



Love Feasts in Moravian Tradition
December 11 and 12, 2021
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. We are pleased to be offering Love Feasts in person this year. Last year's all-virtual Love Feast was a new challenge, and we were satisfied with the result. You will see some of last year's work during this Love Feast.

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-communion 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. PLEASE WAIT TO PARTAKE in the buns and drinks until all are served and the blessing is offered. *If you choose to participate at home, you may use what you have available.*

PLEASE NOTE: Buns used this year are Hawaiian rolls. The coffee is decaffeinated and includes 2% milk, Half-and-Half, and sugar. Apple Juice is available if you prefer. If you are experiencing the Love Feast at home, you may use whatever is convenient. If you do not prefer coffee, you may use whatever drink you like.

CAUTION: The candle you will be offered is made of beeswax, and should not drip as much as a regular candle. However, we ask that you take some precautions in the interest of safety:

1. Children under 12 must not handle lit candles; they will be given battery-powered candles.
2. Keep the candle close to you at all times to prevent contact with another person.
3. Please hold your candle upright at all times. Hold it upright 15 seconds after you extinguish it to prevent hot wax drips.
4. When you extinguish your candle, please blow gently so the wax does not splatter.

If you choose not to keep your candle, please return it to a basket in the Narthex.

↑Please stand as you are able.

†Moravian music

Christmas Love Feasts

Saturday, December 11, 2021, at 6:00 P.M.

Sunday, December 12, at 11:00 A.M.

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

*Because this is a service of worship, we ask that you defer any applause until the end.
In keeping with the Moravian preference for simplicity,
no musicians wear robes or formal attire.*

I

Carols at the Door

The Christ Our Shepherd "Moravian" Church Band

II

Prepare the Royal Highway

arr. Karl Dietmeyer (2020)

Palmetto Road Pandemic Pipers (via video)

Angels We Have Heard on High

arr. Sandra and Mitchell Eithun (2020)

Peace Ringers

Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy (Nutcracker)

arr. Kristine Johaneck (2017)

adapted, Sarah Juhasz (2020)

Plaid Pajama Players, playing Resonator Bells (via video)

III

↑ ***Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers***

arr. K. Lee Scott (2002)

CONGREGATION, Love Feast Choir, percussion, 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

READING AND HEARING THE CHRISTMAS STORY

Dana Bogdanski

SERVING THE LOVE FEAST BUNS, COFFEE, AND APPLE JUICE:

The First Noel, arr. Joel Raney (2016) and *Wexford Carol*, arr. Joseph M. Martin (2013)
Cheryl Dietmeyer and David Beecher, duo pianos

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.

Once in Royal David's City

arr. Joel Raney (2015)

Love Feast Choir; Cheryl Dietmeyer, piano; organ; and Joyful Noise Ringers

- 1 Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ, her little child.
- 2 He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor and meek and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.
- 3 Jesus is our childhood's pattern; day by day like us he grew;
He was little, weak, and helpless; tears and smiles like us he know;
And he feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all our gladness.

You are invited to join in singing Stanza 4:

**And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;
for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heav'n above;
and he leads his children on to the place where he has gone.**

Wexford Carol

arr. Elaine Hagenberg (2019)

Love Feast Choir; piano; Melinda Talley, oboe; *da Chiesa*; and percussion

Good people all, this Christmas time, consider well, and bear in mind,
What our good God for us has done, in sending his beloved Son,
With Mary holy, we should pray to God with love this Christmas Day;
In Bethlehem upon that morn, there was a blessed Messiah born.

Near Bethlehem did shepherds keep their flocks of lambs, and feeding sheep;
To whom God's angels did appear, which put the shepherds in great fear.
"Prepare and go," the angels said, "to Bethlehem. Be not afraid,
"For there you'll find this happy morn a princely babe, sweet Jesus born."

With thankful heart and joyful mind the shepherds went the babe to find,
And as God's angels had foretold, they did our Savior Christ behold. ►

Within a manger he was laid, and by his side the virgin maid
Attending on the Lord of Life, who came to earth to end all strife.
With Mary holy we should pray to God with love this Christmas Day;
In Bethlehem upon that morn, there was a blessed Messiah born.

