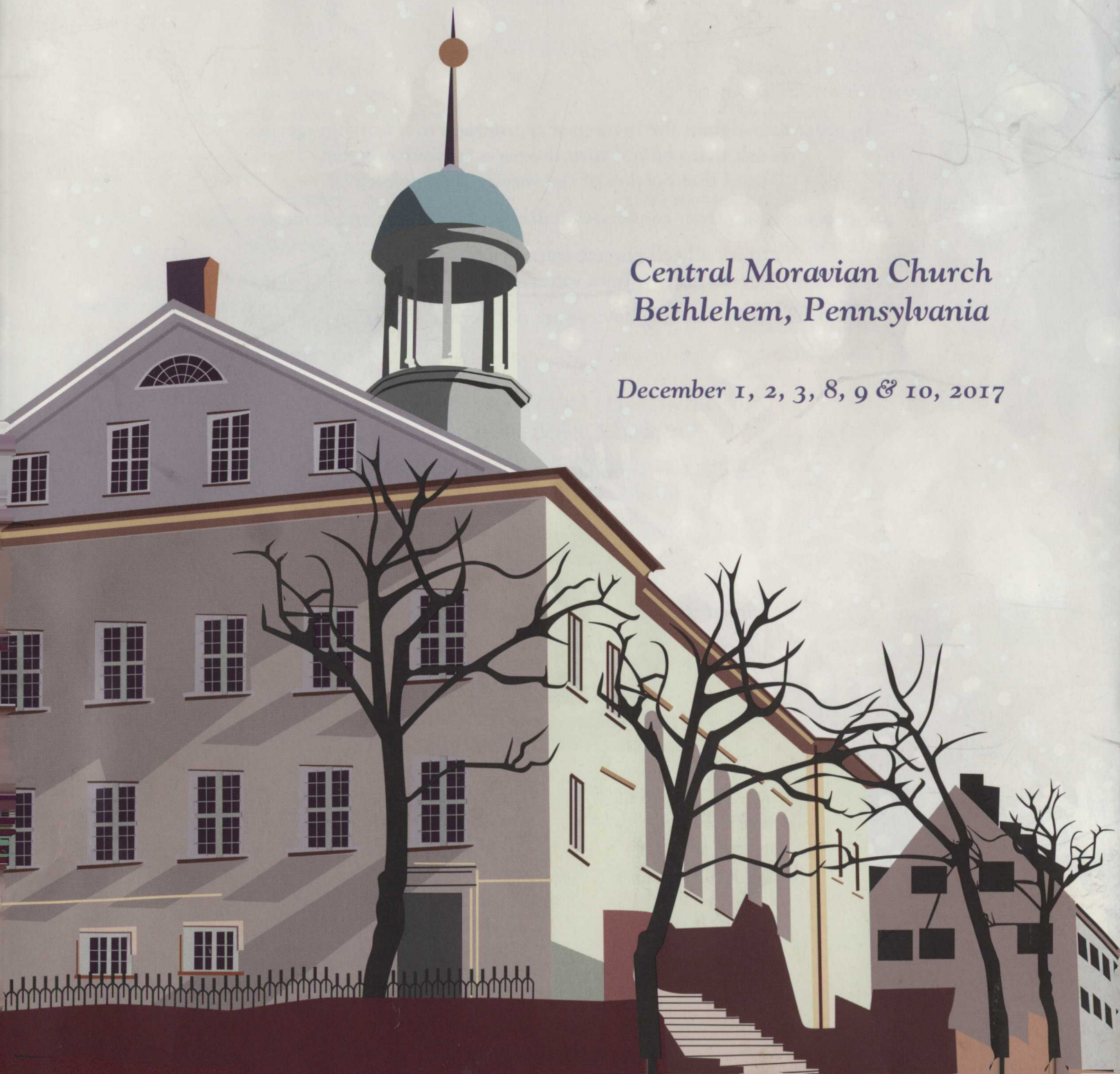


MORAVIAN COLLEGE

Christmas Vespers

*Central Moravian Church
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania*

December 1, 2, 3, 8, 9 & 10, 2017



In memory of Andrew Sanz-Soto '15
(May 5, 1993–November 6, 2016)

His illustration graces the cover of this program.

