



Love Feasts in Moravian Tradition
December 10 and 11, 2022
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 Love Feast was cancelled because of Covid, and the all-virtual Love Feast from 2020 was a new challenge. This year we hope you are blessed by being in the sanctuary with the musicians and leaders.

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. 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 10, 2022, at 5:30 P.M., MUSICAL OFFERING;
6:00 P.M., PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Sunday, December 11, at 10:30 A.M., MUSICAL OFFERING; 11:00 A.M., PROCESSIONAL HYMN
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

In Dulci Jubilo

arr. William Ryden (1995)

Christ Our Shepherd Woodwind Choir

Christmas Angels

arr. Dan R. Edwards (2003)

Joyful Noise Ringers (via video)

*Angels from the Realms of Glory, Angels We Have Heard on High,
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

Good King Wenceslas

arr. Catherine McMichael (2001)

Christ Our Shepherd Woodwind Choir

Angels We Have Heard on High

arr. Sandra and Mitchell Eithun (2020)

Peace Ringers

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Moravian Chorales and Church Music, Volume 2

The Christ Our Shepherd Brass

Laudamus Te (Praise You)

arr. Robert K. Webb (1994)

Carolyn Callison and Rita DeNell, flutes, and piano

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

arr. Paul McKlveen (2004)

Joyful Noise Ringers; Elizabeth Wampler, clarinet (via video)

Silver Winds in the Night

arr. Jackson Berkey (2000)

Love Feast Consort

III

↑ *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*

arr. K. Lee Scott (2002)

CONGREGATION, Love Feast Choir; COS Brass; 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

See Amid the Winter's Snow

arr. Dan Forrest (2016)

Love Feast Choir; 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.

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; COS Brass; 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 knew;
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.**

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

arr. Joel Raney (2013)

Joyful Noise Ringers; *da Chiesa*; Rita DeNell, flute; piano (via video)

IV

A Virgin Most Blessèd

Ryan Kelly (2021)

Love Feast Choir; percussion; Sarah Wampler, flute; Elizabeth Wampler, 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 Bethl'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!"

REFRAINS

No Eye Had Seen, with All Is Well

arr. David Hamilton (2002)

Love Feast Choir; piano; *da Chiesa*; Sue Summers and Dewey Patrick, soloists

No eye had seen, no ear had heard 'til hosts on high proclaimed his birth.
And heav'n brought down its only child, the Son of Man, the world reconciled.
Quietly, with no one watching, from the womb of perfect peace,
Well-spring of our joy, delivered into earthly destiny. And song broke forth,
angelic strain, and none could help but sing the name: Emmanuel. ▶

All is well, all is well. Angels and men rejoice.
For tonight darkness fell into the dawn of love's light. Sing alle-, sing alleluia.
All is well, all is well. Lift up your voice and sing.
Born is now Emmanuel, born is our Lord and Savior.
Sing alleluia, sing alleluia. All is well, all is well.

Who Comes This Night?

arr. Sheldon Curry (2011)

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

- 1 Who comes this night, this wintry night, as to the lowly manger?
The shepherds and the kings did come to welcome in the stranger.
- 2 Who sends this song upon the air to ease the soul that's aching;
To still the cry of deep despair and heal the heart that's breaking?
Brother Joseph, bring the light; fast, the night is fading,
And who will come this wintry night to where the stranger's waiting?
- 3 Who comes this night with humble heart to give the fullest measure?
A gift of purest love to bring, what good and worthy treasure.
Brother Joseph, bring the lamb, for they are asking for him.
The children come this starry night to lay their hearts before him.
- 4 For those who would the stranger greet must lay their heart before him,
And raise their song in voices sweet to worship and adore him.
Brother Joseph, bring the light; fast, the night is fading,
And who will come this wintry night to where the stranger's waiting?
Brother Joseph, bring the lamb, for they are asking for him.
The children come this starry night to lay their hearts before him,
Pure of heart this starry night to lay their hearts before him. O wondrous night.

