

An Evening Service of  
**LESSONS & CAROLS**

6:00 p.m.

December 20, 2020

# Gathering: Liturgy of the Word

Prelude

“Divinum Mysterium”

Wilbur Held

Opening Hymn

Randyn Heisserer-Miller and Kevin Hampton

## 112

## In the Bleak Midwinter

1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,  
2 Our God, heaven can - not hold him, nor — earth sus - tain;  
3 An - gels and arch - an - gels may have gath - ered there,  
4 What — can I give him, poor — as I am?

earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;  
heaven and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign:  
cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim thron - ed the air;  
If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb;

snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow — on — snow,  
in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble - place suf - ficed  
but his mo - ther on - ly, in her maid - en bliss,  
if I were a wise — man, I would do my part;

in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.  
the Lord — God in - car - nate, Je - sus Christ.  
wor - shiped the be - lov - ed with a kiss.  
yet what I can I give him — give my heart.

Words: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

Music: Cranham, Gustav Theodore Holst (1874-1934)

1rr.

## Bidding Prayer

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*All stand, and the Officiant greets the people with these words:*

*Officiant:* Dear People of God: In the season of Advent, it is our responsibility and joy to prepare ourselves to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger.

Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy Child Jesus, and let us look forward to the yearly remembrance of his birth with hymns and songs of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and especially for his Church in our country and in this city.

And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, as well as all those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ.

Finally, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore.

And now, to gather all these petitions, let us pray in the words which Christ himself has taught us, saying:

*All:* **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,  
 And the power and the glory,  
 For ever and ever. *Amen.*

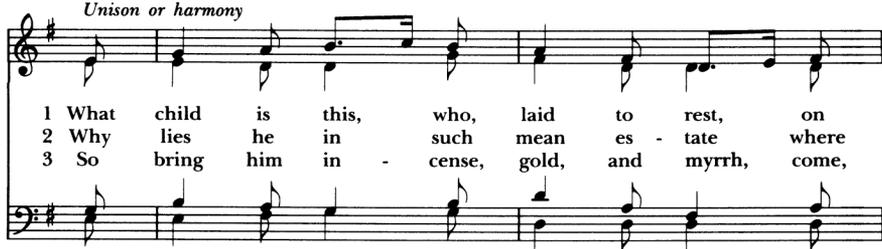
*Officiant:* The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and to the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all.  
*Amen.*

Hymn Randyn Heisserer-Miller and Kevin Hampton

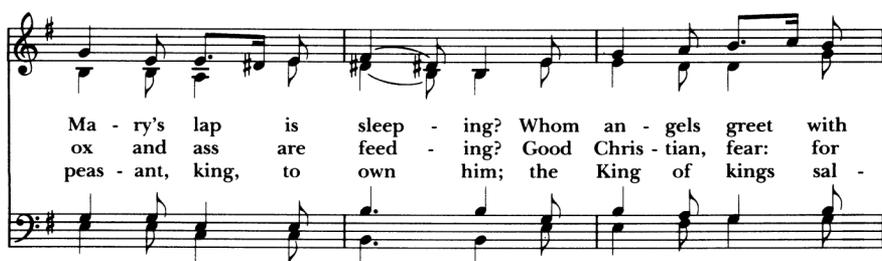
## 115

## What Child Is This

*Unison or harmony*



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on  
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where  
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, come,



Ma - ry's lap is sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with  
 ox and ass are feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear: for  
 peas - ant, king, to own him; the King of kings sal -



an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?  
 sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
 va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?  
 sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
 va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

*Refrain*

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds

guard and an - gels sing; haste, haste to

bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.

Words: William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898)

Music: *Greensleeves*, English melody; harm. *Christmas Carols New and Old*, 1871, alt.

87. 87 with Refrain

## The Lessons

The First Lesson:  
 Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19

Bruce & Will Miller

They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, 'Where are you?' He said, 'I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.' He said, 'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree

of which I commanded you not to eat?’ The man said, ‘The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.’ Then the LORD God said to the woman, ‘What is this that you have done?’ The woman said, ‘The serpent tricked me, and I ate.’ The LORD God said to the serpent,

‘Because you have done this,  
    cursed are you among all animals  
    and among all wild creatures;  
upon your belly you shall go,  
    and dust you shall eat  
    all the days of your life.

I will put enmity between you and the woman,  
    and between your offspring and hers;  
he will strike your head,  
    and you will strike his heel.’

