The Office of Religious & Spiritual Life and Contemplative Practices and the Department of Music present

AN ADVENT SERVICE OF

Lessons & Carols

Vassar College Chapel
Sunday, December 3, 2023, 7:00 PM
Doors open at 6:30 pm
A Service of Lessons and Carols is supported in part from gifts honoring the spirit of Sally North Hillyer ’56 & Mary North French ’55

A note on this service
The liturgy for this service is designed to lead participants into deepening reflection on the Christmas story—what Trappist monk Thomas Merton calls the “Great Joy [that] explodes silently upon the world.” In order to make room for people to enter attentively and prayerfully into the growing stillness of this night, please hold your applause until the end of the service, when you may heartily applaud for all.

Words for Silent Reflection
Though I walk in the vale of death’s shadow
I fear no harm,
for You are with me. –from Psalm 23 (translation by Robert Alter)

Organ Prelude Now come, O Savior of the World Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)
BWV 659
Gail Archer, organist

Welcome and Prayer Rev. Samuel Speers, Associate Dean of the College for Religious and Spiritual Life and Contemplative Practices

Proclamation 1 John 4:7-8 Rahul Kumar, reader
For God is love

Lighting of Advent Candles

Anthem Little Star Greg Gilpin (b. 1964)
Cappella Festiva Cor Capriccio Children’s Choir
Elizabeth Clifton, conductor, Jodie McCaffrey, piano

Little star in the night,
how you shine oh, so bright.
I wish I may, I wish I might,
I wish I may, I wish I might,
I wish I may, I wish I might,
I wish I may, I wish I might,
I wish I may, I wish I might.

Little star can you see
all the way from where you are to me?
I wish tonight.
Joy never ending.
Peace that passes understanding.

Little star, wherever you are.

1st Reading Romans 8:18-27 Michael McCarthy, Professor Emeritus of Philosophy
The Spirit that helps us in our weakness

* (asterisk) in the bulletin indicates to please stand as you are able.
1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
   and ransom captive Israel,
   that mourns in lonely exile here
   until the Son of God appear.
   Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
   shall come to thee, O Israel.

2. O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
   our spirits by thine advent here;
   disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
   and death’s dark shadows put to flight.
   Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
   shall come to thee, O Israel.

3. O come, Desire of nations, bind
   all peoples in one heart and mind;
   bid envy, strife and discord cease;
   fill the whole world with heaven’s peace.
   Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
   shall come to thee, O Israel.

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2nd Reading  *Genesis 9:8-17*

Nicole Beveridge, Director, Jeh Johnson ALANA Center
God’s covenant with every living creature

Anthem  *The Truth sent from Above*

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)
Vassar College Choir
Elizabeth Stockton Perkins ’24, soprano, Madeleine Brigman ’24, mezzo-soprano
Elliot Kloninger-Stever ’25, tenor, Finley Greene ’25, bass
Christine Howlett, conductor

3rd Reading  *What It Looks Like To Us and the Words We Use*

Marissa Desir ’25

All these great barns out here in the outskirts,
black creosote boards knee-deep in the bluegrass.
They look so beautifully abandoned, even in use.
You say they look like arks after the sea’s
dried up, I say they look like pirate ships,
and I think of that walk in the valley where
J said, You don’t believe in God? And I said,
No. I believe in this connection we all have
to nature, to each other, to the universe.
And she said, Yeah, God. And how we stood there,
low beasts among the white oaks, Spanish moss,
and spider webs, obsidian shards stuck in our pockets,
woodpecker flurry, and I refused to call it so.
So instead, we looked up at the unruly sky,
its clouds in simple animal shapes we could name
though we knew they were really just clouds—
disorderly, and marvelous, and ours.

—Ada Limón
This is My Song

1. This is my song, O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for lands afar and mine.
This is my home, the country where my heart is;
here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;
but other hearts in other lands are beating
with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.

2. My country’s skies are bluer than the ocean,
and sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine.
But other lands have sunlight too, and clover,
and skies are everywhere as blue as mine.
So hear my song, O God of all nations,
a song of peace for their land and for mine.

3. This is my prayer, O Lord of all earth's kingdoms:
thy kingdom come; on earth thy will be done.
Let Christ be lifted up till all shall serve him,
and hearts united learn to live as one.
So hear my prayer, O God of all nations:
myself I give thee; let thy will be done.

