



Love Feasts in Moravian Tradition  
December, 2020  
Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church  
Peachtree City, Georgia



***Welcome to our Love Feast! We pray that this service will bring you peace and help you to focus on the newborn baby in the manger.***

2020 has been a year like no other! And this Love Feast is like no other. Since 2003 Christ Our Shepherd has offered a “Love Feast in Moravian Style.” We have defined it to include the Moravian Blessing, Love Feast buns and coffee, beeswax candles with red paper ruffs, and lots of music. Apple juice has been available if worshipers did not drink coffee.

When it became clear by the end of this summer that we would not be resuming any sense of “normal,” we had to make some decisions about the Love Feast tradition at Christ Our Shepherd. By that time, I had participated in the ELCA musicians’ Pentecost virtual video and was aware that Southern Crescent Chorale’s Christmas concert was to be entirely virtual. After consulting with the pastors, **Karl Dietmeyer**, **Jim Hagberg**, and other leaders, the decision was made to do a first-ever *virtual* Love Feast.

That had a lot of implications: the Sanctuary would not be filled with musicians and worshipers; all music and spoken parts would be recorded in advance; no dieners would distribute buns and drinks; candles would not be lit in the darkened church; and we would have to spark some Christmas spirit in October. Importantly, all the separate videos of music groups would have to be assembled into one final video for you to watch whenever convenient. New staff Tech Director **Bill Porter** agreed to do this vital work. Because of Bill’s work, you could choose to watch one anthem at a time over multiple occasions.

These groups agreed to record videos, some with the help of **Bill** and audio intern **Will Friedrichs**: **Joyful Noise Ringers**, **Singers Far and Near**, **Love Feast Choir**, **COVID Cantanti**, **Palmetto Road Pandemic Pipers**, **Plaid Pajama Players**, a **Sandra and Bill duet**, and a **Sarah Juhasz** handbell tree solo. Hardly any of these musicians had been part of a project like this before, but they were willing to take the risk to create something new and lovely.

**Joyful Noise Ringers**, with the organ, recorded accompaniments for four carols, with which you are invited to sing along. **Singers Far and Near** were invited to record themselves singing with these accompaniments. In addition to Georgia, these states are represented: Oklahoma, Tennessee, North Dakota, Connecticut, Wisconsin, and Washington, D.C. Former Sanctuary Choir members said “yes.” Others were interested but unable to participate this year for a number of reasons. I am grateful to them all.

**Love Feast Choir** has always included some singers who join the group just for Love Feast music. This year’s group included those who were available and comfortable assembling in the Sanctuary to record five anthems live, standing ten feet apart.

**COVID Cantanti** (“singers”) was an ensemble of nine who came together to make videos of three anthems. Some were more comfortable recording live in a group; some were up for doing these anthems with only a short rehearsal on the spot. **Rita DeNell** and **Sara Turk** came to play flutes on one anthem.

**Palmetto Road Pandemic Pipers** were four members of the Christ Our Shepherd Flute Choir who, with their conductor **Karl Dietmeyer**, went out to the pavilion at the church’s beautiful property there to safely record carols standing ten feet apart.

**Plaid Pajama Players** was an *ad hoc* ensemble envisioned and organized by **Sarah Juhasz** and led by **Mr. Dietmeyer**. They played music originally arranged for handbells on Boomwhackers, Resonator Bells, Choir Chimes, symphonic chimes, and percussion instruments.

**Sandra Porter Bohlken** is Director of Contemporary Worship, and **Bill Porter** (her brother) is her assistant, as well as the church's new Director of Technology for Worship. We have appreciated their Friday Fellowship videos for several months now.

**Sarah Juhasz'** handbell solos have been eagerly anticipated at Love Feasts for years. Unlike previous years, she did not need to borrow bells for her solo. Last summer she was given a set of handbells by a group of Christ Our Shepherd donors. She will take them with her when she leaves us to put her education and experience to work as an officer in the United States Air Force.

### **So WHAT EXACTLY IS A LOVE FEAST?**

The Love Feast is an ancient observance, dating from the early days of the Christian Church. You may find it mentioned in Acts, Chapter 2. It is a simple meal of the faithful in a service of worship.

Love Feasts are a cherished tradition of the Moravian Church. Sparked by the dissent of a priest, Jan Hus, who was burned at the stake over a century before Martin Luther nailed up his Ninety-Five Theses, *Unitas Fratrum*, as they were known, were nearly stomped out in two centuries of war and persecution.

A Lutheran nobleman, Count Nicholas von Zinzendorf, invited the struggling group to his estate in Germany, and they founded a community at Herrnhut. Five years later, on August 13, 1727, the believers came together to share in the sacrament of Holy Communion. For some time before this occasion the attitude in the community had been anything but one of brotherhood. Only through intense prayer and the working of the Holy Spirit did a revival take place in the hearts of the people. August 13 was to be a celebration for this renewed bond of love. Seven groups gathered and continued to sing hymns and pray together. As the experience became prolonged, Count Zinzendorf sent food and they broke bread together. It was truly a feast of love.

