

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!

THE CHOIR

Johann Friedrich Peter (1746-1813)

Singet, ihr Himmel, der Heiland ist da!
Frohlokkt auf Erden. Jauchzet, ihr Sün-
der! Gott liegt im Kripplein in Menschen
Geberden, mit Ihm ist Heil, mit Ihm ist
Seligkeit da! Preist Ihn, Erlöste, mit
fröhlichem Schalle! Gott, unser Bluts-
freund und Bruder ist da! Singt mit den
Engeln, singet Ihm alle, Ehre sei Dir,
Preis und Hallelujah!

Nancy Hinnerschietz, Bethlehem, Pa., senior, Mr. Jonkman, trumpets

Singet, Ihr Himmel

Sing, o ye heavens! Your Saviour is here!
Rejoice all ye nations! Shout ye with
gladness! God lies in a manger, in flesh
now appearing. In Him is joy, in Him is
eternal life. Praise Him, ye Christians,
with jubilant singing. God, our Redeemer,
our Saviour, is here! Sing with the angels,
sing alleluia! Glory be to Thee! Praise
and Hallelujah!

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON—Isaiah 9:2-7 *Read by students of the Theological Seminary*

Stuart Zimmerman	Winston-Salem, N.C.	First Service
Rebecca Bean	Minneapolis, Minn.	Second Service
Terry Folk	Bethlehem, Pa.	Third Service
Blair Couch	Bethlehem, Pa.	Fourth Service
G. Thomas Shelton	Winston-Salem, N.C.	Fifth Service
Carol Foltz	Winston-Salem, N.C.	Sixth Service

THE NEW TESTAMENT LESSON—Luke 2:1-14 *Read by students of the College*

Kathy Thompson, senior	Oakland, N.J.	First Service
Gayla Bremner, junior	Willingboro, N.J.	Second Service
Ralph Hunsicker, senior	Allentown, Pa.	Third Service
Nancy Snyder, sophomore	Camp Hill, Pa.	Fourth Service
Craig Troutman, senior	Kernersville, N.C.	Fifth Service
Dan Nigito, sophomore	Edison, N.J.	Sixth Service

THE PRAYER *Offered by members of the Faculty*

G. Clarke Chapman	Associate Professor of Religion	First Service
Christopher Russell	Assistant Professor of Philosophy	Second Service
Henry Williams	Librarian of the College	Third Service
Robert Brooks, Jr.	Vice President for Development	Fourth Service
Dawn Ketterman	Instructor of Physical Education	Fifth Service
Howard Cox	Professor of Biblical Theology	Sixth Service

THE CONGREGATION

Jesu, rufe mich

Jesus, call Thou me, from the world to Thee;
Speed me ever, stay me never.
Jesus call Thou me.

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

Favored Bethlehem! honored is that name;
Thence came Jesus to release us;
Favored Bethlehem!
Wondrous Child divine! warm this heart of mine;
Keep it burning, for Thee yearning,
Wondrous Child divine!

Adam Drese, 1698

THE CHOIR

John LaMontaine

This is the month and this the happy morn, where-in 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 nine-fold harmony make up full consort to the angelic symphony. Ring out! (John Milton)

William Billings (1746-1800)

Wake ev'ry breath and ev'ry string
To bless the great redeemer king;
His name thro' ev'ry clime ador'd

Wake Ev'ry Breath and Ev'ry String
Let joy and gratitude and love—
Thro' all the notes of music rove;
And Jesus sound on ev'ry chord.

Conrad Beissel (1690-1768)

Up, thou pure and virgin band. Night is quickly fleeting. Go in pomp and splendor grand, to our Lamb
give greeting. So canst thou enter now to thy rest with gladness. Therefore banish sadness. Cry,
the bridegroom is at hand, wake. Come out to meet him. To attend the feast now planned, hasten to
entreat him. Make all haste without waste, wedding guests, awaken. Would you be forsaken? The
bride is awakened by the shouting of the watchman; she is all prepared in her finest wedding
clothes; she goeth forth to meet the bridegroom now. She cries, He comes, praises be to Him who
comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Up, Thou Pure And Virgin Band

Appalachian Carol

As Joseph was a-walking, he heard an angel sing, this night there shall be born our gracious heavenly
King. He neither shall be born in housen nor in hall, nor in the place of Paradise but in an oxen
stall. He neither shall be clothed in purple, nor in pall; but all in fair white linen, as wear sweet
babies all. He neither shall be bedded in silver nor in gold, but in a wooden cradle that rocks out in
the cold. As Joseph was a-walking, thus did the angel sing, and Mary's Child at midnight was born
to be our King.

