

A vertical photograph of a night sky. The Milky Way galaxy is visible, stretching from the upper left towards the lower right, with a bright, hazy band of light in the lower right quadrant. The sky is filled with numerous stars. Below the horizon line, which is dark and silhouetted, is a body of water that reflects the light from the sky. The overall color palette is dominated by deep blues, purples, and pinks from the galaxy and stars.

*A Light in the  
Darkness*



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.

Anthem

Plainsong/arr. Timothy Kile

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
Our spirits by Thine advent here.  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to Thee,  
O Israel!

O come, O Bright and Morning Star,  
And bring us comfort from afar!  
Dispel the shadows of the night  
And turn our darkness into light.

O Israel, rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to Thee,  
O Israel!

God with us, Emmanuel.

Light Shines in Darkness

Bonnie Thurston

Everybody knows Christmas  
is good for business.  
To attract the tourist trade,  
our town council cheerfully  
promotes an annual  
"Festival of Lights,"  
the lurid illumination

of a normally pastoral park.  
Neighborhoods take up  
the gauntlet, festoon  
with energy-guzzling lights.  
In a bid to replace outdated  
plaster of Paris crèches,  
immense inflatables,  
snowmen, cartoon characters,  
claim center stage on lawns.  
But a blurry, early morning  
Advent communicant might,  
on her sleepy way to Mass, see  
nature-enforced genuflection  
in heaps of deflated plastic around  
some old concrete Holy Family:  
kneeling Joseph, blue-robed Mary,  
the Mystery in the manger.

I Saw Three Ships

arr. Phillip Keveren

Prayer at Winter Solstice

Dana Gioia

Blessed is the road that keeps us homeless.  
Blessed is the mountain that blocks our way.  
Blessed are hunger and thirst, loneliness and all forms of desire.  
Blessed is the labor that exhausts us without end.  
Blessed are the night and the darkness that blinds us.  
Blessed is the cold that teaches us to feel.  
Blessed are the cat, the child, the cricket, and the crow.  
Blessed is the hawk devouring the hare.  
Blessed are the saint and the sinner who redeem each other.  
Blessed are the dead, calm in their perfection.  
Blessed is the pain that humbles us.  
Blessed is the distance that bars our joy.  
Blessed is this shortest day that makes us long for light.  
Blessed is the love that in losing we discover.

Anthem

Text: Thomas Campion  
Music: Simon Jackson

Never weather-beaten sail  
(Trilo)

Trilo! Här är han, Nära land!  
*Trilo! Here he is, Close to shore!*

Never weather-beaten sail  
more willing bent to shore,  
Never tired pilgrim's limbs  
affected slumber more,  
Than my weary sprite now longs to fly  
out of my troubled breast,  
O come quickly, sweetest Lord,  
and take my soul to rest.

Ever-blooming are the joys  
of Heav'n's high Paradise,  
Cold age deafs not there our ears,  
nor vapour dims our eyes;  
Glory there the sun out-shines,  
whose beams the blessed only see:  
O come quickly, glorious Lord,  
and raise my sprite to thee.

The Coventry Carol

arr. Phillip Keveren

Thirst

Mary Oliver

Another morning and I wake with thirst  
for the goodness I do not have. I walk  
out to the pond and all the way God has  
given us such beautiful lessons. Oh Lord,  
I was never a quick scholar but sulked  
and hunched over my books past the hour  
and the bell; grant me, in your mercy,  
a little more time. Love for the earth  
and love for you are having such a long  
conversation in my heart. Who knows what  
will finally happen or where I will be sent,  
yet already I have given a great many things  
away, expecting to be told to pack nothing,  
except the prayers which, with this thirst,  
I am slowly learning.

Anthem

arr. Kyle Pedersen

I Wonder as I Wander

I wonder as I wander out under the sky  
how Jesus the Savior had come for to die;  
for poor orn'ry people like you and like I;  
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.

How I, a mere mortal, may look up in awe  
as Bethlehem's star beckons me through the dawn;  
it shines on the manger, the Prince of all peace  
and bids me to wonder, "Is this gift for me?"  
Emmanuel.

The gift in the manger is given for all,  
the strong and heroic, the lost and the small.  
Christ bids to our stone hearts, "come soften and give,"  
and offers his own heart, so others may live.

I wonder as I wander out under the sky,  
how the light of the heavens is born in this child.  
The universe dances with glory and grace  
and I gaze in the manger and see love's face.

