Saturday, December 2nd, 4pm & 7pm

Lessons and Carols

A Christmas Service of Lessons and Carols
Thompson Memorial Chapel
Williams College

2023
ORDER OF SERVICE

CARILLON PRELUDE

Leo Paz ’26 and Leah Shvedova ’25

ORGAN PRELUDE

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, BWV 645
Johann Sebastian Bach

Paige Anna Busse ’26

Verset
Giovanni Battista Martini
Quand Jésus naquit à Noël
Jean-Jacques Beauvarlet-Charpentier

Abby Shen ’26

The Holy Boy
John Ireland

Tim Pyper, Lecturer in Music & College Organist

PROCESSIONAL

Peace on Earth
Erollyn Wallen

And snow falls down on me
Peace on Earth.
The night is dark and soft.
Peace on Earth.
The lights that sparkle in the square,
The smoke that lingers in the air
Peace on Earth.
And grace falls down on me
Peace on Earth.
The dark will turn aside
Peace on Earth.
The fires that burn in every hearth
Do sing our praise of Christmas past
Peace on Earth.
Hear them singing
Peace on Earth.

Concert Choir
Petra Hinds ‘24 (4 p.m.) and Sarah McGinn ‘24 (7 p.m.), soprano solo

HYMN
Of the Father’s Love Begotten

GREETING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison)

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the
brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known
the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy this mystery
perfectly in heaven; where with you, the Incarnate Son and the Holy Spirit
lives and loves in the mystery of the Trinity in glory everlasting. Amen

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 64:1-9

The prophet speaks of the anguish of the people, and their hope for deliverance.

Readers:
Neil Roberts, Associate Dean of the Faculty,
John B. McCoy and John T. McCoy Professor of Africana Studies
and Faculty Affiliate in Political Science and Religion (4 p.m.)

Catherine Howe, Lecturer in Art (7 p.m.)

CAROL

Gaudete

Anonymous, 16th cent.

Gaudete! Gaudete!
Christus est natus ex Maria virgine. Gaudete!

Tempus adest gratiae, hoc quod optabamus;
carmina laetitiae devote reddamus.

Deus homo factus est, natura mirante;
mundus renovatus est a Christo regnante.

Ezechiellis porta clausa pertransitur;
unde lux est orta, salus invenitur.

Ergo nostra contio psallat iam in lustro;
Benedicat Domino; salus regi nostro.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice!
Christ is born of the Virgin Mary. Rejoice!

At this time of grace and longed-for blessing,
Love faithfully offers a song of praise.

God is made human in this wonderful birth:
The world is cleansed through the rule of Christ.

The gate of heaven that was closed now opens,
Sending forth light through which holiness is found.

Therefore we meet in pure songs of joy;
We bless the Lord, King of our Salvation.

Concert Choir
Juno Pelczar ‘27, Teddy Palmore ‘27, Katie Sanborn ‘26, and Nate Welsh ‘26, soloists

THE SECOND LESSON

Luke 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel announces to Mary the fullness of time.

Readers:
Natasha Uwase ‘25 (4 p.m.), Sean Morrissey ‘24 (7 p.m.)
CAROL

*Jesus Christ the Apple Tree*  
Elizabeth Poston

The tree of life my soul hath seen,  
Laden with fruit and always green;  
The trees of nature fruitless be,  
Compared with Christ the Apple Tree.

His beauty doth all things excel,  
By faith I know but ne’er can tell  
The glory which I now can see,  
In Jesus Christ the Appletree.

For happiness I long have sought,  
And pleasure dearly I have bought;  
I missed of all but now I see  
’Tis found in Christ the Appletree.

I’m weary with my former toil -  
Here I will sit and rest awhile,  
Under the shadow I will be,  
Of Jesus Christ the Appletree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,  
It keeps my dying faith alive;  
Which makes my soul in haste to be  
With Jesus Christ the Appletree.