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 College is proud to be an All-Steinway School.



Moravian College Christmas Vespers

PRESIDING

Jennika M. Borger '98, '01
CHAPLAIN
MORAVIAN COLLEGE

LITURGISTS

Frank L. Crouch
VICE PRESIDENT & DEAN
MORAVIAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
December 1

Bryon L. Grigsby '90
PRESIDENT
MORAVIAN COLLEGE & MORAVIAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
December 2

Nicole L. Loyd
VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS & DEAN OF STUDENTS
MORAVIAN COLLEGE
December 3

Cynthia K. Kosso
PROVOST & DEAN OF THE FACULTY
MORAVIAN COLLEGE
December 8

Gary A. Carney
VICE PRESIDENT FOR INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT
MORAVIAN COLLEGE
December 9

Mark F. Reed
VICE PRESIDENT FOR FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION
MORAVIAN COLLEGE
December 10

MORAVIAN COLLEGE CHOIR

Paula Ring Zerkle, Conductor

MORAVIAN COLLEGE WOMEN'S CHORUS

Eduardo Azzati, Conductor

Stephen Williams, Organ

HEAD SACRISTANS

Angela M. Kilburg · Corinne E. Kauermann

HEAD USHER

Shelby Maigis

ASSISTANT HEAD SACRISTAN AND ASSISTANT HEAD USHER

Ross E. Traphagen · Adriana Facchiano

CORNER CAPTAINS

Megan M. Bauman
Zachary Benjamin
Jake A. Carlson
Rebecca A. Fulton
Brandon K. Harkins
Mollie J. Miller

Rachel L. Myers
Haley A. Rogers
Jonathan Mel Rupell
Jessica L. Wall
Marne E. Wigfield

PRELUDE

Psalm 100 René Clausen (b. 1953)
Michelle Whelan, flute · Nikki Weaver (Dec. 1, 2, 3, 10)/Sarah Baer (Dec. 8 & 9), oboe
Wyatt J. Evans Gartley, bassoon · Patrick Kerksen, piano
Moravian College Women's Chorus

Make a joyful noise to the Lord,
 Serve the Lord with gladness,
 Come into his presence with singing.
 Know that the Lord is God,
 It is he who made us, not we ourselves.
 We are his people, the sheep of his pasture,
 And we are his.
 Enter into his gates with thanksgiving,

And his courts with praise,
 Give thanks to him and praise his holy name.
 For the Lord is good, his mercy endures forever,
 And his faithfulness endures
 From generation to generation,
 From age to age.
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen

Hodie, Christus Natus Est Jan Sweelinck (1562–1621)
 ARR. WALTER BARNES
Moravian College Brass Ensemble
Lawrence Wright, Director
Joseph Hall, Ethan Beeco, trumpet · Rena Sinerco, horn
Marc Bernal, trombone · Benjamin Sharp, bass tuba

Sonata in D (K.46) for 3 flutes Johann Joachim Quartz (1697–1773)
Rigaudon
Capriccio
Flute Troupe, Robin Kani, Director
Rachel Cupp, Hannah Hook, Michelle Whelan, flute

Alla Hornpipe from the Water Music Suite George Frideric Handel (1685–1759)
 ARR. ANDREW FORREST
Moravian College Guitar Ensemble
John Arnold, Director
Alyssa Asher, Gio Bedoya, Mark Bondones, Dan Coughlin, Vince Gentilcore, Josh Mercado,
Henry McCormack, Jonathan Pyles, Kellen Pisan, Cayden Wisner, guitar

