



MORAVIAN UNIVERSITY

Christmas Vespers

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania
December 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 2023

In order to maintain the reverence appropriate to a worship service, we ask that you not turn the pages in your program until that portion of the service is completed. Please refrain from conversation during the prelude and service. Turn off all cell phones, pagers, and similar devices so they will not interrupt the service. Photography and recording devices are not permitted during the service.



Moravian University is proud to be an All-Steinway School.

To all who join me to celebrate the spirit of this season,

On behalf of Moravian University, I welcome you to our 2023 Christmas Vespers service. The service unites two worship traditions in the Moravian Church: the *Singstunde* and the candlelight service. Since the 1720s, Moravians have been known for their worshipful singing, and a Moravian *Singstunde* (singing hour) is a service of music without preaching. In tonight's service, the music has been carefully selected and arranged to bring the Christmas message to listeners without the need of a sermon.

The Moravian candlelight service originated in 1747 in Marienborn, Germany, when candles with red trimming were distributed at the children's Christmas service. Bethlehem's first candle service was conducted in 1756. The beloved hymn "Morning Star," originally written for a child's voice and a chorus of children, was composed in 1836 by Francis Florentine Hagen, an alumnus of the Moravian Theological Seminary Class of 1835. A version for soprano and mixed chorus was published by 1876. By long tradition, however, it is sung by a child soloist with responses from the mixed choir and congregation.

The donations taken at Christmas Vespers directly support student financial aid at Moravian University. We are happy to be able to share this distinctive and moving Christmas worship with you. I hope you will join me in thanking Dr. Paula Zerkle and all of our musicians for making this possible.

Bryon L. Grigsby '90, P'22, P'26
President of Moravian University

Moravian University Christmas Vespers

PRESIDING

The Reverend Jennika M. Berger '98, S'01
CHAPLAIN
MORAVIAN UNIVERSITY

LITURGISTS

Nicole L. Loyd
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT,
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER, AND DEAN OF STUDENTS
December 1

Katherine Hancock Ragsdale
INTERIM VICE PRESIDENT AND
DEAN OF THE SEMINARIES
December 8

Bryon L. Grigsby '90, P'22, P'26
PRESIDENT OF MORAVIAN UNIVERSITY
December 2

David Brandes
VICE PRESIDENT AND
CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER
December 9

G. Christopher Hunt
VICE PRESIDENT AND DEAN
FOR EQUITY AND INCLUSION
December 3

Carol A. Traupman-Carr
PROVOST, VICE PRESIDENT FOR
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS, AND PROFESSOR OF MUSIC
December 10

MORAVIAN UNIVERSITY CHOIRS

Paula Ring Zerkle, *conductor*
Barbara Thomson, *organist*

SACRISTANS

HEAD SACRISTANS

Megan E. Curtis, Jae M. Egge

ASSISTANT HEAD SACRISTANS

Kristian R. Wolf

HEAD USHER

Sara E. Fuehrer

ASSISTANT HEAD USHER

Morgen I. Johnson

CORNER CAPTAINS

Avery A. Bailey
Sophie G. Bauer
Larisa Bohensky

Alison R. DeLuca
Victoria A. DiMondo
Devon L. Goerlich

Natalia J. Hanson-Richart
Tori L. Harper
Matthew M. Messina

Todd D. Reedy
Elly C. Rothrock

PRELUDE MUSIC

Hodie, Christus Natus Est

Jan Sweelinck (1562–1621), arr. Walter Barnes

The First Nowell

arr. Richard Price

Steffani Smith, Fred Younes, *trumpet*
Owen Cassel, Mitchel Hourt, *trombone*
Jesse Leahey, *tuba*
Moravian University Brass Ensemble
Larry Wright, *director*

Prelude from *Te Deum*

Marc-Antoine Charpentier (1643–1704)

Alexis Nemeth, Julianna Thompson, Matthew Tomko, *flute*
Flute Troupe
Robin Kani, *director*

Falling Snow

Hailey Belverio '25

Hailey Belverio, Eli Breininger, Sean Carroll, Hannah Graybeal, Matt Kuplack,
Nicholas Mancini, Alaina Tang, *guitar*
Moravian University Guitar Ensemble
John Arnold, *director*

