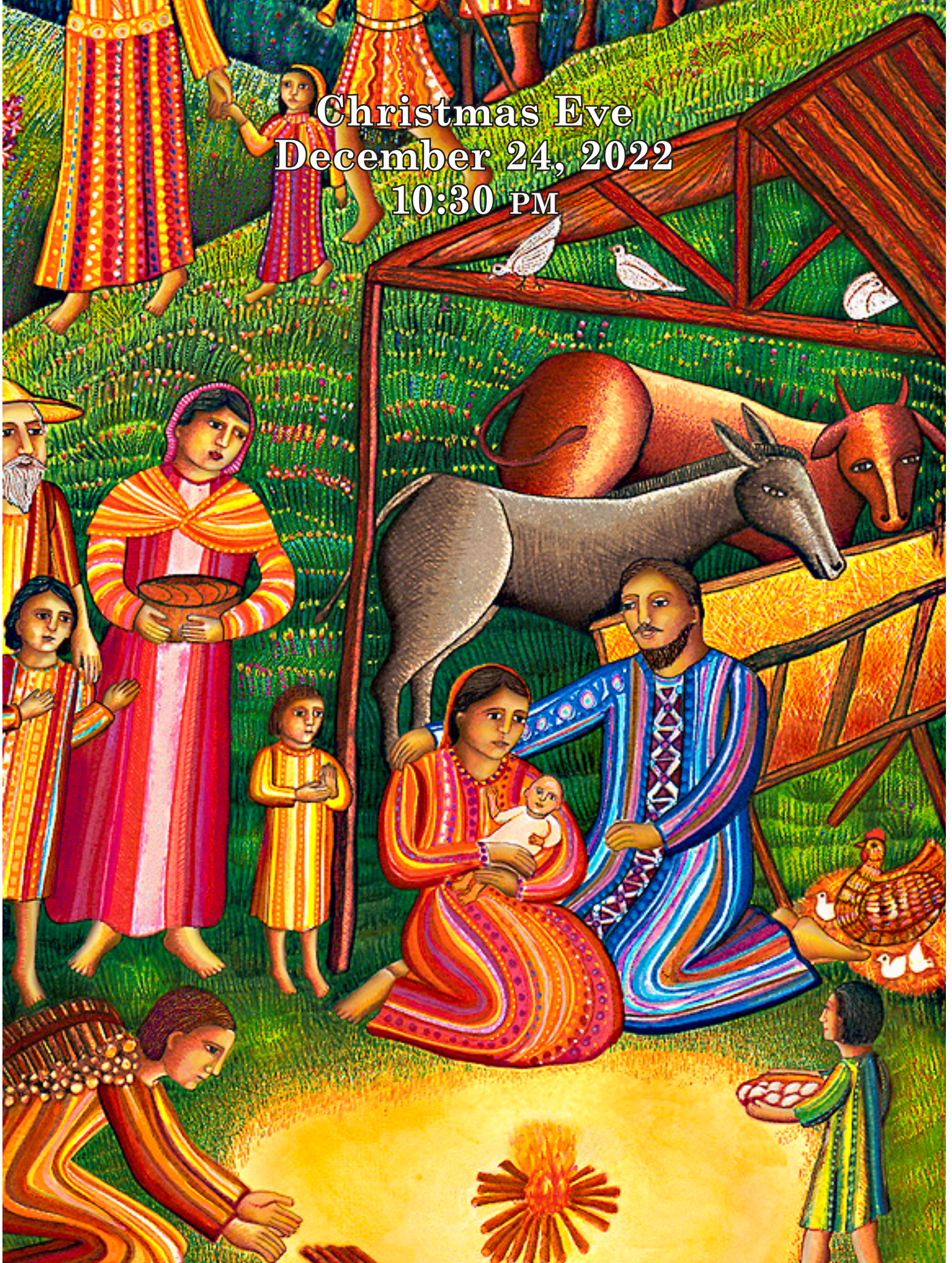


Christmas Eve
December 24, 2022
10:30 PM



GATHERING

(Silence during the Prelude is requested in preparation for worship.)

About the Prelude

The Prelude is a musical offering to help move the hearts and minds of the gathering community from the daily struggles of life to the worship of God. The set of organ chorales by J.G. Walther is on the Christmas hymn, "We should praise Christ highly," written by Martin Luther. A translation of one of the verses reads, "The heavenly choir above rejoices greatly and the angels sing, 'Praise God!' The poor shepherds are told of the shepherd and creator of the entire world."

About the Choral Introit

Like "All Things Bright and Beautiful" [hymn 20], this popular Christmas hymn was written by an Irish poet to illustrate for children the various articles of the Apostles' Creed. It is not known which of several English villages the composer had in mind when naming this tune. TEXT: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1848; MUSIC: Henry John Gauntlett, 1849.

