



Annual Carol Service 2020

Wednesday 16th December
College Chapel

Seminary Choir:

Near Bethlehem

(Trad.)

Once in Royal David's City

Willcocks

1. 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. 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.

Opening Prayer and Reflection

Rev'd Professor Michael Mullaney

Céline Byrne (Soprano) and Rev. Darragh Connolly (Tenor) & Choir:

In the bleak mid-winter

Darke

First Reading

Prophet Isaiah 11:1-9

The coming of the virtuous king

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the spirit of Yahweh rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of Yahweh. (The fear of Yahweh is his breath.)

He does not judge by appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land. His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless, his sentences bring death to the wicked. Integrity is the loincloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt about his hips.

The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to lead them. The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together. The lion eats straw like the ox.

The infant plays over the cobra's hole; into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand. They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of Yahweh as the waters swell the sea.

The Word of the Lord

Céline Byrne

The Wexford Carol

Trad. arr. O'Keeffe

Choir of the National Seminary with Rev. Darragh Connolly

Sleep my Saviour, Sleep

Fiorcucci

Second Reading Prophet Isaiah (43:16-21)

Miracles of the new Exodus

Thus says Yahweh, who made a way through the sea, – a path in the great waters; who put chariots and horse in the field and a powerful army, which lay there never to rise again, snuffed out, put out like a wick: No need to recall the past, no need to think about what was done before.

See, I am doing a new deed, even now it comes to light; can you not see it? Yes, I am making a road in the wilderness, paths in the wilds. The wild beasts will honour me, jackals and ostriches, because I am putting water in the wilderness (rivers in the wild) to give my chosen people drink. The people I have formed for myself will sing my praises.

The Word of the Lord.

Sharon Carty (Mezzo Soprano)

Ave Maria

Bach/Gounod

Third Reading Romans 8: 28; 35-38

Nothing can separate us from the love of God

We are well aware that God works with those who love him, those who have been called in accordance with his purpose, and turns everything to their good. Can anything cut us off from the love of Christ -- can hardships or distress, or persecution, or lack of food and clothing, or threats or violence; as scripture says: For your sake we are being massacred all day long, treated as sheep to be slaughtered? No; we come through all these things triumphantly victorious, by the power of him who loved us. For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nothing already in existence and nothing still to come, nor any power, nor the heights nor the depths, nor any created thing whatever, will be able to come between us and the love of God, known to us in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord

Choir of the National Seminary with Sharon Carty

Cuireadh oileánach do Mhuire

Ó Díreáin/ McDonagh

*Do you know, Mother Mary,
where you'll go this Christmas
and you seeking a roof
for the Holy Child,
when every door is
closed against Him
with the hate and conceit
of human kind?*

*Would you ever take up
an invite from myself here
to a sea-girt island
far away in the west?*

*There'll be candles shining,
lit in every window,
and turf fire blazing
on every hearth.*

(translated by Breandán Ó Doibhlin)

Soloists and Choir

Stille nacht/Oíche Chiúin/Silent Night

Mohr/Grüber/Ó Donnchadha

1. Stille nacht, heilige nacht
Alles schläft, einsam nacht
Nur das traute heilige Paar
Holder knab im lockigten Haar
Schlafe im himmlischer Ruh
Schlafe im himmlischer Ruh

2. Oíche chiúin, oíche Mhic Dé
Aoirí ar dtús chuala 'n scéal
Alleluia, aingeal ag glaoch
Cantain shuairc i ngar is i gcéin
Críost ár Slánaitheoir féin
Críost ár Slánaitheoir féin.

3. 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.

Gospel Reading

From the Holy Gospel According to Matthew (1:18-25)

The Birth of Jesus

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit.

Her husband Joseph; being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.'

Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 'The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home and, though he had not had intercourse with her, she gave birth to a son; and he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord

Céline Byrne with Choir of the National Seminary

O Holy Night

Adam

Prayer of Intercession

Our Father

Concluding Prayer

Blessing

Adeste fideles

Traditional arr. Willcocks

1. Adeste fideles,
laeti triumphantes,
venite, venite in Bethlehem.
Natum videte regem angelorum.
*Venite adoremus, venite adoremus,
venite adoremus Dominum.*

2. Deum de Deo,
lumen de lumine,
gestant puellae viscera.
Deum verum, genitum non factum.
*Venite adoremus, venite adoremus,
venite adoremus Dominum.*

3. Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation!
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
'Glory to God in the highest'
*O Come, let us adore him.
O Come, let us adore him.
O Come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!*