

The Nativity of the Lord  
At the Mass during the Night



The Cathedral of Saint Paul

Birmingham, Alabama

December 25, 2014

*Welcome to the Cathedral of Saint Paul! We are glad that you have chosen to worship God with us on this great feast; we hope you will rejoice throughout the year. This order of worship, which follows the structure of the Mass, is provided to assist you in your prayer and participation. The order of Mass can be found on page 3 in the Sunday's Word booklets found in the pew racks. Out of courtesy towards the musicians and in keeping with the reverence of the Holy Mass about to be celebrated, please turn off all electronic devices and refrain from talking in normal voice during the prelude.*

## **PRELUDE**

OFFERTOIRE SUR DEUX NOELS

ALEXANDRE GUILMANT

GOOD CHRISTIAN MEN, REJOICE

IN DULCI JUBILO

*(Please join in singing the carol below!)*

Good Christian men, rejoice with heart and soul, and voice; Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today; Ox and ass before Him bow; and He is in the manger now. Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice; Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this! He has opened the heavenly door, and man is blest forevermore. Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice; Now ye need not fear the grave: Peace! Peace! Jesus Christ was born to save! Calls you one and calls you all, to gain His everlasting hall. Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

JESUS, JESUS, REST YOUR HEAD

TRAD. AMERICAN

*Rodney Davidson, baritone*

BETHLEHEM DOWN

PETER WARLOCK

When he is King we will give him the Kings' gifts, myrrh for its sweetness, and gold for a crown, beautiful robes," said the young girl to Joseph. Fair with her firstborn on Bethlehem Down. Bethlehem Down is full of the starlight, winds for the spices, and stars for the gold, Mary for sleep, and for lullaby music; songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem fold. When he is King they will clothe him in gravesheets, myrrh for embalming, and wood for a crown; He that lies now in the white arms of Mary, sleeping so lightly on Bethlehem Down. Here he has peace and a short while for dreaming. Close-huddled oxen to keep him from cold, Mary for love, and for lullaby music; songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem fold. ~Bruce Blunt

"BENEDICTUS" FROM *ORATORIO DE NOËL*, OP. 12

CAMILLE SAINT-SAËNS

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; God is the Lord and has given us light. You are my God, and I shall trust in you. You are my God, and I will exalt you. (Mt 21:9, Ps 118:27, 99:9)

*~Hannah Ellington, soprano; Colin Alexander, baritone*

JESUS CHRIST, THE APPLE TREE

TRAD./ARR. POSTON

The tree of life my soul hath seen, Laden with fruit and always green: The trees of nature fruitless be Compared with Christ the apple tree. His beauty doth all things excel: By faith I know, but ne'er can tell The glory which I now can see In Jesus Christ the apple tree. For happiness I long have sought, And pleasure dearly I have bought: I missed of all; but now I see 'Tis found in Christ the apple tree. I'm weary with my former toil, Here I will sit and rest awhile: Under the shadow I will be, Of Jesus Christ the apple tree. This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, It keeps my dying faith alive; Which makes my soul in haste to be With Jesus Christ the apple tree. ~Joshua Smith

HERE IS THE LITTLE DOOR

HERBERT HOWELLS

Here is the little door, lift up the latch, oh lift! We need not wander more, but enter with our gift; Our gift of finest gold. Gold that was never bought or sold; Myrrh to be strewn about his bed; Incense in clouds about His head; All for the child that stirs not in His sleep, But holy slumber hold with ass and sheep. Bend low about His bed, For each He has a gift; See how His eyes awake, Lift up your hands, O lift! For gold, He gives a keen-edged sword. (Defend with it thy little Lord!) For incense, smoke of battle red, Myrrh for the honored happy dead; Gifts for His children, terrible and sweet; Touched by such tiny hands, and Oh such tiny feet. ~Frances Chesterton

CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION FROM THE ROMAN MARTYROLOGY

*The Roman Martyrology for Christmas Day contains a formal announcement of the birth of Christ in the style of a proclamation. It begins with creation and relates the birth of the Lord to the major events and personages of sacred and secular history. The particular events contained in the proclamation help to situate the birth of Jesus in the context of salvation history.*

ENTRANCE HYMN

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

ADESTE FIDELES

O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O come ye, O  
 God of \_\_\_\_\_ God, \_\_\_\_\_ Light \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ Light, \_\_\_\_\_ Lo! he ab -  
 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - al - ta - tion, \_\_\_\_\_ Sing, all ye  
 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing, \_\_\_\_\_ Je - su, to

come ye to Beth - le - hem; Come and be - hold him  
 hors \_\_\_\_\_ not the Vir - gin's womb; Ve - ry \_\_\_\_\_ God, Be -  
 ci - ti - zens of heav'n \_\_\_\_\_ a - bove; Glo - ry to God \_\_\_\_\_  
 thee \_\_\_\_\_ be \_\_\_\_\_ glor - ry giv'n; Word of the Fa - ther,

Born the King of An - gels:  
 got - ten, not cre - a - ted: O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -  
 In \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ high - est:  
 Now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord!

