

# WORSHIP NOTES

*Once in Royal David's City* was written by Cecil Frances Alexander in the mid-nineteenth century. She wrote it to illustrate the clause in the Apostles' Creed, "I believe in Jesus Christ...our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary..." Alexander was born in Dublin and contributed to a number of hymnals of the day. The tune *Irby*, was composed by Englishman Henry John Gauntlett for this text. Gauntlett was a church organist at age ten, a successful lawyer for fifteen years, and became the first person in two hundred years to be granted the degree Doctor of Music by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The text for *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* was written by Edmund Hamilton Sears in 1849, while he was a pastor in Wayland, Massachusetts. It is noted as the first of the carol-like hymns from the pens of American poets. Hymns stressing the social message of Christmas (peace on earth, good will) are distinctly American. The tune for this hymn, *Carol*, was composed by Richard Storrs Willis, and adapted to the present form in 1860. For a time, Willis served as vestryman in the Church of the Transfiguration in New York City.

Charles Wesley wrote *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* during the early part of his career. It was first published in 1739. Originally the poem began, "Hark, how all the welkin rings, Glory to the King of kings." Wesley himself, and various others, have altered the text through the years. After coming to colonial Georgia in 1735, Wesley had a conversion experience in 1738, and went on to write more than 6,000 hymns. *Mendelssohn* is an adaptation from a composition by the German composer, Felix Mendelssohn. It was adapted and harmonized by William Hayman Cummings in 1857.

**Hugh A. Mackinnon** (born 1891; died December 25, 1981), composer of *Sleeps Judea Fair* and also author of its text, was an American organist and church musician. He held positions in Vermont, New Hampshire, the Church of the Transfiguration (Little Church Around the Corner) in New York City, Laramie (Wyoming) and Grace Cathedral in San Francisco.

**Sir David Valentine Willcocks** (born Newquay, Cornwall, England, December 30, 1919; died Cambridge, England, September 17, 2015), was a British choral conductor, composer and organist. Sir David is best known for his years as Director of Music at King's College Chapel, Cambridge where he directed the famous choir of men and boys. During his time at Cambridge, Sir David made many landmark recordings with the King's College Chapel Choir and also collaborated with British composer, John Rutter, on anthologies of carol arrangements for choirs.

## MINISTERS

The Rev. Dr. Kimberly L. Clayton, *Transitional Senior Minister*  
The Rev. Douglas T. King, *Senior Associate Minister*  
The Revs. Rebekah McLeod Hutto & Adam D. Gorman, *Associate Ministers*  
The Rev. Michael L. Lindvall, *Pastor Emeritus*  
Hannah F. Allred, Brian K. Ballard, Joshua H. Narcisse, *Student Ministers*

## MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Keith S. Tóth, *Minister of Music and Organist*  
Amanda Page Smith, *Director of Children's Music Ministries*  
Meg Cutting, *Wilson Family Yale Sacred Music Intern*

## USHERS

*Officer-in-Charge:* Kent McKamy; *Team Captain:* Christopher L. Allen; Townsend Baldwin, John J. Batten III, David Berkman, Horace I. Crary, Jr., Helen T. W. Elmiger, Kevin R. Greene, Charles C. Higgins, Michael F. Magsig, Christopher M. Mason, Paul F. Mercurio, Jennifer D. Morton, Christopher L. Randall, Petra S. Slater, John W. Steen II, William T. Fennebresque.

## GREETERS

*Leader:* Ann M. Darmstaetter; Theodore D. Clement, Margaret D. Stocker, Gracey Stoddard.

## ORDER OF ST. PAUL

Michael J. Appleby, Nathan P. Appleby, Leah C. Lee, Deborah M. Li, Caroline C. Pickering, Alexander N. Rahman, Christopher L. Allen, *Beadle*.

## CHANCEL CHOIR

*Soprano:* Tonna Miller-Vallés, Artemisz Polonyi, Catherine Thorpe, Elizabeth Van Os. *Alto:* Agueda Fernández-Abad, Allison Gish, Jessica Kimple, Melissa Raymond. *Tenor:* Richard Liebowitz, Jeremy Little, Johnny Maldonado, Jeffrey Taveras. *Bass:* Edward Hanlon, Scott Lindroth.

