

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*
BWV 659
Gail Archer, organist

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

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*
For God is love

Rahul Kumar, reader

Lighting of Advent Candles

Anthem *Little Star*
Cappella Festiva Cor Capriccio Children's Choir
Elizabeth Clifton, *conductor*; Jodie McCaffrey, *piano*

Greg Gilpin (b. 1964)

*Little star in the night,
how you shine oh, so bright.
I wish I may, I wish I might,
have this wish I wish tonight.
Little star can you see
all the way from where you are to me?*

*I wish I may, I wish I might,
have this wish I wish tonight.
Love overflowing.
Joy never ending.
Peace that passes understanding.
I wish tonight.
Little star, wherever you are.*

1st Reading *Romans 8:18-27*
The Spirit that helps us in our weakness

Michael McCarthy, Professor Emeritus of Philosophy



* (asterisk) in the bulletin indicates to please stand as you are able.

***Hymn**

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Latin, 12th Century

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.**

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

***Hymn**

This is My Song

vss. 1 & 2 Lloyd Stone; vs. 3 Georgia Harkness

**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

Rev. Deacon Emily Carter, Affiliate Advisor
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.**

Anthem

The 23rd Psalm (dedicated to my mother)
Vassar College Chamber Singers
Drew Minter, conductor

Bobby McFerrin (b. 1950)
Transcribed by Dan Stolper

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*

Carlos Alamo-Pastrana, Dean of the College

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.

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.

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

For unto us a child is born,
 unto us a son is given:
 and the government shall be upon
 his shoulder:

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

and his name shall be called
 Wonderful, Counselor,
 the mighty God,
 the everlasting Father,
 the Prince of Peace.
 Amen

Anthem*Light Upon Light*

Colin Britt (b. 1985)

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*

Elizabeth H. Bradley, President of the College

The promise of peace

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

Anna Laura Page (b. 1943)

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...

The leopard and goat will graze,
The lion will feed on straw,
They will war no more;
A child will lead them all.

In the holy mountain of the Lord...

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

Linda Tuttle, Affiliate Advisor,
Vassar Catholic Community

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*
Mary consents to an angel's implausible message

Jackie Freeman, Campus Dining–The Retreat

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.

*Hail, nobly born, hail, honored and inviolate,
you Maiden are the piercing gaze of chastity,
you the material of holiness—
the one who pleased God.*

***Hymn** *What 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.*]

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

7. The manger still
Outshines the throne;
Christ must and will
Come to his own
[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.*

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

Poetry adapted by Rosephanye Powell

Christmas Prayers

Rev. Samuel Speers

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.

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

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!"

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* Elizabeth Stockton Perkins '24
The great mystery of the Incarnation Episcopal Church at Vassar College

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

**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, Milla Durfee '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

Xander Shumaker '26

Kaleb Wong '27

Bass

Rafi Ettinger-Finley '24

Finley Greene '25

Braden Reynolds '27

Ben Ryan '27

VASSAR COLLEGE CHOIR | Christine Howlett, *conductor*

Soprano

Emily Bearse '27

Vivian Belkin '27

Olivia Bragitikos '26

Molly Cate Brown '27

Julianne Cuevo '24

Sarah Dworman '27

Jacqueline Evangelista '25

Zoe Giles '25

Philippa Kennedy '26

Madison Liesching '25

Maya Lubetsky '27

Charlotte Mathews '27

Lanie Mussina '26

Beatrix Postley '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 Putterman '25

Marlee Reinmuth '24

Mattie Vandiver '25

Shuyang Wei '27

Tatiana Wifall '26

Yidan Xu '24

Ziqing Zhuang '24

Alto

Susan Bialek, faculty,

Cora Blackwell '24

Madeleine Brigman '24

Tenor

Daniel Allan '26

Jordan Chafe '26

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 | Christine Howlett, *conductor*

Soprano I

Beatrix Postley '24
Grace Cazzaniga '24
Talia Mayo '25
Neave Rynne '27
Michaela Shaw '26
Rebecca Torres '24

Soprano II

Helena D. Bekele '27
Sophia Blankinship '25
Maria Cusick '26
Iona Duncan '24

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

Magdalena Sharff '26
Zoe Thompson '26
Mae Walker '27

Alto II

Olivia Barba '26
Emily Doucet '25
Avery Duer '24
Grace Finke '27
Isabel Granger '24
Sara Iglesias '27
Anna Little '27
Jenna Wall '27

CAPPELLA FESTIVA CHAMBER CHOIR

Christine Howlett & Laura Ramsey Russell, *conductors*, James Fitzwilliam, *piano*

Soprano I

Dana Basilone
Louise Contin
Kathen Cowan
Olivia Muenz
Christine Murphy
Susan Phillips
Allison Smith
Elaine Watkins

Soprano II

Rachel A. Bazaz
Jocelyn Bergen
Tayler Corbisiero
Susan Deane-Miller
Jean Doneit
Lindsay DuBois Kraus
Elisa Dugatkin
Dawn Galente
Ann Lawson
Janice Meltzer
Beverly Orser
Bernice Slater
Nancy Vanderlee
Hali Wack

Alto I

Debra Bucher
Rachel Greenfield

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

Tenor I

Brett Colbert
Benedikt M. Kellner
Glenn Knickerbocker
Kevin Rivers
Henry H. Westmoreland

Tenor II

John Bassler
Bruce Beard
Shaun Cunningham
John McCleary
Michael Nelson
Chris Warren

Bass I

Kody Andreas
Andy Crispell
Eric Hepp
Ian McGregor
Michael Murphy
Samuel Petty
Robert Renbeck
Paul Stoddard
Steven Taylor
Thomas Townsend-Pitt
William Wolz

Bass II

Steve Croy
Wayne Delia
George Jahn
Jeffrey Walker

CAPPELLA FESTIVA COR CAPRICCIO CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Elizabeth Clifton, *conductor*, Jodie McCaffrey, *piano*

Livia Dozier
Elliette Hollar
Fiona Keogh
Naia LaVarnway

Penelope Lowrance
Victoria Lowrance
Abby Murphy
Charlie Raymond

Olivia Vogler
Naima Whale