

THE SCOTT CENTER FOR SPIRITUAL AND RELIGIOUS LIFE AND THE MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE CHOIR PRESENT



A CANDLELIGHT SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

An annual celebration of traditional Christmas music and biblical texts of the season

Mark R. Orten

Dean of Spiritual and Religious Life

Jeffrey Buettner

Musical Director

Sunday, December 8, 2024

4:00 and 7:00 PM • Middlebury College Chapel

This event is open to the public.

Donations will be accepted for local charities.

ASL Interpreter 4:00 PM only.

Large print program available.

Original artwork by Katie Runde Sanchez. Asylum, 2019, oil on panel, 12" x 9".

**Lessons and Carols
FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS**

Celebrating Fifty-Four Years of Lessons and Carols at Middlebury College

THE CARILLON

Angelina Como-Mosconi '25 and Graydon Hanson '25, Student Carillonners
George Matthew Jr., College Carillonneur

THE PRELUDE

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming
Arr. Diane Bish (1976)

We schön leuchtet der Morgenstern
Dietrich Buxtehude (BuxWV 223; late 17th century)

Ronnie Romano '20, Organist

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

Once in Royal David's City
Arr. David Willcocks (1970)

1. **(Solo: Kendall Schilling '25)**

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. **(Choir)**

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 Savior holy.

3. **(Choir and Congregation)**

And through all his wondrous
childhood
He would honor 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;
When like stars his children crowned
All in white shall wait around.

(Words by Cecil Francis Alexander, 1848; music by H. J. Gauntlett; setting by David Willcocks)

THE BIDDING PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

CHOIR

Alleluia! A New Work Is Come On Hand
Ghislane Reece-Trapp (2017)

A new work is come on hand
Through might and grace of Goddes son,
To save the lost of every land,
For now is free that erst was bound.
We may well sing Alleluya!

Now is fulfilled the prophecy
Of David and of Jeremy
And also of Isaiah.
Sing we therefore both loud and high Alleluya!

This sweete song
Out of a green branch it sprung.
God send us the life that lasteth long,
Now joy and bliss be him among.
That thus can sing Alleluya!

(Medieval English text)

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 3:8–13, 22–24

John Schmitt (4:00 p.m.)

Jeff Lewis '27 (7:00 p.m.)

CHOIR

In the Bleak Midwinter

Gustav Holst (1906)

Featuring singers of the Class of 2024.5 and 2025:
Kendall Schilling, Paige Theodosopoulos, Lydia LaBelle,
Samantha-Grey Solomon, Davis Guyton, Jared Ahern

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
But His mother only, in her maiden bliss,
Worshipped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give Him: give my heart.

(Text, “A Christmas Carol,” by Christina Rosseti)

SECOND LESSON

Isaiah 9:2, 6–7

Miya Flores '25 (4:00 p.m.)

Dana Yeaton (7:00 p.m.)

***Advent Hymn: O Come, O Come Emmanuel**

(Choir and Congregation)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. O come, O come, Emmanuel, and
ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here until
the Son of God appear. | 6. O come, O Dayspring, from on high,
and cheer us by your drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to
flight. |
|---|---|

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 2. O come, O Wisdom from on high, who
orders all things mightily; to us the
path of knowledge show, and teach us
in her ways to go. | 7. O come, Desire of nations, bind all
peoples in one heart and mind; O bid
our sad divisions cease,
and be for us the Prince of Peace. |
|--|--|

Refrain

(Text from Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, Cologne, 1710; music 15th-century France)

THIRD LESSON

Isaiah 40:1–8

Abby Govea (4:00 p.m.)

Ronnie Romano '20 (7:00 p.m.)

The Green Sycamore Tree

Ukrainian Folk Carol, Arr. Jeffrey Buettner (2024)

There is a green sycamore.
Refrain: Early, early, Son of God, Mary.

And in those sycamores are bees of paradise. R
Under their roots are the black beavers. R
And on their tops are bright falcons. R
Black beavers are for fur coats. R
Bees of Paradise are for a candle. R
Bright falcons are for Vrishechka (piercing cry) R

(Ukrainian folk text ; trans. Viktoria Mariniuk, 2024)

FOURTH LESSON

Isaiah 11:1–9

Sarah Stroup (4:00 p.m.)

Tara Affolter (7:00 p.m.)

CHOIR

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Michael Praetorius (1609)

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming as seers of old have sung.
It came, a blossom bright, amid the cold of winter,
When half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind,
With Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright she bore to us a Savior
When half spent was the night.