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON *Dominus dixit ad me*

PSALM 2:7, 1, 2, 8

The Lord said to me: You are my son. It is I who have begotten you this day. *V. Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain?* ~Gregorian chant, sung by choir

KYRIE

MASS VIII

Ky-ri - e e - - le - i - son.  
*Lord, have mercy;*

Chri-ste e - - le - i - son.  
*Christ, have mercy;*

Ky-ri - e e - - le - i - son.  
*Lord, have mercy;*

Ky-ri - e e - - le - i - son.

GLORIA

MASS VIII

Glo-ri - a in ex-cel-sis De - o. Et in ter-ra pax ho-mi-ni-bus bo-nae vo-lun-ta - tis.  
*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.*

Lau-da - mus te. Be-ne-di-ci-mus te. A-do-ra - mus te.  
*We praise you, we bless you, we adore you,*

Glo-ri-fi-ca-mus te. Gra-ti-as a-gi-mus ti - bi prop-ter mag-nam glo-ri-am tu - am.  
*We glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory,*

Do-mi-ne De-us, Rex cae-les - tis, De-us Pa-ter o - mni - po - tens.  
*Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.*

Do - mi - ne Fi - li u - ni - ge - ni - te Je - su Chri - ste.  
*Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,*

Do - mi - ne De - us, A - gnus De - i, Fi - li - us Pa - tris.  
*Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,*

Qui tol-lis pec-ca - ta mun - di, mi - se - re - re no - bis.  
*you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;*

Qui tol-lis pe-ca-ta mun - di, sus-ci-pe de-pre-ca-ti-o-nem no - stram.  
*you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer;*

Qui se-des ad dex-te-ram Pa - tris, mi-se-re-re no - bis. Quo-ni-am tu so-lus sanc - tus.  
*you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One,*

Tu so-lus Do - mi - nus. Tu so-lus Al - tis - si - mus, Je - su Chri - ste.  
*you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,*

Cum San - cto Spi - ri - tu, in glo - ri - a De - i  
*with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.*

Pa - tris. A - men.

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

*The Mass readings are found on page 31 in Sunday's Word.*

### FIRST READING

ISAIAH 9:1-6

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PSALM 96:1-2, 2-3, 1-12, 13

To-day, to-day, to-day is born our Sav-ior, Christ the Lord.

*Text: Refrain trans., © 1997, ICEL; verses, New American Bible. Music: Michel Guimont, © GIA Publications, Inc.*

### SECOND READING

TITUS 2:11-14

### ALLELUIA

*Cantor, then all:*

Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

I proclaim to you good news of great joy: today a Savior is born for us, Christ the Lord.

### CREDO (CREED/PROFESSION OF FAITH)

CREDO III

*All kneel (genuflect) at the words, "Et incarnatus est de Spiritu Sancto..." ("...and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate...")*

The Creed will be sung *in alternation* between men and women.

Celebrant: **C** RE-do in unum De-um, Patrem omnipo-tentem, factó-rem

Men:

Womens:  
cæ-li et terræ, vi-si-bí-li-um ómni-um, et invi-si-bí-li-um. Et in

Men:  
unum Dóminum Je-sum Christum, Fí-li-um De-i uni-géni-tum. Et

Womens:  
ex Patre na-tum ante ómni-a sæ-cu-la. De-um de De-o, lumen

Men:  
de lúmine, De-um verum de De-o vero. Géni-tum, non fac-tum,

Womens:  
consubstanti-á-lem Patri: per quem ómni-a facta sunt. Qui propter

Men:  
nos hómínes, et propter nostram sa-lú-tem descéndit de cæ-lis. Et

KNEEL:

incarná-tus est de Spí-ri-tu Sancto ex Ma-rí-a Ví-rí-ne: Et homo

RISE: Womens:

factus est. Cru-ci-fí-xus ét-i-am pro nobis: sub Pónti-o Pi-lá-to passus,

Men:

et sepúl-tus est. Et re-surréxit térti-a di-e, secúndum Scriptú-ras.

