



Centenary
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Music of the Season

December 24, 2022 8:00 p.m.

Presented by The Chancel Choir and Section Leaders with strings

*So that everyone may enjoy tonight's music, please enter
the church quietly and be seated.*

String Quartet

Loretta McCray – First Violin Chris Johnston – Second Violin
Thomas Shaw – Viola Madison Erskine - Cello

The Chancel Choir

Gabriel's Message

Basque Carol

harmonized by Edgar Pettman

Soloists: Lynn LaBarre and Emily Downey

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
"All hail," said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary,
most highly favored lady," Gloria!

"For now a blessed Mother thou shalt be,
all generations laud and honor thee,
thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
most highly favored lady," Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said,
"my soul shall laud and magnify his holy Name."
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say--
"Most highly favored lady," Gloria!

Basque carol; paraphrased by Sabine Baring-Gould
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Prepare the Royal Highway

Swedish Folk Tune
setting by John Ferguson

Prepare the royal highway; the King of kings is near!
Let ev'ry hill and valley a level road appear!
Then greet the King of glory, foretold in sacred story:
Oh, blest is he that came in God's most holy name!

His is no earthly kingdom; it comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom and justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding for kindness so abounding:
Oh, blest is he that came in God's most holy name!

Now fling the gates wide open to greet your promised king!
Your king, yet ev'ry nation its tribute too should bring.
All lands, bow down before him! All voices, join in singing:
Oh blest is he that came in God's most holy name!

Frans Mikael Franzen (1772-1847) trans. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.
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He Shall Feed His Flock (from Messiah)

G. F. Handel

Lauren Maho, mezzo-soprano

Then shall the eyes of the blind be open'd,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped.
Then shall the lame man leap as an hart,
and the tongue of the dumb shall sing.

He shall feed his flock like a shepherd:
and he shall gather the lambs with his arm,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead those that are with young.

Isaiah 35:5-6; 40:11

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This Is the Truth from Above

Ralph Vaughan Williams

Lynn LaBarre and Emily Downey, soprano soloists

This is the truth sent from above,
The truth of God, the God of love,
Therefore don't turn me from your door,
But hearken all both rich and poor.

The first thing which I do relate
Is that God did man create;
The next thing which to you I'll tell
Woman was made with man to dwell.

Thus we were heirs to endless woes,
Till God the Lord did interpose;
And so a promise soon did run
That he would redeem us by his Son.

And at that season of the year
Our blest redeemer did appear;
He here did live and here did preach,
And many thousands he did teach.

Thus he in love to us behaved,
To show us how we must be saved;
And if you want to know the way,
Be pleased to hear what he did say.

English Traditional Carol

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Paul Wohlgemuth

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 that birth forever blessed,
When the Virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving,
Bare the Savior of our race,
And the Babe, the world' Redeemer,
First revealed His sacred face,
Evermore and evermore!

O ye heights of heav'n adore Him;
Angel hosts, His praises sing;
Pow'rs, 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!

Aurelius C. Prudentius

Tr. by John M. Neale and Henry W. Baker

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Todd Minnich, tenor

Comfort ye my people, saith your God.
Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem,
and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished,
that her iniquity is pardoned.

Isaiah 40:1-3

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Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

Adam Gumpeltzhaimer

Rejoice, rejoice, believers and let your lights appear!
The evening is advancing and darker night is near.
The Bridegroom is advancing, and soon He draweth nigh,
Up, pray and watch and wrestle! At midnight come the cry.
The watchers on the mountain proclaim the Bridegroom near.
Go meet Him as He cometh with alleluias clear.
The marriage feast is waiting, the gates wide open stand;
Up, up, ye heirs of glory! The Bridegroom is at hand.

Laurentius Laurenti, 1700, Tr., Sarah Findlater, 1854
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