(15th century German text, trans. Theodore Baker; German traditional melody,
harmony by Michael Praetorius, 1609)

FIFTH LESSON

Luke 1:26–33, 38

Maria Hatjigeorgio (4:00 p.m.)

Mary Jane Simpson (7:00 p.m.)

***Hymn: O Little Town of Bethlehem**

(Choir and Congregation)

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|--|--|
| 1. 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. | 2. For Christ is born of Mary;
and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king,
and peace to all on earth. |
|--|--|

3. How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is giv'n!
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.

4. O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in;
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels,
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel!

(Words by Phillips Brooks, 1868; tune ST. LOUIS by Lewis H. Redner, 1868)

CHOIR

Bogoroditse Dyevo

Sergei Rachmaninoff (1915)

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos,
Mary full of grace, the Lord is with you.
Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb,
for you have borne the savior of our souls.

(Words from the Orthodox liturgy)

SIXTH LESSON

Luke 2:1–7

Madalyn Shaw '25 (4:00 p.m.)

Remi Beauharnois '27 (7:00 p.m.)

***Hymn: Angels We Have Heard On High**

(Choir and Congregation)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echoing
their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! | 3. Come to Bethlehem and see Christ
whose birth the angels sing;
Come adore on bended knee,
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! |
| 2. Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why
your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be,
Which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo! | 4. See him in a manger laid, Whom
the choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, While
our hearts in love we raise.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! |

(Traditional French carol)

CHOIR

Christus Natus Est (2019)

Rosephanye Powell

In Bethlehem on Christmas morn,
The lowly gem of love was born.
Hosanna! Christus natus est.

Bright in her crown of fiery star,
Judea's town shone from afar.
Hosanna! Christus natus est.

For bird and beast he did not come,
But for the least of mortal scum.
Hosanna! Christus natus est.

Who lies in ditch? Who begs his bread?
Who has no stitch for back or head?
Hosanna! Christus natus est.

Who wakes to weep? Lies down to mourn?
Who in his sleep withdraws from scorn?
Ye outraged dust on field and plain,
to feed the lust of madmen slain;
Hosanna! Christus natus est.

The manger still outshines the throne,
Christ must and will come to his own.

(Poetry by Countee Cullen, On These I Stand, 1947 post.)

SEVENTH LESSON

Luke 2:8-20

Shannon Bohler '27 (4:00 p.m.)

Remi Beauharnois (7:00 p.m.)

CHOIR

El Niño Perdido

Joaquin Nin-Culmell (1952)

O mother, a child begs to enter, far more radiant than the sunlight.
He says he's cold and he's hungry; poor child, he shivers there naked.
Go, tell him to enter; in here it is warm, no kindness he'll find in the rest of the town.
No.

We open the door and he enters, and we give him food and shelter.
We ask him when he has eaten, from where he comes, from what kingdom.
The child responds, "I come from Bethlehem. My father is from heaven, and so am I."
Yes.

EIGHTH LESSON

Matthew 2:1-12

Bella Winckler '27 (4:00 p.m.)

Melissa Hammerle (7:00 p.m.)

CHOIR

Carol of the Stranger

Abbie Betinis (2013)

Peace and grace be to this house
Where all are welcomed in;
Receive the guest, receive this heart:
Tell the Stranger, tell.
Tell the Stranger what you cannot tell
Those who love you and desire your joy: Tell.

Make tall your walls, make long these beams,
Who once believed alone;
Make wide the circle, feed the fire:
Tell the Silence, tell.
Tell the Silence what you cannot tell
Those who love you and desire your joy. Tell.

Blessings be upon this place,
Let every wound be healed,
Let every secret, every dream:
Tell the Angel, tell.
Tell the Angel what you cannot tell
Those who love you and desire your joy. Tell.

Peace and grace be to this house,
All will be returned;
Let every soul be called your own,
Tell the Mystery, tell.
Tell the Mystery what you long to tell
Those who love you and desire your joy. Tell.

(Michael Dennis Browne)

OFFERING

The free-will offering received at these services will be directed to HOPE (Helping to Overcome Poverty’s Effects), Project Independence, and Addison County Home Health and Hospice.

Please be as generous as your means permit.

***Hymn: People Look East**
(Choir and Congregation)

1. People, look east. The time is near
Of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are
able,
Trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the guest, is on the way.

2. Furrows, be glad. Though earth is
bare,
One more seed is planted there:
Give up your strength the seed to
nourish,
That in course the flower may
flourish.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the rose, is on the way.

3. Birds, though you long have ceased
to build,
Guard the nest that must be filled.
Even the hour when wings are

frozen
God for fledging time has chosen.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the bird, is on the way.

