

Moravian College Christmas Vespers

ROBERT W. WOOSLEY, JR., *Liturgist*

Moravian College Choir, RICHARD SCHANTZ, *Conductor*

MONICA SCHANTZ, *Organ*

THE PRELUDE

Gordon Jacob (b. 1895)

Interlude

Orlando di Lasso (1530-94)

Providebam Dominum

Volckmar Leisring (1588-1637)

Let All The Nations Praise The Lord

Moravian College Brass Choir

Lee Hoiby (b. 1926)

A Hymn of the Nativity

Come we shepherds who have seen Day's king deposed
by night's queen. Come lift we up our lofty song,
to wake the sun that sleeps too long. O Thou born
King of loves, of lights, of joys! Look up, sweet
Babe, look up and see for love of Thee thus far,
thus far from home the East is come to seek herself
in Thy sweet eyes.

(Richard Crashaw, 1612-1649)

Nannette Mason, *soprano*

Jeffrey Kneebone, *baritone*

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.

Central Moravian Church

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

December 1, 2, 8, 9, 10, 1978, 8:00 p.m.

December 10, 1978, 4:30 p.m.

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

Ottorino Respighi (1879-1936)

Laud to the Nativity (1930)

Angel Fear not, ye shepherds abiding yonder on the hillsides, ye shepherds of Judea; raise your eyes and behold me. Joy to mankind, I am the messenger holy. Born in the city of David to a virgin is the Savior, the Anointed, Christ Jesus, whom God appointed to come from Heaven that ye might be saved.

Choir And this child, pure and holy, sent by the Lord against evil to battle, lies in a stable lowly within a manger, among the sheep and the cattle. To shield Him from the breezes, Mary in bands of linen gently bound Him; His blanket the hay around Him. Thus art Thou come down to earth, blessed Jesus. To save the world from evil Thou cam'st in pity; it was not Thy duty, O child of heavenly beauty. Laud we Thy name, extol Thee, Lord of all majesty, Father everlasting.

Angel and Choir Glory be unto God in Heaven. Peace on earth, good will toward all men of good will.

Mary Upon me God bestowed His favor, and I shall cease to laud and praise Him never. I bore to men a Savior who shall be King of earth and Heaven forever. I bow in humble devotion over the child who has come to save us from error. No rose was ever fairer; his beauty fills my soul with pure emotion, my thoughts I cannot capture. My spirit lifts in rapture; it soars ever higher!

Angel For born is the promised Messiah!

Choir Amen!

(Jacopone da Todi)

Patricia Hughes, *soprano*
Martha Weaver, *mezzo-soprano*

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

First vesper-Sherwin Alleyne	Third vesper-Gary Kinkel	Fifth vesper-Kay Ward
Second vesper-Daniel Conrad	Fourth vesper-Larry Koslovsky	Sixth vesper-Thespall Kundan

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

First vesper-Joy Wenrich	Third vesper-Richard Bruckart	Fifth vesper-Becky Parker
Second vesper-Kenneth Rampolla	Fourth vesper-Philip Haines	Sixth vesper-Daniel McCabe

THE PRAYER *Offered by members of the Faculty and Administration*

First vesper-David Schattschneider	Third vesper-Jean Pearson	Fifth vesper-Robert Burcaw
Second vesper-Tom Tenges	Fourth vesper-Beverly Ludwick	Sixth vesper-Janet Loengard

THE CONGREGATION

Jesu, rufe mich

Adam Drese, 1698

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

Favored Bethlehem! honored is that name;
Thence came Jesus to release us;
Favored Bethlehem!

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

Wondrous Child divine! warm this heart of mine;
Keep it burning, for Thee yearning,
Wondrous Child divine!

THE CHOIR

Moosburger Graduale (1360)

De Nativitate

Nove geniture cedit ius nature. Contra carnis iura parit virgo pura. Novo quodam iure premitur natura.
Nato Christo.

Audi non auditum serva non attritum. Virgineum florem mater preter morem. Irvicansque ritum retinet pudorem.

Nato Christo.

Ortus veri dei quo respirant rei. Miseros eduxit gracia reduxit. Dies nostre spei dies hec illuxit.
Nato Christo.

Totum reseratur quicquid tegebatur. Clausum sub figura prodeunt obscura. Iamque indicatur lutere lectura.

Nato Christo.

Nature yields to a new birth. Contrary to the laws of the flesh, a pure virgin gives birth. Nature is subdued by a new order.

Christ is born.

Hear what is not heard: Pay heed to virginity's flower which has not withered. A mother retains her purity beyond the laws of nature.

Christ is born.

The Son of the true God raises up the lowly and brings them back into the grace which gives new life to sinners. He illumines this day; the day we have hoped for.

Christ is born.

Whatever was hidden in symbol is now uncovered. Whatever was obscure is now revealed. Thus Scripture is fulfilled.

Christ is born.

