

# Moravian College Christmas Vespers

ROBERT W. WOOSLEY, JR., *Liturgist*  
MORAVIAN COLLEGE CHOIR, RICHARD SCHANTZ, *Conductor*  
MONICA SCHANTZ, *Organist*

## THE PRELUDE

Sonata No. 22 *Johann Pezel 1639-1694*  
Two Ayres for Cornetts and Sagbuts *John Adson c. 1620*  
Two Pieces *Anthony Holborne -1602*  
Sonata *Anon., c. 1684*

### PENNSYLVANIA BRASS QUINTET

*trumpets*  
Donald Spieth, Moravian College  
Marion Egge, Moravian College  
*French horn*  
William Alexander, Lehigh University

*trombone*  
Henry Schmidt, Muhlenberg College  
*tuba*  
Ronald Demkee, Freedom High School

Toccat: How Bright Appears the Morning Star *Joseph Ahrens*

## Pastorale

Sanctus (Mass in E flat) *Carl Maria von Weber 1786-1826*

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

Holy, holy, holy art thou, Lord God of Hosts. Thy glory fills all heaven and earth. Hosanna in high heaven!

Sing, O heaven, and be joyful, O earth, for the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it!

*Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for He hath visited and redeemed His people. The dayspring from on high hath visited us, to give light to them that sit in darkness, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.*

God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have eternal life.

*Thanks be to God for his unspeakable gift!*

In him was life; and the life was the light of men. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

*But as many as received him, to them gave he the right to become children of God.*

## THE CONGREGATION

St. Theodulph

Paul Gerhardt, 1653

Oh, how shall I receive Thee,  
How greet Thee, Lord, aright?  
All nations long to see Thee,  
My hope, my heart's delight!  
O kindle, Lord, most holy,  
Thy lamp within my breast,  
To do in spirit lowly  
All that may please Thee best.

Love caused Thy incarnation,  
Love brought Thee down to me;  
Thy thirst for my salvation  
Procured my liberty;  
O love beyond all telling,  
That led Thee to embrace,  
In love all love excelling,  
Our lost and fallen race!

Central Moravian Church  
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

December 6, 1969, 7:00 p.m.  
December 7, 1969, 4:30 and 8:00 p.m.  
December 8, 1969, 8:00 p.m.

THE CHOIR

Benedictus (Mass in e minor)

Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini. Osanna in excelsis.  
Blessed is He who is coming in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in high heaven!

Anton Bruckner 1824-1896

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON—Isaiah 9:2-7

Allan R. Purcell, first service  
Albert H. Frank, second service  
Paul R. Bauer, third service  
John Hedgecock, fourth service

THE NEW TESTAMENT LESSON—Luke 2:1-14

Theodore J. Kensil, first service  
Brian L. Dale, second service  
Gary D. Bailey, third service  
Albert O. Bittle, fourth service

THE PRAYER

Marlyn Rader, first service  
Eric Rhodin, second service  
Mary Faith Carson, third service  
Donald K. Kirts, fourth service

THE CONGREGATION

Jesu, rufe mich

Adam Drese, 1698

Jesus, call Thou me, from the world to Thee; Favored Bethlehem! honored is that name;  
Speed me ever, stay me never. Thence came Jesus to release us;  
Jesus call Thou me. Favored Bethlehem!

Not Jerusalem—lowly Bethlehem Wondrous Child divine! warm this heart of mine;  
'Twas that gave us Christ to save us; Keep it burning, for Thee yearning,  
Not Jerusalem. Wondrous Child divine!

THE CHOIR

Nativity Morn

John La Montaine 1920-

This is the month and this the happy morn, wherein the Son of Heaven's eternal King, of wedded maid and virgin mother born, our great redemption from above did bring, for so the holy sages once did sing, that he our deadly forfeit should release, and with his Father work us a perpetual peace. Ring out ye crystal spheres! Once bless our human ears, if ye have power to touch our senses so, and let your silver chime move in melodious time, and let the bass of Heaven's deep organ blow, and with your ninefold harmony make up full consort to the angelic symphony. Ring out, ring out, ring out, ring out!  
(John Milton)

Alleluia

Thomas Weelkes c. 1575-1623

Alleluia! Glory to God in highest heaven. Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power be unto the Lord our God and to the Son forevermore. Alleluia!

Infant Lowly

traditional Polish, setting by Edmund Rubbra

Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall, oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the Babe is Lord of all. Swift are winging angels singing, nowells ringing, tidings bringing, Christ the Babe is Lord of all. Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a Gospel true. Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow, Christ the Babe was born for you!

Salten y Ballen

traditional Catalan, setting by Thomas Dunn

Salten y ballen els pastorells dones, salten y ballen lanit de Nadal. Feuli lo lliit a la Verge Maria, feuli lo lliit que la Verge ha parit. Feuli nounou al ninet que no plori, feuli nounou al ninet que no dorm. Que li darem al fillet de Maria? Que li darem al hermós Jesuset? Panses y figues ye nous y olives, panses y figues y lo cor ben net.

