

CAROLS FROM  
KING'S

Friday 8 December, 2023

3.00 pm

King's College Chapel  
Cambridge





**DEAN**

The Revd Dr Stephen Cherry

**DIRECTOR *of* MUSIC**

Daniel Hyde

**CHAPLAIN**

The Revd Dr Mary Kells

**CHAPEL MANAGER**

Emily Lyons

**ORGAN SCHOLAR**

Paul Greally

**PRODUCER**

Simon Lole

**DIRECTOR**

Marcus Viner

**EXECUTIVE PRODUCER**

Catherine Stirk

**B B C STUDIOS**

## WELCOME *from* THE DEAN

**T**HANK you for coming to share this experience with us: an act of worship and an opportunity to make a programme to be enjoyed by many.

The programme will be broadcast on BBC Two on Christmas Eve at 6.40 pm, and repeated there at 9.00 am on Christmas Day.

The initials KC in this booklet are used to designate membership of King's College.

Further information about the life of the Choir and its recordings can be found here:

[kings.cam.ac.uk/choir](http://kings.cam.ac.uk/choir)

\* *The Dean and Director of Music will brief the congregation at 2.40 pm.*

The Revd Dr Stephen Cherry *Dean*

# ORDER of SERVICE

§ *All stand.*

## HYMN

§ *The Choir alone sings verses 1–3.*



*Once in royal David's city,  
stood a 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.*

*He came down to earth from heaven  
who is God and Lord of all,  
and his shelter was a stable,  
and his cradle was a stall;  
with the poor and mean and lowly  
lived on earth our Saviour holy.*

*And through all his wondrous childhood  
he would honour and obey,  
love and watch the lowly maiden  
in whose gentle arms he lay;  
Christian children all must be  
mild, obedient, good as he.*

**FOR he is our childhood's pattern:  
day by day like us he grew;  
he was little, weak and helpless,  
tears and smiles like us he knew;  
and he feeleth for our sadness,  
and he shareth in our gladness.**

**And our eyes at last shall see him  
through his own redeeming love,  
for that Child, so dear and gentle,  
is our Lord in heav'n above;  
and he leads his children on  
to the place where he is gone.**

**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,  
when, like stars, his children, crowned,  
all in white shall wait around.**

*Cecil Frances Alexander*

'Irby'

*Henry Gauntlett*

*harm. Arthur Henry Mann* κC

*verse 6 arr. Philip Ledger* κC

## BIDDING

Dean            WE gather today to tell the Christmas story and to make this Chapel glad with our carols of praise.

We shall hear of shepherds and angels, of a mother and her child, of adoring magi and of news of God's love that is so profound and transformative that it forever reshapes our relationship with each other and with this fragile world.

The celebration of Christmas draws together the inspiration that comes to us from the past, our concern about suffering in the present and our responsibility for the future. At its heart is a vision of God's love overflowing in vulnerable, compassionate life-affirming service.

We tell the story of God's love made known in Jesus Christ.

§    *All sit.*

## CAROL

IN the stillness of a church  
Where candles glow,  
In the softness of a fall  
Of fresh white snow,  
In the brightness of the stars  
That shine this night,  
In the calmness of a pool  
Of healing light,  
In the clearness of a choir  
That softly sings,  
In the oneness of a hush  
Of angels' wings,  
In the mildness of a night  
By stable bare,  
In the quietness of a lull  
Near cradle fair,  
There's a patience as we wait  
For a new morn,  
And the presence of a child  
Soon to be born.

*Katrina Shepherd*

*Sally Beamish*  
Edition Peters



## FIRST READING

*I saw a stable*, by Mary Elizabeth Coleridge.

I SAW a stable, low and very bare,  
A little child in a manger.  
The oxen knew Him, had Him in their care,  
To men He was a stranger.  
The safety of the world was lying there.  
And the world's danger.

*Mary Elizabeth Coleridge*  
Oxford University Press

## CAROL

CHILD in a manger,  
Jesus our Saviour,  
Born of a virgin  
holy and mild;  
Sent from the highest,  
Come down in glory;  
Tell the glad story,  
Welcome the child.

Shepherds, arise now,  
Go to the manger;  
Find where the infant  
Jesus is laid.  
Offer your homage,  
Kneel down before him;  
Praise and adore him,  
Be not afraid.