## SESSION

Sallie J. Abelow, Patrick A. F. Blott, Susan P. Crary, Paul J. Elmlinger, R. Scott Froehlich, Scripture Z. Gonzalez, Mark A. Greenwood, Shannon D. Henderson, William S. Hilburn, Harold P. Hope III, Anne R. Huneke, R. Lynne Lee, Sue-Peng Li, Robert D. McCrie, Helen B. Pennoyer, Elizabeth M. Philipp, Clare C. Pickering, Brian J. Pitz, Susan A. Powell, Debra N. Seraphim, Richard H. Stowe, Katherine C. Vosters, Ryan E. Widener, Henry M. Wildermuth (*Youth Elder*), Suzanne W. Wilson, Frances G. Laserson, *Clerk of Session*.

## DEACONS

Linda R. Arnold, Bret M. Barasch, Beth A. Bell, Arthur W. Bingham, Nancy T. Blair, Elizabeth A. Boehmler, Paige M. Cali, Christopher A. Carroll, Blythe G. Chace (*Youth Deacon*), Carl C. Cordova III, E. Graham Clark, David M. Darst, Helen T. W. Elmiger, Marc T. Engberg, Joseph A. Galloway, William J. Gambrell, Jeffrey B. Gower, Christopher W. Hamilton, Kate S. Hrobsky, Cathy Leonhardt, Jane B. Lowry, Katrina K. Masterson, Amelia McDonald, M. Paige Rustum, Grace Sarno, Andrew R. Skobe, John D. Tuttle, Tanya S. Wells.

## TRUSTEES

Charles S. Anderson, Kenneth W. Austin, Patrick D. Barrett, Erik M. W. Caspersen, Kevin R. Greene, Linda B. Gridley, Timothy D. Haskin, Helen M. Lynch, Valerie S. Mason, *Secretary*, Richard A. Miller, *President*, Drucilla A. Richards, Willis G. Ryckman IV, Louisa J. Palmer, *Treasurer*.

# — THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR — First Sunday after Christmas Day

— ELEVEN O' CLOCK —

**WELCOME** The moments before worship are a transition from "getting here" to "being here." Since it usually takes a few minutes to quiet one's mind, and to become open to the Spirit, it is most appropriate to give one's friends a silent wave of the hand, a nod of the head, or a friendly smile in lieu of initiating a conversation.

**AFTER THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN**, in order not to disrupt the worship service, latecomers will be seated by the ushers only at times when the congregation is standing, either during the Congregational Response following the assurance of forgiveness or during the second hymn.

**VISITORS**, please know how welcome you are. Please sign the Friendship Book when it passes you during the service of worship and identify yourself with a name tag to be found in the book. You are also cordially invited to attend Coffee Hour following worship.

**IN THE ORDER OF WORSHIP** that follows, an asterisk invites all to stand; items in bold type face indicate that the congregation participates in word or song.

**LECTIONARY SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE DAY**  
1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26                      Psalm 148  
Colossians 3:12-17                         Luke 2:41-52

# THE GATHERING

**PRELUDE** *Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)*  
“On a theme of Orlando Gibbons” *(The Angels’ Song)*  
Meg Cutting, *organist*

## WELCOME AND INVITATION TO THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

**CHORAL INTROIT** *Schumann’s Geistliche Lieder (1539)*  
“From Heaven Above to Earth I Come”

From heaven above to earth I come to bring good news to everyone! Glad tidings of great joy I bring to all the world, and gladly sing.

### \* **CALL TO WORSHIP** *(from Revelation 1)*

Leader: Praise the Lord! Let all the angels praise the Lord.

**People: Praise God, sun and moon; praise God, shining stars; praise God, highest heavens.**

Leader: God has come among us. Let us rejoice.

**People: Praise the Lord, all creation.**

Leader For God’s name alone is exalted.