We Three Kings Traditional
Greensleeves Traditional
 ARR. WYATT J. EVANS GARTLEY, '20
Moravian College Wind Quartet
Deborah Andrus, Director
Michelle Whelan, flute · Alison Nicolosi, oboe · Heather Gallant, clarinet · Wyatt J. Evans Gartley, bassoon

Joy to the World Traditional
 ARR. RICHARD PRICE
Moravian College Brass Ensemble

VESPERS SERVICE

Northern Lights Ola Gjeilo (b. 1978)

Pulchra es amica mea,
 suavis et decora sicut Jerusalem,
 terribilis ut castrorum acies ordinata.
 Averte oculos tuos a me
 quia ipsi me avolare fecerunt.

Thou art beautiful, O my love,
 sweet and comely as Jerusalem,
 awesome as an army set in array.
 Turn away thy eyes from me,
 for they have overcome me.
 —Song of Solomon 6:3-4

Vocalis

Ave Maria, Virgo serena Josquin Desprez (c. 1440–1521)

Ave Maria, gratia plena
 Dominus tecum, Virgo serena

Hail Mary, full of grace,
 the Lord is with you, serene Virgin.

Ave cujus conceptio,
 Solemni plena gaudio,
 Celestia, terrestria,
 Nova replet laetitia.

Hail whose conception,
 Full of solemn joy,
 Fills heaven and earth
 With new rejoicing.

Ave cujus nativitas
 Nostra fuit solemnitas
 Ut lucifer lux oriens
 Verum solem praeveniens

Hail whose nativity
 Was our festivity,
 The rising, light-bearing light
 Coming before the true sun.

Ave pia humilitas,
 Sine viro fecunditas,
 Cujus annunciatio
 Nostra fuit salvatio.

Hail pious humility,
 Fecundity without a man,
 Whose annunciation
 Was our salvation.

Ave vera virginitas,
 Immaculata castitas,
 Cujus purificatio
 Nostra fuit purgatio.

Hail true virginity,
 Immaculate chastity,
 Whose purification
 Was our cleansing.

Ave praeclara omnibus
 Angelicus virtutibus,
 Cujus fuit assumptio
 Nostra glorificatio.

Hail most splendid
 With all angelic virtues,
 Whose assumption
 Was our glorification.

O Mater Dei,
 Memento mei. Amen.

O Mother of God,
 Remember me. Amen.

Moravian College Choir

LITURGY*

CONGREGATION AND CHOIR

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

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!

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

For Unto Us a Child Is Born

For unto us a Child is born,
Unto us a Son is given,
And the government
Shall be upon His shoulder;

George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

And his name shall be called
Wonderful, Counsellor, the Mighty God,
The Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.
—Isaiah 9:6

Veni Emanuel
MEDIEVAL ANTIPHON

WELCOME

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Old Testament Reading *Isaiah 9:2-7. Read by students of Moravian College*

December 1 · Rachel L. Myers
December 2 · Jake A. Carlson
December 3 · Tamara M. Garraway

December 8 · Rebecca A. Fulton
December 9 · Shelby Maigis
December 10 · Angela M. Kilburg

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

December 1 · Kim Adamson
December 2 · James J. Heroux
December 3 · Elrica Adams-Finney

December 8 · Dewey Mullis
December 9 · Vanessa Romero
December 10 · James D. Jackson

Prayer *Offered by members of the faculty and staff*

December 1 · Gloria Chibueze-Azinge
December 2 · La,Keisha L. Thorpe
December 3 · Shelley Bauder

December 8 · Sandra Aguilar
December 9 · Michael A. Bertucci
December 10 · R. Jane Williams

OFFERTORY

MORAVIAN COLLEGE WOMEN'S CHORUS

What Sweeter Music

John Rutter (b. 1945)

What sweeter music can we bring than a carol,
For us to sing the birth of this our heavenly king?
Awake the voice! Awake the string!
Dark and dull night, fly hence away,
And give the honour to this day
That sees December turned to May.
Why does the chilling winter's morn
Smile, like a field beset with corn?