Chamber Choir

THE THIRD LESSON  
Luke 2:1-20

*When the time is come, the holy birth is revealed first to shepherds.*

Readers:
Raquel Cuéllar-Parajón,  
Alumni Engagement Affinity Programs Manager (4 p.m.)

Sarah Ling ‘24 (7 p.m.)
The Savior’s Birth

Hodie Christus natus est:
   *Today Christ is born;*
hoodie Salvator apparuit.
   *Today the Savior has appeared.*

There’s a star in the East on Christmas morn,
Rise up, shepherd, and follow,
It will lead to the place where the Savior’s born
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

Follow, follow, rise up, shepherd, and follow.
Follow the star of Bethlehem.

Venite, venite in Bethlehem:
   *Come, O come to Bethlehem:*
Mary had a baby, Yes, Lord.
What did she name Him? Yes, Lord!
She name Him King Jesus, Yes, Lord!
Natum videte Regem Angelorum.
   *See the new-born King of Angels.*

If you take good head to the Angel’s word,
You’ll forget your flock, you’ll forget your herd.
Leave your flocks and leave your lambs,
Leave your sheep and leave your rams.

Puer natus est nobis,
   *A boy is born to us,*
Puer natus est in Bethlehem,
   *A boy is born in Bethlehem,*
Hic jacet in praesepio
   *Here lies in a manger,*
et vocabitur nomen ejus,
   *and his name shall be called:*
magni consilii Angelus.
   *the Angel of great council.*

Oh, Mary, what you gonna call yo’ pretty little baby?

Concert Choir
REFLECTION

Peace on Earth

HYMN

The First Nowell

1. The first Nowell the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay; in fields as they lay, keeping their yond them far, and to the earth it gave great
on their knee, and offered there in his pres-
heavenly Lord; that hath made heaven and earth of

2. They looked up and saw a star shining in the east be-
sheep, on a cold winter’s night that was so deep.

3. Then entered in those wise men three full reverently up-
light, and so it continued both day and night.
enough, and with his blood our life hath bought.

4. Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our

Refrain

No-well, No-well, No-well, No-well, born is the King of Is-r-a-el.

OFFERTORY:

Melissa Canavan, Executive Director, Berkshire Immigrant Center (4 p.m.)
Spokesperson, Williamstown Food Pantry at St. Patrick & St. Raphael Parish (7 p.m.)

Donations will support Berkshire Immigrant Center and Jewish Family Services of Western Massachusetts, two organizations that help welcome people who are refugees and immigrants to the Berkshires. Food collections will be received by Williamstown Food Pantry at St. Patrick & St. Raphael Parish, 53 Southworth Street, Williamstown and the Al Nelson Friendship Center Pantry, 45 Eagle Street, North Adams, two food pantries partnering with the other numerous food banks in the county, who together help relieve food insecurity in the Berkshires.
THE FOURTH LESSON

Matthew 2:1-15

Sages led by a star encounter the power of evil and the Epiphany of Love.

Readers:
Reverend Deanna Shorb, Pastor,
First Congregational Church, Williamstown (4 p.m.)

Katie Maier ‘26 (7 p.m.)

CAROL

Before the Song was Done

Sarah Quartel

The kings they came from out the south,
   All dressed in ermine fine;
They bore Him gold and chrysoprase,
   And gifts of precious wine.

The shepherds came from out the north,
   Their coats were brown and old;
They brought Him little new-born lambs—
   They had not any gold.

The wise men came from out the east,
   And they were wrapped in white;
The star that led them all the way
   Did glorify the night.

The angels came from heaven high,
   And they were clad with wings;
And lo, they brought a joyful song
   The host of heaven sings.

The kings they knocked upon the door,
   The wise men entered in,
The shepherds followed after them
   To hear the song begin.

The angels sang through all the night
Until the rising sun,
But little Jesus fell asleep
Before the song was done.

