

MORAVIAN COLLEGE

Christmas
Vespers

BETHLEHEM, PA

DECEMBER 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 2020

To all who join me to celebrate the spirit of this season,

On behalf of Moravian College, welcome to our 2020 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. 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 donations taken at Christmas Vespers directly support student financial aid at Moravian College. Even though we are celebrating virtually tonight, please take a moment to donate to the education of our students.

We are happy to be able to share this distinctive and moving Christmas worship with you. I hope you will join me in thanking Dr. Paula Zerkle and all of our musicians for making this possible.

Bryon L. Grigsby '90, P'22
President of Moravian College



Moravian College is proud to be an All-Steinway School.

Cover design: Angela Kilburg '18

Moravian College Christmas Vespers

VESPERS SERVICE

CHOIR

The Pine in Winter

Frances Farrel (b. 1971)

The pine stays green in winter.
Wisdom is hardship.

Moravian College Men's Chorus

The Winter's Night

Nicholas Myers (b. 1987)

Deep in the night, quiet and still,
While all the world's asleep,
Dreaming of what they will,
Out from the warmth, out in the cold,
Snowflakes are falling, cov'ring the earth,
Telling the world, winter has come.
Making the earth turn to new,
Tapping the window, brushing the ground,
Soft as a dream, sweet as a dream,
Dreams pure as white, white as the snow.

Vocalis

WELCOME

The Reverend Jennika M. Borger '98, '01, Chaplain

LITURGY

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Veni Emanuel

Text: Medieval Antiphon

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!

LITURGY

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.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

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

Jakleen Hana, Destiny M. George, Chris Hawk, Haley A. Rogers,
Mollie J. Miller, Cassandra R. Miller

This Little Babe, from *A Ceremony of Carols*

Benjamin Britten (1913–1976)

This little Babe, so few days old,
Is come to rifle Satan's fold;
All hell doth at his presence quake,
Though he himself for cold do shake;
For in this weak unarmèd wise
The gates of hell he will surprise.
With tears he fights and wins the field,
His naked breast stands for a shield;
His battering shot are babish cries,
His arrows looks of weeping eyes,
His martial ensigns Cold and Need,
And feeble Flesh his warrior's steed.

His camp is pitched in a stall,
His bulwark but a broken wall:
The crib his trench, haystalks his stakes;
Of shepherds he his muster makes;
And thus, as sure his foe to wound,
The angels' trumps alarum sound.
My soul, with Christ join thou in fight;
Stick to the tents that he hath pight.
Within his crib is surest ward;
This little Babe will be thy guard.
If thou wilt foil thy foes with joy,
then flit not from this heavenly Boy.

Andrea Wittchen, *harp*
Vocalis

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

Charles J. McDonald, Adriana B. Craver,
Meagan R. Ackerman, Scott R. Rainey

Glory to God, from *Messiah*

George Frideric Handel (1685–1759)

Glory to God in the highest
And peace on earth.
Goodwill toward men.

Steffani Smith, *trumpet*; Bryan Holten, *organ*
Moravian College Choir

Prayer

Chaplain Borger

Ave Maria

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756–1791)

Ave Maria

Hail Mary

Moravian College Women's Chorus

CAROL

Jesus, Call Thou Me

Jesu, rufe mich

Text: Adam Drese (1620–1701)

1. Jesus, call thou me, from the world to thee;
Speed me ever, stay me never.
Jesus, call thou me.

3. Favored Bethlehem! Honored is that name;
Thence came Jesus to release us;
Favored Bethlehem!

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

4. Wondrous child divine, warm this heart of mine!
Keep it burning, for thee yearning,
Wondrous child divine!

CHOIRS

Noel

Todd Smith / arr. Brad Holmes

Noel! Noel! *Jesu me kwisa ku zinga ti beto*
Kana nge zola ku zaba mwana
Nge fwiti kwisa ku fukama

Noel! Noel! Jesus has come to live with us.
If you want to know the Child
you have to come kneel.