4. Stars, keep the watch. When night
is dim
One more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather,
Bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the star, is on the way.

5. Angels, announce with shouts of
mirth
Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
With the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

(Words by Eleanor Farjeon 1881-1965; tune BESANÇON, French traditional)

COLLECT

CHOIR

The Shepherd’s Carol
Bob Chilcott (2000)

We stood on the hills, Lady, our day’s work done,
watching the frosted meadows that winter had won.
The evening was calm, Lady, the air so still,
silence more lovely than music folded the hill.

There was a star, Lady, shone in the night,
larger than Venus it was and bright, so bright.
Oh, a voice from the sky, Lady, it seemed to us then
telling of God being born in the world of men.

And so we have come, Lady, our day’s work done,
our love, our hopes, ourselves, we give to your son.

(Poetry by Clive Sansom)

NINTH LESSON

John 1:1–5, 9–14

Mark R. Orten (4:00 and 7:00 p.m.)

***Hymn: Silent Night! Holy Night!**
(Choir and Congregation)

1. 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.

2. 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.”

3. 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.

(Words Joseph Mohr, trans. attr. John Freeman Young; music by Franz Xaver Grüber)

***BENEDICTION**

***RECESSIONAL HYMN**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Arr. David Willcocks (1961)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. 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; | 3. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born that happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n.
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing. O Come... |
| Refrain:
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord! | 4. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God In the highest;
O Come... |
| 2. See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,
Leaving their flocks draw nigh to gaze;
We too will thither, bend our joyful footsteps; O Come... | |

(Words attr. Frederick Oakeley; melody by J. F. Wade; setting by David Willcocks)

POSTLUDE

In Dulci Jubilo

Johann Sebastian Bach (BWV 729; ca. 1710)

Jeffrey Buettner, Organist

WELCOME AND HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION

We are pleased that you could join us for the 54th annual Service of Lessons and Carols for Advent and Christmas at Middlebury College. Our service is based on the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols that has been celebrated every year at King’s College, Cambridge, England, since 1918, with precedents in the late 19th century. Beginning in the 1930s the King’s College service was broadcast annually to millions worldwide on BBC Radio. It was originally planned by Eric Milner-White, the Dean of King’s College Chapel. He had been a World War I British army chaplain and became a liturgical pioneer who was convinced that the Church of England needed more imaginative worship. Christmas Eve 1918 was a mere six weeks from the World War I armistice; nearly half of Cambridge University undergraduates had gone to war; a third of them never came back. Thus, the phrase, “all those who rejoice with us, but on another shore and in a greater light,” from the Bidding Prayer, had particular resonance. Though the music changes each year, the prayers and lessons have remained virtually unchanged in the Cambridge service since those days.

The first Middlebury College service took place in 1971, under the direction of Emory Fanning and Chaplain Charles P. Scott. They were certain that the College’s music department was up to the challenge, and that the community would welcome this colorful and moving celebration of the season. Middlebury’s Lessons and Carols service was broadcast two television specials: *Christmas in Vermont: A Celebration of Lessons and Carols*, filmed in 1984, and in 1988 Vermont Public Television produced *A Vermont Christmas*, narrated by actor Burgess Meredith and filmed on location in Middlebury and on the College’s Bread Loaf campus. Each production was rebroadcast nationally over several years by over 200 public television stations.

The overall format of this service provides a rich opportunity to experience the emotional resonance and familiarity of tradition, each year also offering music that is unfamiliar or new. Over the years, that blend of constancy and innovation creates anticipation and joy well-suited for the Advent and Christmas seasons. For the Christian community, Advent is not only about the expectation of the birth of Jesus, which has already happened in history. It is also about the rebirth of the earth, the re-infusing of the New Creation into our currently beautiful but broken world. That hope is expressed every time the Lord’s Prayer is recited in public and private devotion: “thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

We stand in awe of the beauty of the story of Mary, Joseph, and Jesus. We recognize that from what is small, vulnerable, humble, poor, powerless, and barely noticed, there can arise a constant inspiration and religious devotion that has outlived many an empire. We give in support of our local community as we are able: each year the offering is donated to HOPE (Helping to Overcome Poverty’s Effects), Project Independence, and Addison Home Health and Hospice.

