



Evensong for the Feast of the Presentation
February 5, 2023
4:00 pm
St. James Episcopal Church, Woodstock, Vermont

Choral Evensong for The Feast of the Presentation
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Opening Voluntary: “ <i>Aria in Classic Style</i> ” for Harp and Organ	Marcel Grandjany
Opening Sentences	BCP, page 61
The Preces (<i>sung by the choir</i>)	Thomas Tallis
Hymn 36 O Gladsome Light	<i>Le Cantique de Siméon</i>
Psalm 84 (<i>sung by the choir</i>)	BCP, page 707
From the Old Testament: Malachi 3:1-4	
Hymn 437 Tell Out My Soul	<i>Birmingham</i>
From the New Testament: Luke 2:22-40	
Hymn 499 Lord God, You Now Have Set Your Servant Free	<i>Song 1</i>
The Apostles' Creed	BCP, page 66
The Lord's Prayer	
The Suffrages <i>sung by the choir</i>	Tallis
The Collects	
<u>A Ceremony of Carols</u> , Op. 28	Benjamin Britten
The General Thanksgiving	BCP, page 71
Prayer of St. Chrysostom	BCP, page 72
Dismissal and The Grace	BCP, page 72
Organ Voluntary: <i>Carillon</i>	Louis Vierne

Notes, Texts & Translations

One of the most famous choral works for choir and harp, A Ceremony of Carols was drafted by Benjamin Britten in 1942 on board ship while crossing the Atlantic, heading home to England from the United States. During a landing at Halifax, Nova Scotia, Britten purchased a book of poetry, The English Galaxy of Shorter Poems, and here found the texts of medieval and Renaissance poetry, that were to become A Ceremony of Carols. He first conceived the piece for women's voices and it was women who first sang it in Norwich, England on December 5, 1942. Britten added a few more movements and in 1943 published the work for "trebles." Framed by the plainchant "Hodie Christus natus est" (Today Christ is born), the Ceremony contains ten short interior movements of stunning contrast.

I. Procession

Hodie Christus natus est: hodie Salvator apparuit: hodie in terra canunt angeli: laetantur archangeli: hodie exsultant justi dicentes: gloria in excelsis Deo. Alleluia!

Today Christ is born; today the Savior has appeared. Today the angels sing on earth; the archangels rejoice. Today the righteous exult, saying: Glory to God on high! Alleluia!

II. Wolcum Yole! [Welcome, Yule!]

Wolcum be thou hevne king,
Wolcum, born in one morning,
Wolcum for whom we sall [shall] sing!
Wolcum be ye Stevene and Jon,
Wolcum innocentes every one,
Wolcum Thomas marter one.
Wolcum be ye good Newe Yere,
Wolcum, Twelfth Day both in fere,
Wolcum, seintes lefe and dere,
Wolcum Yole!
Candelmesse,
Quene of bliss,
Wolcum bothe to more and lesse.
Wolcum be ye that are here,
Wolcum, wolcum, make good cheer.
Wolcum alle another yere.
Wolcum!
- Anon. 14th c.

III. There is no Rose

There is no rose of such vertu
As is the rose that bare Jesu. Alleluia.
For in this rose contained was
Heaven and earth in litel space,
Res miranda. [Marvelous thing.]
By that rose we may well see
There be one God in persons three,
Pares forma. [Equal in nature.]
The aungels sungen the shepherds to
Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Gaudeamus. [Let us rejoice.]
Leave we all this werldly merth
And follow we this joyous birth,
Transeamus. [Let us pass over.] - Anon. 14th c.

IVa. That yongë child (*Elizabeth Harley, soprano*)

That yongë child when it gan weep
With song she lulled him asleep:
That was so sweet a melody
It passed alle minstrelsy.
The nightingalë sang also:
Her song is hoarse and nought thereto:
Whoso attendeth to her song
and leaveth the first then doth he wrong.
- Anon. 14th c.

IVb. Balulalow (*Elizabeth Harley, soprano*)

O my deare hert, young Jesu sweit [sweet],
Prepare thy creddil in my spreit [spirit],
And I sall rock thee to my hert,
And never mair from thee depart.
But I sall praise thee evermoir
with sanges [songs] sweit unto thy gloir;
The knees of my hert sall I bow,
And sing that richt [right] Balulalow.
- James, John and Robert Wedderburn, (1548), 1561.