Liam Mulligan, *tenor*; Thomas Galdieri, *bass*;
Olivia Kennebeck, *soprano*; Benjamin Sanchez, *percussion*
Moravian College Choir

CHOIR AND CONGREGATION

On This Day Earth Shall Ring

Gustav Holst (1874–1934)

Text: 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.

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.

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.

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.

INTERLUDE

In dir ist Freude

*In dir ist Freude, in allem Leide,
o du süßer Jesu Christ!
Durch dich wir haben himmlische Gaben,
du der wahre Heiland bist.*

*Hilfest von Schanden,
rettest von Banden;
wer dir vertrauet, hat wohl gebauet,
wird ewig bleiben. Halleluja.*

*Zu deiner Güte
steht unser G'müte;
an dir wir kleben im Tod und Leben.
Nichts kann uns scheiden. Halleluja.*

*Wenn wir dich haben, kann uns nicht schaden;
Teufel, Welt, Sünd, oder Tod:
du hast's in Händen, kannst alles wenden,
wie nur heißen mag die Not.*

*Drum wir dich ehren,
dein Lob vermehren.
Mit hellem Schalle, freuen uns alle
zu dieser Stunde. Halleluja.*

*Wir jubilieren und triumphieren,
lieben und loben
dein Macht dort droben
mit Herz und Munde. Halleluja.*

Giovanni Giacomo Gastoldi (1550–1622)

*In you is joy, in all sorrow,
O sweet Jesus Christ!
Through you we have heavenly gifts,
You who are the true savior.*

*Help us from dishonor,
Deliver us from bondage;
He does well who believes in You,
And will live forever. Alleluia.*

*On your goodness
Remains our mind;
We stick to you in death and life.
Nothing can separate us. Alleluia.*

*When we have you nothing can hurt us;
Devil, world, sin, or death:
You have in hand and can turn all away
If need arise.*

*Therefore we praise you
And honor you.
With bright sounds we all rejoice
At this hour. Alleluia.*

*We rejoice and triumph,
Love and praise
Your power on high
With heart and mouth. Alleluia.*

*Vocalis, Mostly Monteverdi, and Baroque Ensemble
Devin Thomas, flute; Tamar Giorgadze, violin; Regina McElroy, violin
Elliott Guido, cello; Julius Sarkozy, harpsichord; Larry Lipkis, director
Baroque Ensemble*

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Picardy

Text: From *The 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-wingéd seraph;
Cherubim, with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence,
As with ceaseless voice they cry,
Alleluia, alleluia,
Alleluia, Lord most high!

INSTRUMENTAL INTERLUDE

Abendsegend, from Hänsel und Gretel

Engelbert Humperdinck (1854–1921)

Maddie Baker, Morgan Martin, Marley Palmere, Rachael Shaffer,
Connor Zamora, *clarinet*; Steven Reisteter, *director*
Moravian College Clarinet Choir

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Behold a Great, a Heavenly Light

Vom Himmel hoch

Text: 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.

INSTRUMENTAL INTERLUDE

Nimrod, from Enigma Variations Op.36 for Flute Quintet

Edward Elgar (1857–1934)

Devin Thomas, Michaela Madaio, Jessika Gross, Abigail Ortega,
Christianna Landes, *flute*; Robin Kani, *director*
Moravian College Flute Troupe

Good Christians, Now Rejoice

In dulci jubilo
Text: 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: 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.

INSTRUMENTAL INTERLUDE

Fear Not, for I Bring You Tidings of Great Joy

Johann Topff (1791–1870)

Fred Younes and Steffani Smith, *trumpet*; Jennifer Calhoun, *French horn*; Mitchell Hourt, *trombone*
Corey Mathis, *bass trombone*; Nicholas Sears, *tuba*; Larry Wright, *director*
Moravian College Brass Ensemble

CLOSING LITURGY

PLEASE STAND

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.

CHOIR AND CONGREGATION

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

Regent Square

Text: 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

Chaplain Borger

POSTLUDE

In dulci jubilo BWV 729

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

Bryan Holten, *organ*

Moravian College would like to offer our deepest gratitude to Blue Ridge Cable for filming and creating the video for the 2020 Christmas Vespers service. Thank you for offering the gifts of your flexibility, grace, and kindness.