—by Reverend Laurel Macaulay Jordan ’79
Chaplain Emerita, Middlebury College

NOTES ON THE MUSIC

The Service of Lessons and Carols for Advent and Christmas is a celebration of tradition and music and we hope that it brings you joy. Much of the music is of the hymn tradition of the 18th and 19th centuries, including our opening and closing hymns, both performed in arrangements by Sir David Willcocks (1919-2015), who served as Director of Music of King’s College, Cambridge, from 1957 to 1974. But the whole collection of music in our service spans a remarkable history of time, place, style, and purpose. The carol is traditionally a dance, and that tradition is perhaps an important reason for the very success of music at Christmastide. Many of our Christmas hymns are developed from medieval and Renaissance-era dance tunes, “Angels We Have Heard On High” being a fine example; indeed the thriving of the carol from at least the 15th century gradually shifted the form from the churchyard into the church.

Our service includes medieval plainsong, Ukrainian folk song and natural imagery, Renaissance French dance, Spanish villancico from Cuba, as well as modern splashy chromatic harmony and bold shape-note grit. Compositions by British composer Ghislane Reece-Trapp and American composer Abbie Betinis are marvelous examples of the modern carol. We also contemplate the condition of our world in the music and poetry of this service. “Via carols, it’s quite possible to see the traits of how our ancestors saw the universe.” (Viktoria Mariniuk, 2024, translator of *The Green Sycamore Tree*; from Kharkiv, Ukraine, she now resides in the USA.) The development of the carol is itself a socially complicated history, at times culturally exclusive or illustrative of great economic division in society. Yet that history and development also includes artistic expressions of the multiplicity and desperation of human need. Compositions by African American composer Rosephanye Powell and Cuban composer Joaquin Nin-Culmell remind us of somber realities of human experience, expressed in the context of the Christmas story. In various ways, the music of this service is a complex gift from those who have suffered and celebrated with it over hundreds of years. Some of the music is composed, and some is the product of generations of oral transmission and anonymous adaptation. In our performance of the music and in our efforts toward understanding its messages, we can honor these creators and the people to whom they bear witness.

The final choral piece, Bob Chicott’s *The Shepherd’s Carol*, is a favorite among our choral students. Clive Samson’s poem depicts people in daily routine who experience a revelatory moment of awe, expressed musically in the phrase, “O, a voice from the sky, Lady;” they pause in their work, and give joyfully and selflessly. The vividness of the musical moment, the simplicity and humanity of the message, and the sheer joy in singing it are certainly reasons for this piece and perhaps all of the traditional music of this service to be so loved. We share this program in the spirit of artistic beauty, thoughtful inquiry, and joyful community.

—Jeffrey Buettner

PROGRAM COVER ART

Asylum by Katie Runde Sanchez, 2019; oil on panel, 12x9.

SPECIAL THANKS

Molly Andres, *Arts Events Manager, Mahaney Center for the Arts*

Shannon Bohler, *Program Coordinator, President’s Office*

Anne Chabot, *Administrative Coordinator, Department of Music*

Valerie Costello, *Graphic Designer*

Cathy Collins and Emina Mahmuljin, *Printing Services*

Ellen McKay, *Administrative Coordinator, Chaplain’s Office*

Kristal Hier and Sydney Aube, *American Sign Language (ASL) Interpreters*

IN MEMORIAM

Aria Kamal ’27

Aria, a member of the class of 2027 and singer in College Choir, who loved the choir and the Lessons and Carols service, tragically lost her life in December, 2023. The College Choir cherishes her memory.

CARILLONNEURS

Angelina Como-Mosconi '25, and Graydon Hanson '25

George Matthew Jr.
College Carillonneur

MUSICIANS IN THE SERVICE

Jeffrey Buettner
*Director of Choral Activities and
Christian A. Johnson Professor of Music
Conductor and Organist*

Ronnie Romano '20
Organist and Chorister

THE CHOIR ALUMNI

Naomi Clark '24
Kai Fukuda '23.5
Chris Hauptfeld '20.5
Wendy Taylor '21.5

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE CHOIR

SOPRANO

Julia Gaudet '28
Isabella Karpinski '27
Meher Khan '27
Quinna McCarty '28
Anna Miller '26
Lilly Mitchell '26.5
Kendall Schilling '25
Paige Theodosopoulos '25

BASS

Jared Ahern '25
Graeme Evans '28
Jeff Lewis '27

ALTO

Cathy Dyer '28
Lydia LaBelle '24.5
Samantha-Grey Solomon '25
Cynthia Walton '25
Emma Wilson '2

TENOR

Xander Bowles '26
Davis Guyton '25
Simon Hall '26
Will Mortell '26
Oran von der Heydt '28

For more details about Lessons and Carols, please go to our website at
middlebury.edu/academics/music/middleburylessonsandcarols

Office of the Chaplain

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