

The Scott Center for Spiritual and Religious Life and the Middlebury College Choir present

Lessons & Carols *for* Advent and Christmas

An annual celebration with traditional hymns,
anthems, and readings of the season



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Mark R. Orten

Dean of Spiritual and Religious Life

Jeff Buettner

Conductor, Middlebury College Choir

Sunday, December 12, 2021 • 4:00 PM and 7:00 PM • Middlebury College Chapel

This in-person event is open to on- and off-campus audiences.

Vaccinations and masks required. Service subject to change.

Program will be available December 20, 2021 through January 7, 2022.

Donations will be accepted for local charities. Information at go.middlebury.edu/lessonsandcarols/

Lessons & Carols

FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

CELEBRATING FIFTY YEARS OF LESSONS AND CAROLS
AT MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE



THE CARILLON

Halle Shephard '23
Jonathan Carol-Madden '24
Madeline Pappano '24
Sylvie Shure '24
George Mathew Jr., *College carillonneur*

THE PRELUDE

Prelude on 'Irby'

David Willcocks

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland

J. S. Bach
Jeffrey Buettner

Noël Grand jeux et Duo

Louis-Claude Daquin
Ronnie Romano '20



PROCESSIONAL

Once in Royal David's City

Arr. David Willcocks (1970)
Gabrielle Martin '21.5, *soloist*

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.

He came down to earth from heave
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.

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, 1848; music by H. J. Gauntlett;
setting by David Willcocks)

THE BIDDING PRAYER

Mark R. Orten
Dean of Spiritual & Religious Life

THE LORD'S PRAYER

CHOIR

When Angels Sing

Mark Miller (2020)
Madison Middleton '22.5, *soloist*

Within each lifetime an angel's voice is heard;
celestial sounds pierce time and space.
For just a moment, the breathless beauty
of heaven's song reveals God's grace.

Peace in our hearts, peace when angels sing,
Peace, be still and listen heart.
Listen when angels sing.

Despite our sorrow, the dawn brings life anew;
and raging storms begin to cease.
For just a moment, the breathless beauty
of heaven's song brings us peace.

(Poetry by Herb Frombach)

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 3:8–13, 22–24

Tiffany Nourse Sargent '79

CHOIR

Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day

John Gardener (1965)
Massimo Sassi '22, *percussion*

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;

Refrain (sung after each verse)
Sing, oh! my love, oh! 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.

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.

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

(English Traditional text)

SECOND LESSON

Isaiah 9:2, 6–7

Ben Beese '21

CHOIR
Christus Natus Est
Rosephanye Powell (2019)

In Bethlehem on Christmas morn,
The lowly gem of love was born.
Hosanna! Christus natus est.

While beasts in stall, on bended knee,
Did carol all most joyously:
Hosanna! Christus natus est.

He was not born for bird and beast,
But suffered scorn to save the least.
Hosanna! Christus natus est.

Who lies in ditch? Who begs his bread?
Who has no stitch for back or head?
Hosanna! Christus natus est.

The manger still outshines the throne,
Christ must and will come to his own.
Hosanna! Christus natus est.

(Poetry by Countee Cullen, *On These I Stand*, 1947 post.)

THIRD LESSON
Isaiah 40:1–8
Solon Coburn
*Telecommunications Manager
and Technical Support Specialist*

CHOIR
Comfort, Comfort Now My People
Arr. Jeffrey Buettner (2021)
Maddie Tango '21.5, *soloist*

“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.”

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.

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, 1671; music from Genevan Psalter, 1551)

FOURTH LESSON
Isaiah 11:1–9
Matthew Evan Taylor
Assistant Professor of Music

CHOIR
A Spotless Rose
Herbert Howells (1919)
Blair Jia '23, *soloist*

A spotless rose is blowing, Sprung from a tender root,
Of ancient seers’ foreshowing, Of Jesse promised fruit;
Its fairest bud unfolds to light
Amid the winter cold, cold winter,
And in the dark midnight.
The Rose which I am singing, whereof Isaiah said,
Is from its sweet root springing, in Mary, purest Maid;
For, through our God’s great love and might,
The blessed Babe she bare us,
And in the dark midnight.

(14th-century German text, translated by Catherine Winkworth)

FIFTH LESSON

Luke 1:26–33, 38

Clara Wolcott '22

CHOIR

Bogoroditse Dyevo

Sergei Rachmaninoff (1915)

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Mary full of grace, the Lord is with you.
Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb,
for you have born the savior of our souls.