And to the man he said,

‘Because you have listened to the voice of your wife,  
    and have eaten of the tree  
about which I commanded you,  
    “‘You shall not eat of it”,  
cursed is the ground because of you;  
    in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life;  
thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;  
    and you shall eat the plants of the field.

By the sweat of your face  
    you shall eat bread  
until you return to the ground,  
    for out of it you were taken;  
you are dust,  
    and to dust you shall return.’

Special Music

“Adam Lay Ybounden”

Richard Joseph

Hymn

Nona Nan Chapman

1 Cre - a - tor of the stars of night,  
 3 When this old world drew on toward night,  
 4 At your great Name, O Je - sus, now

1 your peo - ple's ev - er - last - ing light,  
 3 you came; but not in splen - dor bright,  
 4 all knees must bend, all hearts must bow:

1 O Christ, Re - deem - er of us all,  
 3 not as a mon - arc, but the child  
 4 all things on earth with one ac - cord,

1 we pray you hear us when we call.  
 3 of Ma - ry, blame - less mo - ther mild.  
 4 like those in heaven, shall call you Lord.

Words: Latin, 9th cent.; ver. *Hymnal 1940*, alt.  
 Music: *Conditor alme siderum*, plainsong, Mode 4

LM

### The Second Lesson: Genesis 22:15–18

Gordon Jones

The angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, ‘By myself I have sworn, says the LORD: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice.’

Hymn

Gloria Miller

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,  
 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?

and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.  
 What great bright - ness did you see? What glad tid - ings did you hear?

*Refrain*

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - ri - a

ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Words: French carol; tr. James Chadwick (1813-1882), alt.  
 Music: *Gloria*, French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes (1887-1958)

77. 77 with Refrain

**The Third Lesson:**  
Isaiah 9:2, 6, 7

Toni Alexander, Eric Wersel,  
Camille Wersel

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.  
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.

Special Music “The Angels Descend” Annette Joseph, vocalist  
Jacob Joseph, flute solo

Hymn Kevin Hampton

**89**

**It Came Upon a Midnight Clear**

1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that  
4 For lo! the days are haste - ning on, by

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'It Came Upon a Midnight Clear'. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass line is in the bass staff. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff, with the first line starting at the beginning of the first measure and the second line starting at the beginning of the fourth measure.

glo - rious song of old, from an - gels bend - ing  
pro - phets seen of old, when with the ev - er -

near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,

"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from  
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its

heaven's all - gra - cious King." The world in sol - emn  
an - cient splen - dors fling, and all the world give

still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.  
back the song which now the an - gels sing.

Words: Edmund H. Sears (1810-1876), alt.  
Music: Carol, Richard Storrs Willis (1819-1900)

CMD

## The Fourth Lesson: Isaiah 11:3a, 4a, 6-9

Janet Hinson

His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.  
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide by what his ears hear;

but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
 and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
 he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
 and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.  
 The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
 the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
 the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
 and a little child shall lead them.  
 The cow and the bear shall graze,  
 their young shall lie down together;  
 and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.  
 The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
 and the weaned child shall put its hand  
 on the adder's den.  
 They will not hurt or destroy  
 on all my holy mountain;  
 for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD  
 as the waters cover the sea.

Special Music

“All Things Aright”

Michael Joseph

Hymn

Mary Mims

**111**

**Silent Night, Holy Night**

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm,  
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake  
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,

all is bright round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child.  
 at the sight, glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far,  
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face,

Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in hea - ven - ly  
 heaven - ly hosts— sing al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sa - vior, is  
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy

peace. born! birth. Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace. Christ, the Sa - vior, is born!  
 Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

Words: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848); tr. John Freeman Young (1820-1885)  
 Music: *Stille Nacht*, melody Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863); harm. Carl H. Reinecke (1824-1910)

Irr.

## The Fifth Lesson: Luke 1:26–35, 38

Matthew Heisserer-Miller

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

## 81

## Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

1 Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom-ing from ten - der stem hath sprung!  
 2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the Rose I have in mind,  
 \*3 O Flower, whose fra-grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the air,

Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as seers of old have sung.  
 with Ma - ry we be - hold it, the Vir - gin Mo - ther kind.  
 dis - pel in glo - rious splen - dor the dark-ness ev - ery - where;

It came, a blos - som bright, a - mid the  
 To show God's love a - right, she bore to  
 true man, yet ve - ry God, from sin and

cold of win - ter, when half spent was the night.  
 us a Sa - vior, when half spent was the night.  
 death now save us, and share our ev - ery load.