Melvin Carroll, Coatesville, Pa., junior, *tenor*
Cathy Spallitta, Bethlehem, Pa., junior, or Jane Rinehart, Oldwick, N.J., junior, *soprano*

Daniel Pinkham

Sweet music, sweeter far than any song is sweet. Sweet music heavenly rare, mine ears doth greet.
you gentle flocks, whose fleeces pearled with dew, resemble heaven, whom golden drops make bright:
listen now, O not to you our pipes make sport to shorten weary night, but voices most divine, make
blissful harmony: voices that seem to shine, for what else clears the sky? Tunes can we hear, but not
the singers see. The tunes divine, and so the singers be. Lo how the firmament within an azure fold:
the flock of stars hath pent, that we might them behold. Yet from their beams proceedeth not this
light, nor can their crystals such reflection give; what then doth make the element so bright? The
heavens are come down upon earth to live. But harken to the song, glory to glory's King; and peace
all men among, these choristers do sing. Angels they are, as also shepherds we, whom in our fear we
do admire to see, let not amazement blind your souls (said he) annoy; to you and all mankind, my
message bringeth joy. For lo the world's great Shepherd now is born a blessed babe, an infant full
of power; after long night uprisen is the morn, renouncing Bethlehem in the Saviour. Sprung is the
perfect day, by prophets seen afar. Sprung is the mirthful May, which winter cannot mar. In David's
city doth this Sun appear, clouded in flesh, yet shepherds sit we here. (from *England's Helicon*, 1600)

Electronic Tape
Kathleen Martin, Bethlehem, Pa., sophomore, *soprano*

Richard Dirksen

Unfold thy face, unmaske thy ray, shine forth, bright sun, double the day, let no malignant misty
fume, nor foggy vapor once presume to interpose thy perfect sight this day, which makes us love
thy light forever better, that we could that blessed object once behold, which is both the circumference
and center of all excellence: or rather neither, but a treasure unconfined without measure, whose
center and circumference including all pre-eminence, excluding nothing but defect, and infinite in
each respect, is equally both here and there, and now and then and everywhere, and always, one,
himself, the same, a being far above a name. Draw near then and freely pour forth all thy light
into that hour which was crowned with his birth, and made heaven envy earth. Let not his birthday
clouded be, by whom thou shinest, and we see. (Christopher Harvey 1597-1663)

Catherine Staples, Howell, N.J., junior, *flute*

Randall Thompson

Alleluia. Amen.

Gustav Holst (1874-1934)

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.

SOLO AND CHOIR

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

Johann Scheffler, 1657

Hagen's music was set and sung with traditional German verses until the last quarter of the nine-
teenth century when the present translation came into use.

Solo: Morgenstern auf finstre Nacht Der die Welt voll Freude macht	Morning Star, O cheering sight! Ere Thou cam'st how dark earth's night!
Choir: Morgenstern auf finstre Nacht Der die Welt voll Freude macht	
Solo: Jesulein	Jesus mine, in me shine;
Choir: Komm, herein	Fill my heart with light divine.
Solo: Komm, herein	
Choir: Jesulein Leucht in meines Herzens Schrein.	
Solo: Deines Glanzes Herrlichkeit Übertrifft die Sonne weit	Morning Star, Thy glory bright Far excels the sun's clear light:
Choir: Deines Glanzes Herrlichkeit Übertrifft die Sonne weit	
Solo: Du allein	Jesus be, constantly,
Choir: Jesulein	More than thousand suns to me.
Solo: Jesulein	
Choir: Du allein bist was tausend Sonnen sein.	

As Joseph Was A-Walking

The Nativity

Alleluia

On this day earth shall ring

THE CONGREGATION

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

Marlene Brubaker, *soloist*

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 Watteville. 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.

Divinum Mysterium

Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348-413

Of the Father's love begotten Ere 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.

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.

Christ, to Thee, with God the Father, And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving And unwearied praises be:
Honor, glory, and dominion, And eternal victory,
Evermore and evermore.

In Dulci Jubilo

Medieval Latin carol, John Mason Neale, tr., 1853

Good Christian men, 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!

Good Christian men, 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 man is blessed evermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian men, 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!

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

Charles W. Ore

Mr. Jonkman, *trumpet*

All Glory Be to God Alone

NOTES

In his poem *The Gift Outright*, Robert Frost remarked that "the land was ours before we were the land's./ She was our land more than a hundred years./ Before we were her people." From the time of the Pilgrims our people have liked music and made it a part of their lives. They have played and sung and fashioned their own songs for all occasions. There were, however, few opportunities in early America for the training of individual talents and the development of art music. With the arrival of professional musicians who instituted centers of musical culture our role as a province of European music was established. Meanwhile the untutored creator, finding good stuff about him, carried on a rapidly developing music speech which was a blend of European folk music, African rhythm, and regional color.

There has been a considerable increase of interest in our musical past and present and a decrease of the defensiveness about our country's music versus that of Europe, that prevented us for so long from enjoying our musical selves.

All the choral and organ music of this service (with the exception of the traditional recession composed by an Englishman) is by persons who were born in the United States or came to America and lived and worked here for an extended time. In sacred music, as in other phases of American church life, the keyword has been diversity. Together with the hymns this body of music, in no sense a complete survey, is in what is generally regarded the mainstream of musical tradition. A few of the works follow less traveled routes. Notes on several of the composers follow.