Glory to God in the Highest

James C. Hagberg (2022)

Love Feast Choir, *da Chiesa*, Christ Our Shepherd Winds, piano, and percussion

- I. *Hymnus angelicus* (Song of the Angels at the birth of Jesus)
Glory to God in the highest Heaven, and on earth, peace, good will to all.
- II. Acclamations:
We praise you, we bless you, we worship you, we glorify you.
We give our thanks to you for your great glory.
- III. Invocations:
Lord God, Heavenly King, God the Father almighty,
Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son.
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
- IV. Petitions: You, Lord, take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
You, Lord, take away the sins of the world, received our prayer.
You, Lord, sit at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.
- V. Doxology: For You alone are holy. You alone are the Lord.
You alone are the most high, Jesus Christ,
With the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father.

Text: adapted from the *Gloria* of Holy Communion. Liturgy © *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*; AF License SAS000345
This anthem was written "in celebration of David Beecher's 55 years in Music Ministry."

Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella

arr. Arnold Sherman (2005)

Joyful Noise Ringers; Rita DeNell and Maria Kachadurian, flutes (via video)

V

Shiloh

William Billings (1746-1800)

Love Feast Choir, unaccompanied

- 1 Me-thinks I see an heav'nly host of angels on the wing;
Me-thinks I hear the cheerful notes, so merrily they sing, so merrily they sing.
Let all your fears be banish'd hence, glad tidings I proclaim,
For there's a Savior born today, and Jesus is his name, and Jesus is his name.
- 2 Lay down your crooks and quit your flocks, to Bethlehem repair;
And let your wand'ring steps be squared by yonder shining star, by yonder shining star.
Seek not in courts nor palaces, nor royal curtains draw;
But search the stable, see your God extended on the straw, extended on the straw.
- 4 Exult ye oxen, low for joy, ye tenants of the stall;
Pay your obeisance on your knees unanimously fall, unanimously fall.
The royal guest you entertain is not of common birth,
But second in the Great I Am, the God of heav'n and earth, the God of heav'n and earth.
- 5 The suddenly a heav'nly host around the shepherds throng,
Exulting in the Threefold God, and thus address their song, and thus address their song.
To God the Father, God the Son, and Holy Ghost adored.
The first and last Eternal praise afford, Eternal praise afford.

Unto Us

arr. Marty Hamby (2018)

Love Feast Choir; Christ Our Shepherd Winds; *da Chiesa*; piano; 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 First Noel

arr. Joel Raney (2016)

Cheryl Dietmeyer and David Beecher, duo-pianos

VI

Wexford Carol

arr. Elaine Hagenberg (2019)

Love Feast Choir; piano; Maria Kachadurian, flute; *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.

Irish Christmas Blessing

arr. Jay Rouse (2017)

Love Feast Choir; *da Chiesa*; and piano

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 ev'ry 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.

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 18.

- 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)

Marian Groover, soloist on Saturday; Olivia Milburn, soloist on Sunday
Congregation, Love Feast Choir, Joyful Noise Ringers, and organ
You may find the music on page 18.

- 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; Love Feast Choir; organ; Joyful Noise Ringers; *da Chiesa*; flutes; guitar
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; Love Feast Choir; Joyful Noise Ringers; *da Chiesa*; COS Woodwinds;
Christ Our Shepherd Brass; 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.

Wikipedia.org

Hymnary.org

Study.com

emich.edu/music-dance/faculty

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THE MUSICIANS

"Moravian" Church Band

Dave Byers, Lauri Gambrel, Mayson Groover, Morgan Hebert, Ethan Hoellrich, Megan Irvin,
Sarah Juhasz, Dillan King, Richard King, Xavier Lee, Liam Ravita, Domenic Ravita,
Oliver Ravita, David Sanders, Katherine Shriner

Christ Our Shepherd Woodwinds

Carolyn Callison, Rita DeNell, Maria Kachadurian,* Penny Kahley, Sarah Wampler, flutes;
Megan Irvin,* Elizabeth Wampler, clarinet; Katherine Shriner,* bass clarinet

The Christ Our Shepherd Brass

Morgan Hebert, Ethan Hoellrich, Richard King, Liam Ravita, trumpet
Dave Byers, euphonium Mayson Groover and Oliver Ravita, trombone
David Sanders, trombone (Sunday) Sarah Juhasz and Domenic Ravita, alto saxophone
Lauri Gambrel, alto horn Sarah Juhasz, Dillan King, Xavier Lee, tuba

Peace Ringers

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

Joyful Noise Ringers

Marty Benoit, Karl Dietmeyer, Minka Fulton, Lauri Gambrel, Linda Grabill,
Casie Groover, Sarah Juhasz,* Penny Kahley, Pat Oliver, Joni Siepert,
[David Turk and Sara Turk—on parental leave!]