Or smell like a meadow newly shorn
Thus on the sudden?
Come and see the cause,
Why things thus fragrant be:
'Tis he is born, whose quickening birth
Gives life and luster, public mirth,
To heaven and to underearth.
—Robert Herrick (1591-1674)

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want,
Through death's dark valley no fear will I know,
(Lauda, lauda!)
My head is covered with the finest oil,
My cup runneth over and over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow!
Green pastures, still waters, the Lord provides!
My soul restores, my heart renews.

Z. Randall Stroope (b. 1953)

The Lord prepares a table,
No fear have I from my foes.
The Lord anoints me, guards me, loves me.
The Lord provides me with a rod and staff,
They comfort and guide me.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow!
And in the house of the Lord I will dwell forever.

Michelle Whelan, flute · Nikki Weaver (Dec. 1, 2, 3, 10)/Sarah Bear (Dec. 8 & 9), oboe

CONGREGATION*

Jesus, Call Thou Me

Jesu, rufe mich

TEXT BY ADAM DRESE (1620-1701)

1. Jesus, call thou me, from the world to thee;
Speed me ever, stay me never.
Jesus, call thou me.
2. Not Jerusalem—lowly Bethlehem
'Twas that gave us Christ to save us;
Not Jerusalem.

3. Favored Bethlehem! Honored is that name;
Thence came Jesus to release us;
Favored Bethlehem!
4. Wondrous child divine! Warm this heart of mine;
Keep it burning, for thee yearning,
Wondrous child divine!

CHOIR

Bonse Aba

Bonse aba mu pokelela
Ba lipele maka akuba bana
Kuba bana bakwa lesa
Muyayaya bakwa lesa

Andrew Ortega, Wyatt J. Evans Gartley, Pat Kerksen, percussion

Traditional Zambian folk song

ARR. VICTOR C. JOHNSON

All who sing with [the] spirit
have a right to be called
the children of God.

Before

Before the paling of the stars,
Before the winter morn,
Before the earliest cockcrow
Jesus Christ was born:
Born in a stable,
Cradled in a manger,
In the world his hands had made
Born a stranger.

Priest and King lay fast asleep
In Jerusalem,
Young and old lay fast asleep
In crowded Bethlehem:
Saint and Angel, Ox and Ass,
Kept a watch together,
Before the Christmas daybreak
In the winter weather.

Robert S. Cohen (b. 1945)

Jesus on his mother's breast
In the stable cold,
Spotless Lamb of God was he
Shepherd of the fold:
Let us kneel with Mary Maid,
With Joseph bent and hoary,
With Saint and Angel, Ox and Ass,
To hail the King of Glory.
—Christina Georgina Rossetti

Il est né, le divin Enfant

Il est né le divin enfant,
Jouez hautbois, résonnez musettes!
Il est né le divin enfant,
Chantons tous son avènement!

Depuis plus de quatre mille ans,
Nous le promettaient les prophètes,
Depuis plus de quatre mille ans,
Nous attendions cet heureux temps.

Ah ! Qu'il est beau, qu'il est charmant,
Ah ! que ses grâces sont parfaites!
Ah ! Qu'il est beau, qu'il est charmant,
Qu'il est doux ce divin enfant!

O Jésus ! O roi tout puissant,
Tout petit enfant que vous êtes,
O Jésus ! O roi tout puissant,
Régnez sur nous entièrement!

He is born, the heavenly child,
Oboes play; bagpipes sound!
He is born, the heavenly child.
Let us all sing his nativity!

'Tis four thousand years and more,
Prophets have foretold his coming,
'Tis four thousand years and more,
We have waited this happy time.

Ah, how lovely he is, ah, how charming,
What perfection are his graces!
Ah, how lovely he is, ah, how charming,
How sweet is this divine child!