- PRELUDE** Fanfare & Verses on "Adeste Fideles"
Paul Fey & David Willcocks
- "God Rest You Merry Gentlemen" David Willcocks
- "Lo, How a Rose" & "Ukrainian Bell Carol" arr. Groth
- "Christum wir sollen loben schon"
Johann Gottfried Walther
- Prelude on "Angels, From the Realms of Glory"
Hal H. Hopson
- "The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came"
Hal H. Hopson
- "Joy to the World"
Hal H. Hopson
- Prelude & Verses on "The First Noel"
Paul Fey & David Willcocks

CHORAL INTROIT

Once in Royal David's City IRBY

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, oppressed, and lowly, Lived on earth our Savior holy.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Let us worship God!

(Those who are able may stand.)

Do not be afraid; I bring good news of great joy!
Light shines on those who walk in darkness.

A child has been born for us, a son given to us.
Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

**Everlasting God,
your Son is the light of the world.
Your Son is the way, the truth, and the life.
Lead us by your light and truth.
Looking for Jesus, let us find him.
Looked for by Jesus, we are found first. Amen.**

(The Cross and Bible lead the procession, symbolic of the centrality in worship of Jesus Christ - the Living Word, and the Bible - the written Word.)

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN 133**

ADESTE FIDELES

About Hymn 133

O Come All Ye Faithful

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Hear the Word of God! **Our ears are open.**

Isaiah 9:2-7 (*Old Testament, page 638 in your pew Bible*)

Psalm 98

David Haas
Marty Haugen

Refrain:



All the ends of the earth_ have seen_ the pow-er of God;



All the ends of the earth_ have seen the pow-er of God._

Sing to the Lord a new song,
for God has done wondrous deeds;
God's right hand has won the victory,
God's holy arm. **Refrain.**

The Lord has made salvation known,
God's justice revealed to all;
Remembering kindness and faithfulness to Israel. **Refrain.**

From its Roman Catholic origins, this 18th-century hymn has spread to worldwide use by many denominations in both Latin and vernacular versions. Once popular with a wide range of hymn texts, this tune is now firmly associated with this Christmas text from which it is named. TEXT and MUSIC: John Francis Wade, c. 1743.

All of the ends of earth have seen
salvation by our God.
Joyfully sing out, all you lands,
break forth in song. **Refrain.**

Sing to the Lord with harp and song,
with trumpet and with horn.
Sing in your joy before the king,
the king, our Lord. **Refrain.**

Titus 2:11-14 (*New Testament, page 215 in your pew Bible*)

***GOSPEL PROCESSION**

(The congregation stands for the Gospel. The Gospel is read in the midst of the people, symbolic of the Word made flesh and dwelling among us. As the Bible is carried into the Nave, please turn in the direction of the reader, and join in singing:)

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.

***GOSPEL READING**

Luke 2:1-20 (*New Testament, page 58 in your pew Bible*)

(Following the reading of the Gospel, the congregation will sing:)

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.

SERMON

“Go and See”

Donovan Drake

(A moment for meditation)

Affirmation of Faith

Responding to the word proclaimed, we affirm our faith in the holy, triune God. The affirmation of faith is drawn from scripture or creeds, confessions, and catechisms.

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**Jesus, the long-expected Savior,
came into the world as a child,
descended from David,
conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of Mary, a virgin.
He lived as a Jew among Jews.**

**He announced to his people
the coming of God's kingdom of justice
and peace on earth.**

**We affirm that Jesus was born of a woman
as is every child,
yet born of God's power
as was no other child.**

**The coming of Jesus was itself
the coming of God's promised rule.**

**Through his birth, life, death and resurrection,
he brings about the relationship
between God and humanity
that God always intended.**

(From A Declaration of Faith)

THE EUCHARIST

OFFERING

English carol/arr. Robert Lau

Sussex Carol

On Christmas night all Christians sing
to hear the news the angels bring.

News of great joy, news of great mirth,
news of our merciful King's birth.

Then why should we on earth be sad,
since our Redeemer made us glad?

When sin departs before his grace,
then life and health come in its place.

Then all creation with joy may sing,
all for to see the newborn King.

All out of darkness we have light,
which made the angels sing this night.

Sing alleluia, sing alleluia.

Glory! Glory to God! Glory!

Now and forevermore, amen. Amen, amen!

***DOXOLOGY**

MENDELSSOHN

Christ, by highest heaven adored,

Christ, the everlasting Lord,

late in time behold him come,

offspring of the virgin's womb.

Veiled in flesh the God-head see;

hail the incarnate deity,

pleased in flesh with us to dwell,

Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Hark! The herald angels sing,

"Glory to the newborn king!"

