

Rhapsody in Bluegrass
A Christmas Jubilee



TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Sunday, December 15, 2019 | 7:00pm

A WORD FROM THE COMPOSER

RHAPSODY IN BLUEGRASS: A CHRISTMAS JUBILEE

When word and music come together, there is powerful potential. Music gives wings to message and message gives purpose to song. There is no greater example of this truth than when considering the various traditions of sacred music. From lofty oratorios and noble hymns, to folk music and simple spiritual songs, the voice of faith is encouraged when shared upon the wings of song.

With the musical customs of Christmas, there is a wonderful intersection of ministry and artistry that can truly touch the heart. When we sing from this precious treasury of sacred songs, we connect with the spirit of the troubadour. We reprise our role as “storytellers,” passing along our faith in tunes and texts that celebrate our faith with hopeful joy. Folk music holds a special place in the sacred lexicon, and every part of the world has its own repository of native song. This cantata is a mingling of more traditional church choral sounds with the rustic beauty of bluegrass folk music. In the joining of these two styles, I pray that something new be released into our seasonal worship gatherings. May our many voices become one song! May our differences become harmony, and may divine light decorate our hearts with the joy and grace of Christmas!

-- Joseph Martin

Trinity Presbyterian Church Choir presents

Rhapsody in Bluegrass *A Christmas Jubilee*

HEAR THE WONDROUS STORY

Come and hear the wondrous story of a Light born long ago.
From the courts of heaven's glory, came the Christ to earth below.
Born the hope of every nation, born the joy of every heart,
Jesus, Light of all creation, He's the bright and morning star!

Gather friends and join the singing. Let the music soar on high.
There are angels 'round us winging, bringing glory to the sky;
Singing glory in the highest, singing glory to the Lamb.
Come and join with heaven's brightest. Christ is born in Bethlehem.

Love divine, all love's excelling, joy of heaven to earth come down.
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling. All Thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, Thou art all compassion. Pure, unbounded love Thou art.
Visit us with Thy salvation. Enter every longing heart.

Come all people, lift your voices. Cast away all doubt and fear.
Clap your hands. Make joyful noises. Heaven now is drawing near.
Let us all join hands together. Come to heaven's jubilee.
Learn the song that lasts forever. Set your alleluias free. Alleluia!

THE KINGS SHALL COME

The King shall come when morning dawns and light triumphant breaks;
When beauty gilds the eastern hills, and life to joy awakes;
The King shall come when morning dawns, and life to joy awakes.

O brighter than that glorious morn shall this fair morning be,
When Christ, our king in beauty comes, and we His face shall see.
O brighter than that glorious morn shall this fair morning be.

The King shall come when morning dawns, and light and beauty brings.
“Hail, Christ, the Lord!” Thy people pray.
“O, come quickly, King of kings.”
“Come quickly, King of kings.”
The King shall come when morning dawns. Amen.

READING

NUMBERS 24:17

STAR OF PROMISE, STAR OF GLORY

Star of Promise, Light of glory, come and shine for evermore.
Prophets have foretold the story. Soon our longing eyes will see the Lord.
There's a great joy a-comin'. Unto us a Child is given.
Alleluia! Praise the Lord!

Star of Promise, rise before us. Burn away our doubt and fear.
Come in power. Heal, restore us. Wipe away each falling tear.
There's a great joy a-comin'. Unto us a Child is given.
Alleluia! Praise the Lord!

Light divine, all lights surpassing, make in us a sacred space.
Shine in us the everlasting. Wake in us the hope of grace.
Long the world has walked in sadness; yearning for a bright new day.
Now the dawn brings sounds of gladness. Morning breaks with golden ray.
Light of the world, Jesus, Light of the world!

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus; born to set Thy people free.
From our fears and sins release us. Let us find our joy in Thee.
There's a great joy a-comin'. Unto us a Child is given.
Alleluia! Praise the Lord of lords! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the Lord!

READING

ISAIAH 52:7

A MORNING STAR WILL RISE

Faithful seekers, watch and pray. Soon a Morning Star will rise.
Clear the path; prepare the way. Soon a Morning Star will rise.
There is promise for tomorrow, though the night is cold and dark.
Hope, come drive away our sorrows. We are looking for the Morning Star.

People, search the eastern sky. Soon a Morning Star will rise.
God is sending us a sign. Soon a Morning Star will rise.
God will fill the earth with wonder. Peace will rule in every heart.
Love will shake the world like thunder. We are praying for the Morning Star.

Come, O come, Emmanuel. Soon a Morning Star will rise.
Ransom captive Israel. Soon a Morning Star will rise.
Come and fill us with Your love. Lift our longing eyes above.
See the glorious Star is rising, rising, rising, rising with the dawn.

Sing and shout, the day is here. Soon a Morning Star will rise.
Joy will wipe away each tear. Soon a Morning Star will rise.
Let the earth break forth with singing, every nation near and far; every hill and valley ringing.
We are reaching for the Morning Star. We are reaching for the Morning Star.

INTERLUDE: MUSICAL REFLECTION

ERIK COLLINS

READING

LUKE 2:1-5

MARY WENT A-RIDING

O gentle Mary, full of grace, your arms will hold a Son;
and He will rest in your embrace and know a mother's love.

Sweet Mary went a-riding one cold and frosty night,
With Joseph, her beloved, and filled with holy Light.
To Bethlehem they traveled, though she was in travail.
The silver stars were shining upon the dusty trail.