COLLECTING THE CUPS: ***Away in a Manger***

arr. Joel Raney (2013)

Joyful Noise Ringers; *da Chiesa*; Rita DeNell, flute; piano

IV

A Virgin Most Blessèd

Ryan Kelly (2021)

Love Feast Choir; percussion; Melinda Talley, oboe; Marilee Gardner, clarinet

A virgin most blessèd the prophets do tell, hath brought forth a baby as it hath befell
To be our Redeemer from death, hell, and sin,
which Adam's transgressions hath wrapped us in.

REFRAIN:

Now therefore be merry, set sorrows aside: Christ Jesus our Savior was born on this tide;
Now therefore be merry, set sorrows aside: Christ Jesus our Savior was born on this tide!

At Beth'hem in Judah a city there was where Joseph and Mary together did pass,
And there to be taxed with many one mo',
for Cæsar commanded the same should be so.

But when they had entered the city so fair, the number of people so mighty was there,
That Joseph and Mary, whose substance was small,
Could find in the inn there no lodging at all.

Then were they constrained in a stable to lie, where horses and asses they usèd to tie,
Their lodging so simple they took it no scorn,
But against the next morning our Savior was born.

Then God sent an angel from heaven so high,
To certain poor shepherds in fields where they lie,
And bade them no longer in sorrow to stay,
Because that our Savior was born on this day!

Then presently after the shepherds did spy a number of angels that stood in the sky;
They joyfully talkèd and sweetly did sing, "To God be all glory, our heavenly King!"

REFRAIN

A Highland Carol

arr. Tom Fettke and Thomas Grassi (2012)

Love Feast Choir, *da Chiesa*, piano; and percussion

Listen to the angels sing: Glory to the new-born king;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled.

REFRAIN: Joyful, joyful, all you nations rise. Join the triumph of the skies.

With the mighty angel host proclaim: "Jesus Christ is born in Bethlehem today!"

Hail the new-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!

Light and life to all he brings. Ris'n with healing in his wings.

REFRAIN ▶

Unto Us

arr. Marty Hamby (2018)

Love Feast Choir, piano, *da Chiesa*, rhythm, and percussion

- 1 Unto us a child is born, and unto us a Son is given.
God with us; go and tell—Emmanuel has come from Heaven.
And his name will ever be Prince of Peace, the Wonderful Counselor.
He's the great and mighty Lord. Bow before our holy savior.

REFRAIN: Unto us a child is born, hope to all the world.
Unto us the Son of God has come. Sing, "Hallelujah!"
Everlasting Father, name above all names, God is with us. Sing "Hallelujah!"

Repeat the words from Stanza 1, then REFRAIN.

He's the Prince of Peace. He's the mighty God.
He's the Savior born to set the captives free!
He's the Promised One, the Messiah come. And his love will reign throughout eternity.

REFRAIN 2: Unto us a child is born, hope to all the world.
Unto us the Son of God has come. Sing, "Hallelujah!"
Shining in the darkness, light to all the world.
Unto us the Son of God has come. Sing "Hallelujah!"
Everlasting Father, name above all names, God is with us. Sing "Hallelujah!"

The Hills Are Bare at Bethlehem (*The Lone Wild Bird*)

arr. Paul McKlveen (2004)

Joyful Noise Ringers; Marilee Gardner, clarinet

See Amid the Winter's Snow

arr. Dan Forrest (2016)

Love Feast Choir; Cheryl Dietmeyer, piano; *da Chiesa*; and percussion

- 1 Alleluia. See, 'mid the winter's snow, born for us on earth below,
See, the tender Lamb appears, promised from eternal years.

CHORUS: Hail, thou ever-blessed morn, hail, redemption's happy dawn,
Sing through all Jerusalem, "Christ is born in Bethlehem."

- 2 Alleluia. Lo, within a manger lies he who built the lofty skies;
He, who, throned in light sublime, sits among the cherubim. *CHORUS*

- 3 Alleluia! Sacred Infant, all divine, what a tender love was thine,
Thus to come from highest bliss, down to such a world as this. *CHORUS*
Alleluia.

Anthem for Christmas with *Emmanuel*

arr. David Hamilton (2002)

Love Feast Choir; piano; *da Chiesa*; Karl Dietmeyer, soloist

In the space of the beginning was the living Word of light.
When this word was clearly spoken all that came to be was right.
All creation had a language, words to say what must be said.
All day long the heavens whispered, signing words in scarlet red. ►

Still, some failed to understand it, so God spoke his final Word.
On a silent night in Judah's hills a baby's cry was heard.
"Glory!" sang the angel chorus, "Glory!" echoed back the night.
Love has come to walk among us. Christ the Lord is born this night.