Samuel Barber was born in West Chester, Pennsylvania in 1910, and ranks with Copland and Gershwin as one of the most frequently performed American composers.

Johann Friedrich Peter was probably the most gifted of the Moravian composers. An American music historian regards him as a sensitive and highly expressive minor master of the early classic style. Peter was the first organist of this church in a community that was unsurpassed as the richest and most sophisticated musical culture in Colonial America.

William Billings has captured the imagination of American music historians by venture of his colorful personality, his apertleship of artistic freedom and individuality. He symbolizes the cheerful, unselfconscious pride, the honest journeyman excellence of our nation's first composers.

Conrad Beissel was founder, singing teacher, and composer in the Ephrata (Pennsylvania) Cloister. Writer of over 1000 hymns and anthems he compelled the singers to live on a rigid diet conducive to obtaining the "divine virtue" necessary to "make the spirit teachable, the voice flexible and clear."

Daniel Pinkham was born in Massachusetts in 1923. In addition to organ, harpsichord concertizing, he teaches at the New England Conservatory and is music director of King's Chapel, Boston.

Richard Dirksen was a pupil of Leo Sowerby and is organist of Washington's National Cathedral.

December 24—Our Christmas festivities were attended by the physicians and surgeons attached to the hospital, and by the convalescent officers.

During this month of December, 1777, large numbers of sick were brought to Bethlehem from the Jerseys, generally in open wagons, often amid snow and beating rain,—pitiable objects, with clothing insufficient to shelter their fevered limbs from the piercing cold. The hospital list daily increased, and between Christmas and New Year upwards of seven hundred invalids were crowded in the Brethren's House alone.

—*The Students' Diary*, 1777

December 24 and 25—Today we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. The children would not be at home for ever so much: they only wished their parents could share their joy.

—*The Students' Diary*, 1788

December 24—In the evening we attended chapel. Towards the close, all children received burning wax tapers, and the gallery was illuminated with fifty candles, in commemoration of its being fifty years since Christmas was first celebrated at Bethlehem in the first house.

—*The Students' Diary*, 1791

. . . an illuminated star suspended by an invisible wire, over the pulpit, at the singing of . . . "Behold a great, a heavenly light." Near the close hundreds of small lighted candles are brought in on neat trays.

—*The Illustrated Christian Weekly*, 1875

. . . The stage coaches still carried passenger traffic over the old King's highways. The arrival of the Christmas stage in Bethlehem was a joyful event. The horn was sounded by the coachman as he reached the summit of the Lehigh Mountain . . . the notes of that horn called to listening young people . . . whose mothers or fathers were arriving to share the school Christmas celebration.

—*The Alumnae Bulletin*, 1927

A candle in every window, stars in the halls . . . purple and gold predominating, group singing, a tinge of regret as we realize that this is our last Christmas at Moravian . . . our beautiful Candle-light Service.

—*The Benigna*, 1943

We are introduced to three customs at Moravian College—the Advent star, which hangs in our chapel, the Christmas "putz," and the traditional candle service.

—*The Comenian*, 1949

Christmas is a warm fire . . . Christmas is placing an angel on top of your tree . . . Christmas is carolers singing . . . Christmas is believing in Santa Claus . . . Christmas is someone singing "Morning Star" . . . Christmas is old friends . . . Christmas is Luke 2:1-14 . . . Christmas is love.

—*The Comenian*, 1968

Christmas is a very special season for all of us. . . . Our very institutional existence is the result of outreach from the past, of the Church's commitment to provide educational opportunity . . . may the outreach of our lives touch others so as to bring. . . respect, decency, good will and peace for all men.

—*The President's Message*, 1971

God of all grace and all truth and all beauty, worthy of a nobler praise than our lips can ever express and a greater love than we can give or even understand . . . we thank thee for the beauty which surrounds us—for the bright stars and candles which strangely warm us . . . for the glorious music of this season which moves us to the depth of our being . . . for the almost constant expression of wonder and excitement on the faces of little children . . . for our families and friends . . . most of all, for thy Son Jesus Christ who came bearing the truth that there is no more profound love than that which thou hast for us . . . Spare us, in thy mercy, from our false and little ideas about these special days. Grant us the heavenside view of Christmas . . . Make us sensitive to all those persons who are troubled, lonely, or disappointed—sympathetic with those who are frustrated or ill. Grant that we may be gentle and patient and understanding . . . Father, who didst come to Bethlehem in Jesus Christ to be the light of the world, be a light for the way thou wouldst have us walk . . . that we may keep Christmas for the sake of Christ and his kingdom.

—*Vesper prayer*, 1974

She requested to have a burning taper given into her hand . . . The memories of former days crowded to her mind. She again heard the voices of those who had been the companions of her youth at the school.

—*The Students' Diary*, 1790