

# Westminster Abbey



## THE WHITEHALL CAROL SERVICE



Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2011

6.30 pm

## CHRISTIANS IN GOVERNMENT UK

Christians in Government UK is a staff network for Christians working in Government departments and agencies in the UK. 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 £23,000 for charity since 1999. For more information, including how to become involved in departmental groups, and details of the Christians in Government UK Alpha Course starting in January 2012, please visit [www.christiansingovernment.org.uk](http://www.christiansingovernment.org.uk).

*Members of the congregation are kindly requested to refrain from using private cameras, video, or sound recording equipment. Please ensure that mobile phones, pagers, and other electronic devices are switched off.*

*Most of the church, with the exception of the transepts, is served by a hearing loop. Users should turn their hearing aid to the setting marked T.*

*The service is conducted by The Very Reverend Dr John Hall, Dean of Westminster.*

*The service is sung by the Westminster Abbey Special Service Choir, conducted by James O'Donnell, Organist and Master of the Choristers.*

*The organ is played by James McVinnie, Assistant Organist.*

*Trumpeters from the Band of the Coldstream Guards are directed by Major D Wolfendale.*

*Music before the service:*

*Andrej Kouznetsov, Organ Scholar, plays:*

Weihnachten *Max Reger (1873–1916)*

La nativité from Poèmes évangéliques *Jean Langlais (1907–91)*

Nativité from Première suite *Jean-Jacques Grunenwald (1911–82)*

Les bergers from La nativité du Seigneur *Olivier Messiaen (1908–92)*

*All stand. Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra is received at the Great West Door by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster and conducted to her seat in Quire.*

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# ORDER OF SERVICE

*All remain standing to sing*

## THE HYMN

*during which the Collegiate Procession  
moves to places in the Quire and Sacrarium*

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.

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.

And through all his wondrous childhood  
he would honour and obey,  
love and watch the lowly Maiden,  
in whose gentle arms he lay:  
Christian children all must be  
mild, obedient, good as he.

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;  
where like stars his children crowned  
all in white shall wait around.

*Irby 34 NEH  
Henry John Gauntlett (1805–76)  
revised by Arthur Henry Mann (1850–1929)*

*Cecil Frances Alexander (1818–95)*

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

## THE BIDDING

Brothers and sisters in Christ, on behalf of the Dean and Chapter of Westminster I welcome you to Westminster Abbey.

We have come together as the family of God, in our Father's presence, to celebrate 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 recognize 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;

for all in special need, the sick, the anxious, the lonely, the fearful, and the bereaved, 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:*

This is the truth sent from above,  
the truth of God, the God of love;  
therefore don't turn me from your door,  
but hearken all both rich and poor.

And at that season of the year  
our blest Redeemer did appear;  
he here did live, and here did preach,  
and many thousands he did teach.

Thus he in love to us behaved,  
to show us how we must be saved;  
and if you want to know the way,  
be pleased to hear what he did say.

*Herefordshire carol  
arranged by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)*

*All remain seated. The Right Honourable Iain Duncan Smith MP, Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, reads*

## THE STORY OF CREATION

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day. And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters. And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day. And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so. And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that it was good. And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good. And the evening and the morning were the third day. And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years: and it was so, and God saw that it was good. And the evening and the morning were the fourth day. And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven. And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth: and God saw that it was good. And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply. And the evening and the morning were the fifth day. And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so, and God saw that it was good. And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth. And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.

*from Genesis 1 and 2*

*All stand to sing*

## THE HYMN

Of the Father's heart begotten,  
ere the world from chaos rose,  
he is Alpha: from that Fountain  
all that is and hath been flows;  
he is Omega, of all things  
yet to come the mystic Close,  
evermore and evermore.

By his word was all created;  
he commanded and 'twas done,  
earth and sky and boundless ocean,  
universe of three in one;  
all that sees the moon's soft radiance,  
all that breathes beneath the sun,  
evermore and evermore.

This is he, whom seer and sibyl  
sang in ages long gone by;  
this is he of old revealèd  
in the page of prophecy;  
lo! he comes, the promised Saviour;  
let the world his praises cry!  
evermore and evermore.

Sing, ye heights of heaven, his praises;  
Angels and Archangels, sing!  
wheresoe'er ye be, ye faithful,  
let your joyous anthems ring,  
every tongue his name confessing,  
countless voices answering,  
evermore and evermore.

*Divinum mysterium 33 NEH*  
*from Piaae Cantiones Theoderici Petri Nylandensis 1582*

*Corde natus ex parentis Prudentius (348–c 413)*  
*translated by Robert Furley Davis*  
*(1866–1937)*

*All sit. Sir Gus O'Donnell, Cabinet Secretary, reads*

## PROPHECY OF THE CHRIST

There shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord; and shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord: and

he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: but with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins. The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

*Isaiah 11: 1-9*

*All stand to sing*

#### THE HYMN

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.

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 wondering love.

How silently, how silently,  
the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming;  
but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him still,  
the dear Christ enters in.

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.