Orthodox Liturgy

SIXTH LESSON

Luke 2:1–7

John He '21

CHOIR

In the Bleak Midwinter

Gustav Holst (1906), adapt. Jeffrey Buettner (2021)

Yuichiro Kanaoka '22, soloist

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.

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.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim throng'd the air;
But his mother only, in her maiden bliss,
Worshipped the beloved with a kiss.

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, *A Christmas Carol*, 1872)

SEVENTH LESSON

Luke 2:8–20

Hannah Resnick '21

CHOIR

Patapan

Arr. David Conte (2015)

Willie, bring your little drum;
Robin, bring your flute and come;
And be merry while you play,
Tu-re-lu-re-lu, pat-a-pat-a-pan,
Come be merry while you play,
On this joyful Christmas Day!

When the men of olden days
To the King of Kings gave praise,
On the fife and drum did play...

God and we today become
More in tune than fife and drum,
So be merry while you play...

(Traditional French Burgundian Carol)

EIGHTH LESSON

Matthew 2:1-12

Laurel Jenkins

Assistant Professor of Dance

CHOIR

Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning

Arr. Shawn Kirchner (2016)

Hail the bless'd morn, see the great Mediator
down from the region of glory descend!
Shepherds, go worship the babe in the manger,
lo, for his guard the bright angels attend.

Refrain

Brightest and best of the stars 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 dewdrops are shining;
low lies his head with the beasts of the stall.
Angels adore him in slumber reclining,
maker and monarch and Savior of all. Refrain

Shall we not yield him, in costly devotion,
fragrance of Edom and offerings divine,
gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,
myrrh from the forest or gold from the mine? Refrain

(Poetry by Reginald Heber)

OFFERING

The free-will offering received at these services will be directed to
HOPE (Helping to Overcome Poverty's Effects), Project Independence,
and Addison County Home Health and Hospice.

Please be as generous as your means permit.

CHOIR

The Shepherd's Carol

Bob Chilcott (2000)

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.

(Poetry by Clive Sansom)

COLLECT

NINTH LESSON

John 1:1–5, 9–14

Mark R. Orten,
Dean of Spiritual and Religious Life

CHOIR

Silent Night! Holy Night!

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.

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."

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.

(Words Joseph Mohr, trans. attr. John Freeman Young; music by Franz Grüber)

BENEDICTION

RECESSIONAL

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Arr. David Willcocks (1961)

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:

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

See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,
Leaving their flocks draw nigh to gaze;
We too will thither, bend our joyful footsteps;

Refrain

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

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

Refrain

(Words attr. Frederick Oakeley; melody by J. F. Wade; setting by David Willcocks)

POSTLUDE

Toccata on “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Diane Bish (1994)

Ronnie Romano '20, *organist*

WELCOME AND HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION

We are pleased that you could join us for the 50th 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 to war; 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 prayers and lessons have 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 service was broadcast two television specials: Christmas in Vermont: A Celebration of Lessons and Carols, 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 nationally over several years by over 200 public television stations. Each year the offering is donated to HOPE (Helping to Overcome Poverty's Effects), Project Independence, and Addison Home Health and Hospice.

The overall format of this service provides such a rich opportunity to experience the emotional resonance and familiarity of tradition, each year offering music that is unfamiliar or new. Over the years that blend of constancy and innovation creates 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. That 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.”

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.

— by Reverend Laurel Macaulay Jordan '79
Chaplain Emerita, Middlebury College

NOTES ON THE MUSIC

In 2021, the Middlebury community officially celebrates fifty calendar years of services of Lessons and Carols of Christmas and Advent at Middlebury College. But as the notorious year of 2020 brought us the COVID-19 pandemic and its general pause on choral singing, we did not hold the service, rather we recorded two selections and created a video presentation based on those and previous services. This year, though singing with masks and with appreciable social distancing, we are very pleased to present the services in person to a community audience.

