

Prelude for Christmas Eve
DECEMBER 24, 2020
The Christmas Story in Historic Carols
Setings by American Composers

Veni, Veni Emmanuel
12th century Plainchant

Noël Goemanne
(1926 - 2010)

*O come, O come Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel*

Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying
Wachet Auf c.16th century German chorale

Paul Manz
(1919 - 2009)

*“Sleepers wake!” a voice astounds us,
The shout of rampart guards surrounds us: “Awake, Jerusalem arise!”
Midnight’s peace their cry has broken, Their urgent summons clearly spoken:
“The time has come, O maidens wise!
Rise up and give us light; The Bridegroom is in sight. Alleluia!
Your lamps prepare and hasten there, that you the wedding feast may share.*

O Little Town of Bethlehem
19th century carol

Dale Wood
(1934 - 2003)

*How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.*

Il Est Né Le Divin Enfant
19th century French Carol

Noël Goemanne

*He is born, the divine Christ-Child,
Send forth the oboes with pipes replying
He is born, the divine Christ-Child,
Sing we praise to the infant mild.*

Lo, How a Rose e'er Blooming
14th century German Carol

Jean Pasquet
(1896 - 1977)

*Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung
Of Jesse's lineage, coming as men of old have sung.
It came a floweret bright amid the cold of winter when half spent was the night

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind.
With Mary, we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind.
To show God's love aright she bore to us a Savior when half spent was the night.*

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

DECEMBER 24, 2020

CHRISTMAS EVE ~ 8:00 PM

INTROIT

Hodie Cristus Natus Est
David Lukens, Cantor

12th Century Plainchant

Hodie Christus natus est. Hodie Salvator apparuit.
Hodie in terra canunt Angeli laetantur Archangeli.
Hodie exsultant justi decentes, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Today Christ is born. Today our Savior has appeared.
Today angels sing on earth and archangels sing in heaven.
Today we rejoice to sing: Glory to God in the highest.

CALL TO WORSHIP

This year, we dreamed of world peace.

We dreamed of deep breaths and restful sleep.

We dreamed of love that lasts and suffering that passes.

We dreamed of doors open wide and a cure to disease.

We dreamed, because to dream is to believe.

For to dream is to hope; to dream is to see.

So make room in your being to dream yet again,

Of a world without fear, and a God that draws near.

For it is almost Christmas.

Love is almost here.

May we dream to see, and hope to believe. Let us worship Holy God.

CAROL

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

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! *Refrain*

Refrain: O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him,
Christ, the Lord!

True God from true God, Light from light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Very God, begotten, not created! *Refrain*

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God, all glory in the highest! *Refrain*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

CONFESSING OUR SIN

Ever-present God, from time to time we dream radical dreams. We dream of freedom for the imprisoned, food for the hungry, and equality for all. We dream bold, radical dreams, until the world tells us that these dreams are impossible. And when that happens, we are tempted to tuck our dreams into coat pockets and let them collect dust on the shelves of our hearts. Forgive us for giving up so easily. Forgive us for giving up so easily, for on this night we remember and celebrate a radical dream— That you dwelled among us. Give us the courage to dust old dreams off the shelf with the confidence that with you, the impossible is possible.

Silence is kept for personal prayers of confession

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

JOYFUL RESPONSE TO THE DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Love Will Come!

BRING A TORCH

Love has come and never will leave us! Love is life everlasting and free.

Love is Jesus within and among us. Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.

Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

GOSPEL READING

Luke 2:1-20

CHILDREN'S LESSON

SERMON

This Night We Are...Those Who Dream

Rev. Camille LeBron Powell

CAROL

Angels We Have Heard on High

ADESTE FIDELES

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song? *Refrain*

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King. *Refrain*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe that this world is hard— We believe in hope.

We believe that to hope is to dream with our eyes wide open.

We believe in peace.

We believe that peace is not found by accident. Prepare the way.

We believe in joy.

We believe that joy is angel choruses and gifts from the Magi, As well as soul food, big tables,

Open doors, candle light, fireside, Singing in the shower, and the body of Christ gathered as one.

We believe in love.

We believe that God loves us so much that God could not stay away. So God showed up as a child.

We believe that that love is real, and we know that it changes us.

Therefore, we believe in the power of dreams,

And we believe that nightmares, which are all too real here and now, Will have no place in God's promised day.

Until then, we believe in passing the light, In showing up, in doing the work, In listening for angel choruses, and in learning from the youngest among us.

We believe. Help our unbelief. Amen.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Offertory Response

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

LAST UNS ERFREUN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures high and low.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise God, in Jesus fully known:

Creator, Word, and Spirit one.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Prayer of Dedication

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Lord's Table

The Prayer of Great Thanksgiving and Lord's Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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 debts, as we 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.

Communion of the People

Sanctus *Holy, Holy, Holy Lord* Elise Eslinger

Communion Song *Cantique de Noel* Adolph Adam
Kjersti Lukens - Soprano

Prayer after Communion

ENTRANCE OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

CAROL *Silent Night, Holy Night!* STILLE NACHT

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|---|---|
| 1) 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,
Sleep in heavenly peace. | 2) Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight:
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing, "Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born!" |
| 3) 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,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth. | 4) Silent night, holy night!
Wondrous star, lend thy light.
With the angels let us sing
Alleluia to our King:
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born. |

CAROL *Joy to the World* ANTIOCH

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness
And wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.

BENEDICTION IN WORDS

BENEDICTION IN MUSIC *Joy to the World* Setting by Joel Raney
Piano and Organ Duet