Words: St. 1-2, German, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker (1851-1934), st. 3, Friedrich Layritz (1808-1859);  
 tr. Harriet Reynolds Krauth Spaeth (1845-1925); ver. *Hymnal 1940*

Music: *Es ist ein Ros*, melody from *Alle Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, 1599;  
 harm. Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

76. 76. 676

The Sixth Lesson:  
Luke 2:1, 3-7

Jordan Barnett

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. 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.

Special Music

“Irish Carol”

Anna Joseph

Hymn

The Joseph Family

101

Away in a Manger

1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed,  
2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,  
\*3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask thee to stay

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.  
but lit - tle Lord Je - sus no cry - ing he makes.  
close by me for ev - er, and love me I pray.

The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
I love thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,  
Bless all the dear chil - dren in thy ten - der care,

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is night.  
and fit us for hea - ven to live with thee there.

Words: Traditional carol

Music: *Cradle Song*, melody William James Kirkpatrick (1838-1921)

11 11. 11 11

The Seventh Lesson:  
Luke 2:8-16

Sue Balsamo

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 Savior, 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 favors!’

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.

Hymn

Randyn Heisserer-Miller and Kevin Hampton

109

The First Nowell

1 The first No - well the an - gel did say  
2 They look - ed up and saw a star

1 was to cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay;  
2 shin - ing in the east be - yond them far.

The musical score is written for two voices (Soprano and Bass) and piano accompaniment. It features a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is simple and folk-like, with a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes. The lyrics are printed below the vocal lines, with some words underlined to indicate phrasing. The piano accompaniment consists of a steady bass line and chords in the right hand.

1 in fields as they lay, keep - ing their sheep,  
2 and to the earth it gave great light,

1 on a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.  
2 and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.

*Refrain*

No - well, No - well, No - well, No - well,

born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Words: English carol, 18th cent.

Music: *The First Nowell*, English carol, 17th cent.; harm. John Stainer (1840-1901)

Irr. with Refrain

## The Eighth Lesson: Matthew 2:1-12

Lynn Feeler

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They

told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

“And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel.” ’

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Hymn

The Joseph Family

79

## O Little Town of Bethlehem

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "O Little Town of Bethlehem". It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor), and the time signature is 3/4. The first system has two lines of lyrics: "1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!" and "3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!". The second system also has two lines: "1 A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by;" and "3 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

1 yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;  
 3 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,

1 the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
 3 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.

Words: Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)  
 Music: St. Louis, Lewis H. Redner (1831-1908)

CMD

## The Ninth Lesson: John 1:1-14

Rev. Annette Joseph

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.

## 87

## Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new-born King!  
 2 Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;  
 3 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!  
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.  
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;  
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty.  
 Risen with heal - ing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,

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!  
 hail, the Sun of Right - eous - ness! hail, the heaven - born Prince of Peace!

*Refrain*

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new-born King!

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt.

Music: Mendelssohn, Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847); adapt. William H. Cummings (1831-1915)

77. 77. D with Refrain

## Collect and Blessing

Officiant: The Lord be with you!

People: And also with you.

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Officiant: May he who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, bestow upon you the fullness of inward peace and goodwill; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. *Amen.*

Closing Hymn

Randyn Heisserer-Miller and Kevin Hampton

83

## O Come, All Ye Faithful

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O  
2 God from — God, — Light from Light e - ter - nal, —  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion, —  
\*4 See how the shep - herds, sum - moned to his cra - dle, —  
\*5 Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger, —

1 come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
2 lo! he ab - hors — ye to the Vir - gin's womb;  
3 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;  
4 leav - ing their flocks, — draw — nigh to gaze;  
5 we would em - brace — thee, with love and awe;

1 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;  
 2 on - ly - be - got - ten Son — of the Fa - ther;  
 3 glo - ry to God, — glo - ry in the high - est;  
 4 we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;  
 5 who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?

*Refrain*

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -

dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord.

6 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
 born this happy morning;  
 Jesus, to thee be glory given;  
 Word of the Father,  
 now in flesh appearing;

*Refrain*

Words: John Francis Wade (1711-1786); tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880) and others  
 Music: *Adeste fideles*, present form of melody att. John Francis Wade (1711-1786);  
 harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

Ir.

Postlude “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” Norman Dello Joio

Mary Miller, Christ Church Organist

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**Bulletin Cover Image**

*Madonna of the Cotton Fields*  
 or, *Mighty Like a Rose*.  
 Dame Laura Knight  
 Oil on canvas, 1934.