Womens:

Men:

Et ascéndit in cæ-lum: sedet ad déxte-ram Pa-tris. Et í-terum

venturus est cum gló-ri-a, judi-cá-re vivos et mórtu-os: cuius regni non  
 Women:  
 e-rit fi-nis. Et in Spí-ri-tum Sanctum, Dóminum, et vi-vi-fi-cántem:  
 Men:  
 qui ex Patre Fi-li-óque pro-cédit. Qui cum Patre et Fí-li-o simul  
 Women:  
 adorá-tur. et conglo-ri-fi-cá-tur: qui locú-tus est per Pro-phé-tas. Et unam  
 Men:  
 sanctam cathó-li-cam et apostó-li-cam Ecclé-si-am. Confí-te-or unum  
 Women:  
 bap-tís-ma in remissi-ónem pecca-torum. Et exspecto re-surrecti-onem  
 Men:  
 All:  
 mortu-orum. Et vi-tam ventú-ri sæ-cu-li. A-men.

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

# LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Page 7 of Sunday's Word

## OFFERTORY

"FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN" FROM *MESSIAH*

G.F. HÄNDEL

*For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called: Wonderful, Counsellor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. ~cf. Is 9:6*

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

MENDELSSOHN

*(Please join in singing the Christmas carol below!)*



1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King;
2. Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored, Christ the ev - er - last - ing Lord:
3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Right-eous-ness!



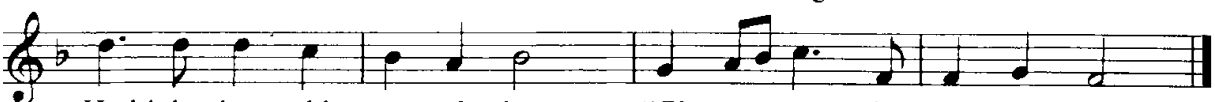
Peace on earth, and mer - cy mild God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"  
Late in time be - hold him come, Off-spring of the Vir-gin's womb.  
Light and life to all he brings, Risen with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God - head see: Hail their-car - nate De - i - ty,  
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, Born that we no more may die.



With thean-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em-man - u - el.  
Born to raise us from the earth, Born to give us sec - ond birth.



Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King!"





SANCTUS

MASS VIII

San - ctus, \* San - ctus, San - ctus  
*Holy, Holy, Holy.*

Dó - mi-nus De-us Sá - ba - oth.  
*Lord God of hosts.*

Ple-ni sunt cæ - li et ter - ra gló-ri - a tu - a.  
*Heaven and earth are full of your glory.*

Ho-sán - na in ex - cél - sis. Be - ne - dí -  
*Hosanna in the highest.*

ctus qui ve - nit in nó-mi-ne Dó - mi-ni. Ho-sán - na  
*Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.*

in ex - cél - sis.

MYSTERIUM FIDEI AND AMEN

CALVERT

Save us, Sa - vior of the world, for by your Cross and Re-sur-rec - tion you have set us free.

A - men, A - men, A - men.

AGNUS DEI

MASS VIII

A - gnus De - i, qui tol - lis - pe - ca - ta mun - di:  
*Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,*

(Continued on next page)

mi - se - re - re \_\_\_\_\_ no - bis A - gnus De - i,  
*have mercy on us.*

qui tol - lis pe - ca - ta \_\_\_\_\_ mun - di: mi - se - re - re \_\_\_\_\_ no - bis

A - gnus De - i, qui tol - lis - pe - ca - ta \_\_\_\_\_  
*Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, grant us peace.*

mun - di: do - na \_\_\_\_\_ no - bis \_\_\_\_\_ pa - cem.

**COMMUNION**

*(Please join in singing the Christmas carols below!)*

AWAY IN A MANGER

MUELLER

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head. The stars in the sky looked down where He lay, The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes, But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes; I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay Close by me forever, and love me, I pray; Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care, And fit us for Heaven to live with Thee there.

SILENT NIGHT

STILLE NACHT

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.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON** *In splendoribus*

PSALM 110:3

Amidst the splendors of the heavenly sanctuary, from the womb, before the morning star, I have begotten you.

## O MAGNUM MYSTERIUM

TOMAS LUIS DE VICTORIA

O magnum mysterium, et admirabile sacramentum, ut animalia viderent Dominum natum, jacentem in praesepio! Beata Virgo, cujus viscera meruerunt portare Dominum Christum. Alleluia!