Moravians have always valued music highly, both in worship and at home. It is natural that music became an integral element of Love Feasts.

The Moravian Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America established full-communication ties in 1999, affirming their kinship in Christ. Christ Our Shepherd has offered Love Feasts since 2003.

During this service there are appointed times to eat a bun with coffee, and to light a beeswax candle. *If you choose to participate, you may use what you have available.*

PLEASE NOTE: Buns used this year are Hawaiian rolls. You may have requested a bag with buns, candles, and information. If not, you may use whatever you choose. The coffee is decaffeinated and includes 2% milk, Half-and-Half, and sugar. It will be available at the Parking Lot Love Feast. Or you may brew it at home with the recipe we have included. If you do not prefer coffee, you may use whatever drink you like.

# Christmas Love Feasts

Saturday, December 12, 2020, at 6:00 P.M.  
in the Parking Lot and Online,

or any time via the church's pages on FaceBook, YouTube, and COS' website

*In keeping with the Moravian preference for simplicity,  
no musicians wear robes or formal attire.*

## I

*Prepare the Royal Highway* arr. **Karl Dietmeyer** (2020)  
Palmetto Road Pandemic Pipers

*Bethlehem Journey* arr. Linda Lamb (1999)  
Joyful Noise Ringers

## II

*Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning* arr. André Thomas (1982/2000)  
Love Feast Choir with congas

*Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers* arr. K. Lee Scott (2002)  
CONGREGATION\* at home, Love Feast Choir, and organ

1. **ALL: Rejoice, rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear;  
the evening is advancing, and darker night is near.  
The bridegroom is arising and soon is drawing nigh.  
Up, pray and watch and wrestle; at midnight comes the cry.**
2. MEN: The watchers on the mountain proclaim the bridegroom near;  
go forth as he approaches with alleluias clear.  
The marriage feast is waiting; the gates wide open stand.  
Arise, O heirs of glory; the bridegroom is at hand.
3. CHOIR: The saints, who here in patience their cross and sufferings bore,  
shall live and reign for ever when sorrow is no more.  
Around the throne of glory the Lamb they shall behold;  
in triumph cast before him their diadems of gold.
4. **ALL: Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;  
arise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this benighted sphere.  
With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see  
the day of earth's redemption that sets your people free!**

WELCOME, INTRODUCTION TO THE LOVE FEAST AND PRAYER

**Pastor Fritz**

### III

*Calypso Carol* arr. Allen Pote (1994)  
COVID Cantanti; **Rita DeNell** and **Sara Turk**, flutes

READING AND HEARING THE CHRISTMAS STORY **Dana Bogdanski**

SHARING THE LOVE FEAST **Pastor Fritz**

BLESSING: **COME, LORD JESUS, OUR GUEST TO BE,  
AND BLESS THESE GIFTS BESTOWED BY THEE.  
BLESS OUR LOVED ONES EVERYWHERE,  
AND KEEP THEM IN THY LOVING CARE. AMEN.**

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US IN EATING BUNS AND DRINKING COFFEE OR JUICE.

*Rise Up, Shepherds, and Follow* arr. Tom Fettke and Thomas Grassi (2015)  
**Barbara Anderson**, soloist; Love Feast Choir; **Cheryl Dietmeyer**, piano

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* arr. **Karl Dietmeyer** (2020)  
Palmetto Road Pandemic Pipers

### IV

† *Thou Child Divine* J.A.P. Schulz (1747-1800)  
COVID Cantanti and piano; **Miriam Beecher**, soprano; **David Beecher**, tenor

*Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy (Nutcracker)* arr. Kristine Johaneck (2017)  
adapted, **Sarah Juhasz** (2020)  
Plaid Pajama Players, playing Resonator Bells

*Gloria in the Highest* **Gary Pederson** (2005)

*The Little Drummer Boy* arr. Samuel Stokes (1958)  
adapted, **Sarah Juhasz** (2020)  
Plaid Pajama Players, playing Boomwhackers and percussion instruments

*Welcome to Our World* arr. Jack Schrader (2002)  
Love Feast Choir and piano

### V

*Carol of the Bells* arr. Kerry Boyce (2003)  
adapted, **Sarah Juhasz** (2020)  
Plaid Pajama Players, playing Boomwhackers, Choir Chimes, and symphonic chimes

O Wondrous Star

Larry Shackley (2003)

COVID Cantanti; **Jim Hagberg**, soloist

We Three Kings

arr. **Bohken and Porter** (2020)

**Sandra Bohken** and **Bill Porter**

Joy to the World

arr. **Karl Dietmeyer** (2020)