4th Reading
Psalm 23
God’s promise to be with us
Episcopal Church at Vassar College

Leader: The LORD is my shepherd;
People: I shall not want.
Leader: He makes me lie down in green pastures;
People: he leads me beside still waters;
Leader: he restores my soul.
People: He leads me in right paths for his name’s sake.
Leader: Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I fear no evil,
People: for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
Leader: You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
People: you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Leader: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
People: and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
my whole life long.
Bobby McFerrin composed this beautiful, contemplative setting of Psalm 23 in 1990, changing the male pronouns to female pronouns in honor of his mother's memory.

The Lord is my Shepherd, I have all I need,
She makes me lie down in green meadows,
Beside the still waters, She will lead.

She restores my soul, She rights my wrongs,
She leads me in a path of good things,
And fills my heart with songs.

Even though I walk, through a dark and dreary land,
There is nothing that can shake me,
She has said She won't forsake me
I'm in her hand.

She sets a table before me, in the presence of my foes,
She anoints my head with oil,
And my cup overflows.

Surely, surely goodness and kindness will follow me,
All the days of my life,
And I will live in her house,
Forever, forever and ever.

Glory be to our Mother, and Daughter,
And to the Holy of Holies,
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
World, without end. Amen.
5th Reading  
*Isaiah 9*  
A promise of light for a people in darkness

El pueblo que andaba en la oscuridad  
vio una gran luz;  
una luz ha brillado  
para los que vivían en tinieblas.

Porque nos ha nacido un niño,  
Dios nos ha dado un hijo,  
al cual se le ha concedido el poder de gobernar.

Y le darán estos nombres:  
Admirable en sus planes, Dios invencible,  
Padre eterno, Príncipe de la paz.  
Amen.

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 unto us a child is born,  
unto us a son is given:  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder:  
and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor,  
the mighty God,  
the everlasting Father,  
the Prince of Peace.

Amen

Anthem  
*Light Upon Light*  
Isaiah 9:2a, Qur’an 24:35, John 1:15  
Lessons and Carols Choir  
Christine Howlett, *conductor*

Semi-Chorus: Rachel Bazaz, Hali Wack, Beatrix Postley ’24, Christie Burnside ’26,  
Julianne Cuevo ’24, Isabel Granger ’24, Meredith Hamilton, Jordan Chafe ’26,  
Shaun Cunningham, Glenn Knickerbocker, Andrew Crispell, Rafi Ettinger-Finley ’24,  
Benjamin Ryan ’27

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
Light of the heavens and the earth  
Light upon light.  
Knowing of all things.  
The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome.  
Light upon light.

6th Reading  
*Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9*  
The promise of peace

Elizabeth H. Bradley, President of the College
Anthem  

Creation will be at Peace  
Cappella Festiva Chamber Choir  
Christine Howlett, conductor  

In the holy mountain of the Lord  
All war and strife shall cease;  
In the holy mountain of the Lord  
Creation shall be at peace.  

The wolf will lie down with the lamb,  
the cow and bear will feed,  
their young will play together;  
A little child will lead.  

In the holy mountain of the Lord…  

Unison Prayer  
A Franciscan prayer  
[All are invited to join in saying this prayer together:]  

Lord, make me an instrument of your holy discomfort  
Where there is privilege, let me sow equity,  
Where there is violence, let me work for peace,  
Where there is division, let me seek unity,  
Where there is racism, let me pursue racial justice,  
Where there is environmental degradation, let me care for creation,  
Where there is political discord, let me seek the common good,  
And where there is economic inequality, let me seek justice.  
O God of Justice, grant that I may not so much seek comfort,  
as to welcome hard truths,  
To be heard, as to listen,  
To hold power, as to empower,  
To seek control, as to follow,  
For it is in humility, that we learn,  
It is in seeking forgiveness, that we are reconciled,  
And it is in dying to self, that we are born to new life.  
Amen.  

–Daniel Horan, OFM  

7th Reading  
Luke 1:26-38  
Jackie Freeman, Campus Dining–The Retreat  
Mary consents to an angel’s implausible message
**Anthem**  
_Ave Generosa_  
Ola Gjeilo (b. 1978)  
Vassar College Treble Chorus | Christine Howlett, conductor  
Talia Mayo ’25, Beatrix Postley ’24, soloists

_Ave generosa gloriosa et intacta_  
puella, tu pupilla castitatis,  
tu materia sanctitatis,  
que Deo placuit.  

