rev. Dr. Thurman was an important poet, mystic, philosopher, and theologian of the last century. He met with Gandhi, was a friend of Martin Luther King, as well as many of the most important civil rights leaders of the 1950s and ’60s. Howard Thurman was the first African-American dean of Marsh Chapel, Boston University, and served as a chaplain of Howard University.

The prayer after the offering and before the final lesson, the collect, has been the one place where I have most often used a liturgical composition of my own. I am so glad that you are here to join us. This is Christian worship, but it is also a time when people of many backgrounds and beliefs can come together to consider the prophetic visions of justice and peace, joy, and hope. We stand in awe of the beauty of the story of Mary, Joseph, and Jesus. We recognize that from what is small, vulnerable, humble, poor, powerless, and barely noticed, there can arise a constant inspiration and religious devotion that has outlived many an empire and army.

— by Reverend Laurel Macaulay Jordan ’79
Chaplain, Middlebury College
From the artist: The Night Visitors  ©2015

This is a painting about a journey taken at night, led by a star. The Night Visitors traveled under the bright light of a star to honor a newborn baby—this child sent for our salvation. It is also about Joseph, the earthly father of Jesus, present to the child at birth, and onward, and it is about a strong, young mother, Mary, who was called by God.

Mary is the voice and the action of this painting and she looks at us with eyes conveying sadness, longing, and admittedly, doubt. She presents the Christ Child yet holds on to him tightly, this swaddled baby whose sleeping face is circled in cloth. Only he has a simple pink halo.

The Night Visitors pays homage to the nurturing side of men. Sadly the quiet and gentle male spirit is not celebrated often enough. Here Joseph and the Magi have their eyes closed in contemplation and prayer reflecting longing for closeness to God, our shared experience. I was inspired by the good monks at Mepkin Abbey and by my own lovely son to create a work of art honoring the peaceful and tender side of men and what a beautiful thing that is.

On June 17, 2015, nine innocent souls lost their lives at Mother Emanuel Church in Charleston, SC. Recently a friend attended the National Black Sister’s Conference in Charleston and had a prayer service at the church. She said what touched her most was seeing the late Reverend Clementa Pinckney’s chair in the sanctuary draped with black cloth. Her memory became mine. While working on The Night Visitors day after day and hearing the news coming from Charleston the painting took on a life of its own and this tragedy infused the painting. Perhaps the darkness of the spirit deepened, perhaps eyes are closed more tightly and perhaps Mary looks at us with larger questions behind her eyes.

When Fr. Guerric Heckle called me to discuss creating a new and inclusive interpretation of the Magi story I was instantly inspired. I was delighted and honored to know the painting would serve as the invitational piece into Mepkin Abbey’s 2015 Crèche Festival. But one never knows at the outset of a journey the path that will be revealed and for an artist just how a work of art will move forward into existence. I accepted the spiritual commitment it takes to do this work and mourned, along with everyone else, the massacre in Charleston. It is my hope that viewers will experience The Night Visitors as a beacon of possibility, one that encourages hope over despair and like the congregation at Mother Emanuel have chosen so inspirationally to do, may it invite forgiveness and love.

—Janet McKenzie, the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont

Janet McKenzie, our cover artist, has been invited to present a slide presentation of her artwork at Middlebury. Her lecture will be March 10, 2016 at 4:30 p.m. Please be on the look out for more details in the new year.

For more details about Lessons and Carols, please go to our website at www.middlebury.edu/academics/music/middleburylessonsandcarols

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