Love Feast Consort

Carolyn Callison, piccolo; Rita DeNell, Laura Denton,* Penny Kahley, Ashleigh Shriner,*
Sarah Wampler, flutes; Sarah DeNell,* alto flute; Maria Kachadurian,* bass flute
Carolyn Sanders, flute (Sunday)* Megan Irvin,* Elizabeth Wampler, clarinet
Katherine Shriner,* bass clarinet Morgan Hebert, trumpet
Cheryl Dietmeyer, piano David Beecher, percussion

Da Chiesa Violin

Yuang Zhang

Percussion and Timpani

James McDaniel, Bert Groover (Sunday), Penny Kahley,
Emily Stanec (Sunday), Sarah Juhasz

Love Feast Choir, 2022

Claire Avery-Wilson,* David Beecher, Miriam Beecher, David Byers, Sue Byers,
Carolyn Callison, Kendra Campbell Milburn, Marilyn Carlson,* Stephanie Crosby,* Rita DeNell,
Karl Dietmeyer, Minka Fulton, Carolyn Groover,* Evan Gundersen,* Jim Hagberg,
Marty Hagberg, Morgan Hebert,* Jeff James,* Carrie McDowell,* Brad Milburn,
Dewey Patrick, Kitty Robison, Nancy Shepack, Sue Hamre Smith, Sue Summers,
Linda Volckmann,* Elizabeth Wampler,* Ginnie Weber*

**Special Love Feast Musician*

Pianist: Cheryl Dietmeyer

Conductors

Dave Byers, Karl Dietmeyer, James C. Hagberg, David Beecher, Joni Siepert

Director of Worship Technology—Sound and Video: Brad Milburn

Minister in Music, Organist, Pianist: David Beecher

Music Assistant, Worship Support: Joni Siepert

Pastors: Fritz Wiese and Miriam Beecher

Dieners: Sarah DeNell; Erica, Brad, Greyson, and Reagan Harris; Shelly Jakubowski;
Froska Lee; Laura and John Musil; Mike Oliver; Holly, Kurt, and Jonah O'Clair;
Clara Zimmerman

Diener Support: Sue and Dave Byers

Candle Dressers: Kathie Manes, coordinator; Sue Blackburn, Jim Christopher, Connie Earle,
Pam Gould, Laura Music, Benya Spruck, Judie Thompson

Sanctuary Decor: Kathie Manes; Marquita Foster; Darryl, Cindy, Megan, and Natalie Irvin;
Chris and Rebecca Shriner

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.

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 door. This group is comprised of members Christ Our Shepherd musical organizations. Led by **David Byers**, 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, North Carolina, 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.



II

In Dulci Jubilo (Latin for “In sweet rejoicing”) is a traditional Christmas carol. In its original setting, the carol is a macaronic text of German and Latin dating from the Middle Ages. Subsequent translations into English, such as “Good Christian Men, Rejoice,” the one by John Mason Neale (1818-1866), have increased its popularity. The tune, Zahn No. 4947, first appears in Codex 1305, a manuscript dating from about 1400, although it has been suggested that the melody may have existed in Europe prior to this date. In print, the tune was included in *Geistliche Lieder*, a 1533 Lutheran hymnal by Joseph Klug. In 1545, another verse was added, possibly by Martin Luther. Our setting for woodwinds is by William Ryden, using one of the many harmonizations by J.S. Bach (1685-1750), BWV 368.

1 *Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!*

2 *Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!*

The text is in Public Domain.

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.

This is the first of four videos of Joyful Noise Ringers. The videos were recorded just days before Jack and Zoe Turk were born, tiny twins of Sara and David Turk. The babies are doing well, and so is their mother!

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, altered, stanzas 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; translated by 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, altered; Text is in Public Domain.

Good King Wenceslas is a Christmas carol that tells a story of a king who goes on a journey, braving harsh winter weather, to give alms to a poor peasant on the Feast of Stephen (December 26, the Second Day of Christmas). During the journey, his page is about to give up the struggle against the cold weather, but is enabled to continue by following the king's footprints, step for step, through the deep snow. The legend is based on the life of the historical Saint Wenceslaus I, Duke of Bohemia (907–935). In 1853, English hymnwriter John Mason Neale wrote the “Wenceslas” lyric, in collaboration with his music editor Thomas Helmore, and the carol first appeared in *Carols for Christmas-Tide*, published by Novello & Co the same year. Neale’s lyric was set to the melody of the 13th-century spring carol “Tempus adest floridum” (“Eastertime has come”) first published in the 1582 Finnish song collection *Piae Cantiones*. Our arrangement is by Catherine McMichael (born in 1954). Dr. McMichael is a composer/pianist/ performer/ arranger/ teacher. She is from Saginaw, Michigan.

