

Westminster Abbey



The Whitehall Carol Service

Tuesday 18th December 2018
6.30 pm

CHRISTIANS IN GOVERNMENT UK

Christians in Government UK is a non-denominational staff network connecting, supporting, and representing Christians working in UK national Government. We are passionate about supporting our members to serve Ministers and the public, and to bring the blessing of God to the heart of Government for the benefit of all. The network has been running the annual Whitehall Carol Service and other events for civil servants since 1999, having taken over the role of supporting Christians in the civil service from the Civil Service Christian Union. We have raised more than £45,000 for charity since 1999. For more information, including how to become involved in the Christians in Government UK and/or departmental Christian groups, please email info@christiansingovernment.org.uk.

ALPHA & CHRISTIANITY EXPLORED

The Alpha and Christianity Explored courses are open to anyone interested in learning about the Christian faith, whether a Christian or not. If you would like to attend one of these courses run by Christians in Government or want to know more about alternative options, please email alpha@christiansingovernment.org.uk.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY INSTITUTE

Westminster Abbey Institute seeks to nurture and revitalise moral and spiritual values in public life, inspire the vocation to public service in those working in Westminster and Whitehall, identify and defend what is morally healthy in their institutions, and promote wider understanding of public service. The Institute draws on Westminster Abbey's resources of spirituality and scholarship, rooted in its Benedictine tradition and long history as a place of quiet reflection on Parliament Square.

SPRING PROGRAMME: JUSTICE

Justice is a characteristic of a civilised society. Where is it to be found? In structures of government; institutions; individuals? Is it the same as fairness? Justice needs to be seen to be done or resentment flairs, but should it be punitive, retributive, restorative, or rehabilitative? Can justice that attends to individual heart-breaking cases also be fair and transparent? Can it acknowledge the place of mercy, grace, generosity, sacrifice, and undeserved forgiveness? Westminster Abbey Institute's spring programme JUSTICE addresses these questions.

CHRISTIAN EMBASSY

Christian Embassy is a non-political, non-denominational NGO. We serve the spiritual and social needs of London's diplomat community through dialogue, special events, and networking with leaders in the public and private sectors.

We believe that the worthy goals of international understanding, individual responsibility, and love for your neighbour are anchored in a reverence for God and affirmed in the teachings of Jesus.

AFRICAN CHILD TRUST

African Child Trust (ACT) is a UK based charity working to relieve poverty among disadvantaged children and widows in Africa and providing international development awareness and experience to youths in the UK.

Our vision is to give disadvantaged fatherless children and orphans in Africa the opportunity to achieve their potential in life and assist needy widows through training in whole-life skills to generate income in a sustainable way, so they can look after their families. We are enriching local communities in Africa by providing human, technical, and material support to improve education, sanitation, and health in local schools. Our aim is to break the cycle of poverty among poor people in Africa.

ACT is currently working in eight countries of Africa, namely Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and the UK.

*'Give a child a fish and feed them today.
Teach them to fish and feed them forever.'*

For more information about African Child Trust please visit www.africanchildtrust.org.uk, contact office@africanchildtrust.org.uk, or phone 02086880386.

Gift Aid envelopes are available. Please make cheques payable to African Child Trust.

*You can also give through online banking at
<http://www.africanchildtrust.org.uk/how-to-donate/>*

ORDER OF SERVICE

All stand for

THE HYMN

during which the choir moves from the Sacrarium to the Great West Door

The choir sings

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.

All sing

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.

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.

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.

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.

*Henry Gauntlett (1805–76)
arranged by James O'Donnell (b 1961)*

Cecil Alexander (1818–95)

All remain standing. The Very Reverend Dr John Hall, Dean of Westminster, gives

THE BIDDING

BROTHERS and sisters in Christ, I welcome you to Westminster Abbey. We have come together as the family of God, in our Father's presence, as we look forward to the great festival of Christmas. In this service we hear and receive the good news of the birth of Christ and we offer to God our thanksgiving in the joyful singing of carols. As we gather together in the name of Christ, we pray for the world he came to save: for the Church, that it may be enabled in our generation to surrender anew to God's holy wisdom, and bear the good news of God's love to a needy world; for the world, which is already Christ's, that all its peoples may recognise their responsibility for its future, and may be inspired by the message of Christmas to work together for the establishment of justice, freedom, and peace everywhere; and for all in special need: the sick, the anxious, the lonely, the fearful, and the bereaved; for those supported by Christians Against Poverty, to whom our collection will be given this evening; that the peace and light of the Christ-child may bring hope and healing to all who sit in darkness.

Silence is kept

ALMIGHTY God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal, through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, now and ever. **Amen.**

All sit. The choir sings

THE ANTHEM

ADAM lay ybounden,
Bounden in a bond;
Four thousand winter
Thought he not too long.