Palmetto Road Pandemic Pipers

## VI

† Carol: *Christ the Lord, the Lord Most Glorious*

Edward Leinbach (1823-1901)

CONGREGATION at home, Singers Far and Near,

Joyful Noise Ringers, and organ

*You may find the music on page 14.*

1. **Christ the Lord, the Lord most glorious, now is born; O shout aloud!  
Man by him is made victorious; praise your Savior, hail your God!**
2. **Praise the Lord, for on us shineth Christ, the Sun of righteousness;  
He to us in love inclineth, cheers our souls with pardoning grace.**
3. **Praise the Lord, whose saving splendor shines into the darkest night.  
O what praises shall we render for this never-ceasing light.**
4. **Praise the Lord, God our salvation. Praise him who retrieved our loss.  
Sing with awe and love's sensation, "Hallelujah, God with us!"**

† Carol: *Morning Star, O Cheering Sight*

Francis Hagen (1815-1907)

**Ashley Young, Amelia Merriman, Sarah DeNell, and Lauren Marland**, soloists

CONGREGATION at home, Singers Far and Near, Joyful Noise Ringers, and organ

*You may find the music on page 14.*

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. *Morning star, thy glory bright far excels the sun's clear light.*  
**Morning star, thy glory bright far excels the sun's clear light.**  
*Jesus be, constantly; constantly, Jesus be*  
**More than thousand suns to me.**
3. *Thy glad beams, thou morning star, cheer the nations near and far.*  
**Thy glad beams, thou morning star, cheer the nations near and far.**  
*Thee we own, Lord alone. Lord alone, thee we own,*  
**Our dear savior, God's dear Son. ►**

4. *Morning star, my soul's true light, tarry not, dispel my night.*  
**Morning star, my soul's true light, tarry not, dispel my night.**  
*Jesus mine, in me shine. In me shine, Jesus mine.*  
**Fill my heart with light divine.**

Candlelight Carol: *Silent Night* arr. Michael Burkhardt (1992)  
 CONGREGATION at home, Singers Far and Near, organ;  
**Sara Turk**, flutes; Joyful Noise Ringers

You are invited to light a candle to be reminded that Christ is living in and among us.

- 1 **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.**
- 2 **Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;**  
**glories stream from heaven afar, heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!**  
**Christ, the Savior, is born!**
3. **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.**

## VII

*An Irish Christmas Blessing* arr. Jay Rouse (2017)  
 Love Feast Choir and piano; **Sandra Bohklen**, soloist

*O Come, All Ye Faithful* arr. Cathy Moglebust (2003)  
 CONGREGATION at home, Singers Far and Near, Joyful Noise Ringers, and organ

- 1 **ALL: O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!**  
**O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;**  
**come and behold him, born the king of angels:**

*Refrain: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,*  
**O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

- 2 **ALL: The highest, most holy, light of light eternal,**  
**born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;**  
**Son of the Father now in flesh appearing! Refrain**

Interlude: handbells and organ

- 3 **WOMEN: Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,**  
**sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!**  
**ALL: Glory to God in the highest: Refrain**

- 4 **Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;**  
**Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!**  
**Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: Refrain**

## VIII

BENEDICTION

Pastor Miriam

*Carol of the Bells*

arr. George Winston (1982)

adapted for handbell tree by **Sarah Juhasz**

**Sarah Juhasz**, handbell soloist

*It is our prayer that this Love Feast will focus your season  
on God's staggering love for us in sending his Son  
to be born in a manger.  
We are grateful for your presence.  
May God bless you richly.*

† Moravian music

\* "CONGREGATION at home" indicates that you are invited to sing with us. If you are experiencing the Parking Lot Love Feast, you too are invited to sing enthusiastically.

### *Acknowledgments:*

Much of the information used here was drawn from rich sources such as *Moravian Composers: Paragraph Biographies*, by C. Daniel Crews (1999), and *12 Moravian Hymns and Chorales*, selected by John H. Giesler (1978), both published by Moravian Music Foundation.

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## THE MUSICIANS

### Palmetto Road Pandemic Pipers

Rita DeNell, C flute    Sarah Wampler, C flute  
Penny Kahley, C flute    Sara Kahley Turk, bass flute

### Joyful Noise Ringers

Karl Dietmeyer, Minka Fulton, Lauri Gambrel, Linda Grabill,  
Casie Groover, Sarah Juhasz, Martha Kahley, Penny Kahley,  
Pat Oliver, Joni Siepert, David Turk, Sara Turk



## Love Feast Choir, 2020

David Beecher, Miriam Beecher, David Byers, Sue Byers, Rita DeNell,  
Karl Dietmeyer, Jean Dohany, Jim Hagberg, Marty Hagberg, Fred Herber,  
Etsuko Karnitis, Madelyn Lee, Brad Milburn, Debra Myers, Delee Rehak,  
Tom Rehak, Kitty Robison, Sue Hamre Smith, Ginnie Weber  
Barbara Anderson and Sandra Bohlken, soloists

