

*Welcome to the concert!*

*Please turn off all cell phones or other noise making devices.*

*No photography or recording while the concert is in progress. Thank you!*

## ADVENT & CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

**Scripture – Luke 3: 15-16, 18**

**Gaelic Alleluia** Arr. Craig Courtney (b.1948)  
14<sup>th</sup> Century Latin Carol

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh.  
Awake and harken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings. Alleluia!  
Then cleansed be every life from sin; make straight the way for God within.  
And let us all our hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there. Alleluia!  
We hail you as our Savior, Lord, our refuge and our great reward.  
Without your grace we waste away like flowers that wither and decay. Alleluia!  
All praise to You, eternal Son, whose advent has our freedom won,  
Whom with the Father we adore, and Holy Spirit evermore. Alleluia!  
*- Translation by Charles Wesley*

**Veni, Domine, Op.39, No. 1** Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)  
Grace Manlan & Holly Walworth, soloists

*Come, Lord, and do not tarry.  
Come free your people from their misdeeds,  
And bring back the scattered to your land.  
Raise up your power, Lord, and make us safe.  
Come, Lord, and do not tarry.*

**The Moon of Wintertime** Arr. George Mabry (b.1945)  
16th Century French Tune  
Samantha Dell & Mary Carlson, soloists

'Twas in the moon of wintertime when all the birds had fled;  
That God, the Lord of all the earth, sent angel choirs instead.  
Before their light the stars grew dim and wondering hunters heard the hymn:  
Alleluia, alleluia in excelsis gloria!  
Within a lodge of broken bark, the tender babe was found.  
A ragged robe of rabbit skin enwrapped his beauty 'round.  
But as the hunter braves drew nigh, the angel song rang loud and high:  
Alleluia!  
The earliest moon of wintertime is not so round and fair  
As was the ring of glory on the helpless infant there.  
The chiefs from far before him knelt with gifts of fox and beaver pelt.  
Alleluia!  
O children of the forest free, the angel song is true.  
The holy child of earth and heaven is born today for you.  
Come kneel before the radiant boy who brings you beauty, peace and joy.  
Alleluia! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

**Angels We Have Heard on High** arr. Ken Berg (b.1955)  
19th Century French Carol

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!  
Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?  
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!  
Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing.  
Come adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the new-born King.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!  
See Him in a manger laid, Him whose birth the angels praise.  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

**The First Noel** Arr. Dan Forrest  
19th Century English Carol

The first noel the angels did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields where  
they lay, in fields where they lay keeping their sheep on a cold winter's night  
that was so deep. Noel... born is the King of Israel.  
They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far.  
And to the earth, it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.  
Noel... born is the King of Israel.  
Then let us all, with one accord, sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
That hath made heaven and earth of naught, and with His blood humankind  
hath bought. Noel... born is the King of Israel.

**This Little Babe** Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)  
from *Ceremony of Carols*, Op. 28 (1942)

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, unarmed 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, haystacks 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 now in fight; stick to the tents that he hath pight.  
Within this 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!  
*- Robert Southwell (1561-1695)*

**Gloria** Nancy Hill Cobb (b.1951)

*Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those of good will.  
We praise you, we bless you, we worship you, we adore you.  
We give thanks to you because of your great glory.*

≈ Treble Choir ≈

**Scripture – Isaiah 40: 1-8**

**The Word was God** Rosephanye Powell (b. 1962)

In the beginning was the Word,  
and the word was with God, and the Word was God.  
The same was in the beginning with God.  
All things were made that have been made.  
Nothing was made, He has not made. All things were made by Him.