Concert Choir

A PRAYER FOR THE WORLD

Jacob Rivet ‘25 (4 p.m.)
Thokozire Chilima ‘24 (CDE) (4 p.m.)
Santiago Ferris ‘26 (7 p.m.)
Katie Sanborn ‘26 (7 p.m.)

THE LORD’S PRAYER (the congregation, in unison)

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

THE FIFTH LESSON

John 1:1-16

Saint John ponders the mystical convergence of God’s holy time and human time.

Readers:
Anna M. Plantinga,
Assistant Professor of Statistics, Mathematics and Statistics (4 p.m.)

Tamanika T. Steward,
Associate Dean for Sophomore Year Students
and Director of Transfer and Non-Traditional Students Services (7 p.m.)

CAROL

Bethlehem Down

Peter Warlock
When He is King we will give him the King's gifts,  
Myrrh for its sweetness, and gold for a crown,  
"Beautiful robes", said the young girl to Joseph  
Fair with her first-born on Bethlehem Down.

Bethlehem Down is full of the starlight  
Winds for the spices, and stars for the gold,  
Mary for sleep, and for lullaby music  
Songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem fold.

When He is King they will clothe Him in grave-sheets,  
Myrrh for embalming, and wood for a crown,  
He that lies now in the white arms of Mary  
Sleeping so lightly on Bethlehem Down.

Here He has peace and a short while for dreaming,  
Close-huddled oxen to keep Him from cold,  
Mary for love, and for lullaby music  
Songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem fold.

Chamber Choir

BENEDICTION
HYMN

Joy to the World!

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth receive her King;
2 Joy to the world! the Savior reigns; let us our songs employ, while
3 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the

every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing, and
fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, repeat the sounding joy, re-
glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love, and

heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.
peat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

POSTLUDE

The Williams College Handbell Choir

Nicole Albright ’25
Maya Barr ’26
Sarah Hartman ’25
Ava Solis ’26
Rachel Schmidt ’25
Emma Yale ’26
OUR OFFERINGS TONIGHT –

Lessons and Carols has been a Williams College tradition since the mid 1960s. Tonight we are both continuing this tradition and as we reflect on one of many themes from this story. Tonight we are reflecting on Peace on Earth. This theme comes from the part of the Christmas story when the angels suddenly appear to the shepherds and announce the birth of the Christ Child. As told in Luke’s gospel: 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 favours!’ (Luke 2:13-14)

This longing for peace on earth speaks to the global unrest in many places, most recently Israel, Gaza, the West Bank, hate crimes and gun violence to name a few. There are numerous natural disasters stemming from climate change and other humanitarian crises from earth quakes and other unexpected disasters. If there was ever a time we needed peace on earth, it is now.

To that end, we invite you to reflect on the hope of peace on earth through the readings and the music, the quiet and the stillness. May this be a space of quiet reflection as you think about what parts of the Christmas story speak to you. Students will lead us in A Prayer for the World. We also invite you to participate by contributing to the free-will offering to the Berkshire Immigrant Center, Jewish Family Services, the Williamstown Food Pantry at St. Patrick & St. Raphael Parish, and local food pantries. During the service, Melissa Canavan, Executive Director, Berkshire Immigrant Center will speak about how the organizations help people in the Berkshires. Canavan will talk about how global unrest has led people to leave their homes and immigrate to other countries including the United States. Ushers in the entryway will have baskets to receive your gifts; checks can be made payable to Williams College – with the memo “Lessons & Carols.” The donations will be divided between these two organizations. The food donations will be collected for two of the food banks. Although two of the food banks are receiving the offerings, the many food banks in Berkshire County work together and are supportive of the efforts to mitigate food insecurity. Thank you for all of your generosity to these services!