Listen. Listen. Hear the cold wind blow.

The road to David's city was paved with many tears.
In faith, they walked with courage, and put aside their fears.
The faithful couple traveled beneath a winter sky;
And trusted through the shadows that God would be their guide.

Listen. Listen. Hear the cold wind blow.

And then, on the horizon, arose a blessed sight.
King David's town was waiting, and bathed in golden light!
The promise of the journey would soon be coming true.
They both would hold a Savior, and He would hold them, too.

Listen. Listen. Hear the cold wind blow.

Listen. Listen. Hear the cold wind blow.

READING

MICAH 5:2

O LITTLE TOWN

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight, are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, mild, and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.

O morning stars, together now proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So, God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heav'n.

O Holy Child of Bethlehem descend to us, we pray.
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels now the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

READING

LUKE 2:17-18

HERE COMES THE LIGHT

Here comes the Light. Here comes the Light. Good-bye to darkness, good-bye to night!
In the eastern sky the stars are shining bright. Glory hallelujah, children, here comes the Light!
Look to heaven! Here comes the Light. Dawn is breaking.
Here comes the Light. Sing to the nations. Sing jubilation.

My Lord, what a morning! My, Lord, what a morning.
Oh, my Lord, what a morning, when the bells of Christmas ring!

READING

MATTHEW 2:9-10

A CHRISTMAS ANSWER

What Child is this, upon the straw, near Mary's heart is sleeping;
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, and while the shepherds their watch are keeping?

What Child is this, What Child is this, upon the straw, upon the straw,
Where gentle lambs, where gentle lambs are feeding; are feeding;

The promised Son, the promised Son, the Holy One? the Holy One?
Is this the Savior, is this the One our world redeeming, redeeming?

This, this is Jesus Christ the King, whom shepherds guard,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing.
Come now and worship, come now and worship Him with song,
With praise and laud, the precious Son of Mary.
Joy to the world, the Lord is home.

Let earth receive her glorious King. Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room
For Christ is born, yes, Christ is born, the son of Mary, Joy to the world, the son of Mary.

READING

ISAIAH 60:1

A LITTLE LIGHT WAS BORN

Oh, a li'l Light was born down in Bethlehem. Oh, Jesus is the Light of the world.
Oh, a Li'l song was born in the hush of night. Oh, Jesus is the Light of the world.

Into the darkness, Oh, a li'l Light was born. Oh, into our empty hearts; Oh, a little love was born; Into
our silence, came a song of peace and joy. Oh, a li'l Light was born in Bethlehem.
Oh, Jesus is the Light of the world.

PEACE, PEACE

RICK & SYLVIA POWELL

Peace, peace, peace on earth and good will to all.
This is a time for joy, this is a time for love.
Now let us all sing together of peace, peace, peace on earth.

CONGREGATION:

Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright, 'Round yon Virgin Mother and Child!
Holy Infant, so tender and mild; Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

- PLEASE JOIN US FOR A RECEPTION IN THE FRONT FOYER -

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & THANK YOU

- * A big thank you to Julia Harris for her dedication in playing for the Trinity biennial Christmas Cantata since 2011 and for the securing of all our guest musicians
- * Craig Hanson for managing all sound, lighting, and recording of tonight's program
- * Cathy Hanson for donating countless hours and resources towards tonight's program
- * Brenda Cunningham and Carol Gott for coordinating tonight's reception
- * Tulsa World, KJRH Channel 2, Tulsa People, Tulsa Kids, Rich Fisher at KWGS, Travel OK, and Visit Tulsa for digitally promoting tonight's event
- * Donna Bridenstine for providing childcare
- * Jim Mainer, Barry Straabe, and Woodland Terrace for providing community transportation for tonight's event
- * Each and every member of Trinity Presbyterian Church for their years and years of dedication and support to the music program

MISSION OF THE MUSIC PROGRAM

The mission of the Trinity Music Program is to connect with the spiritual message spoken from the pulpit, becoming the living sound of that message. We seek to uplift and inspire the congregation through an eclectic mixture of musical offerings, helping to raise the hearts and voices of all in praise and thanksgiving.

PURPOSE OF THE MUSIC PROGRAM

The goal of the Trinity Choir is to enhance and enliven our worship of God. The music program draws the congregation into the music rather than leaving the congregation as spectators at a performance. It offers the opportunity to learn great masterworks of choral literature from all style periods. Over the course of the year, our music reflects a broad diversity of musical styles including folk, spiritual, jazz, gospel, and contemporary works from our own American heritage, as well as works from many other countries and languages. The teaching of diverse musical styles not only enriches the knowledge and experience of the choir but also promotes understanding of other peoples and cultures.

CHOIR

SOPRANO

Laura Van Newkirk
Cathy Hanson
Tomye Mainer
Lois Rude

ALTO

Debbie Straabe
Margot Ries
Kate Hanson
Melanie Rainwater
Elana Levy
Beth Keppel
Ann Reed

TENOR

Lucus Keppel
Doug Rainwater

BASS

John Clawson
Chuck Keppel
Ben Haughey

ORCHESTRA

FIDDLE

Julia Harris

MANDOLIN

Bill Taylor

BANJO

Roy Hood

ACOUSTIC GUITAR

Randy Wimer

UPRIGHT BASS

Robin Smith

DRUMS

David Smith

PIANO

Dr. Joseph Rivers

Erik M. Collins, *Director of Music & Pianist*

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