



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
St. Paul's and Friends
Choir Cantata
Sun. December 19, 2021
Minister: Rev. Karen Ptolemy-Stam

Welcome to this special service of Music – Virtual Voice, Instrumentalists and the Story of Christmas told by narrators. A delight for all of us, produced by our Music Director, Victoria Warwick.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO THE GATHERED:

OPENING CAROL: "Once in Royal David's City"

1. 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.
2. He came down to earth from heaven who, with God, is over all,
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall.
There among the poor and lowly lived on earth our Saviour holy.
3. 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.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF LOVE

One: We light three candles—for hope, for peace, and for joy. Today we also light the fourth candle—the candle of love. With this flame we signify the love of God that surrounds and fills us at all times, but that we recognize in a special way in the Christmas story. There is no greater power than love. It is stronger than rulers and empires, stronger than grief or despair, stronger even than death. We love, because God loves us.

(Four candles are lit followed by the sung response).

Sung Response: "Light a Candle" Words and Music: Lisa Waiters

**Light a candle for love in the darkness, hearts content we know you are near.
Advent watching and waiting for Jesus, God with us your purpose in clear.
Emmanuel, love is here. Love is here.**

OPENING PRAYER:

All: Loving God, we open ourselves to you this Christmas season.
As these candles are lit, light our lives with your imagination.
Show us the creative power of hope.
Teach us the peace that comes from justice.
Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained but must be shared.
Magnify your love within us.
Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you,
That we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.

CANTATA:

"Winter's Grace"

A Cantata for Christmas by Joseph M. Martin



Prologue
A Winter's Song
Celebration for Advent
Hope, Peace, Joy and Love
Carols of Adoration
Carols of Promise and Praise
Let the Earth Resound with Praise!
What Strangers are These?
Canticle of Peace
A Silent, Holy Night

NARRATORS: John McCullough and Dan Donaldson

ST. PAUL'S AND FRIENDS CHOIR:

Women

Donna Earl
Sharon Foster
Judy McKnight
Charlotte Jones
Barbara Jones
Marilyn MacLoghlin
Sheila Payne
Liz Rogers
Jane Smitham
Heather Tilson

Fran Parisotto
Marlis Dupuis

Men

Charlie Carswell
Ken MacDonald
Keith Stam
Rick Gerritsen

Victoria Thompson (Prologue)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

CLOSING CAROL: "Angels We Have Heard on High"

1. Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain:

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?

Refrain:

3. Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.

Refrain:

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION

Depart in peace, and take with you the certain knowledge
That God is always coming into the world.

**We will seek God, not in a long ago stable or ancient manger,
But in the people we meet and the depths of our own hearts.**

May the blessing of Christmas make you a blessing to others;

May the peace of the season pervade all that you do.

We will welcome the challenge of discipleship.

POSTLUDE

As always, I am grateful for the skill and dedication of this St Paul's and Friends virtual choir and their keen dedication to this project. I acknowledge the tremendous amount of work involved in this, as well as the added difficulty of singing alone without fellow choristers. I am grateful for this, the second virtual cantata, a generous gift of music and warm wishes for all who hear it.

Victoria

The Opening Prayers, candle lighting liturgy and benediction were used with permission from Process and Faith is a multifaith network for relational spirituality and the common good.