*Hymn*  
_Water Child is This? (1865)*  
William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898)

1. What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary’s lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
_haste, haste to bring Him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!_*

2. Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you.  
_Hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!_*

3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.  
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone Him.  
Raise, raise the song on high. The virgin sings her lullaby.  
_Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!_*

**8th Reading**  
_Luke 2:1-8_  
Grace Cazzaniga ’24, Vassar Catholic Community

The babe is born in Bethlehem

**Anthem**  
_Christus Natus Est_  
Rosephanye Powell (b. 1962)  
Lessons and Carols Choir  
Poetry by Countee Cullen (1903-1946)  
Laura Ramsey Russell, _conductor_ | Lois Hicks-Wozniak, _saxophone_

_Christus Natus Est_  
1. In Bethlehem  
On Christmas morn,  
The lowly gem  
Of love was born.  
[Hosannah!] _Christus natus est._

2. Bright in her crown  
Of fiery star,  
Judea’s town  
Shone from afar:  
Hosannah! _Christus natus est_
3. For bird and beast
   He did not come,
   But for the least
   Of mortal scum.
   [Hosannah! Christus natus est.]

4. Who lies in ditch?
   Who begs his bread?
   Who has no stitch
   For back or head?
   Hosannah! Christus natus est.

5. Who wakes to weep,
   Lies down to mourn?
   Who in his sleep
   Withdraws from scorn?
   [Hosanna! Christus natus est.]

6. Ye outraged dust,
   On field and plain,
   To feed the lust
   Of madmen slain:
   Hosannah! Christus natus est.

7. The manger still
   Outshines the throne;
   Christ must and will
   Come to his own
   [Hosannah! Christus natus est.]

Poetry adapted by Rosephanye Powell

Christmas Prayers

Candlelighting: Choir members and ushers will begin the candle-lighting in each row

*Hymn: Silent Night, Holy Night!
James Osborn, trumpet

Music: Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863)

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

4. Silent night, holy night!
   Wondrous star, lend thy light;
   With the angels let us sing
   Alleluia to our King:
   Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born.

After the hymn, please extinguish your candle, and place it upright in the rack on the back of each pew; please take care to keep dripping wax inside the candle cup.
9th Reading  *John 1:1-5, 14*
John 1:1-5, 14
The great mystery of the Incarnation
Elizabeth Stockton Perkins ’24
Episcopal Church at Vassar College

*Hymn*  *O Come All Ye Faithful*
James Osborn and Thomas Doyle ’25, *trumpets*
John Francis Wade (1743)

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

2. True God from true God, Light from light eternal,
   Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
   very God, begotten, not created!
Refrain

3. Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;
   sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
   Glory to God, all glory in the highest!
Refrain

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

Benediction

Postlude  *Come, Holy Spirit*
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)
BWV 651
Gail Archer, organist

Carillon Postlude

Permissions and Notes

Ada Limón's poem, "What It Looks Like To Us and the Words We Use" was first printed in Poecology, Issue 1, 2011. We are grateful to Ada Limón for granting permission to print this poem in our bulletin. Since 2022, she has been the U.S. Poet Laureate.

Our Unison Prayer today is a current rendering of the prayer attributed to St. Francis by Daniel P. Horan, OFM, PhD. Fr. Horan is a Franciscan friar, who is the Duns Scotus Professor of Spirituality at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. We are grateful for his permission to print this prayer here.

Finally, a note about Countee Cullen, the poet whose words composer Rosephanye Powell set to music in Christus Natus Est. Cullen was an iconic figure of the Harlem Renaissance, known for his poetry, fiction, and plays. He published Color, his debut volume of poetry in 1925, followed by Copper Sun and The Ballad of the Brown Girl.