Pianist: Cheryl Dietmeyer

## COVID Cantantí

David Beecher, Miriam Beecher, David Byers, Sue Byers, Rita DeNell,  
Karl Dietmeyer, Jean Dohany, Jim Hagberg, Marty Hagberg,  
Kitty Robison; Rita DeNell and Sara Turk, flutes

## Plaid Pajama Players

Karl Dietmeyer, Minka Fulton, Sarah Juhasz, Martha Kahley,  
Penny Kahley, Joni Siepert, David Turk, Sara Turk

## GraceFlock Band (2010)

Gary Pederson, lead vocals, acoustic guitar;  
Christie Pederson and Kathy Rothfusz, vocals; Mara Roth, bass;  
Lans Rothfusz, electric guitar, synthesizers;  
Frank Trembley, lead guitar; Mark Summers, drums; Sanctuary Choir, vocals

## Singers Far and Near (virtual singers)

David Beecher, Miriam Beecher, Jason Breckling, Molly Breckling,  
David Byers, Carolyn Callison, Mark Cutler, Rita DeNell, Karl Dietmeyer,  
Casie Groover, Sue Hamre Smith, Richard King, Debra Myers,  
Dewey Patrick, Christie Pederson, Gary Pederson, Nancy Shepack

### *GUEST SINGERS FROM FAR AND NEAR:*

Amelia Merriman, Connecticut  
Ashley Young, Washington, D.C.  
Sarah DeNell, Georgia  
Laura Dietmeyer Ferree, Wisconsin  
Linda Hansen Manes, Louisiana  
Ken Olander, Tennessee  
Lans Rothfusz, Oklahoma  
Sandy Thomas, Georgia; Ted Thomas, Georgia  
Sue Lynn Thomas White, North Dakota; Brian White, North Dakota  
Duncan White, North Dakota; Robert White, North Dakota

Technical Director and Video Editor  
Bill Porter

Sound Technician  
Will Friedrichs

Parking Lot Love Feast Coordinators  
Linda Volckmann, Dave and Sue Byers

Conductors  
Karl P. Dietmeyer and James C. Hagberg

Minister of Music, Organist, Pianist  
David Beecher

Reader, Christmas Story from Luke 2  
Dana Bogdanski

Pastors  
Fritz Wiese and Miriam Beecher

Worship Support  
Joni Siepert

The Ludwig Timpani are given to the glory of God and in memory of:  
Paul and Dorothy Christopher, Paul Grice, Maude and Millen Grice, Katharyn Thoman Schneider,  
Margot and Leopold Vogt, T.J. and Irene Westbrook, Erlene Wolfe

The Adams Symphonic Chimes are given to the glory of God  
by Kathie Manes in memory of her husband, John.  
Kathie also gave our Love Feast mugs, which we hope to use again next year.

The Bass Handbell clavier tables were designed and built  
by David and Sara Turk.

Candle Dressers: Kathie Manes and Carol Talbott

Love Feast Bags: Kathie Manes, Jean Dohany, Pam Gould, Kitty Robison, Carol Talbott

Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall Decoration: Kathie Manes;  
Marquita Foster; Susan Garrett; Sarah Juhasz; Daryl, Cindy, and Megan Irvin; Madelyn Lee;  
Chris, Rebecca, and Ashleigh Shriner; Paul and Carol Talbott, Wes Saunders

## 🎵 The Music 🎵

Before the “Parking Lot” Love Feast we hear **Christ Our Shepherd “Moravian” Church Band** This group, playing live, is comprised of members Christ Our Shepherd musical organizations. Led by **David Beecher**, they play carols from *Chorales and Music, Moravian Church Band, Southern Province*. This group is inspired by Moravian Church Bands, which always play for thirteen Church Festival occasions, for outdoor services, and for the Funeral Service at Graveside. These bands, which include multiple generations of families, assemble at 2:00 A.M. on Easter morning, and they play throughout their communities, reminding all listeners that Easter has arrived. They then play for the Sunrise Service.

The Southern Province traces its origins to 1771, when the congregation at Salem, N.C., was founded. The church received its first trombones the next year, and trumpets and horns were soon added.

Our copies of *Chorales and Music* were given by **Karl and Cheryl Dietmeyer** in July, 2003, to celebrate five years of ministry by Miriam and David Beecher at Christ Our Shepherd.

