

Moravian College Christmas Vespers

Central Moravian Church

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

December 6, 7, 12, 13, 1975, 8:00 p.m. December 7, 14, 1975, 4:30 p.m.

ROBERT W. WOOSLEY, JR., Chaplain of the College, *Liturgist*
(*At the December 13th service, JAMES J. HELLER, Vice President*
and Dean of the College, will serve as Liturgist.)

Moravian College Choir, RICHARD SCHANTZ, *Conductor*

MONICA SCHANTZ, *Organ*

The celebration of Christ's birth is a high point of the Christian church year. The first settlers singing "Not Jerusalem—Lowly Bethlehem" on Christmas Eve, 1741, in the first log house, inspired the name Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. This has given added meaning to the many ways in which the season has since been observed in our community.

Moravian students have celebrated Christmas with special services and observances since the days of the Seminary for Women in 1742. Originally a service for students and faculty only, the Vesper program has grown with the College. Students not only participate as Choir members and instrumentalists, candle-servers, speakers, and ushers, but for the past two years have provided the beeswax candles as well. The 6,000 tapers which will illumine the sanctuary this year were hand-poured and trimmed by members of the students' service organizations, Alpha Phi Omega and Gamma Sigma Sigma.

THE PRELUDE

Charles W. Ore

Four Chorale Preludes

Savior of the Nations, Come
To Shepherds as They Watched by Night
Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones
All Glory Be to God on High.

Beverly Wilkinson, Clifton, N.J., sophomore, *oboe*
Mark Jonkman, Bethlehem, Pa., sophomore, *trumpet*

Samuel Barber

Silent Night from Die Natali, Op. 37

Prayer

O Thou who art unchangeable, whom nothing changes, may we find our rest and remain at rest in Thee unchanging. Thou art moved and moved in infinite love by all things: the need of a sparrow, even this moves Thee; and what we scarcely see, a human sigh, this moves Thee, O infinite Love! Father in Heaven! Hold not our sins up against us but hold us up against our sins, so that the thought of Thee should not remind us of what we have committed, but of what Thou didst forgive; not how we went a-stray, but how Thou didst save us! (Soren Kierkegaard)

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!