Carol of the Bells

Mykola Leontovich (1877–1921)
arr. Pentatonix

Ashley Golden, Amanda Koehler, Claire Light, Jacob Manning, Morgan Martin,
William Reinert, Sam Rosas, Rachael Schaffer, Benjamin Smith, *clarinet*
Moravian University Clarinet Choir
Wendy Bickford, *director*

Once in Royal David's City

arr. Richard Price

Moravian Star Double Fugue

Fred Younes '22

Moravian University Brass Ensemble

VESPERS SERVICE

CHOIR

The Gift

Rob Dietz (b. 1987)

Text: James Weldon Johnson (1871–1938)

Sometimes the mist overhangs my path,
And blackening clouds about me cling;
But, oh, I have a magic way
To turn the gloom to cheerful day—
 I softly sing.

And if the way grows darker still,
Shadowed by Sorrow's somber wing,
With glad defiance in my throat,
I pierce the darkness with a note,
 And sing, and sing.

I brood not over the broken past,
Nor dread whatever time may bring;
No nights are dark, no days are long,
While in my heart there swells a song,
 And I can sing.

Vocalis

CHOIR AND CONGREGATION

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Veni Emanuel

Text: Medieval Antiphon

1. 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!
2. O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
 And order all things, far and nigh;
 To us the path of knowledge show,
 And cause us in her ways to go.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 Shall come to thee, O Israel!

3. O come, Desire of Nations, bind
 All people in one heart and mind;
 Bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease;
 Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 Shall come to thee, O Israel!

LITURGY

One: *In the beginning, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God hovered over the waters.*

All: In the beginning was the Word.

One: *In the beginning, God created.*

All: And the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

One: *In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.*

All: The Word was with God in the beginning, and through the Word all things were made.

Without the Word nothing was made that has been made.

One: *And God said, "Let there be light."*

All: In the Word was life, and that life was the light of all people.

One: *God saw that the light was good.*

All: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

One: *And God said, "Let us create humanity in our image."*

All: And the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

One: *So God created humanity in the image of God.*

All: And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us.

One: *"I am the Light of the world," says the Lord.*

All: Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

One: *Glory be to the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Spirit;*

All: As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

CHOIR

Sanctus

*Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua.
Osanna in excelsis.*

Holy, Holy, Holy,
Lord God of Hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

Moravian University Choir

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756–1791)

WELCOME

The Reverend Jennika M. Borger '98, S'01, *chaplain*

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 9:2–7. *Read by students of Moravian University*

December 1 – Todd D. Reedy
December 2 – Neema Mburu
December 3 – Avery A. Bailey

December 8 – Devon L. Goerlich
December 9 – Megan E. Curtis
December 10 – Sara E. Fuehrer

New Testament Reading Luke 2:1–14. *Read by students of Moravian Theological Seminary*

December 1 – Jeremy Lau
December 2 – Josh Follweiler
December 3 – Jesmina Hebbert Meade

December 8 – Bymese E. Craig
December 9 – Bam J. Noriega
December 10 – Bam J. Noriega

Prayer Offered by members of Moravian University faculty and staff

December 1 – Madison M. Van Duzer
December 2 – Jeshar C. Velazquez
December 3 – Marilyn D. Kelly-Cavotta

December 8 – Mello Walters
December 9 – Nelson Rivera
December 10 – Greg Carey

OFFERTORY

Dear One

George Harrison (1943–2001)
arr. Paula Zerkle

Dear one, near me, truth assessed,
Reborn world-wise, mind at rest.
True heart sow you, God has blessed,
Your soul whispers, love confessed.

My spirit sings to you now
Creation stands at your feet
My feelings call to you
now Dear one, I love you
You hear my spirit sing to you
You see creation at your feet
You feel my feelings calling you
You know, dear one, I love you

Dear one, show me simple grace,
Move me toward thee with each pace.

Brandon Bryan, Reid Clymer, *tenor*; Jeffrey Raub, *baritone*
Moravian University Grey Hounds

Alle, Alleluia!
Alleluia!