Moravian College Choir

Paula Zerkle, *director*

Bryan Holten, *accompanist*

Cora Castor, *president*; Regina McElroy and Elaine Ramirez, *vice presidents*;
Rose Michetti, *secretary*; Trae Freeman, *treasurer*

Soprano 1

Caitlyn Cinque
Olivia Kennebeck*
Rose Michetti*
Jennifer Patchen
Elaine Ramirez#*
Taryn Roffina
Devin Thomas
Summer Thompson

Soprano 2

Nateesa Benton
Christina Carty
Victoria Demuysere
Martina Fedorowicz
Hannah Graybeal
Emilymarie Kave
Savannah Labukas
Morgan Martin
Regina McElroy#*

Alto 1

Lauren Amori
Caroline Flora
Alyssa Harley
Paula Keenan
Johanna Pearson
Amal Shokr
Steffani Smith
Grace Young

Alto 2

Angie Bennett
Adriel Burger
Jennifer Calhoun
Cora Castor
Emily Chaves
Hailey Dudinyak
Raechel Gonzalez
Alexa Hromyak
Caileigh Rosa
Linnell Truchon
Cecilia Zimmerli

Tenor 1

Reid Clymer#
Liam Mulligan#*
Julius Sarkozy

Tenor 2

Brandon Bryan
Nahum Pradhan
Ben Stefan
Steven Thomas

Bass 1

William Coccia
Trae Freeman
Mitchell Hourt
Thomas Mateo
Andrew Miller#

Bass 2

Sean Audesirk
Joshneil Ferguson
Thomas Galdieri
Benjamin Sanchez*

#Member of Moravian Chorale

*Member of Mostly Monteverdi, Larry Lipkis, *director*

Baroque Ensemble

Larry Lipkis, *director*

Devin Thomas, *flute*; Tamar Giorgadze, *violin*; Regina McElroy, *violin*
Elliott Guido, *cello*; Julius Sarkozy, *harpsichord*

Moravian College Women's Chorus

Paula Zerkle, *director*

Bryan Holten, *accompanist*

Regina McElroy, *president*; Rose Michetti and Jennifer Patchen, *vice presidents*;

Devin Thomas, *secretary*; Elaine Ramirez, *treasurer*

Soprano 1

Christina Carty
Caitlyn Cinque
Olivia Kennebeck
Jennifer Patchen
Elaine Ramirez
Taryn Roffina
Summer Thompson
Madison Williams

Soprano 2

Nateesa Benton
Victoria Demuysere
Martina Fedorowicz
Hannah Graybeal
Ashley Hutchison
Emily Marie Kave
Savannah Labukas
Morgan Martin
Regina McElroy
Rose Michetti
Devin Thomas

Alto 1

Lauren Amori
Caroline Flora
Raechel Gonzalez
Ashley Halady
Alyssa Harley
Paula Keenan
Helen Meckstroth
Johanna Pearson
Steffani Smith
Grace Young

Alto 2

Angie Bennett
Adriel Burger
Jennifer Calhoun
Cora Castor
Emily Chaves
Hailey Dudinyak
Alexa Hromyak
Caileigh Rosa
Amal Shokr
Linnell Truchon
Cecilia Zimmerli

Moravian College Men's Chorus

Paula Zerkle, *director*

Bryan Holten, *accompanist*

Andrew Miller, *president*; Brandon Bryan, *vice president*;

Thomas Mateo, *secretary*; Trae Freeman, *treasurer*

Tenor 1

Reid Clymer
Liam Mulligan
Julius Sarkozy
Paula Zerkle

Tenor 2

Brandon Bryan
Nahum Pradhan
Ben Stefan
Steven Thomas

Bass 1

William Coccia
Trae Freeman
Mitchell Hourt
Thomas Mateo
Andrew Miller

Bass 2

Sean Audesirk
Joshneil Ferguson
Thomas Galdieri
Benjamin Sanchez



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