Candles of Sacred Hope

A VIRTUAL GATHERING HONORING BROWN’S ANNUAL SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

Sunday, December 13, 2020, at 4 p.m. EST
This afternoon’s virtual gathering honors Brown University’s December tradition of the Service of Lessons and Carols—observed since 1916 in candlelight in Sayles Hall with neighbors and friends.

The Pandemic of 2020 prevents our gathering. We’ll dearly miss being together in Sayles Hall to enjoy the dazzling organ and brass; the marvelous singing of the Brown chorus, Harmonizing Grace and the Jabberwocks, and our joyful congregational singing. But we persist.

Join a global, virtual congregation—to hear the hopes of the season, to pray and even to sing along. Together, we ignite the flames of our sacred seasons to illuminate a path forward through this time of suffering and loss. Let us share our sacred calling to love our neighbors even as we share a common hope to gather again soon on the Main Green.

OFFERING
This year, the chaplains commend two charitable organizations for your gifts:

The Rhode Island Community Food Bank: acquires food & funds through donations and distributes healthy food to people in need through a network of pantries, meal sites and shelters. Contact them at: rifoodbank.org/give-now

Beautiful Day: a gourmet granola company with a mission to help refugees, especially youth and the most vulnerable, to enter the job market. Contact them at: beautifuldayri.org/pages/donate

THE PROGRAM

Candles of Sacred Hope: A Virtual Gathering Honoring Brown's Annual Service of Lessons & Carols

PRELUDE
Mark Steinbach, University Organist, Curator of Instruments, and Senior Lecturer in Music

NOËL SUISSE
Il est un petit l'Ange, Claude Balbastre (1724-1799)

WELCOME
Reverend Janet M. Cooper Nelson, Chaplain of the University

READING
The Coming Of Light by Mark Strand, Christina H. Paxson, President of the University

THE COMING OF LIGHT
Even this late it happens: stars gather,
the coming of love, dreams pour into your pillows,
the coming of light, sending up warm bouquets of air.
You wake and the candles are lit Even this late the bones of the body shine
as if by themselves, and tomorrow’s dust flares into breath.
ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING
Maria Rodriguez ’21 and Rev. Delphain Desmosthenes, Counselor, OCRL

I will light candles this Christmas.  
Candles of joy, despite all sadness.  
Candles of hope where despair keeps watch.  
Candles of courage for fears ever present.  
Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days.  
Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens.  
Candles of love to inspire all my living.  
Candles that will burn all year long.

Based on a text by Reverend Howard Thurman

CAROL
Lo, How a Rose e’er blooming, Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

PRAYER
Reverend Janet M. Cooper Nelson, Chaplain of the University

READING FROM THE PROPHET ISAIAH 11:1-9
Richard Locke, Provost of the University

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.  
² The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.  
³His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord...  
⁴... with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;...  
⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.  
⁷The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.  
⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
⁹They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain;  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord  
as the waters cover the sea.

CAROL
How brightly shines the Morning Star, James Woodman (b. 1957)

READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE 1:46-55
Vanessa Britto, M.D. Associate Vice President for Health and Wellness

My soul magnifies the Lord,  
⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of  
his servant.  
Surely, from now on all generations will call  
me blessed;  
⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.  
⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.  
⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of  
their hearts.  
⁵²He has brought down the powerful from  
their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;  
⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.  
⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.
ANTHEM

Solo: Rev. Jermaine Pearson, Associate Chaplain for the Protestant Community

Mary Did You Know? by Mark Lowry

Mary, did you know that your baby boy
Will one day walk on water?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy
Will save our sons and daughters?
Did you know that your baby boy
Has come to make you new?
This child that you’ve delivered
Will soon deliver you
Mary, did you know that your baby boy
Will give sight to a blind man?

PRAYER

Fr. Albert Duggan ’03, Associate Chaplain for the Catholic Community

READING

Eric Estes, Vice President of Campus Life

When the star in the sky is gone,
When the work of the angels is stilled,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins.
To find the lost, to heal the broken,

to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner,
To rebuild nations, to bring peace among brothers and sisters,
To make music in the heart.

Based on a text by Reverend Howard Thurman

CAROL

Silent Night, Franz Grüber (1787-1863)

BENEDICTION

Fr. Edmund McCullough, Associate Chaplain for the Catholic Community (January 2021)

Lord, now may we depart in peace according to your word; for our eyes have seen your salvation which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light of revelation for the nations, and the glory of all your people. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Mark Steinbach, University Organist

In Dulci Jubilo, BWV 729, Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)
The Office of the Chaplains and Religious Life (OCRL) strives to ensure that a diversity of beliefs are vocal and vital within the entire University community. The chaplains provide care for the entire Brown family of faculty, staff, students, and alumni/ae; encouraging multiculturalism, religious literacy and interfaith understanding; enhancing the intellectual enterprise; and advocating for matters of conscience within and beyond the University. Worship, prayer, counsel, advising, instruction, hospitality, collaboration, and programming are primary modes of this work.