*- John 1: 1-3*

**Gloria in excelsis & et in terra pax** Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741)  
from *Gloria*, RV 589 (c.1715)

*Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those of good will.*

**Tollite Hostias** Camille Saint-Saëns (1835-1921)  
from *Christmas Oratorio*, Op. 12 (1858)

*Bring forth your offerings, and adore the Lord, your God,  
and worship Him in His Holy place.  
Rejoice in heaven, exult all ye peoples,  
for the Lord now comes in glory. Alleluia.*

*- Adapted from Psalm 96*

**Scripture – John 1: 1-5, 9**

**Lux Aurumque** Eric Whitacre (b.1970)

*Light,  
Warm and heavy as pure gold  
And the angels sing softly  
to the new-born baby.*

*- Edward Esch, tr. Charles Anthony Silvestri*

**What Sweeter Music** John Rutter (b.1945)

What sweeter music can we bring,  
Than a carol, for 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 lustre, public mirth,  
To heaven, and the under-earth.  
We see him come, and know him ours,  
Who, with his sunshine and his showers,

Turns all the patient ground to flowers.  
The darling of the world is come,  
And fit it is, we find a room  
To welcome him, to welcome him.  
The nobler part, of all the house here, is the heart,  
Which we will give him; and bequeath  
This holly, and this ivy wreath,  
To do him honour; who's our King,  
And Lord of all this reveling.  
What sweeter music can we bring  
Than a carol, for to sing  
The birth of this our heavenly King.

- Robert Herrick (1591-1675)

Scripture – Luke 2: 15-16

**O Magnum Mysterium** César Allejandro Carrillo (b.1957)

*O great mystery and wondrous sacrament,  
That animals should see the new-born Lord lying in their manger.  
Blessed is the Virgin, whose womb was worthy to bear the Lord, Jesus Christ.*  
- text from the Matins of Christmas in the Roman Breviary

**Rejoice! How Great our Joy** M. McElroy (b.1967) and J. Joubert

Based on German carols: *Als ich meinen Schafer Wacht* & *In Dulci Jubilo*

Good people now rejoice with heart and soul and voice.  
Give ye heed to what I say: Christ is born this Christmas day.

How great our joy!

Give ye heed to what I say: Rejoice! Jesus Christ is born today.  
He has opened the heavenly door. Rejoice!  
We are blessed forever, and ever, and evermore.

How great our joy!

Praise ye the Lord in heaven on high. Rejoice!  
Joy, Joy, Joy, How great our joy!

≈ Concert Choir ≈

**AUDIENCE SING**

*Lyrics Projected*

**Silent Night (Stille Nacht)** Joseph Mohr (1792-1848)

**Joy to the World (Antioch, Attr. G.F Handel)** Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

**TREBLE CHOIR**

**Soprano 1**

Mary Carlson  
Aleena Fofanoff  
Daynnie Hansen  
Grace Manlan  
Anthea Tay

**Soprano 2**

Isabel Braskamp  
Charlotte Halula  
Adeline Smith  
Jade Tolentino  
Holly Walworth  
Mila Willers-Powell

**Alto**

Summer Bialek  
Akaria Crawford  
Samantha Dell  
Abby Glynn  
Maria Hernandez-Arias  
Sariah Mulitauopele  
Cadence Osborn  
Elyzabeth Tuttle

**CONCERT CHOIR**

**Soprano**

Catherine Burnett  
Lizzy Butler  
Irma Hammarbäck  
Olivia Mason  
Josephine Partridge  
Mia Sanchez  
Nikki Stewart  
Sierra Sullivan

**Alto**

Charisse Aguasin  
Tiffany Blanco  
Jasmine Bowles  
Elizabeth Horton  
Gracelyn Pen  
Keira Shaw  
Sonetta Ty  
Luna Van Brost

**Tenor**

Eric Busz  
Oscar Enstad  
Adam Haagenson  
Curtis Kitchen  
Sam McFarland  
Josh Whitney  
Naoshi Yonezawa

**Bass**

Gavin Abel  
David Diepersloot  
Michel Kapingamulume  
Aidan McFarland  
Lucas Simonton  
Greg Torres-Uhler  
Miguel Vasquez

**INSTRUMENTALISTS**

**Flute**

Phyllis Olson

**Violin**

Naomi Kim

**Percussion**

James Loffink

**AUTUMN CHORAL CONCERT**

**ADVENT  
& CHRISTMAS  
PROGRAM**

**Concert Choir**

Ryan Ellis, director  
Asta Vaičekonis, collaborative pianist

**Treble Choir**

Beth Ann Bonnecroy, director  
Zhanhong Kuang, collaborative pianist

Monday, November 25, 2024  
First Free Methodist Church  
7:30 PM

*For more information, see [spu.edu/music](http://spu.edu/music)*

