

Benediction and Closing of the Word

Hymn 948 – City of David, Bethlehem

The Shepherd's Farewell from *L'Enfance du Christ*, Op. 25 – Hector Berlioz
English words by Paul England

Thou must leave Thy lowly dwelling, the humble crib, the stable bare,
Bate, all mortal babes excelling, content our earthy lot to share.
Loving father, loving mother shelter Thee with tender care.

Blessed Jesus, we implore Thee with humble love and holy fear,
In the land that lies before Thee, forget not us who linger here!
May the shepherd's lowly calling ever to Thy heart be dear!

Blest are ye beyond all measure, thou happy father, mother mild.
Guard ye well your heavenly treasure the Prince of Peace, the Holy Child!
God go with you, God protect you, guide you safely through the wild.

Organ Postlude

How Great Our Joy! – Kyle Johnson

minister: Rev. Derek Elphick

choir: Bryn Athyn Festival Chorus organ: Leah Martin
conductor: Graham Bier

soprano: Chase Sanders mezzo-soprano: Kyle Leigh Carney
alto: Robin Bier tenor: Bradley King
baritone: John David Miles

1st violins: Thomas Jackson, Cheyenne King-Bails

2nd violins: Annalisa Franzen, Alexander Covelli

violas: Samuel Dionisio, Greg Synnestvedt

cellos: Tara Smith, Sarah Martin bass: Ray Bohn

harp: Elizabeth Steiner

For more information about upcoming services and events at the Bryn Athyn Church, please visit our website.

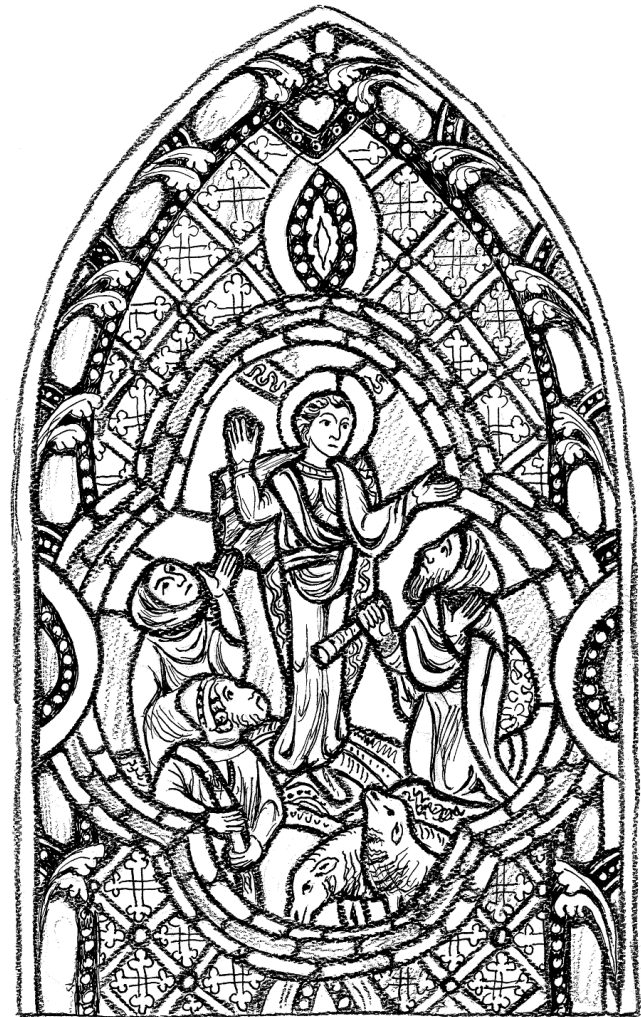


www.brynathynchurch.org

The Innocence of the Shepherds

at Bryn Athyn Cathedral

December 6, 2025 at 7:30 pm



Bryn Athyn Church

Welcome! Please silence your cell phones and note that video/audio recording is not permitted. The music for this service is selected from that of French composers telling the story of the shepherds at Christmas, woven together with readings to consider the role of innocence in our spiritual lives.

Preludes

In the Bleak Midwinter - Gustav Holst, arr. David Lasky

Once in Royal David's City - Henry Gauntlett, arr. Jeffrey Blerch

Chorale Prelude on 'In dulci jubilo', BuxWV 197 - Dieterich Buxtehude

In the Bleak Midwinter – Holst, arr. Sunita Stanelow

Nuit from *In Nativitatem Domini Canticum* H. 416 – Marc-Antoine Charpentier

O Come, O Come Immanuel – arr. May Hogan Cambern

Hymn 973 – Come, O Shepherds

Opening of the Word and Invitation to Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in the heavens, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, as in heaven so upon the earth. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also 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.

Readings: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7; *Heaven and Hell* 276

scene from *In Nativitatem Domini Cantium* H. 416 (1690) – Charpentier
sung in the original Latin

You angels, sing with me a new song to the Lord, for He has done marvelous things on earth. “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace to men of good will.” Let us pass on to Bethlehem and see this Word that was made, which the Lord has shown us.

O child, O God, O Savior, so in need, so crying, so cold, so loving.

Readings: Isaiah 11:6-9; *Heaven and Hell* 278

Christmas Oratorio, Op. 12 (1858) – Camille Saint-Saëns
English words by N. H. Dole

There were shepherds, at night in that same country, abiding in the fields, and silently keeping their watch by night over the sleeping flocks around

them. And lo! An angel of the Lord appeared, standing there beside them: and the glory of the Lord shone round about them, and they were sore afraid at his coming. And unto them the angel said: “Fear not, oh ye shepherds! For, behold, I bring unto you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people. For unto you is born today a Savior, Christ, the Lord, in the city of David. And this shall the sign be: ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger low.” And suddenly there was with the angel a great multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying:

“Glory be unto God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill to all men. Praise the Lord! Praise God in the highest.”

Patiently have I waited for the Lord, and lo, He heard my cry.

In my heart I believe, O Lord, that Thou indeed art Christ, Son of the living God. He who was to come into this world.

Blessed is He who cometh in the name of the Lord. God, the Lord of light, He hath shined upon us. Thou alone, my God art: and all my trust is in Thee. Oh Lord, Thou art my God, I will exalt Thee, and I will praise Thy name.

Wherefore do the heathen clamor? Why do the nations imagine vain and foolish things? Blessed are they that trust in the Savior, serving the Lord with joy and with trembling. Amen.

My soul doth magnify the Lord: my spirit hath rejoiced in God. For mine eyes have seen Thy glory.

Alleluia. Ye heavens sing praises, be joyful on earth. For the Lord hath poured His consolation upon His people, and He to His afflicted will be merciful.

Arise now, daughter of Zion! Alleluia. Praise God in the night, praise Him in the first watches of the nighttime. Alleluia. That Zion's true glory might be manifested, that her Savior might rise and shine before the nations. Alleluia!

Praise ye the Lord of hosts, sing His salvation, bless His name, show forth His praise in His holy house! Rejoice, ye heavens and be joyful on earth, rejoice in the face of the Lord, for He cometh, Alleluia! Rejoice ye angels, rejoice all ye nations, now in the face of the Lord, for He cometh. Alleluia!

Readings: Isaiah 53:2-4, 65:17, 6-7; *Heaven and Hell* 279-281