





**Liturgical Dance**

*Not So Silent Night*

Anna Fredeen

**Prayers for Christmas**

**Carol**

***Angels We Have Heard on High***

Angels we have heard on high,  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply,  
Echo back their joyous strains.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
Say what may the tidings be,  
Which inspire your heavenly song?  
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see,  
Christ whose birth the angels sing;  
Come adore on bended knee,  
God, our world now entering.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

**Christmas Meditation**

*Welcome to the Wonder*

Rev. Jennifer Gingras

**Anthem**

*Troc-A-Tron*

*The Adult Choir*

**Time for Sharing**

Invitation

Offertory

*Night of Silence*

Cynthia Robinson, soprano

**Christmas in Candlelight**

*As we sing, the ushers will move down the aisles to light our candles. Please pass the light to the person seated next to you. Always tip the unlit candle.*

**Carol**

***Silent Night***

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and child, Holy infant so tender and mild  
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight,  
Glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing alleluia;  
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

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.

*Please hum one more verse*

**Moment of Silence**





**The Christmas Flowers are given with love from the following people:**

Vaughan Askue & Arlene Remond	In Honor of William E. Askue
The Cuseo Family	In Honor of Joseph Cuseo II
John & Linda Fracassini	In Honor of Loved Ones
The Fredeen Family	In Memory of Carl Hjerpe, in Honor of Phyllis Gelineau & in Celebration of the Jr. Choir
The Griffiths Family	In Memory of Philip Manley
Debbie & Bruce Gran	In Memory of Peter Litchfield
Ken & Pam Kelly	In Memory of Joseph Kelly & In Honor of Ruth Kelly and Tom Ethel Slater
Gay Muizulis	In Celebration of Thomas & Jonathan Culp
The Parratt Family	In Memory of Donna's parents Ken & Ruth Thomas Jones
Ron & Peggy Villani	In Celebration of Family & Friends
Dave & Jacque Ward	In Memory of Billy Hanes and Chan Ward
Nils Wiberg	In Memory of Gudrun
Ann Zeiner	In Memory of Robert Zeiner
Loraine Zeiner	In Celebration of the Christmas Season

**Advent Music Notes**

**In this Christmas season, the MCC Choir repertoire features an eclectic mix of musical styles,** but many of these works share a traditional theme associating the nativity with the winter solstice. Nowhere do the gospels say that Jesus was born in winter. But the coming of Christ, Light of the World, and ancient festivals of the longest night and the returning sun, is an obvious connection as old as the church itself. More recently, our European forbears associated the solstice with winter weather, as well; so perhaps it is not surprising that we so often envision the angels and shepherds in the snow.  
– *David Walker*



**Alleluia, Ye Heavens Sing Praises** – Camille Saint-Saëns  
This charming quartet is from a Christmas Oratorio premiered on Christmas Day 1858 at the Church of the Madeleine in Paris. The text, originally in Latin, is from Isaiah (49.13), whose poetic prophecies provide so much of our advent lectionary.

**Every Valley** – John Ness Beck  
Beck (1930 – 1987) was an American composer and arranger, popular for his accessible settings of sacred music in contemporary styles. This prophecy from Isaiah (40.4-5), also

quoted in the gospel of Luke (3.5-6), may be one of our most familiar and beloved advent readings. Many of us are more familiar with the more grandiose setting in Handel's Messiah, but the simple melody and fluid piano accompaniment of this choral ballad arrangement, vaguely reminiscent of movie westerns, give the reading a reassuring gentleness.

**Gloria In Excelsis** – W.A. Mozart (attributed)

*Gloria In Excelsis* or "Glory to God in the highest" is what the angels sang when they appeared to the shepherds in Luke 2.14. Scholars can't even agree whether Mozart wrote this version. It's a short piece to begin with and our choir sings only the final benediction: *Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris* (Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father).

**Go Tell It On The Mountain** – Traditional (arr Jasperse)

Performer and recording artist Greg Jasperse laid this funky gospel groove on one of the most familiar and beloved nativity anthems, a traditional African-American spiritual first documented in 1865.

**London Waits** – arr William Llewellyn

Llewellyn is a contemporary Welsh composer and educator known for traditional secular and sacred works. His "London Waits" is a *quodlibet*, an old-school term for what we would call today a "mashup" of different songs woven together. In this case, popular English carols are arranged against the main theme of a traditional song called "Past three o'clock," a drinking song echoing the call of the night watchman. Imagine coming out of the tavern past midnight, realizing that the revel of Christmas Eve has become the noel of Christmas morning, and celebrating with a spontaneous burst of carols for which nobody remembers more than the first verse.

**Long, Long Ago** – Carlisle Floyd

Born in 1926, Carlisle Floyd earned acclaim as an American composer of opera. In this short song, the ambiguous tonality and restless meter cast an atmosphere of suspenseful anticipation over sleepy little Bethlehem. In this narrative it is not winter, but the sheep are "whiter than snow." The angels appear, on cue, in a brief passage in a brighter key.

**Troc-A-Tron** – Czech tune arranged by Petr Eben

Apparently Bethlehem is the place to be. In this traditional folk carol, the legato melody rides smoothly above the staccato triplets of a horse's hooves on the road to Bethlehem, then passes to the lower voices as the rider recedes in the dark distance.

**Winter Solstice Carol** – William Beckstrand

Beckstrand, a contemporary composer, professor, organist, and church musician, composed this piece for bells and two choirs in 1998. The main theme, its text taken from a poem by composer Giles Swain, is a plaintive, dissonant cry for help in a cold, dark, despairing world. A smaller choir, at a distance, answers softly at first – and in Latin, being angels – with the good news. The earthly and heavenly choirs join together more exuberantly, and harmoniously, in the final Gloria and Alleluia:

*Hodie Christus natus est*  
*Hodie Salvator apparuit*  
*Hodie in terra canunt Angeli*  
*Laetantur Archangeli*  
*Hodie exsultant justi*  
*Gloria in excelsis Deo*  
*Alleluia*

Today Christ is born  
Today the savior has appeared  
Today on earth the angels sing  
The Archangels rejoice  
Today the righteous rejoice  
Glory to God in the highest  
Alleluia!



**Monroe Congregational Church**

***United Church of Christ***

*"That they may all be one."*

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Interim Senior Pastor	Reverend John Collins
Associate Pastor	Reverend Jennifer M. Gingras
Music Director	William Duchon
Administrative Assistant	Melissa Rosenberg