Wise men, come seek him —  
Christ our Redeemer;  
Journey to Beth'lem,  
Led by a star.  
Offer your treasures:  
Gold, myrrh, and incense,  
Precious oblations  
Brought from afar.

Praise to the Christ-child;  
Praise to his mother;  
Glory to God our  
Father above.  
Angels are singing  
Songs of rejoicing,  
Greeting the infant  
Born of God's love.

*John Rutter*

*John Rutter*  
Oxford University Press

## CAROL

A GREAT and mighty wonder,  
A full and holy cure!

The Virgin bears the Infant  
With virgin-honour pure.

*Repeat the hymn again!*

*'To God on high be glory,  
And peace on earth to men!'*

The Word becomes incarnate,  
And yet remains on high!

And Cherubim sing anthems  
To shepherds from the sky.

*Repeat the hymn again! &c.*

While thus they sing your Monarch,  
Those bright angelic bands,  
Rejoice, ye vales and mountains,  
Ye oceans clap your hands.

*Repeat the hymn again! &c.*

Since all he comes to ransom,  
By all be he adored,  
The Infant born in Bethl'em,  
The Saviour and the Lord.

*Repeat the hymn again! &c.*

*St Germanus*  
trans. *John Mason Neale*

arr. *James Whitbourn*  
Chester Music Ltd

## SECOND READING

The birth of Jesus Christ.

**A**ND it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Cæsar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judæa, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

Thanks be to God.

Luke 2.1, 3–7

## CAROL

§ *This carol won the BBC Radio 3 Carol Competition in 2018.*

SILENTLY on Christmas Eve,  
the turn of midnight's key;  
all the garden locked in ice —  
a silver frieze —  
except the winter cluster of the bees.

Flightless now and shivering,  
around their Queen they cling;  
every bee a gift of heat;  
she will not freeze  
within the winter cluster of the bees.

Bring me for my Christmas gift  
a single golden jar;  
let me taste the sweetness there,  
but honey leave  
to feed the winter cluster of the bees.

Come with me on Christmas Eve  
to see the silent hive —  
trembling stars cloistered above —  
and then believe,  
bless the winter cluster of the bees.

*The Bee Carol*  
*Carol Ann Duffy*

*John Merrick* КС  
Goodmusic Publishing Ltd

## THIRD READING

*On Christmas*, by Marion Strobel.

OFTEN, on Christmas,  
I listen to a chant  
Float from a colored window  
Softly sibilant.

Often, on Christmas,  
I wait until a glow  
From a colored pane of glass  
Slides across the snow.

Yet though I hear songs,  
And listen from without,  
I never quite know what  
Christmas is about.

I never quite know—  
Till, singing on my breast  
And warm as a colored light,  
Your head is at rest.

'On Christmas'

*Marion Strobel*

The Estate of Marion Strobel

## HYMN

§ *All stand.*



THE first Nowell the angel did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,  
In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep:

*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
Born is the King of Israel.*

They lookèd up and saw a star  
Shining in the east, beyond them far:  
And to the earth it gave great light,  
And so it continued both day and night:

*Nowell &c.*



And by the light of that same star,  
Three Wise Men came from country far;  
To seek for a king was their intent  
And to follow the star wherever it went:

*Nowell &c.*

Then let us all with one accord  
Sing praises to our heav'nly Lord,  
That hath made heav'n and earth of naught,  
And with his blood mankind hath bought.

*Nowell &c.*

Traditional Cornish

Traditional Cornish  
arr. *David Willcocks* KC  
Oxford University Press

§ *All sit.*

## CAROL

DEEP in the cold of winter,  
Darkness and silence were everywhere;  
Softly and clearly, there came through the stillness  
a wonderful sound to hear.

All bells in paradise I heard them ring,  
Sounding in majesty the news that they bring;  
All bells in paradise I heard them ring,  
Welcoming our Saviour, born on earth a heavenly King.

*All bells in paradise I heard them ring:  
'Glory to God on high' the angel voices sing.*

Lost in awe and wonder,  
Doubting, I asked what this sign might be:  
Christ our Messiah revealed in a stable,  
A marvellous sight to see.

All bells in paradise I heard them ring,  
Sounding in majesty the news that they bring;  
All bells in paradise I heard them ring,  
Welcoming our Saviour, born on earth a heavenly King.

He comes down in peace, a child in humility,  
The keys to his kingdom belong to the poor;  
Before him shall kneel the kings with their treasures,  
Gold, incense and myrrh.

