

St. Clement's Episcopal Church

The Rt. Rev. Marc H. Andrus, Bishop of California
The Rev. Bruce D. O'Neill, Rector
The Rev. Salying Wong, Assistant Rector
Vivian Lam, Seminarian



The Nativity of Our Lord: Christmas Eve

Wednesday, December 24, 2008

9:00 PM

Messiah: Part the First

by George Frideric Handel

Overture

Recitative & Air — Victor Gold, tenor

Isaiah 40:1-4

Comfort ye, my people, saith your God; speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem; and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned. The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness: -

Prepare ye the way of the Lord: make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill made low, the crooked straight and the rough places plain.

Chorus

Isaiah 40:5

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

Recitative — Kristor Lawson, alto

Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:23

Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call his name Emmanuel, God with us.

Alto Air & Chorus

Isaiah 40:9, Isaiah 60:1

O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, get thee up into the high mountain: O thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold you God! Arise, shine, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

Recitative & Air — Wendell Brooks, bass

Isaiah 60:2-3, Isaiah 9:2

For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people; but the Lord shall rise upon thee, and His glory shall be seen upon thee, and the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising. The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; and they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.

Chorus

Isaiah 9:6

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, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Pastoral Symphony

St. Clement's Adult Choir

Linda Gavenda, Director of Music

Victor Gavenda, Choirmaster

Sopranos

Helen Hampton *
Christine Gold
Annelise Lawson
Virginia Persson
Tecia Ryan
Andrea Woodard
Gloria Young

Altos

Kristor Lawson *
Kacey Berry
Pamela Clark
Emma Gavenda
Virginia Jardim
Kelly Woodard

* Section Leaders

Tenors

Victor Gold *
Robert Clark
Doris Willingham

Basses

Wendell Brooks *
Pearce Hurley
Jasper Patch

Corvo String Quartet

Sara Usher & Rachel Durling, violins

Shira Kammen, viola

David Morris, violoncello



Recorder

Christine Gold

Harpsichord

Emma Gavenda

The Holy Eucharist

Processional Hymn 87

Hark! the herald angels sing

Mendelssohn

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

The Collect for Purity

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open,
all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid:
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name;
through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Summary of the Law

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith:
Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart,
and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.
This is the first and great commandment.
And the second is like unto it:
Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.
On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

Gloria in excelsis: Hymn 421

All glory be to God on High

Allein Gott in der Höh

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And with thy spirit.
Celebrant Let us pray.

All kneel.

O God, who hast caused this holy night to shine with the illumination of the true Light:
Grant us, we beseech thee, that as we have known the mystery of that Light upon earth, so
may we also perfectly enjoy him in heaven; where with thee and the Holy Spirit he liveth
and reigneth, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

First Reading: Isaiah 62:6-12*All sit.*

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the Lord, take no rest, and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth. The Lord has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have labored; but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the Lord, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts.

Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples. The Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, "See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him." They shall be called, "The Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord"; and you shall be called, "Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Hymn 81

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming

*Es ist ein Ros***Second Reading: Titus 3:4-7***All sit.*

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Hymn 78O little town of Bethlehem
*(omit verse 4)**Forest Green***Holy Gospel: Luke 2:1-20***All stand.*

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People Glory be to thee, O Lord. *(sung)*

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise be to thee, O Christ. (*sung*)

Sermon

The Rev. Salying Wong

Nicene Creed (*chanted on one tone*)

All stand.

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,
and of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of his Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,
begotten not made, being of one substance with the Father;
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried;
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father;
and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the quick and the dead;
whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost the Lord, and Giver of Life,
who proceedeth from the Father and the Son;
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified;
who spake by the prophets.

And I believe one holy Catholic and Apostolic Church;
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins;
and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People

All kneel.

Confession of Sin

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
maker of all things, judge of all men:

We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness,
which we from time to time most grievously have committed,
by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine Majesty,
provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us.

We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings;
the remembrance of them is grievous unto us;
the burden of them is intolerable.

Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past;
and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please thee in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Absolution

The Peace

All stand.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And with thy spirit.

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Birthday Prayer

Watch over thy children, O Lord, as their days increase;
bless and guide them wherever they may be,
keeping them unspotted from the world.
Strengthen them when they stand;
comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful;
raise them up if they fall;
and in their hearts may thy peace
which passeth understanding
abide all the days of their life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Anniversary Prayer

O God, who hast so consecrated the state of Matrimony that in it is represented the spiritual marriage and unity between Christ and his Church; look mercifully upon these thy servants, that they may love, honour, and cherish each other, and so live together in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and of peace; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit ever, one God, world without end. Amen.

Announcements

Offertory Anthem

Recitative and Chorus from The Messiah
Helen Hampton, soprano

George Frideric Handel
Luke 2:8-11,13

There were shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And lo! the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them, and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto thee, Fear not; for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people; for unto you is born this day in the City of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying: Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth, goodwill towards men.

Presentation Hymn 91

Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light

Ermuntre dich

The Great Thanksgiving

The people remain standing.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And with thy spirit.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them up unto the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People It is meet and right so to do.

Celebrant

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Because thou didst give Jesus Christ, thine only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Ghost, was made very Man of the substance of the Virgin Mary his

mother; that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become thy children.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

Sanctus (Hymnal S-130)

Franz Schubert

The Celebrant then continues

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God...O Father Almighty, world without end. AMEN.

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

People and Celebrant

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Fraction: Hymn 84

Love came down at Christmas

Gartan

Prayer of Humble Access

People and Celebrant

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies.
We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table.
But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy.
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ,
and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

At St. Clement's all who seek Christ are invited to receive communion. Please wait at the steps until an usher guides you to the first available place at the altar rail, either kneeling or standing. The bread is received in the open palm. The wine may be taken from the common cup by drinking (placing your hand gently on the base of the chalice to guide it) or by dipping the wafer of bread in the cup.

Communion Anthems

Echoing Carols

Kacey Berry, Emma Gavenda,
& Andrea Woodard
Christine Gold, recorder
Shira Kammen, viola
music, Carson Cooman
poem, Elizabeth Kirschner

On the night the babe was thusly born,
snow held its blue breath.
Light spiralled out of angels' bodies
and kissed the cloud soft, newborn's cheek
while carols echoed inside night birds.

Stars flew like wild birds
dazed by the frenzy of song
slipping over the edge of the universe.
The message of God had a crying mission,
sigh yourself unto salvation.

Mary mild, Jesus sweetly stopped the world's weeping.
Grace cascaded like a waterfall of melted crystals.
Go now and let love live in you like that child's quiet
heartbeat.

In the Bleak Midwinter

Annelise & Kristor Lawson
music, Harold Darke
poem, Christina Rossetti

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone.
Snow had fallen snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter long ago.

Our God, Heav'n cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain.
Heav'n and earth shall flee away, when He comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter, a stable place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty Jesus Christ.

Enough for Him, who cherubim worship night and day,
A breast full of milk, and a manger full of hay.
Enough for Him, whom angels fall down before,
The ox and ass and camel which adore.

What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise man, I would do my part.
Yet what I can I give Him, give my heart.

Postcommunion Prayer*People and Celebrant*

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee,
for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ;
and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us;
and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son,
the blessed company of all faithful people;
and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom.

And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father,
so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship,
and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost,
be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

Blessing

May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one
things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace;
and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost,
be amongst you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

Recessional Hymn 100

Joy to the world! the Lord is come

*Antioch***Dismissal***People* Thanks be to God.**Postlude***Air from The Messiah: Rejoice Greatly*

George Frideric Handel

