

Christmas with the Giltspur Singers

in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support

St Clement Danes

Wednesday, 12th December 2018, 7.00pm

The Advent Prose: Drop down, ye heavens

Cantor: Nick Whitehead

1st Reading: *God speaks comfortable words of hope to his people* (Isaiah 40:1-5) read by Lydia Manuell

Please stand and join in the singing

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear:
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel*____
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

2 O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free____
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell thy people save,
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave:
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel*____
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

3 O come, thou Day-Spring, come and cheer____
Our spirits by thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight:
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel*____
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

4 O come, thou Key of David, come____
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery:
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel*____
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

5 O come, O come, thou Lord of Might,
Who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
In ancient times didst give the law,
In cloud and majesty and awe:
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel*____
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

Words: Adapted from a translation by J. M. Neale (1818-1866) of the Latin Advent 'O' Antiphons

Music: Melody from 'Hymnal Noted' (1856), adapted from a French Missal; descant by Christopher Maxim (1996)

Antiphon: O Wisdom

O where shall wisdom be found?

William Boyce (1711-1779)

Verse soloists: Antonia Stoneman (S1), Lydia Manuell (S2), Nicky Johns (A), Nick Grounds (T), Tim Murray (B)

Antiphon: O Adonai

Adam lay ybounden

Howard Skempton (b.1947)

Antiphon: O Root of Jesse

O quickly come

Anthony Pitts (b.1969)

Please stand and join in the singing

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in thee.

2 Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth thou art;
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

3 Born thy people to deliver;
Born a child and yet a king;
Born to reign in us for ever;
Now thy gracious kingdom bring.

4 By thine own eternal Spirit,
Rule in all our hearts alone:
By thy all-sufficient merit,
Raise us to thy glorious throne.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788) (adapted)

Music: 'Cross of Jesus' by John Stainer (1840-1901); descant by Christopher Maxim (1993)

2nd Reading: *Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold* (Isaiah 9:2, 6-7) read by Matilda Thaddeus-Johns

Antiphon: O Key of David
Hosanna to the Son of David

Thomas Weelkes (1576-1623)

Antiphon: O Dayspring
Vigilate

William Byrd (c.1539/40 or 1543-1623)

Please stand and join in the singing

Lo, he comes, with clouds descending,
Once for favoured sinners slain;
Thousand thousand saints attending
Swell the triumph of his train:

Alleluia!

Alleluia!

Alleluia!

Christ appears on earth to reign.

3 Those dear tokens of his passion
Still his dazzling body bears,
Cause of endless exultation
To his ransomed worshippers:

With what rapture,

With what rapture,

With what rapture,

Gaze we on those glorious scars!

2 Ev'ry eye shall now behold him
Robed in dreadful majesty;
Those who set at naught and sold him,
Pierced and nailed him to the Tree,

Deeply wailing,

Deeply wailing,

Deeply wailing,

Shall the true Messiah see.

4 Yea, Amen, let all adore thee,
High on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the pow'r and glory,
Claim the kingdom for thine own:

Alleluia!

Alleluia!

Alleluia!

Thou shalt reign, and thou alone.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788) and John Cennick (1718-1755)

Music: 'Helmsley': later form of melody in J. Wesley's 'Select Hymns with Tunes Annexed' (1765);
descant by Christopher Maxim (1996)

3rd Reading: *The prophet in exile foresees the coming of the glory of the Lord* (Isaiah 60:1-3, 6, 19)
read by Jonathan Stoneman

Antiphon: O King of the Nations
Lift up your heads, O ye gates

William Mathias (1934-1992)

Antiphon: O Emmanuel
Frohloket ihr Volker auf Erden

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

✿ INTERVAL ✿

The holly and the ivy

English Traditional, arr. Reginald Jacques (1894-1969)

In dulci jubilo

Old German tune, arr. Robert Pearsall (1795-1856)

Please stand and join in the singing

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 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.

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.

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.

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.

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)

4th Reading: *St Luke tells of the birth of Jesus* (Luke 2:1-20) read by Cathy Johns

Felix namque

Christopher Maxim (comp. 2006)

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell

Elizabeth Maconchy (1907-1994)

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; descant by David Willcocks

5th Reading: *The wise men are led by the star to Jesus* (Matthew 2:1-12) read by David Grounds

The Three Kings

Peter Cornelius (1824-1874) arr. Ivor Atkins (1869-1953)

Baritone solo: Eric Bateson

The World's Desire

Christopher Maxim (comp. 2018 – *world première performance*)

6th Reading: Extract from *December* by John Clare (1793-1864) read by Dan de Belder

Ding dong! merrily on high

C16th French tune, arr. Charles Wood (1866-1926)

Carol of the Bells

Ukrainian Traditional

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	Katy Honan, Lydia Manuell, Antonia Stoneman, Michelle Thomson
Altos	Elizabeth Bower, Nicky Johns, Rebecca Kerr, Annie Lund
Tenors	Christopher Goodwin, Nick Grounds
Basses	Eric Bateson, Dan de Belder, Alex Milne, Timothy Murray, Nick Whitehead
Accompanist	Duncan Atkinson QC
Conductor	Dr Christopher Maxim