All bells in paradise I heard them ring,  
Sounding in majesty the news that they bring;  
All bells in paradise I heard them ring,  
Welcoming our Saviour, born on earth a heavenly King.

*All bells in paradise I heard them ring:  
'Glory to God on high' the angel voices sweetly sing.*

*John Rutter*

*John Rutter*  
Collegium Musicum Publications

## FOURTH READING

A host of angels announces the good news of Christ's birth to shepherds.

**A**ND there were in the same country 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 them, 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 this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, 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, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

Thanks be to God.

Luke 2.8–16

## CAROL

GOOD Christian men, rejoice  
With heart, and soul, and voice;  
Give ye heed to what we say:  
Jesus Christ was born to-day:  
Ox and ass before Him bow,  
And He is in the manger now.  
*Christ is born today! Christ is born today.*

Good Christian men, rejoice,  
With heart, and soul, and voice;  
Now ye hear of endless bliss:  
Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He hath ope'd the heav'nly door,  
And man is blessed evermore.  
*Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!*

Good Christian men, rejoice  
With heart, and soul, and voice;  
Now ye need not fear the grave:  
Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one, and calls you all,  
To gain His everlasting hall:  
*Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!*

attr. *Heinrich Seuse*  
trans. *John Mason Neale*

Traditional German  
arr. *Robert Lucas de Pearsall*  
& *Philip Ledger* KC

Roger Dean Publishing Company & Encore Publications

## CAROL

SILENT night, holy night,  
All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon Virgin mother and child,  
Holy infant, so tender and mild:  
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,  
Shepherds first saw the sight: [*Alleluia.*]  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heavenly hosts sing alleluia:  
Christ the Saviour is born.

Silent night, holy night,  
Son of God, love's pure light;  
Radiant beams from thy holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

*Joseph Mohr*  
trans. *John Freeman Young*  
with Alleluias

*Franz Grüber*  
arr. *John Rutter*  
Oxford University Press

## FIFTH READING

*The Oxen*, by Thomas Hardy

CHRISTMAS EVE, and twelve of the clock.  
'Now they are all on their knees,'  
An elder said as we sat in a flock  
By the embers in hearthside ease.

We pictured the meek mild creatures where  
They dwelt in their strawy pen,  
Nor did it occur to one of us there  
To doubt they were kneeling then.

So fair a fancy few would weave  
In these years! Yet, I feel,  
If someone said on Christmas Eve,  
'Come; see the oxen kneel,

'In the lonely barton by yonder coomb  
Our childhood used to know,'  
I should go with him in the gloom,  
Hoping it might be so.

'The Oxen'  
*Thomas Hardy*  
Oxford University Press

## CAROL

IN THE BLEAK mid-winter  
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 mid-winter  
Long ago.

Our God, Heaven cannot hold him  
Nor earth sustain;  
Heaven and earth shall flee away  
When he comes to reign:  
In the bleak mid-winter  
A stable-place sufficed  
The Lord God Almighty  
Jesus Christ.



Enough for Him, whom cherubim  
Worship night and day,  
A breastful of milk  
And a mangerful 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.

*A Christmas Carol*  
*Christina Rossetti*

*Harold Darke* KC  
Stainer & Bell Ltd

# HYMN

§ *All stand.*



**GOD** rest you merry, gentlemen,  
Let nothing you dismay,  
**For Jesus Christ** our Saviour  
Was born upon this day,  
To save us all from Satan's pow'r  
When we were gone astray:  
*O tidings of comfort and joy,  
comfort and joy!  
O tidings of comfort and joy!*

From God our heav'nly Father  
A blessèd angel came,  
And unto certain shepherds  
Brought tidings of the same,  
How that in Bethlehem was born  
The Son of God by name:  
*O tidings &c.*

But when to Bethlehem they came,  
Whereat this infant lay,  
They found him in a manger,  
Where oxen feed on hay;  
His mother Mary kneeling,  
Unto the Lord did pray:  
*O tidings &c.*

Now to the Lord sing praises,  
All you within this place,  
And with true love and brotherhood  
Each other now embrace;  
This holy tide of Christmas  
All others doth deface:  
*O tidings &c.*

Traditional English

Traditional English  
arr. *David Willcocks* κC  
Oxford University Press

§ *All sit.*

## SIXTH READING

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

**N**OW when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judæa in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And demanded of the chief priests and scribes of the people where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judæa.

Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, inquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.

When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

Thanks be to God.

Matthew 2.1-11

## CAROL

LOOK up, sweet Babe, look up and see  
For love of Thee  
Though far from home  
The East is come  
To seek herself in Thy sweet eyes.

To Thee, thou Day of Night! thou East of West!  
Lo, we at last have found the way  
To Thee the World's great universal East,  
The general and indifferent Day.

from *In the Glorious Epiphany of Our Lord God*  
*Richard Crashaw*

*Lennox Berkeley*  
Chester Music Ltd

## CAROL

TOMORROW shall be my dancing day:  
I would my true love did so chance  
to see the legend of my play,  
to call my true love to my dance.

*Sing O my love;  
this have I done for my true love.*

Then was I born of a virgin pure.  
Of her I took fleshly substance:  
thus was I knit to man's nature,  
to call my true love to my dance.

*Sing O my love &c.*

In a manger laid and wrapped I was,  
so very poor, this was my chance,  
betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass,  
to call my true love to my dance.

*Sing O my love &c.*

Then afterwards baptized I was;  
the Holy Ghost on me did glance,  
my Father's voice heard from above,  
to call my true love to my dance.

*Sing O my love &c.*

Cornish Traditional

*John Gardner*  
Oxford University Press

## SEVENTH READING

§ *All stand.*

St John unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation.

**I**N the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

Thanks be to God.

John 1.1–14

§ *All sit.*

## CAROL

O MAGNUM mysterium,  
et admirabile sacramentum,  
ut animalia viderent  
Dominum natum,  
jacentem in præsepio!

Beata Virgo, cujus viscera  
meruerunt portare  
Dominum Jesum Christum.

Alleluia!

*Liber Usualis*

*O great mystery  
and wondrous sign,  
that the animals should see  
the Lord born,  
lying in a manger!*

*O Blessed Virgin, whose womb  
was counted worthy to bear  
the Lord Jesus Christ.*

*Alleluia.*

*Morten Lauridsen*



## EIGHTH READING

*Mistletoe*, by Walter de la Mare.

SITTING under the mistletoe  
(Pale-green, fairy mistletoe),  
One last candle burning low,  
All the sleepy dancers gone,  
Just one candle burning on,  
Shadows lurking everywhere:  
Some one came, and kissed me there.

Tired I was; my head would go  
Nodding under the mistletoe  
(Pale-green, fairy mistletoe),  
No footsteps came, no voice, but only,  
Just as I sat there, sleepy, lonely,  
Stooped in the still and shadowy air  
Lips unseen—and kissed me there.

‘Mistletoe’

*Walter de la Mare*

Faber and Faber Ltd

# HYMN

§ *All stand.*



O COME, all ye faithful,  
Joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him,  
Born the King of Angels.

*O come, let us adore him,*

*O come, let us adore him,*

*O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

God of God,  
Light of Light,  
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
Very God,  
Begotten, not created.

*O come, let us adore him &c.*

**Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;  
Glory to God  
In the highest:**

*O come, let us adore him &c.*

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
Born this happy morning,  
Jesu, to thee be glory giv'n;  
Word of the Father,  
Now in flesh appearing:**

*O come, let us adore him &c.*

*Adeste, fideles*  
trans. *Frederick Oakley,*  
*William Thomas Brooke et al.*

*'Adeste, fideles'*  
*John Francis Wade*  
arr. *David Willcocks* ⌘  
Oxford University Press

§ *All remain standing.*

## PRAYER & BLESSING

Dean       INSPIRE us, O God,  
to have compassion for the suffering,  
to seek justice for the exploited,  
    the oppressed, and the abused,  
and to reach out,  
with kindness and goodwill  
    to friends and neighbours,  
    strangers and enemies;  
in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