**People: Let us all praise the name of the Lord, and worship the Prince of Peace.**

### \* **PROCESSIONAL HYMN 49** *Irby* “Once in Royal David’s City”

## PRAYER OF ADORATION AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O God of goodness and light, illumine a path for us by which we may walk in faithfulness. Too often we have lost our way. Too often we have lived out of our pride and stubbornness and failed to turn to You in our times of need. You have given us all that we need to live faithful lives. Impel us to sin no more and give us a more perfect knowledge of Your divine ways in the world. Help us accept the forgiveness You offer if we but only ask for it. Grant us the opportunity to celebrate this coming year with a faithfulness that we scarcely knew we had in us. Power this celebration through Your Holy Spirit—the greatest gift You can offer us today. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.**

**KYRIE 572** *John Merbecke (c.1510 – c.1585)*  
**Lord, have mercy upon us.**  
**Christ, have mercy upon us.**  
**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

### \* **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

### \* **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** *(Hymn 22, verse 4)* *Regent Square*

**All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,  
Evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One:  
Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn King!**

**ANTHEM** *Basque Noël, arr. David Willcocks*  
“The Infant King”

Sing lullaby! Lullaby baby, now reclining. Hush, do not wake the Infant King. Angels are watching, stars are shining over the place where He is lying. Lullaby baby, now asleeping. Hush, do not wake the Infant King. Soon will come sorrow with the morning, soon will come bitter grief and weeping. Lullaby baby, now adozing. Hush, do not wake the Infant King. Soon comes the cross, the nails, the piercing, then in the grave at last reposing. Lullaby! Is the babe awaking? Hush, do not stir the Infant King. Dreaming of Easter, gladsome morning, conquering Death, its bondage breaking: Sing lullaby!

—*Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924).*

# THE WORD

*After the singing of the anthem, all children are invited to come forward and sit on the chancel steps for the Children’s Message.*

## CHILDREN’S MESSAGE AND PRAYER

\* **HYMN 38** *Carol*  
“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION AND

**SCRIPTURE LESSON** *Peter H. Brown*  
Luke 2:41-52 *(Pew Bible, page 59 N.T.)*

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**SERMON** *Brian K. Ballard*  
“Doing What We Must”

# THE RESPONSE

### \* **CONFESSION OF FAITH** *(From the Confession of 1967)*

**In Jesus of Nazareth, true humanity was realized once for all. Jesus, a Palestinian Jew, lived among his own people and shared their needs, temptations, joys, and sorrows. He expressed the love of God in word and deed and became a brother to all kinds of sinful men and women. But His complete obedience led Him into conflict with His people. His life and teaching judged their goodness, religious aspirations, and national hopes. Many rejected Him and demanded His death. In giving Himself freely for them, he took upon Himself the judgment under which everyone stands convicted. God raised Him from the dead, vindicating Him as Messiah and Lord. The victim of sin became victor, and won the victory over sin and death for all.**

\* **GLORIA PATRI 579** *Henry W. Greatorex (1813-1858)*  
**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.**  
**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen, Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING, INTERCESSION, AND PETITION

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray...

### \* **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** *America*

**Not for this land alone,  
But be God’s mercies shown from shore to shore;  
And may the nations see that we must loving be,  
And form one family the wide world o’er. Amen.**

### \* **INVITATION TO OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM** *Hugh A. MacKinnon (1891-1981)*  
“Sleeps Judea Fair”

Sleeps Judea fair, bides the Christ Child there: Shepherds, haste ye! flocks forsaking, swift your way to Him be taking, Babe, of Israel’s prayer. Christ from God is come, choosing earthly home: royal pomp and splendor never, but with love which naught can sever, He will heal the dumb; Christ from God is come. Lowly bend the knee, Thou from sin set free: Let the Christ Child, meekly smiling, infantwise all woe beguiling, grant His grace to thee!—*Hugh A. MacKinnon*

\* **DOXOLOGY 592** *Old Hundredth*  
**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

### \* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

# THE SENDING

\* **RECESSIONAL HYMN 31** *Mendelssohn*  
“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

## BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

**POSTLUDE** *Alec Rowley (1892-1958)*  
“Regent Square”  
Meg Cutting, *organist*

*If you would like someone to pray with you or wish to learn more about the Christian faith and The Brick Church, you may meet with members of our Sunday Prayer Team after the service near the pulpit at the front of the Sanctuary.*