This evening’s free will offering goes to support Vassar College’s Community Works philanthropic campaign. Their table will be outside the Chapel as you leave tonight.
The Office of Religious and Spiritual Life and Contemplative Practices
The Rev. Samuel Speers, D.Min., Associate Dean of the College for RSLCP
Rabbi Bryan Mann, Rachlin Director for Jewish Life/Asst. Director, Office of RSLCP
Saba Ali, Advisor for Muslim Student Life
Annie Sampugnaro, Administrative Assistant
Linda Tuttle, Affiliate Advisor, Vassar Catholic Community
James McCowan, Faculty Advisor, Vassar Buddhist Sangha
The Rev. Deacon Emily Carter, Affiliate Advisor for Episcopal Church at Vassar College
Rabbi Daniel Sanoff, Affiliate Advisor, Chabad Jewish Community
Rebbetzin Dalia Sanoff, Affiliate Advisor, Chabad Jewish Community
RSLCP Student Interns:
Anisha Azizi’27, Eli Cuomo ’24, Benjamin Garrity ’27, Ahmed Abdul Mumeen ’26, June Pierson ’27, Nina Sandman ’26, Salih Elnour Salih Awouda ’25, Margaret Norsworthy-Edghill ’26, Ellie Whiteman ’24

LESSONS AND CAROLS CHOIR

VASSAR COLLEGE CHAMBER SINGERS | Drew Minter, conductor

Soprano
Grace Cazzaniga ’24
Maria Cusick ’26
Jacqueline Evangelista ’25
Charlotte Matthews ’27
Beatrix Postley ’24

Alto
Christie Burnside ’26
Avery Duer ’24
Grace Finke ’27
Isabel Granger ’24

Tenor
Samuel Jacobs ’27
Nicholas Monsion ’27

VASSAR COLLEGE CHOIR | Christine Howlett, conductor

Soprano
Emily Bearse ’27
Vivian Belkin ’27
Olivia Bragittkos ’26
Molly Cate Brown ’27
Julianne Cuevo ’24
Sarah Dworman ’27
Jacqueline Evangelista ’25
Zoe Giles ’25
Philippa Kennedy ’26
Madison Liesching ’25
Maya Lubosky ’27
Charlotte Mathews ’27
Lanie Mussina ’26
Beatrix Postley ’24

Alto
Susan Bialek, faculty,
Cora Blackwell ’24
Madeleine Brigman ’24

Maria Cusick ’26
Aviv Fischer-Brown ’27
Noa Gafni ’27
Nora Guzikowski ’27
Sadie Hammarhead ’26
Rey Lopez-Jensen ’26
Karina Mangru ’27
Shannon McCord ’24
Leah Nowak ’27
Kyla Puterman ’25
Marlee Reinmuth ’24
Mattie Vандiver ’25
Shuyang Wei ’27
Tatiana Wifall ’26
Yidan Xu ’24
Ziqing Zhuang ’24

Tenor
Daniel Allan ’26
Jordan Chafe ’26

Xander Shumaker ’26
Kaleb Wong ’27

Bass
Rafi Ettinger-Finley ’24
Finley Greene ’25
Braden Reynolds ’27
Ben Ryan ’27

Oliver Hollmann ’27
Samuel Jacobs ’27
Elliot Kloninger-Stever ’25
Nicholas Monsion ’27
Eduardo Navega, faculty
Claire Suvari ’27

Bass
John Gregory Dean ’24
Rafi Ettinger-Finley ’24
Finley Greene ’25
Coleman Hunter ’27
Joseph Lippman ’26
Harrison Phipps ’26
Braden Reynolds ’27
Benjamin Ryan ’27
Alexander Shumaker ’26
Isaac Steinberg ’26
James Zuckerman ’26
### Vassar College Treble Chorus

**Soprano I**
- Anna Durfee '24
- Ada Lovelace '27
- Maya Lubetsky '26
- Elizabeth Stockton Perkins '24
- Julia Pols '25
- Katherine Powell '27

**Alto I**
- Christie Burnside '26
- Sadie Carey Keesbury '26
- Allie Flanders '24
- Eva Martinez '26
- Claire McHarg '24

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<th>Christine Howlett</th>
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### Capella Festiva Chamber Choir

**Soprano I**
- Rebecca Kantor
- Patricia Lamark
- Ari Lovett
- Joan Mandle
- Carol McCarthy
- Betty Olson
- Laura Russell
- Rae Slingerland

**Alto II**
- Amanda Burdine
- Misty Decker
- Tamara Foster
- Meredith Hamilton
- Laura Lokey
- Kirsten Menking
- Celine Sigmen
- Lois Skelly
- Nancy Solberg
- Pat Voytko Zito

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### Capella Festiva Cor Capriccio Children's Choir

**Tenor I**
- Brett Colbert
- Benedikt M. Kellner
- Glenn Knickerbocker
- Kevin Rivers
- Henry H. Westmoreland

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<th>James Fitzwilliam</th>
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