To open the first Christ Our Shepherd Virtual Love Feast we invite the **Palmetto Road Pandemic Pipers** to play ***Prepare the Royal Highway***. The tune, *BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN*, is a Swedish folk tune from the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The words to this Advent hymn are by Franz Mikael Franzén (1722-1847). The **PRPP** are four members of the Christ Our Shepherd Flute Choir who went out to the pavilion at the church’s lovely property to record carols in the open air at a safe distance. Conductor **Karl Dietmeyer** (b. 1958) arranged all the carols they played. If you would like to read the words, here is the first stanza:



*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:  
Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God’s word!*

**Joyful Noise Ringers** play ***Bethlehem Journey*** in an arrangement by Linda R. Lamb. Ms. Lamb (b. 1944) has been involved with handbells since 1992, as director, composer, and ringer. She is the handbell director at Lexington Park Baptist Church, Lexington Park, Maryland, where she directs a multi-generational choir. She uses the charming English children’s carol, “How Far Is It to Bethlehem?” as the basis of her arrangement, but also quotes two other carols, “Silent Night” and “O Little Town of Bethlehem.” Here are the words to the first two stanzas by Frances Chesterton (1869-1938):

*How far is it to Bethlehem, not very far? Shall we find the stable room lit by a star?  
Can we see the little child, is he within? If we lift the wooden latch, may we go in?  
May we stroke the creatures there, oxen or sheep?  
May we peek like them and see Jesus asleep?  
If we touch his tiny hand, will he awake? Will he know we’ve come so far just for his sake?*

Continuing an Advent theme, the **Love Feast Choir** sings an African-American Spiritual arranged by Dr. André Thomas (b. 1952), who was Director of Choral Activities and Professor of Music Education at the Florida State University School of Music.

**Keep Your Lamps** refers to the story of the wise and foolish virgins in Matthew 25:1-13. The wise women had their lamps ready for the coming of the bridegroom, and so they went to the feast. The foolish women, unprepared, missed it. The moral to us: be prepared for the coming of the Christ.

The Spiritual is accompanied only by conga drums.

*Keep your lamps trimmed and burning; the time is drawing nigh.*

*Children, don’t get weary ‘til your work is done.*

*Christian, journey soon be over; the time is drawing nigh.*

The traditional processional carol at Christ Our Shepherd has been **Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers**, a Swedish Advent hymn by Laurentius Laurentii (1661-1722), in a translation by Sarah Findlater (1823-1907). The music is a Swedish folk tune, here arranged by K. Lee Scott (2002). You are invited to sing with the Love Feast Choir, organ, and bells, using the words on page 3.

Please note the plan of this hymn: everyone sings Stanza 1. Stanza 2 is for men in the choir and congregation. The choir alone sings Stanza 3 unaccompanied. After a short interlude, we all join in singing Stanza 4 with a descant from the choir.

**Pastor Fritz** welcomes us to the Love Feast, and tells something of its origins.

The **COVID Cantanti** sing **Calypso Carol**, which picks up on earlier imagery (“O now carry me to Bethlehem”) to tell the Christmas story in verse. **Rita DeNell** and **Sara Turk** play the flute parts. Both the words and music were written by an Englishman, Michael Perry (1942-1996), while he was a student at Oak Hill Theological College in 1964. Perry became one of the UK’s leading contemporary hymn writers, but the **Calypso Carol** remained his most popular work. Allen Pote (b. 1945) is a composer of much music for the church and, with his wife Susan, co-founder of the Pensacola Children’s Chorus.

1. *See him lying on a bed of straw; a drafty stable with an open door;  
Mary cradling the babe she bore; the prince of glory is his name.*
- Refrain: *Oh, now carry me to Bethlehem to see the Lord [of love again];  
Just as poor as was the stable then, the prince of glory when he came.*
2. *Star of silver sweep across the skies, show where Jesus in the manger lies.  
Shepherds, swiftly from your stupor rise to see the Savior of the world.* Refrain
3. *Angels, sing again the song you sang, [sing the glory of God’s gracious plan];  
Sing that Beth’hem’s little baby can be the Savior of us all.* Refrain
4. *Mine are riches from your poverty, from thine innocence, eternity;  
Mine, forgiveness by thy death for me, child of sorrow for my joy.* Refrain

Every Christmas Love Feast includes the reading of Luke’s familiar account of Jesus’ birth. Our reader is **Dana Bogdanski**, an accomplished thespian with experience in lots of areas who also plays electric bass for Christ Our Shepherd’s contemporary service. After Dana blesses us with the story, **Pastor Fritz** invites us to partake of the Love Feast. If you requested a bag, you will find buns inside, along with the recipe for Love Feast coffee. If not, use whatever is available to you. This is not the Eucharist, but a fellowship meal which this year in this format reaches across the country.

Music resumes as the Love Feast Choir sings **Rise Up, Shepherds**, a traditional African-American Spiritual. It is arranged by Tom Fettke and Thomas Grassi (2015). Tom Fettke has been a school music teacher, church musician, and hymnal editor. His published anthems number in the hundreds. He and his friend Tom Grassi have emulated jazz in this arrangement. This anthem is given in memory of **Rainer Vogt**, brother of our own **Mechthild Vogt**, both of whom now sing with the angels.