Jesus, O all powerful king,
Such a small child you are,
Jesus, O all powerful king,
Rule over us completely!

French traditional

ARR. EDWARD HENDERSON

Hawaiian Lullaby

Makanani
Malulani
Leilani
Kealoha
Iki pepe

Beautiful eyes
Under a peaceful sky
Divine child
Beloved one
Little baby

Malcolm Sargent (1895–1967)

Little baby on Christmas morn,
Little baby, then Christ was born.
While the flowers fold their buds and their blossoms in sleep,
He and I o'er thy slumbers our loving watch keep.

Riawanna

Riawanna, powamena gunta

Circles, Mother Earth

Stephen Leek (b. 1959)

Julian Calv, Jason Dietrich, Pat Kerksen, Andrew Ortega, percussion

Hymne à la Vierge

O toute belle, Vierge Marie,
Votre âme trouve en Dieu
Le parfait amour
Il vous revêt du manteau de la Grâce
Comme une fiancée parée de ses bijoux. Alleluia.
Je vais chanter ta louange, Seigneur,
Car tu as pris soin de moi,
Car tu m'as enveloppée du voile de l'innocence.

O fairest Virgin Mary,
Your soul finds in the Lord
The perfect love.
He clothes you in a robe of grace
Like a bride attired with jewels. Alleluia.
I will sing thy praise, Lord,
For thou hast looked after me,
And covered me with the veil of innocence.

Pierre Villette (1926–1998)

Avant les astres vous étiez présente,
Mère du Créateur
Au profond du ciel
Quand Dieu fixait les limites du monde
Vous partagiez son coeur
Étant à l'oeuvre avec lui. Alleluia.
O toute belle Vierge Marie.

Before the stars you were there,
Mother of the Creator,
In the highest Heaven;
When God was setting the limits of the world
You shared his love
As you laboured with him. Alleluia.
O fairest Virgin Mary.
—Roland Bouhéret

Moravian Chorale

Alleluia, Amen

Moravian College Choir and Women's Chorus

Imant Raminsh (b. 1943)

CONGREGATION AND CHOIR

On This Day Earth Shall Ring

Gustav Holst (1874-1934)
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.
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.
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.
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
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.
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.
3. At his feet the six-winged seraph;
Cherubim, with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence,
As with ceaseless voice they cry,
Alleluia, alleluia,
Alleluia, Lord most high!

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Behold a Great, a Heavenly Light

Vom Himmel hoch
TEXT BY ST. AMBROSE (337-397)

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.
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.

Once in Royal David's City

Irby
TEXT BY CECIL FRANCES ALEXANDER (1823-1895)

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.
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.

Good Christians, Now Rejoice

In dulci jubilo
TEXT BY HENRY SUSO (c. 1300)

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!

Morning Star

Francis Florentine Hagen (1815-1907)
TEXT BY 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.

Soloists

Elijah Kovar, December 1 & 2 · Ariana Rodriguez, December 3 & 10
Emma C. Smith, December 8 & 9

CLOSING LITURGY*

- 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.

*PLEASE STAND.

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

Regent Square
TEXT BY 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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

POSTLUDE

Il est né, le divin Enfant

Traditional French Christmas Carol

Il est né, le divin Enfant!
Jouez, hautbois, résonnez, musettes!
Il est né, le divin Enfant!
Chantons tous son avènement!

He was born, the Holy Child!
Play, oboe! Resonate, bagpipes!
He was born, the Holy Child!
All sing his arrival!

Moravian College Choir, Women's Chorus, and Brass Ensemble

Toccata sur 'Il est né le divin Enfant'

Denis Bédard (b. 1950)

Stephen Williams, organ

AN INVITATION

On Saturday, December 9, immediately following the Vespers service, everyone is invited to a carol sing-along across the street in Peter Hall. Refreshments will be provided.

The carol sing-along is sponsored by the Gamma Pi chapter of Delta Omicron, the international music fraternity.