1 *Good King Wenceslas looked out, on the Feast of Stephen,
When the snow lay round about, deep and crisp and even;
Brightly shone the moon that night, tho' the frost was cruel,
When a poor man came in sight, gath'ring winter fuel.*

5 *In his master's steps [the page] trod, where the snow lay dinted;
Heat was in the very sod which the saint had printed.
Therefore, Christian men, be sure, wealth or rank possessing,
Ye who now will bless the poor, shall yourselves find blessing.*

The text is in Public domain.

Peace Ringers play **Angels We Have Heard on High** in an arrangement by the mother-son duo of Sandra and Mitchell Eithun. Ms. Eithun is currently on the faculty at Holy Family Conservatory of Music in Manitowoc, Wisconsin, leading the handbell program there. She has also been a church music director and has conducted the handbell choir ►

at her alma mater, Silver Lake College. Her son Mitchell earned degrees in Computational Mathematics, Science and Engineering from Michigan State University. He has taught math, but spends much of his time now writing music: he has over sixty arrangements in print, about 10% of the number his mother has published!

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* The text is in Public domain.

Lo, How a Rose is a Christmas carol and Marian hymn of German origin. The rose in the German text is a symbolic reference to the Virgin Mary. The hymn makes reference to the Old Testament prophecies of Isaiah, which foretell the Incarnation of Christ, and to the Tree of Jesse, a traditional symbol of the lineage of Jesus. The hymn has its roots in an unknown author before the 17th century. It first appeared in print in 1599 and has since been published with a varying number of stanzas and in several translations. It is most commonly sung to a melody harmonized by the German composer Michael Praetorius in 1609. Our setting for brass is from *Moravian Chorales and Church Music, Volume 2*, Moravian Church Band.

1 *Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming as seers of old have sung,
it came, a flow'r so bright, amid the cold of winter, when half-spent was the night.*

2 *Isaiah had foretold it, the rose I have in mind; with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior, when half-spent was the night.*

Translated by Theodore Baker, 1851-1934. The text is in Public domain.

Laudamus Te was originally a soprano duet from one of Antonio Vivaldi's settings of the hymn *Gloria in excelsis Deo*, with words probably dating back to the 4th century, and an integral part of the mass ordinary. Our choir has sung the entirety of his RV 589, which was written when Vivaldi (1678-1741) was employed at Ospedale della Pietà, a convent, orphanage, and music school in Venice founded in the 14th century. This arrangement for flutes and piano is by Robert K. Webb, 91, retired professor of flute and clarinet at University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.

We feature flutists **Rita DeNell** and **Carolyn Callison**.

Laudamus Te (We praise you), Benedicimus Te (We bless you), Adoramus Te (We adore you), Glorificamus Te (We glorify you).

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 **Elizabeth Wampler**, 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!"*

We have made a tradition of concluding the Musical Offering with the exquisite **Silver Winds in the Night**. Conductor **Karl Dietmeyer** discovered this piece on a recording by the Colorado Winds Flute Orchestra, whose conductor, Nancy Spidel, regards it as "our signature piece." Needing to adapt it for our flute choir, he contacted Ms. Spidel and Jackson Berkey, the original arranger. Ms. Spidel made recommendations, which Mr. Berkey (of Mannheim Steamroller fame) endorsed. Thus, the Moravian Love Feast Consort was created to play this unique adaptation.

III

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, brass, 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.

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 (born in 1978), a gifted composer, professor, and music editor. He is currently Artist-in-Residence at Mitchell Road Presbyterian Church in Greenville, South Carolina. We think he has captured the majesty and awe of this carol.

We welcome Cheryl Dietmeyer to the piano for the first of several choral accompaniments; she is also a member of Love Feast Consort (page 14).

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.

Our arrangement is by Joel Raney (born in 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.