And all was for an apple,
An apple that he took,
As clerkes finden
Written in their book.

Ne had the apple taken been,
The apple taken been,
Ne had never our lady
A been heavene queen.

Blessed be the time
That apple taken was,
Therefore we moun singen
Deo gracias. *To God be thanks.*

THE CREATION OF ADAM AND EVE

IN the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground—then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being. And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. Out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, ‘You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.’

Then the Lord God said, ‘It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.’ So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said,

‘This at last is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
this one shall be called Woman,
for out of Man this one was taken.’

Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked, and were not ashamed.

All stand to sing

THE HYMN

during which the procession moves to the Quire Screen

GOD rest you merry, gentlemen,
let nothing you dismay,
for Jesus Christ our Saviour
was born upon this day,
to save us all from Satan's power
when we were gone astray:
O tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our heavenly Father
a blessed Angel came,
and unto certain shepherds
brought tidings of the same,
how that in Bethlehem was born
the Son of God by name:
O tidings of comfort and joy.

But when to Bethlehem they came
whereat this infant lay,
they found him in a manger,
where oxen feed on hay;
his mother Mary kneeling
unto the Lord did pray:
O tidings of comfort and joy.

Now to the Lord sing praises
all you within this place,
and with true love and brotherhood
each other now embrace;
this holy tide of Christmas
all other doth deface:
O tidings of comfort and joy.

God rest you merry
London carol
arranged by David Willcocks (1919–2015)

anonymous

All sit. The Right Honourable James Brokenshire MP, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities, and Local Government, reads from the Nave Lectern

THE BIRTH OF THE MESSIAH FORETOLD

THE people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Isaiah 9: 2–7

The choir sings

THE ANTHEM

‘WHEN he is King we will give him the King’s gifts,
Myrrh for its sweetness, and gold for a crown,
Beautiful robes,’ said the young girl to Joseph;
Fair with her first-born on Bethlehem Down.

Bethlehem Down is full of the starlight,
Winds for the spices, and stars for the gold,
Mary for sleep, and for lullaby music
Songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem fold.

When he is King, they will clothe him in grave-sheets,
Myrrh for embalming, and wood for a crown,
He that lies now in the white arms of Mary
Sleeping so lightly on Bethlehem Down.

Here he has peace and a short while for dreaming,
Close-huddled oxen to keep him from cold,
Mary for love, and for lullaby music
Songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem fold.

Peter Warlock (1894–1930)

Bruce Blunt (1899–1957)

All stand to sing

THE HYMN

during which the procession moves to places in Quire and the Sacrarium

The choir sings

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 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.

All sing

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

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

*traditional English melody
arranged by Thomas Armstrong (1898–1994)*

Phillips Brooks (1835–93)

All sit. Melanie Dawes CB, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Housing, Communities, and Local Government, reads from the Great Lectern

THE BIRTH OF JESUS

IN those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

St Luke 2: 1–7

THE ANTHEM

O HOLY night, the stars are brightly shining;
It is the night of the dear Saviour's birth!
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till he appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope, the weary soul rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.

*Fall on your knees, O hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!
O night, O holy night, O night divine!*

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming,
With glowing hearts by his cradle we stand.
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,
Here came the wise men from Orient land.
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger,
In all our trials born to be our friend!

*Fall on your knees, O hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!
O night, O holy night, O night divine!*

Truly he taught us to love one another;
His law is love and his Gospel is peace.
Chains shall he break for the slave is our brother
And in his name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
Let all within us praise his holy name!

*Fall on your knees, O hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!
O night, O holy night, O night divine!*

His Excellency Robert Wood Johnson, Ambassador of the United States of America to the Court of St James's, reads from the Great Lectern

THE SHEPHERDS AND THE ANGELS

IN that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and 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 heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

St Luke 2: 8–16

All stand to sing

THE HYMN

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.

Silent night, holy night,
Shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia:
Christ, the Saviour, is born,
Christ, the Saviour, is born.

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.

Silent Night 35 NEH
Franz Gruber (1787–1863)

George Timms (1910–97)
after Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht Joseph Mohr (1792–1848)

All sit for

THE ADDRESS

by

The Dean

The choir sings

THE ANTHEM

GOING through the hills on a night all starry
On the way the Bethlehem,
Far away I heard a shepherd boy piping
On the way to Bethlehem.

*Angels in the sky brought this message nigh:
'Dance and sing for joy that Christ the new-born King is
come to bring us peace on earth, and he's lying
cradled there at Bethlehem.'*

'Tell me, shepherd boy piping tunes so merrily
On the way to Bethlehem,
Who will hear your tunes on these hills so lonely
On the way to Bethlehem?'

