



# Christmas Vespers

## Moravian Seminary and College for Women

*You are about to take part in a reverent act of worship; you are not witnessing a Christmas "entertainment."*

*The individual and corporate benefits received will depend upon our spiritual attitude and receptivity. This traditional service is intended to answer the important question "What does the Saviour mean this night to me and to mankind?"*

*It is respectfully requested that everyone take part in the recessional, passing out of the chapel quietly and promptly row after row. The recreation room, library and blue parlors are available for friendly conversation and it is hoped we may linger there after the service.*

### PROCESSIONAL

Oh come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;  
Oh come ye, oh come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold Him born the King of angels;  
Oh come, let us adore Him, oh come, let us adore Him,  
Oh come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

True Son of the Father, He comes from the skies;  
To be born of a Virgin, He doth not despise.  
To Bethlehem hasten with joyful accord!  
Oh come ye, come hither, oh come ye, come hither,  
Oh come ye, come hither to worship the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above,  
Glory to God in the highest;  
Oh come, let us adore Him, oh come, let us adore Him,  
Oh come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to Thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;  
Oh come, let us adore Him, oh come, let us adore Him,  
Oh come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

### PRAYER

#### LORD'S PRAYER

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.

O come, Thou day-spring, come and cheer  
Our spirits by Thine advent here;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.



Leader—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!

Response—Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem; behold thy King cometh unto thee; He is just and having salvation!

Leader—Behold, His tabernacle shall be with men; yea, He will be their God, and they shall be His people.

Response—The voice of the herald cries: Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Once He came in blessing  
All our ills redressing,  
Came in likeness lowly,  
Son of God most holy;  
Bore the Cross to save us,  
Hope and freedom gave us.

Still He comes within us,  
Still His voice would win us,  
From the sins that hurt us;  
Would to truth convert us,  
From our foolish errors,  
Ere He comes in terrors.

Leader—But thou, Bethlehem (in the land of Judah) though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall He come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting. And He shall stand and feed in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God; and they shall abide: for now shall he be great unto the ends of the earth. And this man shall be our peace.

Not Jerusalem—lowly Bethlehem Favored Bethlehem! honored is that name;  
'Twas that gave us Christ to save us; Thence came Jesus to release us;  
Not Jerusalem. Favored Bethlehem!

Leader—For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder; and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Response—Of the increase of His government and of peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon His kingdom, to establish it, and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from henceforth even forever. The zeal of Jehovah of hosts will perform this.

Silent night! Holy night!  
Slumber reigns! Naught in sight,  
Save that pair who lone vigil keep  
O'er the Child who, in softest sleep,  
Rests in heavenly peace.  
Rests in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night!  
Darkness flies! All is light!  
Shepherds listen while angels sing,  
Praise to God and good tidings bring,  
Jesus, the Saviour, is here!  
Jesus, the Saviour, is here!

Silent night! Holy night!  
Son of God, love's pure light,  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Leader—And Joseph with Mary his espoused wife, went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David which is called Bethlehem.

Response—And Mary brought forth her first-born Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger; because there was no room for Him in the inn.

Hark, a Voice from yonder manger,  
Soft and sweet,  
Doth entreat,  
"Flee from woe and danger;  
Brethren, come, from all that grieves you  
You are freed;  
All you need  
I will surely give you."

Blessed Saviour, let me find Thee;  
Keep Thou me  
Close to Thee,  
Cast me not behind Thee,  
Life of life, my heart Thou stillest,  
Calm I rest  
On Thy breast,  
All this void Thou fillest.

Leader—And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night.

Response—And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid.

Leader—And the angel said unto them: Fear not; for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

Response—For unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

Leader—And this shall be a sign unto you: Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

Response—And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly hosts praising God, and saying: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

Leader—And it came to pass as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another: Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

How silently, how silently,  
The wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of His heaven.  
No ear may hear His coming,  
But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him still,  
The dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in,  
Be born in us to-day.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Emmanuel.

Leader—Behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying:

Response—Where is He that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the east and are come to worship Him.

Leader—And lo! the star which they saw in the east went before them till it came and stood over where the young child was.

Response—When they saw the star they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

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.

#### SPECIAL PROGRAM (Distribution of the Candles)

Christ, Whose glory fills the skies,  
Christ, the true, the only Light;  
Sun of Righteousness, arise,  
Triumph o'er the shades of night;  
Day-Spring from on high, be near,  
Day-Star, in my heart appear.

Dark and cheerless is the morn,  
Unaccompanied by Thee;  
Joyless is the day's return,  
Till Thy mercy's beams I see;  
Till they inward light impart,  
Glad my eyes, and warm my heart.

Visit, then, this soul of mine,  
Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;  
Fill me, Radiancy Divine!  
Scatter all my unbelief;  
More and more Thyself display,  
Shining to the perfect day.

Leader—Therefore, rejoice, in God your Saviour! for He that is mighty hath done great things, and holy is His name.

Response—Through the tender mercies of our God, the Day-Spring from on high hath visited us, to give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet in the way of peace.

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word; For mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people;  
A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel.  
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

BENEDICTION



RECESSIONAL

(The congregation will please follow in the Recessional immediately after the school.)

Hark! the herald angels sing:  
"Glory to the new-born King!  
Glory in the highest heaven,  
Peace on earth, and man forgiven."  
Joyful, all ye nations rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With th' angelic host proclaim:  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!  
Hail the Incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as man with men to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Son of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings,  
Risen with healing in His wings.

Refrain:  
Hark! the herald angels sing:  
"Glory to the new-born King!"

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Hark! the herald angels sing:  
"Glory to the new-born King!"

Lo, He lays His glory by!  
Born, that man no more may die;  
Born to raise the sons of earth,  
Born, to give them second birth.  
Sing we, then, with angels sing:  
"Glory to the new-born King!"  
Glory in the highest heaven,  
Peace on earth, and man forgiven."

Refrain:  
Hark! the herald angels sing:  
"Glory to the new-born King!"

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 new-born 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 new-born King.

2 Shepherds, in the field abiding,  
Watching o'er your flocks by night;  
God with man is now residing,  
Yonder shines the infant light;  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the new-born King.

4 Saints, before the altar bending,  
Watching long in hope and fear,  
Suddenly the Lord descending,  
In His temple shall appear;  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the new-born King.

5 Sinners, wrung with true repentance,  
Doomed for guilt to endless pains;  
Justice now revokes the sentence,  
Mercy calls you, break your chains;  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the new-born King.



PLEASE HAND TO USHER OR LEAVE IN PEW