



A Cathedral Christmas

CATHEDRAL OF SAINT PAUL
Birmingham, Alabama

DECEMBER 14, 2025

Welcome to our first “A Cathedral Christmas”, an Advent preparation for the coming of Our Lord at Christmas. We are so happy you are with us this evening. Please use this order to participate and follow along, as appropriate. Kindly silence all phones and other electronic devices so as to preserve the reverence befitting this holy season and tonight’s devotion.

WELCOME

THE VERY REV. BRYAN W. JERABEK, J.C.L., PASTOR & RECTOR

CAROL: O COME, O COME EMMANUEL

VERSE 1: ALL; VERSE 2: LADIES + TREBLES; VERSE 3: ALL; VERSE 4: MEN; VERSE 5: ALL; VERSE 6: CHOIR
VERSE 7: ALL

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And
 2. O come, Thou Wis - dom from _____ on high, Who
 3. O come, O come, great Lord _____ of might, Who
 4. O come, Thou Rod of Jes - - - - se's stem, From
 5. O come, Thou Key of Da - - - - vid, come, And
 6. O come, Thou Day - spring from _____ on high, And
 7. O come, de - sire of na - - - - tions bind In

ran - som cap - tive Is - - - - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly
 or - derest all things might - - i - ly; To us the path of
 to Thy tribes on Si - - - - nai's height In an - - - - cient times once
 ev' - - ry foe de - - liv - - er them; That trust Thy might - y
 op - - en wide our heav'n - - ly home; Make safe the way that
 cheer us by Thy draw - - ing nigh; Dis - perse the gloom - y
 one the hearts of all _____ man - kind; Bid Thou our sad di - -

ex - - ile here Un - til the Son of God _____ ap - - pear.
 know - - ledge show, And teach us in her ways _____ to go.
 gave _____ the law In cloud and ma - - - - jes - - ty _____ and awe.
 power _____ to save, And give them vic - - tory o'er _____ the grave.
 leads _____ on high, And close the path to mis - - - - er - y.
 clouds _____ of night, And death's dark sha - - - - dows put _____ to flight.
 vi - - - sions cease, And be thy - self our King _____ of Peace.

Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - - - - ra - el.

CHILDREN'S SCHOLA CANTORUM

Throughout the history of the Latin Rite, sacred music was sung at the liturgy and taught through generations by the school of singers known as a schola cantorum. The schola was made up of men and boys who studied the sacred, liturgical music of the Church. After initial establishment in the first millennium by the pope, scholae cantorum appeared throughout the Christian West as a way of providing music that could not be performed by an entire congregation. While our Schola Cantorum includes boys and girls, the mission is the same: to preserve Gregorian chant and the treasury of Catholic sacred music for catechesis and evangelization, as well as to beautify the sacred liturgy and instill a love of sacred liturgy in children. The primary aim of Schola is to teach healthy, technically-correct singing, as well as facility in Gregorian and modern notation and solfège.

MARIAN ANTIPHON FOR ADVENT-CHRISTMASTIDE

ALMA REDEMPTORIS MATER

GREGORIAN CHANT, SIMPLE TONE

Alma Redemptoris Mater, quae pervia caeli porta manes, et stella maris, succurre cadenti, surgere qui curat populo: tu quae genuisti, natura mirante, tuum sanctum genitorem, Virgo prius ac posterius, Gabrielis ab ore, sumens illud Ave, peccatorum miserere. / O loving Mother of our Redeemer, gate of heaven, star of the sea, Hasten to aid thy fallen people who strive to rise once more. Thou who brought forth thy holy Creator, all creation wond'ring, Yet remainest ever Virgin, taking from Gabriel's lips that joyful "Ave!": be merciful to us sinners.

CAROL: O COME, DIVINE MESSIAH

VENEZ, DIVIN MESSIE

PLEASE JOIN IN THE REFRAIN BELOW FOLLOWING EACH VERSE.

1. O come, divine Messiah; The world in silence waits the day When hope shall sing its triumph And sadness flee away.
2. O Christ, whom nations sigh for, Whom priest and prophet long foretold, Come, break the captive's fetters, Redeem the long-lost fold.
3. You come in peace and meekness And lowly will your cradle be; All clothed in human weakness Shall we your Godhead see.

Dear Sav - ior, haste! Come, come to earth. Dis - pel the night and show your
face, And bid us hail the dawn of grace. O
come, Di-vine Mes - si - ah, The world in si - lence waits the day When
hope shall sing its tri - umph, And sad - ness flee a - way.