OUR SINCERE THANKS –
Lessons and Carols would not have been possible without the generous support of many people at the college and in the community. We are particularly grateful to the students in the Concert and Chamber Choirs whose hard work and participation in the college’s choral program is a testament to their love of music and the continuation of the choral tradition of sacred music. We are also grateful for the gifts and talents of the Organ students, the Carillonneurs, and the Handbell Choir. There are so many to thank but we would like to thank Anna Lenti and the Concert and Chamber Choirs, Carillonneurs Leo Paz and Leah Shvedova, the Handbell Choir, organists Tim Pyper, Paige Busse and Abby Shen, the ushers, lectors, crucifer and of course, the congregation! Thank you Tamanika T. Steward and Natalie R. Montoya-Barnes for helping with the ushers and the food collection. We would like to also thank Keith Forman, Jeff Miller, and their student helpers for their technical assistance and leadership. Our use of Live Streaming started during the second COVID Lessons & Carols and we will continue using this technology this year. Thank you live streaming audience for joining our service. Thanks to the TMC custodial team- Ricky Harrington, Kris Roepell, Matt Sadlow, Dan Cellana, and Ann Volff for tending to the necessary preparations for this event. Thanks to Kim Brown and Cate Cheshbrow in Print Services for printing the program and to Katie Maier who designed the poster and cover and to Vi Beauchan and Michelle Ametekpor for their Instagram posts. Thank you Catholic Chaplain Bridget Power, and the students from Williams Catholic for writing “A Prayer for the World.” A special thanks to Chaplains’ Office Administrative Coordinator Rose Wallent for helping make this event possible with your coordination and care! Thanks to Mt. Williams Greenhouses for the lovely poinsettias and wreaths, and to Dining Services for their support.

NOTES ON LESSONS AND CAROLS –

This service, instituted at Williams in the mid-1960’s by Chaplain John Eusden and Professor of Music Kenneth Roberts, is modeled on the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols held every year since 1918 on Christmas Eve in the Chapel of King’s College, Cambridge.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We respectfully acknowledge that Williams College stands on the ancestral homelands of the Stockbridge-Munsee Mohicans, who are the Indigenous peoples of the region now called Williamstown. Following tremendous hardship after being forced from their valued homelands, they continued as a sovereign Tribal Nation in Wisconsin, which is where they reside today. We pay honor and respect to their ancestors past and present as we commit to building a more inclusive and equitable space for all.

Please join us here in Thompson Chapel for Choral Evensong
March 7th and May 9th, 2024
5:00 pm
LESSONS & CAROLS
PARTICIPANTS

Leo Paz ‘26 and Leah Shvedova ‘25, Carillonneurs

Tim Pyper, Lecturer in Music & College Organist
Paige Anna Busse ‘26, organ
Abby Shen ‘26, organ

Melissa Canavan, Executive Director, Berkshire Immigrant Center
Williamstown Food Pantry at St. Patrick & St. Raphael Parish

Bridget Power, Catholic Chaplain
The Rev. Valerie Bailey Fischer, Chaplain to the College & Protestant Chaplain

Lectors

Neil Roberts, Associate Dean of the Faculty, John B. McCoy and John T. McCoy Professor of Africana Studies and Faculty Affiliate in Political Science and Religion
Catherine Howe, Lecturer in Art
Natasha Uwase ‘25
Sean Morrissey ‘24

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A Prayer for the World
Jacob Rivet ‘25
Thokozire Chilima ‘24 (CDE)
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### The Williams College Concert Choir

Anna Lenti, *Conductor*

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<th><strong>Soprano</strong></th>
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<td>Chloe Braum-Bharti ‘27</td>
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<td>Paige Busse* ’24</td>
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<td>Katharine Cook* ’24</td>
<td>Ming Xi Chau ’26</td>
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<td>Mak Curley ’26</td>
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<td>Sophia Holmgren</td>
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<td>Helen Hurden ’27</td>
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<td>Riya Juneja ‘26</td>
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<td>Sarah McGinn* ’24</td>
<td>Sienna Kelley* ’27</td>
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*Denotes member of the Chamber Choir

### The Williams Handbell Choir

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