A grander celebration of fifty years of services will perhaps wait for a more opportune time, but this service does include music that is traditional for the services at Middlebury as well as music new to our services or performed in a different way this year. The opening and closing hymns are traditional and both arrangements by Sir David Willcocks (1919-2015), long-time director of music of King's College, Cambridge. This program includes new music, notably the first choral carol, *When Angels Sing*, by Mark A. Miller. As we are not singing carols along with our audience this year, due to the continued presence of the COVID-19 virus in the region and our deep desire to offer an event that is safe for all, the choir will sing *Comfort, Comfort Now My People* and *In the Bleak Midwinter* in arrangements crafted for this program. John Gardener's setting of the carol *Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day* has been popular worldwide for decades, and Sergei Rachmaninoff's *Bogoroditse Dyevo, Raduisya* even decades before that and has been sung in many of the Middlebury services. Bob Chicott's *The Shepherd's Carol* is fast becoming a new favorite among choral students here, and may join the Rachmaninoff with a place in the canon at Middlebury. In that piece, Clive Samson's poetry scene reveals people in daily routine who experience a revelatory moment, expressed musically in the phrase, "O, a voice from the sky, Lady;" they are inspired to pause in their work, and give joyfully and selflessly. The vividness of the musical moment, the simplicity and humanity of the message, and the sheer joy in singing it are certainly reasons for this piece and perhaps all of the "traditional" music of this service to be so loved.

This program includes music that is recently new to our services, all by American composers and all written within the past ten years. *When Angels Sing* is by church musician, composer, and teacher Mark A. Miller. A committed social justice advocate, Miller's music is typically thoughtful and personal, and he places relevant topics in the voices of singers through beautifully crafted melody and Gospel and contemporary musical style. This piece pairs programmatically with *The Shepherd's Carol* (above; later in the program) to represent the image of "angel" in the Christmas story and music of the season, and to represent the many different ways the concept of angel is part of human mythology, religion, spirituality, and creative imagery. Rosephanye Powell's setting of Countee Cullen's poem *Christus Natus Est* is masterful vocal polyphony with a bold poetic tone. A poet of the Harlem Renaissance, Cullen's words juxtapose images of the story of Jesus' birth with images of the African American experience. The incessant pulse, intensity of dynamics, and harmonic character of Powell's music capture sounds of the African American Spiritual, the relentlessness of Cullen's poetry, and a story of unjust human suffering. San Francisco composer David Conte's setting of *Patapan* is a charming and highly crafted setting, featuring familiar rhythmic pattern, thick

choral texture, and surprising harmonic shifts. *Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning* is adapted from the hymn "Star in the East" in William Walker's shape note collection *Southern Harmony* (1835). In this powerful arrangement the College Choir sings here, Shawn Kirchner preserved the stark, strident tone from the original tune and its essential harmonic idiom and added an accompaniment that draws stylistically from American bluegrass music.

The Service of Lessons and Carols for Advent and Christmas is a celebration of tradition and music, and we hope that the service brings you joy. We share this program in the spirit of artistic beauty, thoughtful inquiry, and joyful community.

—Jeffrey Buettner



SPECIAL THANKS

Anne Chabot
Academic Coordinator, Department of Music

Valerie Costello
Graphic Designer

Ellen McKay
Administrative Coordinator, Chaplain's Office

Nicole Sargent and Dawn Tomlinson
American Sign Language (ASL) Interpreters

CARILLONNEURS

Halle Shephard '23
Jonathan Carol-Madden '24
Madeline Pappano '24
Sylvie Shure '24
George Mathew Jr., *College carillonneur*

MUSICIANS IN THE SERVICE

Jeffrey Buettner
*Director of Choral Activities and Christian A. Johnson Professor of Music
Conductor, Organist*

Ronnie Romano '20
Organist

Massimo Sassi '22
Percussionist



MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE CHOIR

SOPRANO	ALTO	TENOR	BASS
Nora Brown '24	Victoria Andrews '23	Gino Abrams '24	Chris Branch '24
Naomi Clark '24	Grace Metzler '21.5	Adam Blachly '21.5	Bryan Currie '22
Lindsey Ingrey '24.5	Abby Nix '23	Willow Galusha '22	Samuel Hernandez '22
Catherine Kish '24	Tia Pogue '21.5	Yuichiro Kanaoka '22	Blair Jia '23
Jordy Kramarsky '23	Sage Schaumburg '22	Jackson Mumper '22	Max Stein '25
Sofie Leathers '22	Francis Shiner '23	Ryan Opiela-Young '22	
Gabrielle Martin '21.5	Katie Waters '22	Ryan Yin '23	
Madison Middleton '22.5			
Olivia Mueller '24			
Rohini Prabhakar '23			
Kendall Schilling '25			
Maddie Tango '21.5			
Jiaan Wang '24.5			

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

OFFICE OF THE CHAPLAIN

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