**Barbara Anderson**, a long-time worship leader and teacher of our preschool singers, sKIDdles, is the soloist.

1. *There’s a star in the east on Christmas morn. Rise up, shepherds, and follow.  
It will lead to the place where the Savior’s born.  
Rise up, shepherds, and follow.  
Leave your sheep and leave your lambs. Rise up, shepherds, and follow.  
Leave your ewes and leave your rams. Rise up, shepherds, and follow.*
- Refrain: *Follow, follow. Rise up, shepherds, and follow.  
Follow the star of Bethlehem. Rise up, shepherds, and follow. Rise up!*
2. *If you take good heed to the angel’s words, rise up, shepherds, and follow.  
You’ll forget your flocks, you’ll forget your herds.  
Rise up, shepherds, and follow.* Refrain

**Palmetto Road Pandemic Pipers** are back, playing **Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**. Charles Wesley (1707-1788), a founder of the Methodist Church with his brother John, wrote these words, and a tune by the immortal German composer Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847) is matched to it. If you would like to sing or hum along, here is a stanza:

*Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born king;  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."  
Joyful, all you nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;  
With angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Refrain: Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born king!"*

**COVIC Cantanti** sing directly to the new-born king in the charming Moravian anthem, **Thou Child Divine**. Johann Abraham Peter Schulz (1747-1800) was quite a successful composer throughout Europe during his lifetime, but most of his music was forgotten after his death. Not so with **Thou Child Divine**, which Moravians have been singing for two centuries. Our edition was prepared by Dr. Donald McCorkle, former director of the Moravian Music Foundation. Our soloists, **Miriam and David Beecher**, sing in dialogue with the larger group.

*Thou Child divine, Immanuel, welcome unto thy humble manger.  
With heartfelt joy thy birth we hail,  
And greet with songs the heavenly stranger.  
Our doubts and fears and sadness are turned to joy and gladness,  
Good will to men and peace on earth are now declared by a Savior's birth.  
Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord!*

We have heard the story of Jesus' birth. We have sung with the angels and traveled with the shepherds. We have sung a song of welcome to the baby. Let's stop for a moment to reflect on the wonder of this miracle. Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840-1893) certainly did NOT write **Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy** for use in church! It is part of his beloved ballet, **Nutcracker** (1892). However, we welcome its delicate breath of fresh air in the midst of our Love Feast. Thank you, **Plaid Pajama Players** and **Sarah Juhasz**, who envisioned playing this piece on Resonator Bells. Kristine Johaneke wrote this arrangement, originally for handbells, in 2017.

We experience another sudden change in style with the driving, exultant **Gloria in the Highest**. Our own **Gary Pederson** wrote it in 2005, and it is included on GraceFlock Band's third CD, "Life," released in 2010. Gary was a co-founding musician in Christ Our Shepherd's Sunday morning contemporary service. So far as I know, it is the only Christmas song written for this group, and it is the only one which includes Sanctuary Choir.

You will notice that those forces do not appear in our video. That's because no video exists of all of them singing and playing it back in the last decade. **Gary** and his wife and fellow musician **Christie** were kind and resourceful enough to make a video of the two of them so we could include this song.

*Gloria in the highest. Gloria in the highest.  
Chorus: Gloria in the highest. Gloria.  
Gloria in the highest. Gloria.  
And on earth—peace. And on earth—peace. Chorus  
Good will among—all. Good will among—all. Chorus  
Gloria in the highest heaven above. Gloria in the highest heaven above.  
Chorus  
The angels cried, "Gloria!" The shepherds cried, "Gloria!"  
The children cried, "Gloria!" The people cried, "Gloria!"*



We hear the **Plaid Pajama Players** once more as they play Boomwhackers and percussion instruments on the sentimental favorite, **The Little Drummer Boy**. Written by Katherine Davis, Harry Simeone, and Henry Onorati in 1958, our arranger is Samuel Stokes, our adapter, **Sarah Juhasz**.

**Love Feast Choir** sings **Welcome to Our World**, a 1995 song by Chris Rice. Our arranger is Jack Schrader (2002). Mr. Schrader (b. 1942) is an arranger, composer, conductor, vocalist, organist/pianist, and a past editor with Hope Publishing Company. Mr. Rice (b. 1970) is an American singer and songwriter who works in contemporary Christian music. He was Christian Songwriter of the Year in 1995.

This anthem was given in memory of **Garry Dailey**.