'None may hear my pipes on these hills so lonely
On the way to Bethlehem;
But a King will hear me play sweet lullabies
When I get to Bethlehem.'

'Where is this new King, shepherd boy piping merrily,
Is he there at Bethlehem?
'I will find him soon by the star shining brightly
In the sky o'er Bethlehem.'

'May I come with you, shepherd boy piping merrily,
Come with you to Bethlehem?
Pay my homage too at the new King's cradle,
Is it far to Bethlehem?'

All kneel or remain seated. The Reverend Christopher Stoltz, Minor Canon and Precentor, leads

THE PRAYERS

Let us pray that the grace of God may bring healing and hope to all.

FATHER, rejoicing in the birth of our Lord and Saviour, we pray that the Church may be continually renewed in the image and likeness of Christ; that she may be faithful in proclaiming Christ's saving Good News, and in revealing thy love to the world.

Lord, in thy mercy
hear our prayer.

The Right Honourable Michael Gove MP, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, says

FATHER, at thy Son's birth the angelic host proclaimed peace to all people. We pray for the many places in this world divided and torn apart by war or violence, that they may know the gift of thy peace; for all who work for peace and justice, that they may be sustained in their efforts; and for all who count the cost of war, terrorism, or social injustice, that they may be comforted in the love and hope of Christ.

Lord, in thy mercy
hear our prayer.

Lindsey Durand-Vibert, Her Majesty's Treasury and Christians in Government, says

FATHER, we pray for the life of this nation; for Her Majesty The Queen and all members of the Royal Family; for our Prime Minister and Her Majesty's Government; for all who serve this nation through their work in Parliament, within the Civil Service, or within local authorities: that they may be given wisdom and understanding, and so fulfil their duties with devotion, leading thy people with integrity and sound judgement, and serving the needs of thy people with humility.

Lord, in thy mercy
hear our prayer.

Samuel Danquah, Prime Minister's Office and Christians in Government, says

FATHER, we pray for those who cannot feel the joy of Christmas through the burden of sickness, bereavement, homelessness, or despair. May the light of Christ enlighten all darkness and gloom, and may the peace of Christ bring healing and wholeness to those who suffer.

Lord, in thy mercy
hear our prayer.

The Precentor concludes

All these our prayers and praises let us now present before our heavenly Father, in the prayer our Saviour Christ taught us:

OUR Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

All stand to sing

THE HYMN

during which a collection is taken in aid of the African Child Trust

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:
*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

God of God,
Light of Light,
lo! he abhors not
the Virgin's womb;
Very God,
begotten, not created:

See how the shepherds,
summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh
with lowly fear;
we too will thither
bend our joyful footsteps:

Child, for us sinners
poor and in the manger,
fain we embrace thee,
with awe and love;
who would not love thee,
loving us so dearly?

Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of
heaven above;
'Glory to God
in the highest':

Adeste fideles
attributed to John Wade (1711–86)
arranged by Philip Ledger (1937–2012)

Adeste fideles attributed to John Wade
translated by Frederick Oakeley (1802–80)
and William Brooke (1848–1917)

All remain standing. The Venerable David Stanton, Canon in Residence, reads from the Nave Lectern

THE MYSTERY OF THE INCARNATION

IN the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

St John 1: 1-14

All remain standing. The choir sings

THE ANTHEM

ALLELUIA! A new work is come on hand
Through might and grace of Gode's Son,
To save the lost of ev'ry land,
For now is free that erst was bound;
We may well sing Alleluia!
Now is fulfilled the prophecy
Of David and of Jeremy
And also Isaiah: Alleluia!
Sing we therefore both loud and high, Alleluia!
Alleluia, this sweetè song
Out of a green branch it sprung.
God send us the life that lasteth long! Alleluia!
Now joy and bliss be him among
That thus can sing. Alleluia!

David Bednall (b 1979)

anonymous, 15th century

All remain standing. The Dean says

THE COLLECT

O GOD, who makest us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of thy only Son, Jesus Christ: grant that, as we joyfully receive him as our redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him, when he shall come to be our judge; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

The Dean pronounces

THE BLESSING

CHRIST, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with peace and goodwill and make you partakers of the divine nature; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

All sing

THE HYMN

HARK! the herald angels sing
glory to the new-born 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 new-born King.*

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a Virgin's womb:
veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
hail th'incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen 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.

*Felix Mendelssohn (1809–47)
arranged by Christopher Robinson (b 1936)*

Charles Wesley (1707–88)

Music after the service

Toccatà

Théodore Dubois (1837–1924)

**Members of the congregation are requested to remain
in their places until invited to move by the Honorary Stewards.**

Details of all Abbey services are available at:

www.westminster-abbey.org