Soloists: Andrew Meckstroth, Charles Mannino, Scott Miller, Jonathan Lash, John Burke

Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901)

Ave Maria

Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum,
benedicta tu in mulieribus, et benedictus
fructus ventris tui, Jesus.
Sancta Maria, mater Dei, ora pro nobis
peccatoribus nunc et in hora mortis nostrae. Amen.

Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee;
Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the
fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O holy Mary, Mother of
God, pray for us sinners now and in the hour of our death. Amen.

David Meckstroth (b. 1957, class of 1979)

Hodie Christus Natus Est

Hodie Christus natus est, Hodie Salvator apparuit, alleluia.
Hodie in terra canunt angeli laetantur archangeli, alleluia.
Hodie exultant justi, dicentes: Gloria in excelsis Deo, et
in terra pax, hominibus bonae voluntatis, alleluia.

On this day Christ was born; on this day the Savior appeared,
alleluia. On this day the Angels sing on Earth, and the
Archangels rejoice, alleluia. On this day the just exult
and speak: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace
to men of good will, alleluia.

Francis Poulenc (1899-1963)

Mass in G (1939)

Sanctus

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus Dominus Deus Sabaoth
Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua. Hosanna in excelsis.
Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Sabaoth,
Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

Benedictus

Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini. Hosanna
in excelsis.
Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Joaquín Nin-Culmell (b. 1908)

El Niño Perdido

Madre a la puerta hay un niño mas hermoso que el sol bello, y dice que tiene frío, el pobrecito esta en cuero. Anda dile que entre y se calentara porque en este pueblo ya no hay caridad. No.

Entra el niño y se calienta y después de calentado, le pregunta la patrona de qué patria o qué reinado. El Niño responde: "Yo soy de Belén. Mi Padre del cielo lo soy Yo también." Si. (Traditional Cuban song)

O mother, a child begs to enter, far more radiant than the sunlight. He says he's cold and he's hungry; poor child, he shivers there naked. Go, tell him to enter; in here it is warm, no kindness he'll find in the rest of the town, no.

We open the door and he enters, and we give him food and shelter. We ask him when he has eaten, from where he comes, from what kingdom. "I'm coming from Bethlehem," answers the Child, "My father's from heaven, from heaven am I." Yes.

John Redford (d. 1547)

Rejoice in the Lord

Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, rejoice.
Let your moderation be known unto all men. The
Lord is e'en at hand. Be careful for nothing; but in all
prayer and supplication let your petitions be
manifest unto God with giving of thanks. And the
peace of God, which passeth all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesu.

(Philippians IV, 4-7)

Gustav Holst (1874-1934)

On this day earth shall ring

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.

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.

THE CONGREGATION AND CHOIR

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.

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.

THE CONGREGATION

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

Thy glad beams, thou Morning Star,
Cheer the nations near and far;
Thee we own, Lord alone,
Man's great Savior, God's dear Son.
Morning Star, my soul's true Light,
Tarry not, dispel my night;
Jesus mine, in me shine;
Fill my heart with light divine.

Soloist: Britt Hilander or Maranda Loengard

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.

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 Savior 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.

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 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 Savior, 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

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light

Moravian College Choir

Eugene Banko	Marc Cohen	Mark Johnson	David Meckstroth	Dominique Raso
Robert Barrall	Charlene Coleman	Mary Alice Keenan	Scott Miller	Steven Roll
Allen Benner	William Delp	James Kelly	Shari Miller	Gayle Scheetz
Susan Bishop	Chris Epinger	Jeffrey Kneebone	Susan Moreau	Vanessa Schukis
Suzanne Bonnell	Bernard Ezaki	Mary Elen Kollman	Lisa Moyer	Laurie Shears
Nancy Booth	William Feigley	Christina Konapeyus	Ann Nothstine	Robin Sidoti
Diane Boucher	Michael Fister	Jonathan Lash	Robert Nowicki	Nadine Snyder
Louise Bowyer	Samuel Gray	Charles Mannino	Judith Parkerton	Robert Strauss
Kathleen Boyer	Deborah Harke	Angelo Maraldo	Alice Peters	Kathleen Swell
Maryanne Brady	Suzanne Hartman	Nannette Mason	Karen Peters	Deborah Tisdale
John Burke	Patricia Hughes	Deborah McGee	Yvonne Peterson	Martha Weaver
Carole Burkhardt	Paul Iacovacci	Andrew Meckstroth	Daune Quain	David Ziegler
Julie Carr				

Moravian College Brass Choir

ROBERT HALL, conductor

Susan Bergey	Justin Hull
Eileen Bleiler	Thomas McCloskey
Michael Fister	Andrew Meckstroth
Mitchell Freed	David Meckstroth
Samuel Gray	Terry Smith

Moravian has celebrated Christmas with special observances since the Seminary for Girls was founded in 1742. Originally a service for students and faculty, Vespers has grown with the College. Today, more than 6,000 people attend Vespers, and students and faculty participate in a variety of ways. For the past five years, students have made the beeswax candles. The tapers which will illumine the sanctuary were hand-poured and trimmed by members of Gamma Sigma Sigma, the service sorority, and Alpha Phi Omega, service fraternity.