Emmanuel.

I wonder as I wander out under the sky,  
I wonder under the sky.

Improvisation

Philip Keveren

Anthem

Text: Thomas H. Troeger  
Music: Glenn L. Rudolph

### The Dream Isaiah Saw

Lions and oxen will sleep in the hay,  
leopards will join with the lambs as they play,  
wolves will be pastured with cows in the glade,  
blood will not darken the earth that God made.

Little child whose bed is straw,  
take new lodgings in my heart.  
Bring the dream Isaiah saw:  
Life redeemed from fang and claw.

Peace will pervade more than forest and field:  
God will transfigure the Violence concealed  
deep in the heart and in systems of gain,  
ripe for the judgment the Lord will ordain.

Little child whose bed is straw,  
take new lodgings in my heart.  
Bring the dream Isaiah saw:  
justice purifying law.

Nature reordered to match God's intent,  
nations obeying the call to repent,  
all of creation completely restored,  
filled with the knowledge and love of the Lord.

Little child whose bed is straw,  
take new lodgings in my heart.  
Bring the dream Isaiah saw:  
knowledge, wisdom, worship, awe.

Little child whose bed is straw,  
take new lodgings in my heart.  
Bring the dream Isaiah saw:  
knowledge, wisdom, worship, awe.

Bird in the Body of the World

Angela Alaimo O'Donnell

December fifth, the first day of frost,  
boxwood leaves silver in the sunlight.  
Car windows coated, the glassy grass crackles, fragile underfoot.  
The sparrow steps lightly, as if he knows what's coming.  
Days of deep darkness, nests full of snow,  
wind that blows you into windows.  
He does not curse, nor does he bless  
the weather. He only takes what comes,  
each dawn a day he never expected  
to see. He is one of the Holy Ones.  
He doesn't know the world is a wreck.  
Everything that is perfect.

\*Congregational Hymn

ANTIOCH  
arr. John Rutter

Joy to the World  
(*Congregation will sing verses 1, 4*  
*Choir will sing verses 2, 3*)

Joy to the World!  
Joy to the world! The Lord is come:  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let ev'ry heart  
prepare him room,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns:  
Let us our 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, 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.

Anthem

Karen Marrolli

### Walk in Light

And we shall study war no more.  
Come, O people, O come and walk  
in the light of the Lord.

And we shall walk the paths of peace.  
Come, O people, O come and walk  
in the light of the Lord.  
The night is far spent;  
the day is at hand.

And we shall study war no more.  
Come, O people, O come and walk  
in the light of the Lord.

So let us cast off the works of night  
so we may wear a Shield of Day.  
Come, O people, O come and walk  
in the light of the Lord.

Evermore and evermore.  
And we shall walk in paths of peace.  
Come, O people, O come and walk  
in the light of the Lord.  
Dona nobis pacem.

## Music

Westminster Choir

Dr. John Semington  
Director of Music  
Ministries

Dale Nickell  
Organist/Associate  
Director of Music  
Ministries

Phillip Keveren  
Instrumental Arranger  
and Pianist

David Davidson &  
David Angell, Violin

Seanad Chang, Viola

Austin Hoke, Cello

Sam Levine,  
Woodwinds

Ron Sorbo, Percussion

## Readings

Rev. Dr. Donovan  
Drake

Rev Dr. Guy D. Griffith

## Copyright Information

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this morning is copyrighted  
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\*(Those who are able may stand.)

# ADVENT SCHEDULE

December 14

8:30 AM & 11:00 AM

## **Lessons and Carols Service**

December 14

5:00 PM • North Parking Lot

## **Christmas Caroling in the Neighborhood**

Followed by dinner at 5:45 PM  
(reservations required)

December 18

11:00 AM • Goodpasture Hall

## **Westminster Bells Christmas Program**

December 24

## **Christmas Eve Services**

2:00 PM – The Family Christmas Eve  
Service with the Children's Choirs

5:00 PM – Candlelight Service and  
Communion with the Westminster Choir

8:00 PM – Candlelight Service and  
Communion with the Westminster Choir

10:30 PM – Candlelight Service and  
Communion with the Laudate Youth Choir  
& Alumni (9:15 PM rehearsal)

December 28

11:00 AM • Sanctuary

## **Sunday Morning Service**

PLEASE NOTE: One service only



3900 West End Avenue  
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