*O great mystery, and wondrous sacrament, that animals should see the newborn Lord lying in their manger! Blessed is the Virgin whose womb was worthy to bear the Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia!*

*~Matins (Morning Prayer) responsory for Christmas Day*

## O HOLY NIGHT (CANTIQUÉ DE NOËL)

ADOLPHE ADAM

*Mandy Donaldson, soloist*

## CLOSING

## JOY TO THE WORLD

ANTIOCH



1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth receive her  
 2 Joy to the world! the Saviour reigns: Let us, our songs em-  
 3 No more let sin and sorrows grow, Nor thorns infest the  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the nations



King; Let every heart prepare him room, And  
 play; While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains; Re-  
 ground; He comes to make his blessings flow Far  
 prove The glories of his righteous-ness, And



heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n and nature  
 repeat the sound-ing joy, Re-peat the sound-ing  
 as the curse is found, Far as the curse is  
 won-ders of his love, And won-ders of his



sing, And heav'n, and heav'n, and nature sing.  
 joy, Re-peat, re-peat the sound-ing joy.  
 found, Far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, And won-ders, won-ders of his love.

## VOLUNTARY

## CARILLON DE WESTMINSTER

LOUIS VIERNE

## ABOUT OUR CHRISTMAS MUSIC

Merry Christmas from all here at the Cathedral of St. Paul! We hope you and your family have a wonderful Christmas season and will plan to worship with us again soon. One of the unique elements of the Roman Rite Christmas celebration is that we have four distinct liturgies for Christmas: Vigil Mass, Midnight Mass, Mass at Dawn, and Mass during the Day. Each Mass focuses on a particular aspect of the Nativity. At Midnight Mass, we hear the Gospel account of the Nativity of Christ: interestingly enough, this is only Christmas liturgy where the Nativity account is the Gospel reading! The prelude begins with Guilmant's arrangement for organ of ADE-STE FIDELIS and a Noël. It is a great exposition of the mid-19th Century French symphonic organ style and shows Guilmant's good humor and use of variation form. Bach's aria "Grosser Herr und starker König" from the *Christmas Oratorio* follows IN DULCI JUBILO. Like all of Bach's arias, in "Grosser Herr" compositional excellence and beauty are matched only by the virtuosic demands placed on the performer! The original features a very rhythmic and colorful trumpet part (a sign of royalty, reflecting the text) that dialogues with the bass soloist; tonight, we use the organ trumpet stop for similar effect. A shift in mood follows with the English 20th Century carol "Bethlehem Down". Great Britain has always had one of the world's strongest carol-singing cultures, and this is just one fruit of it. Composed for a "carol competition", it possesses an evocative text paired with a beautiful, serene musical setting. The "Benedictus" from Saint-Saëns' *Christmas Oratorio* is presented by two soloists. This charming setting features beautiful writing for soprano and baritone as well as a uniquely French accompaniment originally scored for organ and harp! It is followed by a plaintive setting of an English poem, "Jesus Christ the Apple Tree". This simple setting by Elizabeth Poston alternates unison, women's choir, and mixed choir verses. The final prelude selection is a delectable carol by Herbert Howells set to a text by Frances Chesterton, perhaps better known as wife of one G.K.! While the poetry is good, the musical setting raises the total experience to "excellent"! As tonight's entrance antiphon text shows, Jesus' divine sonship is at the root of this whole feast. Even so, it seems at times that the whole world is still engaged in vain struggles. Christ is the solution to this problem, and tonight marks a new beginning for us, too. In the words many of us will always associate with *Messiah*: "For unto us a child is born"! Handel's chorus is an expression of pure joy, especially shown in the runs in each part. We should also note the praise of God given in the recitation of titles ("Wonderful" "Counselor" "Prince of Peace") given in this chorus. At communion, Tomas Luis de Victoria's transcendent motet "O magnum mysterium" helps us to internalize this feeling of peace and awe. It takes us to the manger scene, reminding us that Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, chose to make himself like us in all things but sin, even to the extent of becoming a helpless baby. The final piece at communion is Adolphe Adam's "O Holy Night". Adam is actually just the tune writer: surprisingly enough, he was Jewish! He was asked by the poet, a close friend, to compose the tune. History was made, and this remains one of the world's most popular carols. The voluntary after Mass is, appropriately enough, a piece based on a carillon immediately recognizable to most of us, whether from a clock or from a visit to England! Vierne's talent for capturing the aural image of the ringing of bells is on full display here. Hopefully the music you hear this evening will help you to better give thanks for the many blessings of this holiday season. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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