

SWV Carol Concert - 7th December 2021

Order of Service

INTRO & WELCOME

Mishal Husain

READING

Scott Brooksbank

'The Magi'

W. B. Yeats

*Now as at all times I can see in the mind's eye,
In their stiff, painted clothes, the pale unsatisfied ones
Appear and disappear in the blue depths of the sky
With all their ancient faces like rain-beaten stones,
And all their helms of silver hovering side by side,
And all their eyes still fixed, hoping to find once more,
Being by Calvary's turbulence unsatisfied,
The uncontrollable mystery on the bestial floor.*

SAXOPHONE

Jonathan Radford

'Ave Maria'

Franz Schubert

READING

Scott Brooksbank

'Hamlet' Act I, Scene I

William Shakespeare

*Some say that ever 'gainst that season comes
Wherein our Saviour's birth is celebrated,
This bird of dawning singeth all night long;
And then, they say, no spirit dare stir abroad,
The nights are wholesome, then no planets strike,
No fairy takes, nor witch hath power to charm,
So hallow'd and so gracious is the time.*

CAROL

Daisy Doherty - 1st verse solo

All - 2nd and 3rd verses

'Once in Royal David's City'

Words: C.F. Alexander

Music: H.J. Gauntlett, Descant: D. Willcocks

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 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.

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.

READING

The Revd Angus MacLeod MA BD

'The Magi Visit the Messiah'

Mathew 2-12, The Bible

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

*"But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel."*

Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

CAROL

ALL

'O Little Town of Bethlehem'

Words: Bishop Phillips Brooks

Music: English traditional, arr. R. Vaughan Williams

Descant: T. Armstrong

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.

How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is given!
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.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray.
Cast out our sin and enter in,
Be born to us today.
We hear the Christmas angels,
The great glad tidings tell.
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel.

READING

HRH Princess Eugenie of York

'Love Came Down At Christmas'

Christina Rossetti

*Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, Love divine;
Love was born at Christmas,
Star and angels gave the sign.*

*Worship we the Godhead,
Love incarnate, Love divine;
Worship we our Jesus:
But wherewith for sacred sign?*

*Love shall be our token,
Love be yours and love be mine,*

*Love to God and all men,
Love for plea and gift and sign.*

CHORAL SONG

Choir

'What Child Is This?'

Words: W. Chatterton Dix

Music: English Traditional, arr. R Miller

VETERAN'S STORY

Stephan van Niekerk

CAROL

ALL

'The First Noel'

Words and music: English traditional, arr. D. Willcocks

The First Noel, the angels did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel!

Then entered in those wise men three
Full reverently upon their knee
And offered there in His presence
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel!

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord
That hath made Heaven and earth of naught
And with his blood mankind hath bought.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel!

READING

The Revd Angus MacLeod MA BD

'The Shepherds go to the Manger'

St Luke 2, The Bible

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of

David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

Thanks be to God

VETERAN'S STORY

Arron Dindyal

CHORAL SONG

Choir and Ellie Laugharne

'O Holy Night'

Words: P. Cappeau, trans. J.S. Dwight

Music: A. Adam

READING

Sir Michael Morpurgo

The letter from his book 'The Best Christmas Present in the World'

CHORAL SONG

Choir

'Silent Night'

Words: J. Mohr

Music: F. Gruber

ADDRESS

Gilly Norton (Founder and CEO of SWV) introducing General Sir Nick Carter (SWV's Patron) and James Charrington (Trustee)

CAROL

Choir and Ellie Laugharne

(All to join in on chorus 2, 3 and 4)

'Hallelujah'

Words and Music: L. Cohen, arr. R. Miller

Now, I've heard there was a secret chord
That David played, and it pleased the Lord
But you don't really care for music, do you?
It goes like this, the fourth, the fifth
The minor fall, the major lift
The baffled king composing Hallelujah

Hallelujah, Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah

Your faith was strong but you needed proof
You saw her bathing on the roof
Her beauty and the moonlight overthrew ya
She tied you to a kitchen chair
She broke your throne, and she cut your hair
And from your lips she drew the Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah

You say I took the name in vain
I don't even know the name
But if I did, well really, what's it to you?
There's a blaze of light in every word
It doesn't matter which you heard
The holy or the broken Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah

I did my best, it wasn't much
I couldn't feel, so I tried to touch
I've told the truth, I didn't come to fool you
And even though it all went wrong
I'll stand before the Lord of Song
With nothing on my tongue but Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah

READING

Harry Herbert

'The Journey of the Magi (cont.)'

Godfrey Rust

*Coming as they did from the first century
they had a few problems with London traffic
and were seriously misled by signs
to the Angel and King's Cross.*

*Inquiring diligently about the star
they were referred to Professor Brian Cox,
who thought it was amazing
while smiling in a constant and strangely unsettling way.*

*In Harrods the camels
made a mess over Soft Furnishings.*

*On the Underground
commuters glared at No Smoking signs*

as incense wafted gently through the carriages,

*and when the great day came
they saw the entire voting population
slumped on sofas by four o'clock,
rendered senseless by too much
dead poultry and the Queen,*

*while over Liberty's and Hamley's
the flickering angels sang
Glory to God in the High St*

*and they found him,
with the inns full up once more,
in the old familiar place,
bringing their unregarded gifts
to the empty stable
of the human heart
where the infant Christ is born
again and again.*

PRAYERS

The Revd Angus MacLeod MA BD

CAROL

All

'Hark the Herald Angels Sing'

Words: C. Wesley

Music: F Mendelssohn, Descant: D. Willcocks

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn 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 newborn King!"

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 the incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Son 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 newborn King!"

READING

Harry Herbert

'Reindeer's Report'

UA Fanthorpe

Chimneys: colder.

Flightpaths: busier.

Driver: Christmas (F). Still baffled by postcodes.

Children: more. And stay up later.

Presents: heavier.

Pay: frozen.

Mission in spite of all this:

Accomplished –

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

GOODBYE and THANKS

Mishal Husain

CHORAL SONG

Choir

'Tomorrow shall be my dancing day'

Words: Traditional

Music: J. Gardner