1. *Tears are falling, hearts are breaking, how we need to hear from God.  
You've been promised, we've been waiting; welcome, Holy Child. Welcome, Holy Child.*
2. *Hope that you don't mind our manger; how I wish we would have known,  
But, long-awaited holy stranger, make yourself at home. Please make yourself at home.*
3. *Bring your peace into our violence; bid our hungry souls be filled.  
Word now breaking heaven's silence, welcome to our world. Welcome to our world.*
4. *Fragile finger sent to heal us, tender brow prepared for thorn,  
Tiny heart whose blood will save us, unto us is born; unto us is born.*
5. *So wrap our injured flesh around you. Breathe our air and walk our sod.  
Rob our sin and make us holy, perfect Son of God, perfect Son of God.  
Welcome to our world.*

We get to hear **Plaid Pajama Players** once more as they present **Carol of the Bells!** They play Boomwhackers, Choir Chimes, and symphonic chimes. This Ukrainian carol is based on the chant "Shchedryk." It is by Mykola Leontovych (1877-1921), who was a composer, choral conductor, and teacher of international renown. Our arranger is Kerry Boyce (2003).

**COVID Cantanti** sing **O Wondrous Star**, an unaccompanied Christmas song by Larry Shackley (2003). It is in Spiritual style, both the words and music. Mr. Shackley (b. 1956) is a full-time composer and editor from Columbia, S.C. From 1995-2007, he taught and directed the music program at Columbia International University in Columbia.



**Jim Hagberg** is our soloist.

Refrain: *O wondrous star! Shining like the sun in all its splendor.  
O wondrous star! Lead us to the Child of Bethlehem.*

1. *The wise men in a far-off land were looking to the skies,  
When suddenly a sign from God appeared before their eyes.  
"A king is born in Israel, there can't be any doubt!  
Let's saddle up our camels, men, and seek this baby out!"  
[They were singing . . .] Refrain*
2. *When Herod heard the wise men's news, he didn't know what to do.  
He said, "Go down and find the Child, I want to worship, too!"  
The wise men followed God instead, and brought their gifts so rare  
Right to the place the star had led and worshiped Jesus there.  
[They were singing . . .] Refrain*

**Sandra Porter Bohlken** and **Bill Porter** continue to focus our attention on the Magi as they sing their own arrangement of **We Three Kings**. This is a carol written by John Henry Hopkins, Jr. in 1857. At the time of composing the carol, Hopkins served as the rector of Christ Episcopal Church in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, and he wrote the carol for a Christmas pageant in New York City. Words to the first stanza are:

*We three kings of orient are. Bearing gifts we traverse afar:  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.*

Chorus: *O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.*



One of the most uplifting carols in the book is **Joy to the World**. **Palmetto Road Pandemic Pipers** offer this English melody of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, as arranged by Lowell Mason (1792-1872). Composer, teacher, editor, and publisher, Mason was one of the most influential musicians of his time. The words are by Isaac Watts (1674-1748), known as the "Father of English Hymnody." Despite being disabled to the extent he couldn't get out of bed for much of his life, his inner joy bursts through his carol. The first stanza: *Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king; Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing.*

Please join us in singing **Christ the Lord, the Lord Most Glorious**. John Miller (Johann Müller), who wrote these words, was born in Hennersdorf, Germany, in 1756. A Moravian pastor and hymn writer, he served in England from 1781 until his death in 1790. Edward Leinbach (1823-1901) was born and died in Salem, North Carolina, where he was the foremost musician for a half-century. You will find the music below, the words on page 5.

As we sing **Morning Star, O Cheering Sight**, you will hear a unique feature of this Love Feast. This carol always includes a child soloist. Four of our former child soloists sing a stanza here: **Ashley Young** (2003-2004), **Amelia Merriman** (2005-2008), **Sarah DeNell** (2009-2012), and **Lauren Marland** (2013-2017). **Natalie Robichaux**, **Emily McDowell**, and Lauren's sisters **Molly and Ruby** have also been soloists. **Ashley** has just finished law school and is admitted to the Virginia bar; **Amelia** has earned a master's in oboe performance this year; **Sarah** is a student at Georgia College and State University.

Francis Florentine Hagen (1815-1907) used words by Johann Scheffler (1657) to write this Christmas hymn. Hagen was born in Salem, but went to seminary in Pennsylvania. As were many Moravian composers, he was a teacher and pastor.

Please note the responsorial plan: we alternate with the soloist. The words are on pages 5-6. →

1. Christ the Lord, the Lord most glo-ri-ous, Now is born; O  
 2. Praise the Lord, for on us shin-eth Christ, the Sun of  
 3. Praise the Lord, Whose sav-ing splen-dor Shines in - to the

shout a - loud! Man by Him is made vic - to - ri-ous;  
 Right-eous - ness; He to us in love in - clin - eth,  
 dark - est night; O what prais-es shall we ren - der

Praise your Sav - iour, hail your God!  
 Cheers our souls with par - doning grace.  
 For this nev - er - ceas - ing Light. A - MEN.

4 Praise the Lord, God our Salvation,  
 Praise Him Who retrieved our loss;  
 Sing, with awe and love's sensation,  
 Hallelujah, God with us.