Bruce W. Tippet (b. 1985)

Moravian University Blue Stars

CONGREGATION

Please stand

Jesus, Call Thou Me

Jesu, rufe mich

Text: Adam Drese (1620–1701)

1. Jesus, call thou me, from the world to thee;
Speed me ever, stay me never.
Jesus, call thou me.

3. Favored Bethlehem! Honored is that name;
Thence came Jesus to release us;
Favored Bethlehem!

2. Not Jerusalem—lowly Bethlehem.
'Twas that gave us Christ to save us;
Not Jerusalem.

4. Wondrous child divine, warm this heart of mine!
Keep it burning, for thee yearning,
Wondrous child divine!

CHOIR

Bayasibiza

*Namp' abantu besibiza Mama.
Wozani nilalel' amakhwaya.
Hawu Bathini?
Wozani nilalel' amakhwaya.*

Traditional Zulu
arr. Michael Barrett and Mbuso Ndlovu

Here are the people calling us.
Come and listen to the choirs.
What did they say?
Come and listen to the choirs.

Reid Clymer, Andrew Miller, *tenor*
Amari Anaya, Jacob Kremer, *djembe*
Moravian University Choir

Cum Laude Ego Canto (When I Sing Praise)

*Tristatur aliquis vestrum
oret aequo animo est psallat
Quid ergo est orabo spiritu orabo
et mente psallam spiritu psallam et mente*

Richard Burchard (b. 1960)

Are any among you suffering? You should pray.
Are you at peace? You should sing psalms.
What will I do? I will pray with my spirit and with my mind
I will sing psalms with my spirit and also with my mind

Vocalis

Be Thou Faithful

Be thou faithful, O my soul, see,
Thy king comes near thee.
He will soothe and will hear thee.

Larry Lipkis (b. 1951)

He brings comfort and blessing anew.
What the prophets said is all true.
After his peace sincerely pursue.

Moravian University Choir

Magnificat

*Magnificat anima mea Dominum;
et exsultavit spiritus meus
in Deo salutari meo.*

Nina Worsley '25

My soul doth magnify the Lord;
And my spirit hath rejoiced
In God my Savior.

Reid Clymer, *conductor*
Moravian University Choir

Second Eve

*Sancta Maria, regina caeli
Dulcis et pia, o mater Dei
Ora pro nobis peccatoribus
Ut cum electis te videamus.*

Ola Gjeilo (b. 1978)

Holy Mary, Queen of heaven,
gentle and holy, mother of God
pray for us sinners
that with the chosen we may see you.

*Ave Maria, gratia plena,
Dominus tecum;
benedicta tu in mulieribus,
et benedictus fructus ventris tui,
Jesus Christus.
Amen.*

Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with you:
blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb,
Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Moravian University Chorale

TāReKiTa

Indian rāga called "Jog." The text syllables are onomatopoeic vocalizations of the sounds produced by Indian instruments.

Reena Esmail (b. 1983)

Sapphire Johnson, Amal Shokr, *movement*
Moravian University Choir

CHOIR AND CONGREGATION

On This Day Earth Shall Ring

Gustav Holst (1874–1934)

Text: Swedish carol

1. On this day earth shall ring
With the song children sing
To the Lord, Christ our king,
Born on earth to save us;
Him the Father gave us.
Ideo gloria in excelsis Deo.

3. God's bright star o'er his head,
Wise men three to him led,
Kneel they low by his bed,
Lay their gifts before him,
Praise him and adore him.
Ideo gloria in excelsis Deo.

2. His the doom, ours the mirth;
When he came down to earth,
Bethlehem saw his birth;
Ox and ass beside him,
From the cold would hide him.
Ideo gloria in excelsis Deo.

4. On this day angels sing;
With their song earth shall ring.
Praising Christ, heaven's king,
Born on earth to save us.
Peace and love he gave us.
Ideo gloria in excelsis Deo.

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Picardy

Text: From the Liturgy of St. James

1. Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
And with fear and trembling stand.
Ponder nothing earthly-minded,
For with blessing in his hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
Our full homage to demand.