Born for us, a Son, a Savior, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Emmanuel, Wonderful Counselor, Lord of Life, Lord of all,
He is the Prince of Peace, Mighty God, Holy One: Emmanuel.

Welcome to Our World

arr. Jack Schrader (2002)

Love Feast Choir; *da Chiesa*; piano

- 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.

Joy to the World

arr. Karl Dietmeyer (2020)

Palmetto Road Pandemic Pipers (via video)

VII

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

Edward Leinbach (1823-1901)

Congregation, Love Feast Choir, organ, *da Chiesa*, Joyful Noise Ringers

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)
Olivia Milburn, soloist on Saturday; Marian Groover, soloist on Sunday
Congregation, 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, organ, Joyful Noise Ringers, *da Chiesa*, flutes
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.

↑ **O Come, All Ye Faithful** arr. Cathy Moglebust (2003)
Congregation, Joyful Noise Ringers, percussion, 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**

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.*

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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Please note: In these years of COVID our wind instrumental groups have been inactive.

The Brass Choir, Flute Choir, and Clarinet Choir
have not rehearsed or played in worship.
It is our hope that health concerns abate
so that they may again praise God through their music.

THE MUSICIANS

Palmetto Road Pandemic Pipers, 2020

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

Plaid Pajama Players, 2020

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

Peace Ringers

Kathie Manes, Linda Volckmann, Christie Burton, Joni Siepert, Sue Byers, Marty Benoit

Joyful Noise Ringers

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

Da Chiesa Strings

Eliana Feagins and Jason Li, Violin I
Bronwen Feagins, Violin II
Jordan Whiteman and Adeline Harper, Viola
Andrew Laughlin, Cello

These young musicians are members of the Fayette Philharmonic Youth Orchestra.

Percussion and Timpani

James McDaniel, Mark Summers, David Turk, Sara Turk

Love Feast Choir, 2021

Barbara Anderson, Eli Anderson, David Beecher, Miriam Beecher, David Byers,
Sue Byers, Carolyn Callison, James Callison, Kendra Campbell Milburn, Rita DeNell,
Karl Dietmeyer, Robin Dykes,* Steven Dykes,* John Flynn,* Minka Fulton, Linda Grabill,
Casie Groover, Jim Hagberg, Marty Hagberg, Luanne Harms, Dennis Heffelfinger,
Fred Herber, Jeff James,* Brad Milburn, Kitty Robison, Sue Hamre Smith,
Sue Summers, Linda Volckmann, Ginnie Weber, John Weber

**We welcome singers from St. Andrew's in the Pines Episcopal Church and from Southern Crescent Chorale. We have a history of cooperating with St. Andrew's, and are enjoying our new relationship with their Organist-Choirmaster, Ben Gessner. By the way, Ben will be playing a recital on December 19 at noon at the church.*

Pianist: Cheryl Dietmeyer

Conductors

Karl Dietmeyer, James C. Hagberg, David Beecher

Piano Technician: Richard Allen

Director of Worship Technology: Sound and Video: Brad Milburn

Minister of Music, Organist, Pianist: David Beecher

Music Assistant, Worship Support: Joni Siepert

Pastors: Fritz Wiese and Miriam Beecher

Dieners: Erica Harris, Cindy and Daryl Irvin, Wendy Kovacs, Kathie Manes, Laura Musil

Candle Dresser: Kathie Manes

Sanctuary Decor: Kathie Manes; Marquita Foster; Chris, Rebecca, and Ashleigh Shriner;
Paul and Carol Talbott, Wes Saunders

The Ludwig Timpani were 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 were 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.

The Kawai Grand Piano was given by Rebecca Riskedahl Mitchell.

The Yamaha Grand Piano was given by Dolores and Jim Daniel.

The Music

Our Love Feast begins before you even come inside: we hear **Christ Our Shepherd** “**Moravian**” **Church Band** at the front door. This group is comprised of members Christ Our Shepherd musical organizations. Led by **Karl Dietmeyer**, 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.