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). We are pleased to include flutist Rita DeNell, *da Chiesa* strings, and pianist David Beecher, all conducted by Jim Hagberg.

- 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

IV

In **A Virgin Most Blessèd**, Ryan Kelly has written a 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.

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 (1989), 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!"

Who Comes This Night? is a song by Dave Grusin but made famous by James Taylor. Grusin (born in 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.” This setting is by Sheldon Curry (2011), a recording artist, song-writer, editor, and record producer. He lives in Tucson, Arizona, where he teaches at Imago Dei Middle School and serves as Director of Music at St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, Nogales.



Glory to God in the Highest is a brand-new anthem written by Christ Our Shepherd’s de facto “Composer in Residence,” **James C. Hagberg**. It was first presented in worship on November 13, when the church celebrated the retirement of Minister in Music David Beecher. You are invited to join in singing the Refrain (see page 6): *Glory to God in the highest Heaven, Glory to God*.

Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella (French: *Un flambeau, Jeannette, Isabelle*) is a Christmas carol which originated from the Provence region of France in the 17th century. Not originally intended to be used at Christmas, the carol was first published in France, and was subsequently translated into English in the 18th century. The characters “Jeannette” and “Isabella” are two female farmhands who have found the Baby Jesus and his mother Mary in a stable. Excited by this discovery, they run to a nearby village to tell the inhabitants, who rush to see the new arrivals. Visitors are urged to keep their voices quiet, so as not to disturb the baby. To this day on Christmas Eve in Provence, children dress as shepherds and milkmaids, bringing torches and candles while singing the carol on their way to Midnight Mass. This arrangement by Arnold Sherman is based on a piano setting by (again) Joel Raney. It features flutists **Rita DeNell** and **Maria Kachadurian**. This is the last of the videos created to allow new parents and ringers David and Sara Turk to participate.

V

Shiloh is another re-telling of the Christmas story, this time with music by William Billings. Billings (1746-1800) was an American choral composer, thought by some to be the father of American choral music. His father died when William was 14, and he was forced to drop all formal education and take up tanning to get by. He received some training in local singing schools and went on to teach singing in several Boston churches. With no other formal musical training he began to compose, and his songs were well-loved and traveled quickly. However, due to unsubstantial copyright laws, Billings received hardly a penny from the publication of his music. Even though he was friends with Samuel Adams and Paul Revere, his music was forgotten after a period of fame and prosperity, and his last decade was one of decline. Married with six children, he died in poverty, though his music would be resurrected after his death and sung to this day. *Shiloh* was published in *The Suffolk Harmony* in 1786.

Unto Us is a scripture-based text set to contemporary tunes and rhythms. Aaron Shust and David Hamilton (see “No Eye Had Seen”) 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 First Noel is still another arrangement by Joel Raney (born in 1956), who “started playing the piano sometime between learning to walk and learning to read. His taste for gospel music began in a rural Baptist church in Alabama,” according to his official biographical sketch. He holds degrees from the University of North Alabama and The Julliard School. He now lives in River Forest, Illinois. We feature two of the pianos which were gifts to the church (another grand is in Room 136). The pianists are Cheryl Dietmeyer, an accomplished piano teacher and much-appreciated accompanist at Christ Our Shepherd, and retiring Music Minister David Beecher.

VI

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 flute 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.

An Irish Christmas Blessing is by Keith and Kristyn Getty (2004), Irish writers of hymns and carols. Keith (born in 1974) met his wife Kristyn when he was a music student at Durham University. Kristyn (born in 1980) was a student at a nearby university. The Gettys' hymns and songs are used increasingly both in contemporary and traditional worship. They have been nominated for Dove awards multiple times, and have won one. We sing an arrangement by Jay Rouse, an composer/arranger/publisher from Anderson, Indiana. He spent ten years as music director for performer Sandi Patti. This anthem was given in memory of a Holy Folder, **Frances Kolts**.

VII

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 nine years old and had roles in last week's children's musical, *Chimes in the Night*.

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 page 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. He is currently Artist-Professor of Organ at Eastern Michigan University and Founder-Artistic Director for HEARTS, HANDS, AND VOICES Fine Arts and Worship Program. The words for "Silent Night" 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 10.

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.

Bells for Sarah's tree are borrowed from First Presbyterian Church in Peachtree City. 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-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 - iour, God's dear Son.
 shine, Je - sus mine, fill my heart with light di - vine.