3. At his feet the six-wingéd seraph;
Cherubim, with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence,
As with ceaseless voice they cry,
Alleluia, alleluia,
Alleluia, Lord most high!

2. Rank on rank the host of heaven
Spreads its vanguard on the way,
As the light of light descendeth
From the realms of endless day,
That the powers of Hell may vanish
As the darkness clears away.

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Behold a Great, a Heavenly Light

1. Behold a great, a heavenly light,
From Bethlehem's manger shining bright,
Around those who in darkness dwell,
The night of evil to dispel.

2. What heights, what depths of love divine,
In thy blest incarnation shine!
Let heaven and earth unite their lays,
To magnify thy boundless grace.

Once in Royal David's City

1. 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.

Good Christians, Now Rejoice

1. Good Christians, now rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!
2. Good Christians, now rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door, and we are blessed evermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
3. Good Christians, now rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Vom Himmel hoch

Text: St. Ambrose (337–397)

3. He left his bright, his glorious throne;
He bowed the heavens, to earth came down,
And thus his wondrous race began,
As God with God to serve his land.

4. Incarnate God, exert thy power;
Arise, thou glorious conqueror;
Subdue sin, death, and every foe;
Erect thy kingdom here below.

Irby

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander (1823–1895)

2. 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 and mean and lowly
Lived on earth our Savior holy.

In dulci jubilo

Text: Henry Suso (c.1300)

Morning Star

Francis Florentine Hagen (1815–1907)

Text: Johann Scheffler (1624–1677)

1. Solo: *Morning Star, O cheering sight!
Ere thou cam'st, how dark earth's night!*
All: Morning Star, O cheering sight!
Ere thou cam'st, how dark earth's night!

Solo: *Jesus mine,*
All: in me shine;

Solo: *In me shine,*
All: Jesus mine.
Fill my heart with light divine.

2. Solo: *Morning Star, thy glory bright,
Far excels the sun's clear light:*
All: Morning Star, thy glory bright,
Far excels the sun's clear light:

Solo: *Jesus be,*
All: constantly;

Solo: *Constantly,*
All: Jesus be.
More than thousand suns to me.

3. Solo: *Thy glad beams, thou Morning Star,
Cheer the nations near and far;*
All: Thy glad beams, thou Morning Star,
Cheer the nations near and far;

Solo: *Thee we own,*
All: Lord alone;

Solo: *Lord alone,*
All: Thee we own.
Our great Savior, God's dear Son.

4. Solo: *Morning Star, my soul's true light,
Tarry not, dispel my night;*
All: Morning Star, my soul's true light,
Tarry not, dispel my night;

Solo: *Jesus mine,*
All: in me shine;

Solo: *In me shine,*
All: Jesus mine.
Fill my heart with light divine.

Morning Star Soloists:

December 1 – Madeline Silfies | December 2 – Gabrielle Silfies | December 3 – Amelia Galgocy
December 8 – Katrina Herot | December 9 – Lena Grube | December 10 – Ava Silfies

CLOSING LITURGY

Please stand

One: *This is the message we have heard from God and declare to you:*
All: God is light. In God there is no darkness at all.

One: *If we claim to have fellowship with God, yet walk in the darkness,*
All: We do not live by the truth.

One: *But if we walk in the light, as God is in the light,*
All: We have fellowship with one another in Christ's name.

One: *Lord, let now your servants depart in peace,*
All: For our eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared
in the presence of all peoples. Amen.

CHOIR AND CONGREGATION

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

Regent Square

Text: James Montgomery (1771–1854)

1. Angels, from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn king.

3. Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great desire of nations;
Ye have seen his natal star:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn king.

2. Shepherds, in the field abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night.
God incarnate now residing,
Yonder shines the infant light:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn king.

4. All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising
To the endless Three in One:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn king.

BENEDICTION

Chaplain Borger

POSTLUDE

Ding Dong! Merrily on High

16th Century French tune

Ding dong! merrily on high in heav'n the bells are ringing:

Ding dong! verily the sky is riv'n with angel singing.

Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis! (Glory! Hosanna in the highest!)