To GIVE, please scan
the QR code below:



"Sussex Carol" is a Christmas carol popular in Britain, sometimes referred to by its first line "On Christmas night all Christians sing". Its words were first published by Luke Wadding, a 17th-century Irish bishop, in a work called *Small Garland of Pious and Godly Songs* (1684). It is unclear whether Wadding wrote the song or was recording an earlier composition.

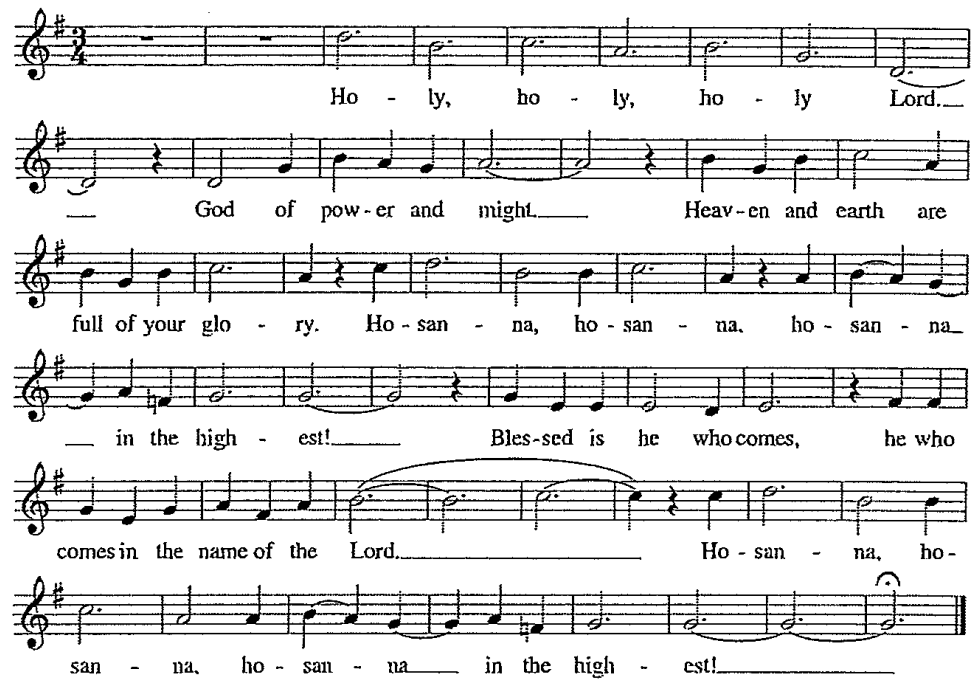
***INVITATION**

***GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy... and we behold your glory,
Immanuel!

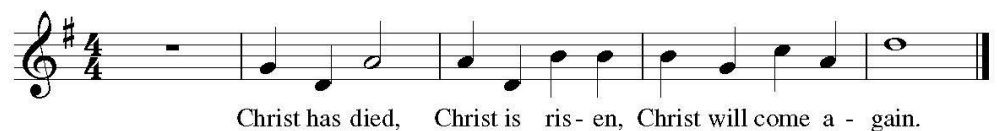
Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices
with the celestial choirs,
and with all the faithful of every time and place,
who forever sing to the glory of your name:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord...
God of pow - er and might... Heav - en and earth are
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na
in the high - est! Bles - sed is he who comes, he who
comes in the name of the Lord... Ho - san - na, ho -
san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est!

(The congregation may be seated.)

You are holy, O God of majesty... dedicated to your service.
Great is the mystery of faith:



Christ has died, Christ is ris - en, Christ will come a - gain.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us...
in the joy of your eternal realm.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 all glory and honor are yours, Almighty God,
 now and forever.



***THE LORD’S PRAYER**

(Prayed in unison; see page 35 of the hymnal for text.)

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

(The people will move to Communion stations as directed by the ushers. The celebrant will give each worshiper the bread. The worshiper dips the bread in the cup and partakes. An appropriate response is “Amen” or “Thanks be to God.” Please return to the pews, using the side aisles.)

Music during Communion

ANTHEMS

Carl Schalk

Before the marvel of this night, adoring,
 fold your wings and bow,
 then tear the sky apart with light
 and with your news the world endow.
 Proclaim the birth of Christ and peace,
 that fear and death and sorrow cease:
 Sing peace, sing peace, sing gift of peace!

Awake the sleeping world with song,
 this is the day the Lord has made.
 Assemble here, celestial throng,
 in royal splendor come arrayed.
 Give earth a glimpse of heavenly bliss,
 a teasing taste of what they miss:
 Sing bliss, sing bliss, sing endless bliss!