*Solo*  
 1 Morn-ing Star, O cheer-ing sight! Ere thou cam'st, how dark earth's  
 2 Morn-ing Star, thy glo - ry bright far ex - cels the sun's clear  
 3 Thy glad beams, thou Morn-ing Star, cheer the na - tions near and  
 4 Morn-ing Star, my soul's true light, tar - ry not, dis - pel my

*All*  
 night! Morn - ing Star, O cheer - ing sight! Ere thou  
 light. Morn - ing Star, thy glo - ry bright far ex -  
 far. Thy glad beams, thou Morn - ing Star, cheer the  
 night. Morn - ing Star, my soul's true light, tar - ry

*Solo* *All* *Solo*  
 cam'st, how dark earth's night! Je - sus mine, in me shine; in me  
 cels the sun's clear light. Je - sus be, con - stant - ly, con - stant -  
 na - tions near and far. Thee we own, Lord a - lone, Lord a -  
 not, dis - pel my night. Je - sus mine, in me shine, in me

*All*  
 shine, Je - sus mine, fill my heart with light di - vine.  
 ly, Je - sus be more than thou - sand suns to me.  
 lone, thee we own, our dear Sav - ior, God's dear Son.  
 shine, Je - sus mine, fill my heart with light di - vine.

If you have a candle, you may light it as we sing together **Silent Night**. Michael Burkhardt wrote our setting of **Silent Night, Holy Night**. Accompanied by flutes, organ, and handbells, this arrangement draws you into the gentle beauty of this carol. Dr. Burkhardt is noted for his compositions and his work with children. He is a graduate of Carthage College, where he was a classmate of Karl and Cheryl Dietmeyer. He later taught there, too. The words are on page 6.

**An Irish Christmas Blessing** is by Keith and Kristyn Getty (2004), noted Irish writers of hymns and carols. We sing an arrangement by Jay Rouse, who has over 350 publications in print. Our soloist is **Sandra Bohlken**. This anthem was given in memory of a Holy Folder, **Frances Kolts**.

*Now may the fragrance of his peace soar through your heart like a dove released;  
Hide in his wings, O weary distant soul—he'll guide your spirit home.*

*And may his love poured from on high flow to the depths of your deepest sigh.  
O, come and drink from the only living stream and on his shoulder lean.*

*And may the hope that will not deceive through every pain bring eternal ease.  
There is no night that can steal the promises his coming brings to us.*

*So may his joy rush over you; delight in the path he has called you to.  
May all your steps walk in heaven's endless light beyond this Christmas night.*

Cathy Moglebust wrote our setting of **O Come, All Ye Faithful** in 2003. Her husband David contributed the organ and choral parts. Ms. Moglebust is one of the most noted handbell composers and conductors of whom Lutherans can boast. She conducts two community handbell choirs in Fort Dodge and Eagle Grove, Iowa, her hometown. Holding degrees from South Dakota State University, she has developed bell choirs since 1983 and published music for them nearly that long. The words may be found printed on page 6.

**Sarah Juhasz** has brought Love Feasts to a spectacular close for several years. This year she rings her adaptation of George Winston's 1982 arrangement of **Carol of the Bells**. If you want to read more about this carol, please back up to page 13. Sarah has rung handbell solos for a number of years, but a *handbell-tree* solo is a unique kind of solo. The bells are interlocked and hung from a stand to allow Sarah to play a lot of bells with amazing speed. We hope to record more videos of Sarah playing because she is about to realize a life-goal and put all her vast skills to work as an officer and nurse in the Air Force. In addition to gracing us with her musical talent (bells, saxophone, and tuba), she has served Christ Our Shepherd as a preacher and Altar Guild member. She has invested countless hours helping create banners and paraments for the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall. In doing everything from decorating the building, to hanging Good Friday drapes, to preparing Christmas-Eve candles, she has added beauty to our festival celebrations. Our prayers and best wishes go with her.



**CHRISTMAS EVE OPPORTUNITIES AT CHRIST OUR SHEPHERD**

*Please refer to communications from the church in case COVID-19 numbers dictate changes.*

- 9:30 a.m. Children and Family Worship becomes available. This online service includes the children's Nativity Pageant.
- 1:00 p.m. Online Contemporary Christmas Worship, featuring Sandra Bohlken and the band. Pastor Fritz will preach.
- 2:30 p.m. Traditional online and in-person Worship. Live-streaming will be available on the church's website, YouTube channel, and FaceBook page. Pastor Fritz will preach. This service will be available to view at any time online.  
*The three in-person services will be limited to 50 in the Sanctuary and limited overflow in Fellowship Hall. Advance sign-up is required.*
- 4:30 p.m. In-person Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary (not live-streamed).
- 6:00 p.m. In-person Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary (not live-streamed).