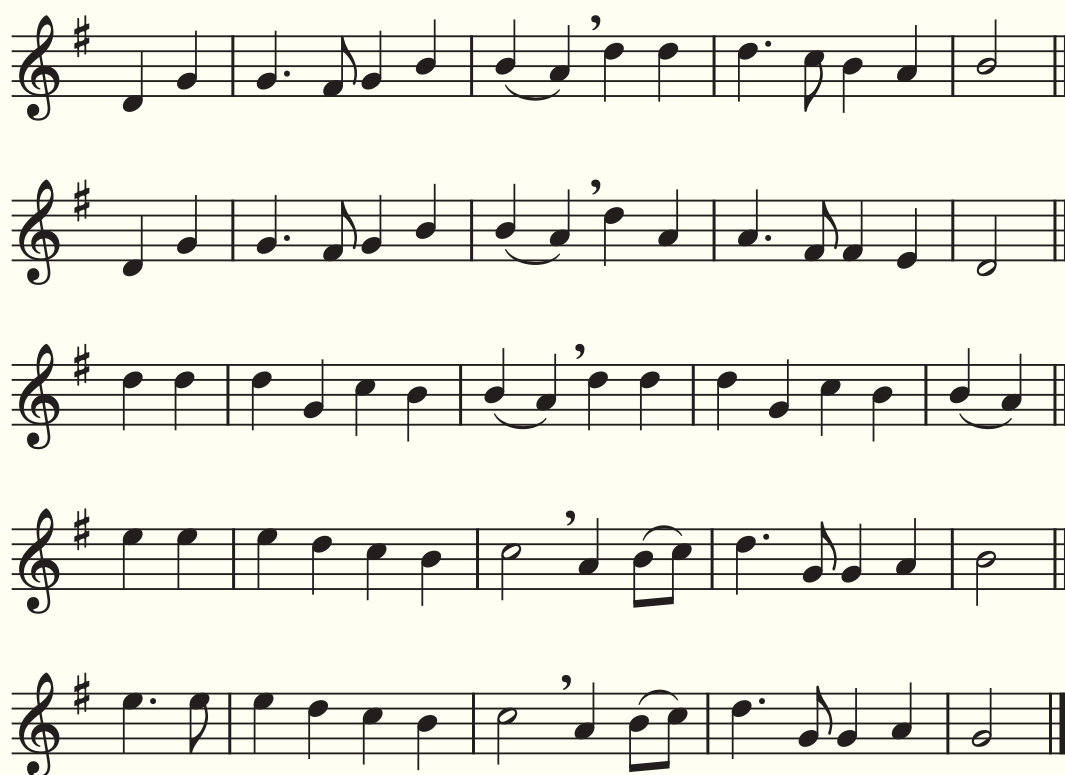
**All       Amen.**

Dean       May the humility of the shepherds,  
the perseverance of the magi,  
the joy of the angels,  
and the peace of the Christ-child be yours  
    this Christmas;  
and the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be upon you and remain with you always.

**All       Amen.**

§     *All remain standing.*

## HYMN



**HARK!** the herald-angels sing  
Glory to the new-born King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled:  
Joyful, all ye nations rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies,  
With th'angelic host proclaim,  
Christ is born in Bethlehem:  
*Hark! the herald-angels sing*  
*Glory to the new-born King.*

Christ, by highest heav'n adored,  
Christ the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold him come,  
Offspring of a Virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,  
Hail th'incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as man with man to dwell,  
Jesus our Emmanuel.  
*Hark! the herald-angels sing  
Glory to the new-born King.*

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
Ris'n with healing in his wings;  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
Born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth,  
Born to give them second birth.  
*Hark! the herald-angels sing  
Glory to the new-born King.*

*Charles Wesley et al.*  
adapt. *William Hayman Cummings*

*Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy*  
verse 3 arr. *David Willcocks* KC  
Oxford University Press

## ORGAN VOLUNTARY

§ *All remain standing during the organ voluntary.*

Vom Himmel hoch,

da komm ich her BWV 606

*Johann Sebastian Bach*

Bärenreiter Verlag

§ *Please wait quietly and patiently for announcements concerning re-takes.*

*When the re-takes are complete, the Dean will dismiss the congregation.*

## AT THE END *of* THE SERVICE

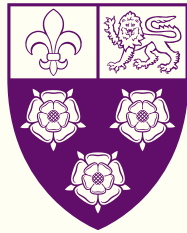
§ *Please give generously to the retiring collection, which supports the life and work of the Chapel, using the Gift Aid envelope provided.*

§ *A contactless donation point is available in the Ante-Chapel.*

§ *Twenty per cent of all our collections is donated to charitable causes beyond the College.*

§ *Thank you for joining us for this service; please leave the College through the main gate onto King's Parade.*

\* \* \*



KING'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE  
MMXXIII