*Forest Green 57 100CC*  
*English traditional melody*  
*descant by Thomas Armstrong (1898–1994)*

*Phillips Brooks (1835–93)*

*All sit. The Right Honourable Caroline Spelman MP, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, reads*

### THE BIRTH OF JESUS

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: when as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily. But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

*St Matthew 1: 18–23*

*The Choir sings:*

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  
'til he appeared and the Spirit felt its worth.  
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,  
for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.  
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!  
O night divine, the 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.  
O'er the world a star is sweetly gleaming,  
now come the wisemen from out of Orient land.  
The King of kings lay thus lowly manger;  
in all our trials born to be our friends.  
He knows our need, our weakness is no stranger,  
    behold your King! Before him lowly bend!

Truly he taught us to love one another;  
his law is love and his gospel is peace.  
Chains he shall break, for the slave is our brother,  
and in his name all oppression shall cease.  
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,  
with all our hearts we praise his holy name.  
Christ is the Lord! Then ever, ever praise we,  
    his power and glory ever more proclaim!

*Adolphe Adam (1803–56)*

*Placide Cappeau (1808–77)*

*All remain seated. The Baroness Hanham of Kensington CBE, Under Secretary of State, The Department for Communities and Local Government, reads*

### THE VISIT OF THE MAGI

Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, inquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also. When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh. And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

*St Matthew 2: 7–12*

### THE ADDRESS

*by*

The Right Reverend Sandy Millar  
*Honorary Assistant Bishop, Diocese of London*

*All remain seated. The Choir sings*

### THE ANTHEM

All this time this song is best:  
'Verbum caro factum est.'  
*The Word was made flesh.*

This night there is a child y-born  
that sprang out of Jesse's thorn;  
we must sing and say therefor,  
all this time this song is best:  
'Verbum caro factum est.'

Jesus is the childe's name,  
and Mary mild is his dame;  
all our sorrow shall turn to game:  
all this time this song is best:  
'Verbum caro factum est.'

It fell upon high midnight:  
the stars shone both fair and bright;  
the angels sang with all their might,  
all this time this song is best:  
'Verbum caro factum est.'

Now kneel we down on our knee,  
and pray we to the Trinity  
our help, our succour for to be;  
all this time this song is best:  
'Verbum caro factum est.'

*William Walton (1902–83)*

*16<sup>th</sup> century*

*All kneel or remain seated. The Reverend Andrew Tremlett, Canon of Westminster and Rector of St Margaret's Church, leads*

### THE PRAYERS

As we celebrate God's coming to us in human form, let us pray in confidence to the God we trust.

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

Lord, in thy mercy;

**hear our prayer.**

*The Right Honourable Chris Grayling MP, Minister of State, The Department for Work and Pensions, 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 might be comforted in the love and hope of Christ.

Lord, in thy mercy;

**hear our prayer.**

*The Right Honourable Professor The Baroness Cox of Queensbury says:*

Father, we pray for the life of this nation; for Her Majesty The Queen and all the members of The Royal Family; for our Prime Minister and all the members of Her Majesty's Government; for all who serve this nation through their work in Parliament, within the Civil Service, or within local authorities: through the power of thy Holy Spirit pour upon them thy gifts of wisdom and understanding that they may fulfil their duties with devotion, lead thy people with integrity and sound judgement, and serve the needs of thy people with humility.

Lord, in thy mercy;

**hear our prayer.**

*Steve Webb MP, Minister of State, The Department for Work and Pensions, 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 displace 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.**

*Canon Tremlett continues:*

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

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:

Lo! star-led chieftains,  
magi, Christ adoring,  
offer him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
we to the Christ Child  
bring our heart's oblations:

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 30 NEH*  
*attributed to John Francis Wade (1711–86)*

*Latin, attributed to John Francis Wade*  
*translated by Frederick Oakeley (1802–80)*

*All remain standing. The Right Honourable Francis Maude MP, Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General, reads*

## THE GOSPEL

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

*St John 1: 1–14*

*The Choir sings:*

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 Saviour has appeared. Today the angels sing on earth. The archangels rejoice. Today the righteous rejoice, saying: Glory be to God on high. Alleluia!*

*Francis Poulenc (1899–1963)*

*Magnificat Antiphon of Christmas Day*

*All remain standing. 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, come down upon 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 the 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 the 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.

*Mendelssohn 26 NEH  
Felix Mendelssohn (1809–47)*

*Charles Wesley (1707–88)*

*Music after the service:*

*Final from Symphonie I*

*Louis Vierne (1870–1937)*

*All remain standing as the Procession moves to the west end of the Abbey.*

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

**A retiring collection is taken in aid of the work of the  
HUMANITARIAN AID RELIEF TRUST (HART) and the work of the Abbey.**

The Humanitarian Aid Relief Trust (HART) supports the forgotten people of Europe, Africa, and Asia: the oppressed and the persecuted, and often those who are neglected by other organisations, largely out of sight of the world's media. Its aid is designed to relieve suffering and sow the seeds of longer-term solutions; its advocacy is designed to raise awareness of problems – and solutions – at home and abroad.

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Please make cheques payable to Westminster Abbey.**