V. As dew in Aprille

I sing of a maiden
That is makèless [matchless]:
King of all kings
To her son she ches [chose].
He came al so stille,
There his moder was,
As dew in Aprille
That falleth on the grass.
He came al so stille
To his moder's bour [bower],
As dew in Aprille
That falleth on the flour [flower].
He came al so stille,
There his moder lay,
As dew in Aprille
That falleth on the spray.
Moder and mayden was
Never none but she:
Well may such a lady
Goddes moder be.
- Anon. c. 1400

VI. This little Babe

This little Babe so few days old,
Is come to rifle Satan's fold;
All hell doth at his presence quake,
Though he himself for cold do shake;
For in this weak unarmed wise
The gates of hell he will surprise.

With tears he fights and wins the field,
His naked breast stands for a shield.
His battering shot are babish cries,
His arrows looks of weeping eyes,
His martial ensigns Cold and Need,
And feeble Flesh his warrior's steed.

His camp is pitched in a stall,
His bulwark but a broken wall;
The crib his trench, haystalks his stakes;

Of shepherds he his muster makes;
And thus, as sure his foe to wound,
The angels' trumps alarum sound.

My soul with Christ join thou in fight;
Stick to the tents that he hath pight [pitched].
Within his crib is surest ward;
This little Babe will be thy guard.
If thou wilt foil thy foes with joy,
Then flit not from this heavenly Boy.
- Robert Southwell (1561?-1595)

VII. Interlude

This movement is a harp solo with thematic material from the first movement.

VIII. In Freezing Winter Night (*Teresa Voorhees, soprano & Sebastian Lorenz, tenor*)

Behold, a silly* tender babe,
In freezing winter night,
In homely manger trembling lies,
Alas, a piteous sight!
The inns are full; no man will yield
This little pilgrim bed.
But forced he is with silly beasts
In crib to shroud his head.
This stable is a Prince's court,
This crib his chair of State;
The beasts are parcel of his pomp,
The wooden dish his plate.
The persons in that poor attire
His royal liveries wear;
The Prince himself is come from heav'n;
This pomp is prized there.
With joy approach, O Christian wight [being],
Do homage to thy King,
And highly praise his humble pomp,
which he from Heav'n doth bring.
*helpless, pitiable
- Robert Southwell (1561?-1595)

IX. Spring Carol, (*Jill Lorenz, soprano & Julie Groppe, alto*)

Pleasure it is
to hear iwis [certainly],
the Birdes sing,
The deer in the dale,
the sheep in the vale,
the corn springing.
God's purvayance
For sustenance,
It is for man;
Then we always
to give him praise,
And thank him than [then].
- William Cornish (14??-1523)

X. Deo gracias!

And all was for an appil, an appil that he tok [took],
As clerkes finden written in their book.
Deo gracias!
Ne [never] had the appil take ben, The appil take ben,
Ne hadde never our lady a ben hevene quene.
Blessed be the time That appil take was.
Therefore we moun [must] singen Deo gracias!
- Anon. 15th c.

XI. Recession

Hodie Christus natus est...

Service Participants

Officiant	The Rev. Amy Spagna
Organist and Choirmaster	Dr. James E. Lorenz
Harpist	Jennifer Hoult
Readers	Julie Groppe and Oliver Goodenough

St. James Staff

Rector: The Rev. Amy Spagna
aspagna@stjameswoodstock.org
Organist and Choirmaster: Dr. James E. Lorenz
jlorenz@stjameswoodstock.org
Parish Coordinator: Hannah Forbes 802-457-1727
hforbes@stjameswoodstock.org

Episcopal Diocese of Vermont

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Shannon MacVean-Brown, Bishop

St. James Choir

Annabel Cellini, Oliver Goodenough, Julie Groppe, Bitsy Harley,
Jill Lorenz, Sebastian Lorenz, Sara Stadler, Theresa Voorhees, Katherine Webster
with guest musicians: Daniel Gottsegen, Nicole Gottsegen

St. James Vestry

Senior Warden: Shari Casey
Junior Warden: Fiona McElwain
Clerk: Tim Sink
Members at Large:
Jay Bragdon, Bill Corson, Julie Groppe,
Sally Garmon, Stephen Land, Florence Short

St. James Office Hours:

Monday: By Appointment
Tuesday – Thursday: 10:00 am – 4:00 pm
Friday: closed

2 St. James Place, Woodstock, VT 05091

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