

Christmas with the Giltspur Singers

in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support

St Clement Danes

Wednesday, 13th December 2017, 7.00pm

Hodie Christus natus est

Plainsong

1st Reading: *Christmas*

John Betjeman (1906-1984) *read by Cathy Johns*

Please stand and join in the singing from the SECOND verse

Solo: Antonia Mott

*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.*

4 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.

2 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 Saviour holy.

5 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.

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

6 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, like stars, his children crowned,
All in white shall wait around.

Words: Mrs C. F. Alexander (1823-1895)

Music: 'Irby' by H. J. Gauntlett (1805-1876) harm. A. H. Mann (1850-1929); descant by David Willcocks (1919-2015)

Adam lay ybounden

Alleluya, a new work is come on hand

Boris Ord (1897-1961)

Peter Wishart (1921-1984)

2nd Reading: *St John Baptist*

Thomas Merton (1915-1968) *read by Jonathan Stoneman*

Benedictus (Second Setting) Solo: Tim Murray Christopher Maxim (2017)

3rd Reading: *O Simplicitas*

Madeleine L'Engle (1918-2007) *read by Katy Honan*

The Linden Tree Carol

The Cherry Tree Carol

Old German Tune *arr.* Christopher Maxim (2017)

Francis Jackson (b.1917)

Please stand and join in the singing

A great and mighty wonder,
A full and holy cure!
The Virgin bears the Infant
With virgin honour pure.
Repeat the hymn again!
*'To God on high be glory,
And peace on earth to men!'*

2 The Word becomes incarnate
And yet remains on high!
And cherubim sing anthems
To shepherds from the sky.
Repeat the hymn again!
*'To God on high be glory,
And peace on earth to men!'*

3 While thus they sing your Monarch,
Those bright angelic bands,
Rejoice, ye vales and mountains,
Ye oceans, clap your hands.
Repeat the hymn again!
'To God on high be glory,
And peace on earth to men!'

4 Since all he comes to ransom,
By all be he adored,
The Infant born in Bethlem,
The Saviour and the Lord.
Repeat the hymn again!
'To God on high be glory
And peace on earth to men!'

5 And idol forms shall perish,
And error shall decay,
And Christ shall wield his sceptre,
Our Lord and God for aye.
Repeat the hymn again!
'To God on high be glory,
And peace on earth to men!'

Words: *St Germanus (634-734), tr. J.M.Neale (1818-1866) and others*

Music: *'Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen' harm. Michael Praetorius (1571-1621); descants by Richard Marlow (1939-2013)*

4th Reading: *The birth of Jesus*

Luke 2:1-20 read by Nick Whitehead

This little babe (from 'A Ceremony of Carols') Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)
Hymn to the Virgin Benjamin Britten
Quartet: Antonia Mott, Nicky Johns, Nick Grounds, Eric Bateson

Please stand and join in the singing

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 th'angelic host proclaim,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.
Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.

2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come
Offspring of a Virgin's womb:
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail th'incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King

3 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Ris'n 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.
Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.

Words: *Charles Wesley (1707-1788) and others*

Music: *Adapted from a chorus by Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847); descant by David Willcocks*

Song 46 (As on the night before this blessed morn)
Torches

Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625)
John Joubert (b.1927)

❧ INTERVAL ❧

*Glory to the Christ Child
Christe, Redemptor omnium*

Alan Bullard (b.1947)
Claudio Monteverdi (1567-1643)

5th Reading: *The Epiphany*

Godfrey Rust (b.1953) *read by Mark Honan*

Please stand and join in the singing

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.

2 O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to men on earth;
For Christ is born of Mary;
And, gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wond'ring love.

3 How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming;
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still
The dear Christ enters in.

4 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.

Words: Bishop Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)

Music: 'Forest Green' (English trad.) arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958); descant by Thomas Armstrong (1898-1994)

*My Lord has come
Illuminare, Jerusalem*

Will Todd (b.1970)
Judith Weir (b.1954)

6th Reading: *The Oxen*

Thomas Hardy (1840-1928) *read by Nicky Johns*

Please stand and join in the singing

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 Our God, heav'n cannot hold him
Nor earth sustain;
Heav'n and earth shall flee away
When he comes to reign:
In the bleak midwinter
A stable-place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty,
Jesus Christ.

3 Enough for him, whom cherubim
Worship night and day,
A breastful of milk,
And a mangerful of hay:
Enough for him, whom angels
Fall down before,
The ox and ass and camel
Which adore.

4 Angels and archangels
May have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim
Thronged the air:
But only his mother
In her maiden bliss
Worshipped the beloved
With a kiss.

5 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: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

Music: 'Cranham' by Gustav Holst (1874-1934)

*Hark! hark! glad tidings charm our ears
Tomorrow shall be my dancing day*

Christopher Maxim (2017)
John Gardner (1917-2011)

Please stand and join in the singing

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.*

2 God of God,
Light of Light,
Lo! He abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God,
Begotten, not created:
Refrain

3 See how the shepherds,
Summoned to his cradle,
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear:
We too will thither
Bend our joyful footsteps:
Refrain

4 Child, for us sinners
Poor and in the manger,
Fain we embrace thee, with awe and love:
Who would not love thee,
Loving us so dearly?
Refrain

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

6 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born that happy morning;
Jesu, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing:
Refrain

Words: C18th, tr. F. Oakeley (1802-1880) and others

Music: Anon., but possibly by J. F. Wade (c.1711-1786);
descant by David Willcocks

We wish you a Merry Christmas

English Traditional arr. Arthur Warrell (1882-1939)

The Giltspur Singers would like to thank
HOLLAND AND KNIGHT (UK) LLP
for their generous support of tonight's concert

The Giltspur Singers

Sopranos Pravda Bokil, Katy Honan, Helen Kirkpatrick, Antonia Mott, Michelle Thomson
Altos Elizabeth Bower, Nicky Johns, Annie Lund, Kirsty Payne
Tenors Dan de Belder, Christopher Goodwin, Nick Grounds
Basses Eric Bateson, Matt Gardner, Timothy Murray, Nick Whitehead

Accompanist Duncan Atkinson QC

Conductor Dr Christopher Maxim