Leaping and dancing, come shepherds and maidens, leaping and dancing for 'tis Christmas eve. Make a soft bed for the sweet Virgin Mary, make a soft bed for the sweet Virgin maid. Sing lullaby to the Babe lest he waken, sing lullaby to the Babe lest he cry. What shall we give to the Baby of Mary? What shall we give to Lord Jesus, her Child? Bunches of grapes, figs and walnuts and olives, bunches of grapes, figs, and give a pure heart.

Three Kings

Peter Cornelius 1824-1874

SOLO: Three kings have journeyed from the eastern land, a star hath led them to Jordan's strand, and in Judea inquire the three, where the newborn infant king may be? With gold and myrrh and incense sweet, they bring the holy child an offering meet. And brightly shineth the guiding star; unto the manger the kings repair, with rapture on the boy they gaze, and bow before him in joy and praise. O child of man! hold thee firm and true; the kings come hither, O come thou too! The star of mercy, the star of love shall point thee the pathway to Heaven above, and fail thee gold and incense sweet, lay thou thy heart at the Savior's feet! Bring him thy heart!

CHOR: How bright appears the morning star, with mercy beaming from afar; the host of heaven rejoices; Oh righteous branch, O Jesse's rod! Thou son of man and Son of God! We too will lift our voices; Jesus, grant us, through thy merit, to inherit Thy salvation. Lord, on Thee our hope abiding.  
(Philip Nicolai)

Beverly Miller, alto

O Savior, Throw the Heavens Wide

Johannes Brahms 1833-1897

I. O Savior, throw the heavens wide; rise up, go forth unto our side. Break down the gates and let us in; break down what once was lock and pin.

II. As gentle dew from heaven fall; descend O Lord, and cover all. Ye rainclouds, break and torrents bring; let Israel receive his king.

III. O Earth, bring forth; in green attire impart thy worth. O Earth, bring forth one blossom rare, a Savior from the meadow fair.

IV. Here suffer we a heavy doom: before us stands the cheerless tomb. Ah, come, lead us with mighty hand from exile to Thy blessed land.

V. So let us all be thanking Thee. For Thou hast ever set us free. So let us praise Thee and adore from this time on and for evermore. Amen.  
(Anon., 1631)

On This Day Earth Shall Ring

Gustav Holst 1874-1931

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. 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. 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. 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.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Herman E. Collier Jr.

THE CONGREGATION

F. F. Hagen, Moravian College, Member of Class of 1835, Composed 1836

Johann Scheffler, 1657

Morning Star, O cheering sight!  
Ere Thou cam'st how dark earth's night!  
Jesus mine, in me shine;  
Fill my heart with light divine.

Thy glad beams, thou Morning Star,  
Cheer the nations near and far;  
Thee we own, Lord alone,  
Man's great Saviour, God's dear Son.

Morning Star, Thy glory bright  
Far excels the sun's clear light:  
Jesus be, constantly,  
More than thousand suns to me.

Morning Star, my soul's true Light,  
Tarry not, dispel my night;  
Jesus mine, in me shine;  
Fill my heart with light divine.

Robert T. Burcaw Jr. and Charles Russell, soloists

The Moravian candle service originated in Marienborn, Germany, on Christmas Eve, 1747, when lighted tapers with red trimming were distributed at a children's service under the supervision of Bishop Johannes von Watterville. Bethlehem's first candle service took place in 1756. Originally only the children received candles; today children and adults participate together in one of the most universally beloved Moravian traditions.

Vom Himmel hoch

St. Ambrose, c. 380

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

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

Incarnate God, exert Thy power;  
Arise, Thou glorious Conqueror;  
Subdue sin, death, and every foe.  
Erect Thy kingdom here below.

Irby

Cecil Frances Alexander, 1848

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.

And, through all His wondrous childhood  
He would honor and obey,  
Love and watch the lowly maiden  
In whose gentle arms He lay;  
Christian children all must be  
Mild, obedient, good as He.

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 Saviour Holy.

For He is our childhood's pattern,  
Day by day like us He grew;  
He was little, weak, and helpless,  
Tears and smiles like us He knew:  
And He feeleth for our sadness,  
And He shareth in our gladness.

Not in that poor lowly stable,  
With the oxen standing by,  
We shall see Him; but in heaven,  
Set at God's right hand on high;  
When like stars His children crowned  
All in white shall wait around.

Regent Square

James Montgomery, 1815

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:

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 new-born King.

Shepherds, in the field abiding,  
Watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with man is now residing,  
Yonder shines the infant light:

All creation, join in praising  
God the Father, Spirit, Son,  
Evermore your voices raising  
To the endless Three in One:

Therefore rejoice in God our Saviour, for he who is mighty has done great things for us, and holy is his name.

*Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word. For mine eyes have seen thy salvation which thou hast prepared in the presence of all peoples.*

## THE BENEDICTION

## THE POSTLUDE

Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying

Joseph Ahrens