Moravian University Choir and Brass Ensemble

Fantasia on "In Dulci Jubilo," BWV 729

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

Barbara Thomson, *organ*

Moravian University Choir

Paula Ring Zerkle, *director*

Lynda Chen, *accompanist*

Ben Stefan, *president*

Reid Clymer, Sam Lingen, *vice presidents/managers*

Mars Anaya, *secretary*

Claire Light, *treasurer*

Ashley Golden, Jeffrey Raub, *librarians*

Soprano 1

Elena Arzayus

Alyssa Foli*

Lexi Jordan

Morgan Martin*

Elyn Millheim*

Madison Robb*#

Jaymie Roddy*#

Jordan Soffera*#

Soprano 2

Sherry Anderson*

Faith Bonnet*

Martina Fedorowicz*#

Catherine Forrester*

Amanda Koehler*

Brooke Gormley

Sapphire Johnson*

Savannah Labukas*

Claire Light

Alto 1

Fatimah Bouri

Emma Fastiggi

Natasha Goldman

Emily Kave

Emma Pollackov*

Anna Portalatin

Amal Shokr

Nina Worsley

Megan Zeruth

Alto 2

Nicole Bellesfield

Hailey Belverio

Laurie Bienaimé*

Alyssa Cassel*

Lindsay Detwiler*

Yami Gottbrecht*

Abigail Rochlin*#

Anna Spadavecchia

Tenor 1

Sol Andersen*

Brandon Bryan*

Reid Clymer*#

Ashley Golden*

Tulsa McGinnis*

Andre Scott*

Tenor 2

Jacob Manning*

David Marrero*

Andrew Miller*#

Xander Sierra-Torres*

Ben Stefan*

Bass 1

Calvin Deifer

Jacob Kremer*

Samuel Lingen*#

Jeffrey Raub*

Sean Riedy*#

Sam Rosas*

Bass 2

Amari Anaya*#

Sean Audesirk*

Joshneil Ferguson*#

Christopher Kasper

Frank VandeVeegaete*

Justin T. Weiksner*

* Member of Moravian Chorale

Member of Vocalis

Moravian University Blue Stars

Paula Ring Zerkle, *director*

Lynda Chen, *accompanist*

Martina Fedorowicz, *president*

Claire Light, Jaymie Roddy, *vice presidents/managers*

Abi Rochlin, *secretary*

Madison Robb, *treasurer*

Soprano 1

Elena Arzayus

Alyssa Foli

Lexi Jordan

Morgan Martin

Elyn Millheim

Madison Robb

Jaymie Roddy

Jordan Soffera

Soprano 2

Sherry Anderson

Hailey Belverio

Faith Bonnet

Martina Fedorowicz

Catherine Forrester

Amanda Koehler

Brooke Gormley

Sapphire Johnson

Savannah Labukas

Claire Light

Alto 1

Bonnie Banks-Beers

Fatimah Bouri

Emma Fastiggi

Natasha Goldman

Emily Kave

Emma Pollackov

Anna Portalatin

Amal Shokr

Megan Zeruth

Alto 2

Eddianna Almonte

Nicole Bellesfield

Laurie Bienaimé

Alyssa Cassel

Lindsay Detwiler

Yami Gottbrecht

Abigail Rochlin

Anna Spadavecchia

Nina Worsley

Moravian University Grey Hounds

Paula Ring Zerkle, *director*

Lynda Chen, *accompanist*

Reid Clymer, *president*

Amari Anaya, Samuel Lingen, *vice presidents/managers*

Sean Riedy, *secretary*

Jacob Kremer, *treasurer*

Tenor 1

Sol Andersen

Brandon Bryan

Reid Clymer

Ashley Golden

Tulsa McGinnis

Andre Scott

Tenor 2

Jacob Manning

David Marrero

Andrew Miller

Xander Sierra-Torres

Ben Stefan

Bass 1

Calvin Deifer

Jacob Kremer

Samuel Lingen

Jeffrey Raub

Sean Riedy

Sam Rosas

Bass 2

Amari Anaya

Sean Audesirk

Joshneil Ferguson

Christopher Kasper

Frank VandeVeegaete

Justin T. Weiksner



MORAVIAN
UNIVERSITY