Carl Schalk (1929–2021) was a noted Lutheran composer, author, and lecturer. Between 1965 and 2004 he taught church music at Concordia University Chicago. During this time he guided the development of the university's Master of Church Music degree, which has since graduated more than 140 students. Schalk is well known for his numerous choral compositions as well as his hymn tunes and carols, which number over one hundred.

The love that we have always known,
our constant joy and endless light,
now to the loveless world be shown,
now break upon its deathly night.
Into one song compress the love,
the love that rules our universe above:
Sing love, sing love!
Sing love, sing God is love!

Anthem

Gustav Holst/arr. G. Alan Smith

In the bleak midwinter, 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 midwinter, 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 midwinter a stable-place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.
Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
But only his mother, in her maiden bliss,
Worshipped the beloved with a kiss.
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.

Though this text describes winter weather in England rather than in Palestine, the poet is using familiar surroundings as a means of making the Nativity more immediate and personal. The tune name honors a Gloucestershire village near the composer's birthplace in Cheltenham.
MUSIC: Gustav Holst, 1906.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING

(The plastic shield that you received with your candle is intended to ensure the safety of the congregation. Slide the shield down the candle for the purpose of lighting the candle. Once lighted, slide the shield up to fully enclose the flame.)

SPREADING THE LIGHT

HYMN

Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

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

Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

HYMN O Little Town of Bethlehem ST. LOUIS

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

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.

HYMN Away in a Manger MUELLER

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

HYMN Silent Night, Holy Night STILLE NACHT

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.

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.

SENDING

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "In dulci jubilo" BWV 608 and BWV 729 J.S. Bach

**(Those who are able may stand.)*

The Orgelbüchlein Chorale on "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" (Hymn 132), not only has the Soprano and Bass voices in canon, but also the Alto and Tenor voices, while BWV 729 may be representative of how Bach would have accompanied congregational singing of the hymn.

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Our Mission

*Ordinary people testifying to the extraordinary light
found in our Lord Jesus Christ.*

“For it is the God who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us.”

(2 Corinthians 4:6-7)

Today @ Westminster

Worship Leaders

Preaching

Rev. Dr. Donovan Drake
Pastor and Head of Staff

Liturgist

Rev. Dr. Guy D. Griffith
*Associate Pastor for Adult Education and
Spiritual Nurture*

Lay Liturgist

Fran Linley

Music

Tintinnabulation, Keith Cole, Director
Laudate and Laudate Alumni Choir

Dr. John Semingson
Director of Music Ministries

Dale Nickell
*Organist and Associate Director of
Music Ministries*

Christmas Eve Offering

The offerings received tonight will be used to meet unanticipated or emergency situations of need, which from time to time come to the attention of the pastors, and for which there is no provision in the regular budget. A portion of the money is used to provide for the needs of homeless and transient people.



on the cover:

JOHN AUGUST SWANSON was born January 11, 1938 in El Monte, California, and died September 23, 2021, in Los Angeles. He painted in oil, watercolor, acrylic, and mixed media, and was an independent printmaker of limited edition serigraphs, lithographs, etchings, and other prints.

His art reflected his strong heritage of storytelling, inherited from his Mexican mother and Swedish father. John Swanson's narratives are direct and easily understood. He addressed human values, cultural roots, and the quest for self-discovery through visual images. These include Bible stories and celebrations, circuses, concerts, and operas. He optimistically embraced life and spiritual transformation.

I wanted to capture the people that are bringing gifts. They are the poor people in the region all bringing their meager offerings to share with the homeless holy family: firewood, eggs, bread, flour, a cow with milk, water, and fruit; even a child has come to serenade them.

--John August Swanson

John August Swanson first painted Nativity as a watercolor in 1987, and based his 1988 serigraph on it. The serigraph followed *Shepherds*, 1985, and continued his Birth Narrative series: *Shepherds*, 1985, *Nativity*, 1988, *Epiphany*, 1988, *A Visit*, 1995, *Flight into Egypt*, 2002, and *Presentation in the Temple*, 2004.

Planned in 2017 as a companion piece to *The Annunciation*, this Nativity giclee has been sized to match that piece, and has warmer skin tones, gradations, and additional details in the plants and sky from Swanson's other serigraphs, paintings, and sketches.

Completed: October, 2022
by the John August Swanson Studio

O Come, All Ye Faithful 133

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant; O come
 2 True God from true God, Light from light e - ter - nal, born
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels; sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; sing,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing; Je -

ye; O come ye to Beth - le - hem! Come, and be - hold him,
 of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes; ver - y God, be -
 all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove! Glo - ry to God, all
 sus, to thee be all glo - ry given; Word of the Fa - ther,

Refrain

born the King of an - gels!
 got - ten, not cre - at - ed! O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let
 glo - ry in the high - est!
 now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

us a - dore him; O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!



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