The Love Feast opens with the **Palmetto Road Pandemic Pipers** playing **Prepare the Royal Highway** via a video from 2020. The tune, *BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN*, is a Swedish folk tune from the 17th 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. This recording was featured in last year's all-virtual Love Feast. 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!*

Peace Ringers play **Angels We Have Heard on High** in an arrangement by the mother-son duo of Sandra and Mitchell Eithun. Here are the words if you would like to sing along in your head:

1 *Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.*

REFRAIN: Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.

2 *Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song? REFRAIN*

3 *Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king. REFRAIN*

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 at the beginning of our Love Feast. Thank you, **Plaid Pajama Players** and **Sarah Juhasz**, who envisioned playing this piece on Resonator Bells. Kristine Johanek wrote this arrangement, originally for handbells, in 2017. Also from 2020, we thought this video would be enjoyable for you.

The traditional processional carol at Christ Our Shepherd is **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, bells, and percussion, 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.

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 are at home, 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.

Once in Royal David's City: This text was written by Mrs. Cecil Frances Alexander (1823-1895). It was one of a set, "Hymns for Little Children" (1848), which she wrote on tenets of The Apostles' Creed. Henry J. Gauntlett (1805-1876) wrote the tune for the hymn. Since 1918 it has been the processional at the King's College, Cambridge, service of lessons and carols.

We welcome Cheryl Dietmeyer to the piano for the first of several accompaniments. Our arrangement is by Joel Raney (b. 1956), an Alabama native. He is a publisher's editor as well as an arranger and composer. A man of many skills, he has written soundtracks for more than 2000 radio and television commercials, and has conducted national tours of Broadway productions.

Wexford Carol is an Irish carol in Mixolydian mode. It is old, but probably not as old as some peg it—the 12th century. The composer of this new arrangement is Elaine Hagenberg, who has established herself as a renowned writer in a relatively-short time. She was a school music teacher before devoting all her time to composing and guest-conducting at festivals. The parts for oboe and drums add a gentle dimension. The words for this carol, originally in Gaelic, likely predate the tune. **Wexford Carol** was given in memory of John Manes by his wife, Kathie.

Away in a Manger is another arrangement by Joel Raney. It uses both familiar tunes, one by James R. Murray (1841-1903), the other by William J. Kirkpatrick (1838-1921).

- 1 Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
- 2 The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.
- 3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there. —Traditional American 19th-century text

In **A Virgin Most Blessèd**, Ryan Kelly has written a brand-new Renaissance-style Christmas anthem with dancelike rhythms, open fifths, and accompaniment for woodwinds and percussion. Each stanza is treated with varied voicing and textures. Dr. Kelly is associate professor and associate director of choral activities at West Chester University of Pennsylvania, and he is also director of music and organist at Proclamation Presbyterian Church in Bryn Mawr.

Next we hear a work by Michael W. Smith, **A Highland Carol**, which was originally an instrumental piece (2007). Tom Fettke and Thomas Grassi decided that adding words by Charles Wesley (1707-1788) and Christopher Wordsworth (1807-1885) would offer singers a chance to experience the music. Can you identify the carol he borrowed from? Tom Fettke has been a school music teacher, church musician, and hymnal editor. His published anthems number in the hundreds.

Who Comes This Night? is a song by Dave Grusin but made famous by James Taylor. Grusin (b.1934) is a celebrated composer and arranger for movies and television: he has won ten Grammys and an Academy Award. Sally Stevens, the lyricist, has sung in numerous films and television shows, most notably on "The Simpsons."

Christmas Angels Medley includes three traditional carols in an arrangement by Dan R. Edwards. Mr. Edwards was born in Portsmouth, Virginia in 1951. He has been a choral director and guitar teacher with children, youth, and college students. He currently lives in Chesapeake, Virginia, where he serves as a worship leader in a small church.

- 1 *Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
once you sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.*

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt., sts. 1-3; Text is in Public Domain.

- 2 *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.*

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, The Crown of Jesus Music, 1864; Text is in Public Domain.

- 3 *Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn 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!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"*

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.; Text is in Public Domain.

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**.

No Eye Had Seen with **All Is Well** is from *Agnus Dei, a concert of worship for Christmas featuring the songs of Michael W. Smith*. Its subtitle is "Lamb of God, Born for Us." Portions of *Agnus Dei* have become Love Feast staples, and we trust that they speak effectively and appropriately to our celebration of the season. *Agnus Dei* was created by David Hamilton (see above), who has worked extensively with artist/composer Michael W. Smith, serving as musical director and conductor for his Christmas tours. Mr. Hamilton was assisted by Dennis and Karla Worley, who are on the music staff of Brentwood Baptist Church, Brentwood, Tennessee.