CATHEDRAL CHOIR

The Cathedral Choir is a semi-professional choral ensemble of men and women high school age and older who support the liturgical worship of the cathedral parish through musical leadership and presentation of the “treasury of sacred music”. It strives, in both quality of repertoire and execution, to model the high standard directed by the Second Vatican Council (cf. *Sacrosanctum concilium*, 114). In accord with the tradition of the Church, the repertoire of the choir consists chiefly of Gregorian chant and sacred polyphony, as well as worthy examples of modern sacred music in Latin and vernacular languages. Membership is by audition only, but new members are welcomed at all times.

MAGNIFICAT IN C, ZWV 107

JAN DISMAS ZELENKA (1679–1745)

My soul doth magnify the Lord. And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior. Because he hath regarded the humility of his handmaid: for behold from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. Because he that is mighty hath done great things to me: and holy is his name. And his mercy is from generation unto generations, to them that fear him. He hath shewed might in his arm: he hath scattered the proud in the conceit of their heart. He hath put down the mighty from their seat and hath exalted the humble. He hath filled the hungry with good things: and the rich he hath sent empty away. He hath received Israel his servant, being mindful of his mercy. As he spoke to our fathers: to Abraham and to his seed for ever. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

Merissa Laite, Soprano



CAROL: *MARIA DURCH EIN DORNWALD GING (MARY WALKS AMID THORNS)* TR. GERMAN/ARR. STEFAN CLAAS

Maria durch ein Dornwald ging, Kyrie eleison. Maria durch ein Dornwald ging, der hat in sieben Jahren kein Laub getragen. Jesus und Maria.

Was trug Maria unter ihrem Herzen? Kyrie eleison. Ein kleines Kindlein ohne Schmerzen, das trug Maria unter ihrem Herzen. Jesus und Maria.

Da haben die Dornen Rosen getragen, Kyrie eleison. Als das Kindlein durch den Wald getragen, da haben die Dornen Rosen getragen. Jesus und Maria.

Maria walks amid the thorns, Kyrie eleison, Maria walks amid the thorns, Which seven years no leaf has born. Jesus and Maria.

What 'neath her heart doth Mary bear? Kyrie eleison, The little Child doth Mary bear, Beneath her heart He nestles there. Jesus and Maria.

Lo! roses on the thorns appear! Kyrie eleison, As the two are passing near, Lo! roses on the thorns appear! Jesus and Maria.

SELECTIONS FROM *MESSIAH*

PIFA (PASTORALE)

RECITATIVE MOVEMENTS 14–15–16

GEORG FRIDERIC HÄNDEL (1685–1789)

ST. LUKE 2:8-13

There were shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks 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 suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying:

Ava Theros, Soprano

CHORUS: "GLORY TO GOD"

ST. LUKE 2:14

Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth, good will to men.

GLORIA

MASS VIII «MISSA DE ANGELIS»

V
 G Ló-ri- a in ex célsis Dé- o. Et in térra pax homí- ni bus bónae vo- lun tá- tis.
 Lau dá- mus te. Bene dí- címus te. A do- rá- mus te. Glo- ri- fi- cámus te. Grá- ti- as á- gi-
 mus tí- bi prop ter mágnam gló- ri- am tú- am. Dómine Dé- us, Rex caelés tis, Dé- us Pá-
 ter omní- po- tens. Dómine Fí- li uni- géni- te Jésu Chrís te. Dómine Dé- us, Agnus
 Dé- i, Fí- li- us Pá- tris. Qui tóllis peccá- ta mún- di, mi- se- ré- re nó- bis. Qui tóllis
 peccá- ta mún di, súscipe de pre ca- ti- ónem nós- tram. Qui sédes ad déx te- ram Pá- tris,
 mi- se- ré- re nó- bis. Quó ni- am tu só- lus sánctus. Tu só- lus Dómi- nus. Tu só- lus Al- tís-

simus, Jésu Chrí ste. Cum Sán cto Spí- ri- tu, in gló- ri- a Dé- i Pá- tris. A-
men.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of goodwill. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. You are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

CAROL: O HOLY NIGHT

ADOLPHE ADAM (1803–1856)