THE MORAVIAN COLLEGE CHOIR

Director: Dr. Paula Ring Zerkle
Accompanist: Andrea Berntsen

President: Kristen Weaver
Vice Presidents: Lauren Steinert, Kurtis Reif, Wyatt J. Evans Gartley
Secretary: Kayleigh Bennett
Treasurer: Jane Spadaccini

SOPRANO 1

Kaitlyn Allison* · Kayleigh Bennett^* · Wendy Cooper · Alexa Fodera*
Kimberly Leamon^* · Emmalise Mulreaney* · Nellie Oehlert* · Kayla Porter* · Lauren Steinert*

SOPRANO 2

Elizabeth Rose Allen · Nateesa Benton* · Rachel Corwin* · Victoria Demuysere · Sabrina DePue
Meghan Gray* · Louise Harris · Morgan Martin · Christen Meyner* · Alexa Reinold
Helen Smith* · Mairead Young

ALTO 1

Brittini Borgella* · Julia Cucci · Charlotte Finnerty* · Heather Gallant · Holly Hinkle · Ciarra Hurley*
Paula Keenan* · Elicia Levandoski* · Sarah Penna* · Jane Spadaccini* · Alona Struk

ALTO 2

Elizabeth Bacon* · Nyeasha Bond · Sierra Dittmar · Amy Flyte · Alyssa Madl* · Brianna Milstrey
Chloe Mondok · Victoria Riva · Kayla Waite* · Kristen Weaver*

TENOR 1

Steven Berger · Marc Bernal^* · Schuyler Evans* · Joshua Fink*
Liam Mulligan^* · Andrew Ortega* · Kurtis Reif^*

TENOR 2

Julian Calv* · Andrew Collins* · Bryan Lara* · Alex Mast* · Mark Pall
Luke Peterson* · Julius Sarkozy* · Greg Woods

BASS 1

Gio Bedoya · Jason Dietrich* · Wyatt J. Evans Gartley* · Trae Freeman*
Pat Kerssen · Thomas Mateo · Henry McCormack*

BASS 2

Andrew Bainbridge^* · Chris Holben^* · Joshua Mercado* · Daniel Schirripa
John Snow* · José Somavilla · Joe Yavorski*

THE MORAVIAN COLLEGE WOMEN'S CHORUS

Director: Eduardo Azzati

Collaborative Pianist: Andrea Berntsen

President: Kristen Weaver

Vice-President: Kayleigh Bennett

Secretary: Kayla Porter

SOPRANO 1

Kayleigh Bennett · Wendy Cooper · Krista Kunkle · Christen Meyner · Nellie Oehlert
Kayla Porter · Erica Vibert

SOPRANO 2

Julia Cucci · Alexandria Fries · Paula Keenan · Anna Ling · Sarah Penna · Alexa Reinold
Helen Smith · Alona Struk · Eliana Zebro

ALTO 1

Libby Bacon · Caroline Flora · Kelly Martin · Britin Miller · Brianna Milstrey · Ruth Pluymers
Emily Szuter · Kristen Weaver

THE CHRISTMAS VESPERS SERVICE

On behalf of our entire College and Seminary community, welcome to our 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. Our newest generation of Moravian students, the Class of 2021, aided by Heritage Day volunteers, hand-decorated all 6,000 Christmas Vespers candles during freshman orientation weekend in August. Some 300 friends of the College distribute these candles at the six Vespers services.

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, a member 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 with a child soloist with responses from the mixed choir and congregation.

The offering taken at Christmas Vespers directly supports student financial aid at Moravian College.

We are happy to be able to share this distinctive and moving Christmas worship with you. I hope you will join me in thanking the hundreds of people who help make these services possible.