Concerning this work, Michael W. Smith wrote: "The sharing of the Gospel with the world has always been the focal point of my ministry. *Agnus Dei* brings the timeless message of the birth of our Savior to light in a fresh, new way...Our prayer, as you enter into the holidays this year will be that the joy of Christ in your lives will spill over into a world in such desperate need of His grace, mercy and love!"

Unto Us is a scripture-based text set to contemporary tunes and rhythms. Aaron Shust and David Hamilton wrote the song; Marty Hamby produced this arrangement (2018). A native of Chicago, Mr. Shust was named the Songwriter of the Year at the GMA Dove Awards of 2007, and his song, "My Savior My God," received the Song of the Year award. David Hamilton "is an accomplished musician known for his versatility, technique and artistic passion. He has earned a reputation as a premiere orchestral arranger and as a respected conductor, producer, pianist, and composer," according to one biographical sketch. He has collaborated with singers in opera, top-40, country, and Christian music, notably with Michael W. Smith. He has also conducted orchestras, including the Atlanta Symphony. Arranger Marty Hamby is Minister of Music at First Baptist Church, Roanoke, Virginia.

The melody to **The Hills are Bare at Bethlehem** is an American shape-note tune, *PROSPECT*, collected by William Walker and attributed to "Graham." It was published in 1835 and was included in *The Sacred Harp* of 1844, a widely-influential Southern hymnal. The tune has traditionally been used with the text **The Lone, Wild Bird**. It is included in some modern hymnals with the carol, "The Hills Are Bare in Bethlehem," thus our choosing it. Used as the basis of several choral anthems, this handbell arrangement, featuring soloist Marilee Gardner, is by Paul McKlveen, a computer engineer whose "hobby" is handbell ringing, conducting, and composing. He lives in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. These words are by Royce Sherf (1929-2017).

- 1 *The hills are bare at Bethlehem, no future for the world they show;
yet here new life begins to grow, from earth's old dust a greenwood stem.*
- 2 *The hills are cold at Bethlehem, no warmth for those beneath the sky;
yet here the radiant angels fly, and joy burns new, a fiery gem.*
- 3 *The heart is tired at Bethlehem, no human dream unbroken stands;
yet here God comes to mortal hands, and hope renewed cries out: "Amen!"*

See Amid the Winter's Snow is a setting of an English carol by Edward Caswall (1814-1878), a priest who had just left the Church of England for the Catholic Oxford Movement. Sir John Goss (1800-1880), organist at St. Paul's Cathedral and professor at the Royal Academy of Music, wrote the tune. Our arrangement is by Dr. Dan Forrest (b. 1978), a gifted composer, professor, and music editor. We think he has captured the majesty and awe of this carol.

Anthem for Christmas with **Emmanuel** is our other selection from *Agnus Dei*, the Michael W. Smith/David Hamilton worship experience.

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**.

James C. Hagberg adapted the parts for strings for this anthem.

One of the most uplifting carols in the book is ***Joy to the World***. **Palmetto Road Pandemic Pipers** offer this English melody of the 18th 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 8.

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. This year’s soloists are Olivia Milburn and Marian Groover, who are in third grade and were soloists from last week’s children’s musical, *Glory to God in the Lowest*. 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 9.

If you have a candle here or at home, 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 9.

AFTER THE BENEDICTION IS SUNG, PLEASE EXTINGUISH YOUR CANDLES, TAKING CARE WITH THE HOT WAX.

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 returns on leave from active duty as an Air Force officer/nurse to ring her adaptation of George Winston’s 1982 arrangement of ***Carol of the Bells***. 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.

Sarah has been welcomed by a congregation in San Antonio, where she is stationed: Zion Lutheran Church.

Bells for Sarah’s tree are borrowed from **Fayetteville First United Methodist Church**. Thank you, friends in Christ!

Soli Deo Gloria

1. Christ the Lord, the Lord most glo-rious, 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 - rious;
 Right-ous - 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 - iour, God's dear Son.
 shine, Je - sus mine, fill my heart with light di - vine.