Michael Grondin, Tenor; Colin Alexander, Baritone

CAROL: ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY

REGENT SQUARE

PLEASE JOIN IN SINGING THE CAROL BELOW AS FOLLOWS:

VERSE 1: ALL; VERSE 2: MEN; VERSE 3: LADIES + TREBLES; VERSE 4: ALL

1. An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
 2. Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, Watch-ing o'er your flocks by night,
 3. Sag - es, leave your con - tem-pla-tions, Bright-er vi - sions beam a - far;
 4. Though an in - fant now we view him, He shall fill his heav'n-ly throne,

You who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, Now pro-claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
 God on earth is now re - sid - ing, Yon-der shines the in - fant light:
 Seek the great De - sire of na - tions, You have seen his morn-ing star:
 Ga - ther all the na - tions to him; Ev - ery knee shall then bow down:

Come and wor - ship, come and wor-ship, Wor-ship Christ, the new-born King.

DIXIT DOMINUS, HWV 232

GEORG FRIDERIC HÄNDEL

ARIA: TECUM PRINCIPIUM

PSALM 110:3

Tecum princípium in die virtútis tuæ: in splendóribus Sanctórum, ex útero ante lucíferum génui te. /Yours is princely power in the day of Your birth, in holy splendor; before the daystar, I have begotten You. –Gradual, Midnight Mass

Lauren Tinsley, Mezzo-soprano

CAROL: HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

MENDELSSOHN

1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the
 2. Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored, Christ the ev - er-
 3. Hail the heav'n - born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of

new - born King; Peace on earth, and mer - cy mild
 last - ing Lord: Late in time be - hold him come,
 Right - eous - ness! Light and life to all he brings,

God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!" Joy - ful, all you
 Off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb. Veiled in flesh the
 Ris'n with heal - ing in his wings. Mild he lays his

na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
 God - head see: Hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty,
 glo - ry by, Born that we no more may die,

With the an - 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!"

Please bookmark our DOWNTOWN CONCERT SERIES webpage (<https://stpaulsbhm.org/concerts>). Our next event is TUESDAY, JANUARY 6, AT 7:00PM, featuring renowned concert organist Isabelle Demers. The recital is presented as part of the Conference of Roman Catholic Cathedral Musicians: we are honored to host the best Catholic church musicians in North America this January! Please remember that Cathedral concerts are free, and so we depend on you to contribute the \$50,000 or so that is required to present the series each year. No gift is too large or too small.

PLEASE VISIT US IN THE CATHEDRAL SHOPPE FOLLOWING THE CONCERT!

The Cathedral Shoppe is located on the lower level of the Cathedral Life Center (CLC) and is your one-stop shop for all your religious gift needs this Christmas! Featuring items of especial quality and great prices, something for everyone awaits there!

THE CATHEDRAL OF SAINT PAUL

THE MOST REVEREND STEVEN J. RAICA, JCD, BISHOP OF BIRMINGHAM IN ALABAMA

THE VERY REVEREND BRYAN W. JERABEK, JCL, RECTOR

BRUCE E. LUDWICK, JR., DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AND ORGANIST

JAMES R. MCGALLIARD, ASSISTANT ORGANIST

DANIEL RENNA, ORGAN SCHOLAR



CHILDREN'S SCHOLA CANTORUM

DOMINIC ADAMS

LENA ADAMS

ZELIE ADAMS

CALLUM CAMPBELL

CYRUS CAMPBELL

LEWIS COOPER

THOMAS FLOWERS

RYLEIGH HALL

ELLIS HAMILTON

PERCY HAMILTON

ELANOR LASUSA

MAXIMILIAN LUDWICK

THOMAS LUDWICK

ELINOR UCHAKER

CATHEDRAL CHOIR

COLIN ALEXANDER

CHRISTOPHER CAMPBELL

TERRI DORMAN

BERNADETTE FAY

ANDREW FRESE

OLIVIA GRANT

MICHAEL GRONDIN

EMILY HAFF

JONATHAN HOOKS, JR.

SARAH LABRIOLA

ZOE LARGE

MERISSA LAITE

ANNE NORTHROP

GIGI PICKARD

JOSEPH SARGENT

RANDALL STEWART

JACK SWANNER

AVA THEROS

ANDERS THOMPSON

LAUREN TINSLEY

STEPHEN VINSAVICH

LUCY YAEGER

Thank you to our instrumentalists this evening, and to St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Birmingham, for the generous loan of their Italian harpsichord for this concert!

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