



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
St. Paul's and Friends
Choir Cantata
Sun. December 18, 2022
Minister: Rev. Karen Ptolemy-Stam
Music Director: Victoria Warwick

**Welcome to this special service of Music –Voice, Instrumentalists
and the Story of Christmas told by a narrator.**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO THE GATHERED:

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

1. Once in royal David's city stood 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

OPENING PRAYER:

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.

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"

Light a candle, a symbol of love. Light a candle, there's never enough.
Light a candle to shine in the dark. Light a candle, open your heart.
Light a candle and open your heart.

CANTATA:

**"Have You Heard?"
A Celtic Christmas Celebration by Joel Raney**



*Christmas Day in the Morning
Come Messiah, Come Emmanuel
Have You Heard?
Celtic Christmas Lullaby
O Little Town of Bethlehem
O Holy Night
Come and Adore Him
Wexford Carol/Finale*

ST. PAUL'S AND FRIENDS CHOIR:

Women

Donna Earl
Sharon Foster
Sheila Payne
Liz Rogers
Gail Wilcox
Judy McConnell
Debbie Just
Sladjena Grundsten
Elaine Nicholls
Sharon Whiteside
Fran Hill
Mary Ellen Barber
Pat Cowden
Seiko Shirafuji
Marlis Dupuis
Nancy Engstrom
Sharon Penrose

Men

Charlie Carswell
Ken MacDonald
Keith Stam
Roger Hulme
Joe Attard
David Burstyn

Instrumentalists:

Jolene Enns
Sadie Bridgeman
JoEllen Burstyn
Shelley Charlebois
Larry Beer
Kelly Duguay
David Taylor
Bill Sutherland

NARRATOR: Dan Donaldson

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

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.
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?
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

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

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION

Depart in peace and take with you the certain knowledge that God is always coming into the world. Seek God, not in a long ago stable or ancient manger, but in the people we meet and in 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

A Note from Victoria: How wonderful to be together making music again. I am so grateful to St. Paul's Choir and to Bay Sound Singers for the enthusiasm and skill they have demonstrated in this cantata. As always, I wish to thank the instrumentalists who give of their time and talent to enhance the performance. We appreciate you! To my brother, Dan, for his wonderful narration, thank you.

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.