Bryon L. Grigsby '90, President
MORAVIAN COLLEGE

CENTRAL MORAVIAN CHURCH

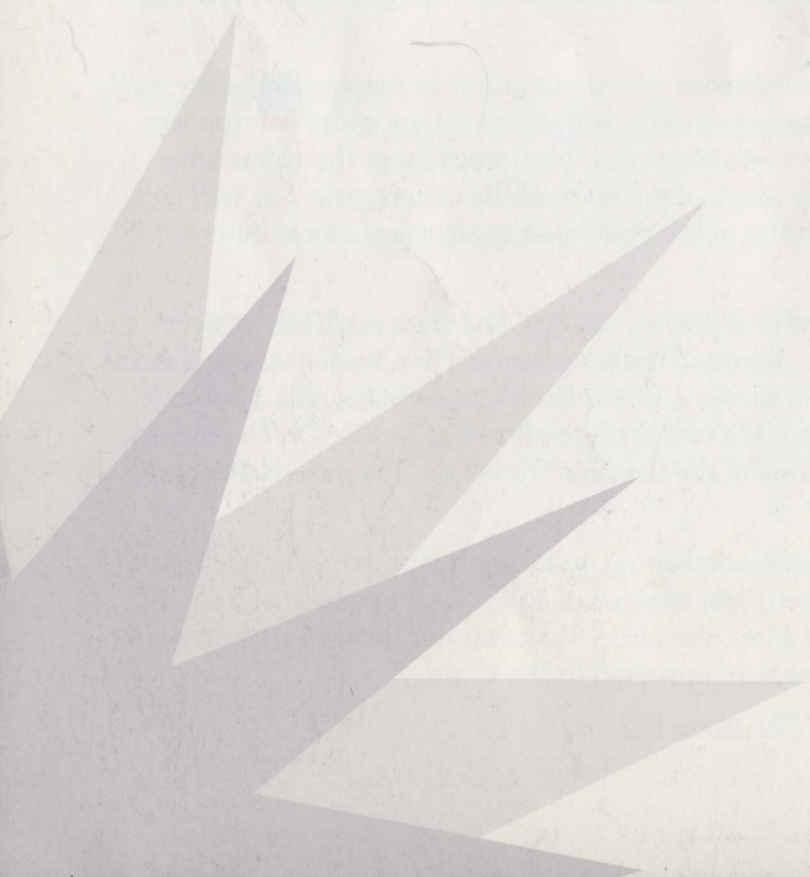
For five decades, Moravian College's Christmas Vespers has been held in Central Moravian Church, the worship center for Bethlehem's first religious congregation. Built between 1803 and 1806, a time when the population of Bethlehem was just 580 people, it was intended to accommodate a congregation of 1,500. Today its seating capacity is 1,100.

A striking feature of the neoclassical-style sanctuary is the absence of interior pillars to support the heavy roof and belfry. Instead these are held in place by massive foundation walls, with 68-foot-long white oak timbers resting on the side walls. From the belfry, the Bethlehem Area Moravian Trombone Choir, the oldest brass choir in continuous existence in America, announces the death of members of the congregation, as well as festivals of the church and community. The belfry houses the oldest American-made tower clock, built in Bethlehem in 1747. The bell was hung in 1868.

The Moravians brought an outstanding musical culture with them to America, and their settlements were among the most prestigious places to make music in the colonies. Haydn's oratorio *The Creation* was performed for the first time in America in Central Moravian Church in 1811, as was Bach's masterpiece, the Mass in B minor, in 1900. The Mass earned the church a designation as a National Landmark of Music. On December 18, 1998, *USA Today* named Central Moravian Church one of the nation's "Ten Great Places to Reflect on Christmas Eve."

The Moravian Church had its origin in the pre-Reformation awakening under John Hus. Formal organization under the name *Unitas Fratrum* (the Unity of the Brethren) was effected in 1457. Because much of its early history centered in Moravia (now part of the Czech Republic), the Unity is known informally as the Moravian Church. It is recognized as the oldest organized Protestant denomination in the world.

The permanent settlement of Bethlehem was named on Christmas Eve 1741.



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