



Light in the Darkness

December 8, 2022

Humanity has been grappling with the concept of peace since the dawn of history. When we think of peace today, certain ideas tend to come to mind: A setting uncluttered by noise, a region free of violence, or perhaps a home where family members stop their bickering. These images are striking in that they emphasize something that isn't there: conflict, war, tension, sounds, commotion. But peace is more than a lack of something. It is also a greeting: Peace be with you; and a benediction: Go now in peace; and a gift: Peace I leave with you.

What if peace is not an absence, but a presence?

May tonight's concert confirm in us the conviction to be agents of peace in our lives and the world.

See Amid the Winter's Snow

John Goss/arr. Dan Forrest

Alleluia.

See, amid the winter's snow,
born for us on earth below,
see the tender Lamb appears,
promised from eternal years.

Hail! Thou ever-blessed morn!
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem."

Lo, within a manger lies
He who built the lofty skies;
He, who throned in light sublime,
sits amid the cherubim!

Hail! Thou ever-blessed morn....

Sacred Infant, all divine,
what a tender love was Thine;
Thus, to come from highest bliss,
down to such a world as this.

Hail! Thou ever-blessed morn...

Alleluia.

Isaiah 11: 1-9

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Plainsong, arr. Phillip Keveren

A Prayer for Faith

Margaret Elizabeth Sangster

Hope for Resolution

Paul Caldwell & Sean Ivory

Of the Father's love begotten, E'er the worlds began to be.

He is Alpha and Omega, He the source the ending he.

Of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see, evermore and evermore.

Oh, that birth forever blessed, when the virgin full of grace, by the Holy Ghost conceiving, bare the Savior of our race.

And the babe, the world's redeemer, first revealed his sacred face, evermore and evermore.

O ye heights of heaven adore him, Angel hosts his praises sing,

Powers, dominions bow before him, And extol our God and King.

Let no tongue on earth be silent, every voice in concert ring evermore and evermore.

Nation, do not cry. Jehovah will protect us.

We will attain freedom. Jehovah will protect us.

Advent Calendar	Rowan Williams
The Coventry Carol	English Carol, arr. Keveren
Illinois Advent	Guy Griffith
Mid-Winter	Bob Chilcott
	In the bleak mid-winter frosty wind made moan, Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone; Snow had fallen, 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. Angels and arch-angels 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 wiseman, I would do my part; Yet what I can I give him, Give my heart.
Wachet auf	Ann Lewin
Give Thanks	Phillip Keveren
Nativity	John Donne
Wonderful Peace	Gustav Nordqvist
	Peace, peace, wonderful peace, peace to the world is given. Hushed are the angels so still is the night; Then in the East shone a heavenly light. Join in the chorus, His praises sing! Glory to God, to the newly born King. Peace, peace, wonderful peace, Peace to the world is given. Peace, peace, bearer of peace, All of good will receive Him. Holiest of nights, O most wondrous of days; Shepherds and kings lift their voices in praise. Join in the chorus his praises sing! Glory to God to the newly born King. Peace, peace, wonderful peace, Peace to the world is given.
Improvisation for Piano	Philip Keveren
Christmas Mail	Ted Kooser
Wexford Carol	Irish Carol, arr. Sedio

Good people all, this Christmas time,
Consider well and bear in mind
What our good God for us has done,
In sending His beloved Son.
With Mary holy we should pray
To God with love this Christmas Day;
In Bethlehem upon the morn
There was a blest Messiah born.

Near Bethlehem did shepherds keep
Their flocks of lambs and feeding sheep;
To whom God's angels did appear
Which put the shepherds in great fear.
Prepare and go, the angels said,
To Bethlehem, be not afraid;
For there you'll find, this happy morn,
A princely babe, sweet Jesus born.

With thankful heart and joyful mind,
The shepherds went the babe to find,
And as God's angel has foretold,
They did our Savior Christ behold.
Within a manger He was laid,
And by His side the virgin maid
Attending to the Lord of Life,
Who came on earth to end all strife.

Hebrews 1: 1-4

Congregational Hymn (All sing)

ADESTE FIDELIS

**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!**

**True God from true God, Light from light eternal, born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
very God, begotten, not created!
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

The Hope of the Hopeless

Desmond Tutu

All is Well

Smith, arr. Ron Huff

All is well, all is well. Angels and all rejoice!
For tonight darkness fell into the dawn of love's light.
Sing alleluia!
All is well, all is well. Let there be peace on earth.
Christ is come, Go and tell that he is in the manger.
Sing alleluia!
All is well, all is well. Lift up your voice and sing.
Born is now Emmanuel. Born is our Lord and Savior.
Sing alleluia! All is well.



Westminster Choir

Dr. John Semingson, Director of Music Ministries

Dale Nickell, Organist/Associate Director of Music Ministries

Phillip Keveren, arranger and pianist

David Angell, violin

Wei Tsun Chang, violin

Seanad Chang, viola

Sari Reist, cello

Sam Levine, flute, saxophone, and whistles

Ron Sorbo, percussion

The Rev. Dr. Donovan Drake & the Rev. Dr. Guy Griffith, readers