

The background of the entire page is a dark green color with a repeating pattern of faint, light green musical notation, including notes, stems, and clefs, scattered across the surface.

THE SOUNDS OF CHRISTMAS

with the MCYC and the VESPERS ENSEMBLE

**TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA
DECEMBER 18, 2022**

CONCLUDING THE LORD'S DAY IN WORSHIP

The Sounds of Christmas

PRESENTED BY

THE MONTGOMERY CHRISTIAN YOUTH CHOIR

THE PEOPLE'S PREPARATION

*Almighty God, we give You thanks for surrounding us, as daylight fades,
with the brightness of vesper light; and we implore You in Your great mercy that,
as you enfold us with the radiance of Your light, so You would shine into our hearts the brightness of Your
Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord dispel the darkness of our hearts, that by Your brightness we
may know Your to be the true God and Eternal Light, living and reigning forever and ever.*



The Prelude

Of the Father's Love Begotten

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

J. S. Bach

Baillie Johnson, *cello*

Meg Griffin, *piano*

The Call to Worship

Isaiah 9:2, 6

Mr. Cooper

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone! For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His Name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

† The Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

(see page 6)

† Congregation, please stand as able

The Evening Prayer

The Anthem

The Hands That First Held Mary's Child

Dan Forrest

The hands that first held Mary's Child were hard from working wood.
From boards they sawed and planed and filed and splinters they withstood.
This day they gripped no tool of steel, they drove no iron nail,
But cradled from the head to heel our Lord, newborn and frail.

When Joseph marveled at the size of that small breathing frame,
And gazed upon those bright new eyes and spoke the Infant's Name,
The angel's words he once had dreamed poured down from Heaven's height,
And like the host of stars that beamed blessed earth with welcome light.

"This Child shall be Emmanuel; not God upon the throne,
But God with us, Emmanuel, as close as blood and bone."
The tiny form in Joseph's palms confirmed what he had heard,
And from his heart rose hymns and psalms for Heaven's Human Word.

The tools that Joseph laid aside a mob would later lift
And use with anger, fear, and pride to crucify God's gift.
Let us, O Lord, not only hold the Child Who's born today,
But charged with faith may we be bold to follow in His way.

The Poem

Star of the East
Andrew Wales, *reader*

Eugene Field

The Anthem

African Noel

Victor C. Johnson

Minister: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, You Who lead Joseph like a flock. You Who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth. Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh, stir up Your might and come to save us!

People: Restore us, O God; let Your face shine, that we may be saved!

Minister: O LORD God of hosts, how long will You be angry with Your people's prayers? You have fed them with the bread of tears and given them tears to drink in full measure. You make us an object of contention for our neighbors, and our enemies laugh among themselves.

People: Restore us, O God of hosts; let Your face shine, that we may be saved!

Minister: You brought a vine out of Egypt; You drove out the nations and planted it. You cleared the ground for it; it took deep root and filled the land. Turn again, O God of hosts! Look down from Heaven, and see; have regard for this vine, the stock that Your right hand planted, and for the Son Whom You made strong for Yourself. But let Your hand be on the Man of Your right hand, the Son of Man Whom You have made strong for Yourself! Then we shall not turn back from You; give us life, and we will call upon Your Name!

People: Restore us, O LORD God of hosts! Let Your face shine, that we may be saved!

The Anthem

The Virgin's Cradle Song

Chilean Lullaby, arr. Powers

Sleep little Babe, cares beguiling,
 Mother beside You sits smiling.
 Angels watch over and greet You.
 Softly to sleep they entreat You.
 Sleep, little Jesus, softly,
 Sweetly asleep in the hay,
 Angels watch over Your slumber,
 Mother sings *lulalulay*.

The Poem

Christmastide
 Kaelyn Steen, reader

Christina Rosetti

Still, still, still one can hear the falling snow.
For all is hushed, the world is sleeping,
Holy star its vigil keeping.
Still, still, still one can hear the falling snow.

Sleep, sleep, sleep, 'tis the eve of our Savior's birth.
The night is peaceful all around you,
Close your eyes, let sleep surround you.
Sleep, sleep, sleep, 'tis the eve of our Savior's birth.

Dream, dream, dream of the joyous day to come.
While guardian angels without number
Watch you as you sweetly slumber.
Dream, dream, dream of the joyous day to come.

The Scripture Reading

Matthew 1:18-25

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. 19 And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. 20 But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will bear a Son, and you shall call His Name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." 22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: 23 "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call His Name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). 24 When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, 25 but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called His Name Jesus.

The Homily

HOLD ON, I'M COMING

Mr. Cooper

Matthew 1:18-25

† The Hymn

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

(see page 7)

† The Benediction

† The Congregational Response ***O Come, O Come, Emmanuel***

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!



*You are invited and encouraged to join us after tonight's service
for Christmas caroling in the neighborhood.*

Music booklets will be provided.

And afterward, please stay for Wassail and Christmas cookies.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2. O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes on
3. O come, thou Rod of Jes - se, free thine own from Sa - tan's
4. O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us by thy
5. O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come and o - pen wide our

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here, un -
Si - nai's height, in an - cient times didst give the law in
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple save, and
draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night, and
heav'n - ly home; make safe the way that leads on high, and

Refrain
til the Son of God ap - pear.
cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -
death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
close the path to mis - er - y.

man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

1. God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle - men, let noth - ing you dis - may,
2. From God our heav'n - ly Fa - ther, a bless - ed an - gel came;
3. "Fear not, then," said the an - gel, "let noth - ing you af - fright;
4. The shep - herds at those tid - ings re - joic - ed much in mind,

re - mem - ber Christ our Sav - ior was born on Christ - mas day,
and un - to cer - tain shep - herds brought tid - ings of the same:
this day is born a Sav - ior of a pure vir - gin bright,
and left their flocks a - feed - ing, in tem - pest, storm, and wind:

to save us all from Sa - tan's pow'r when we were gone a - stray;
how that in Beth - le - hem was born the Son of God by name.
to free all those who trust in him from Sa - tan's pow'r and might."
and went to Beth - le - hem straight - way, the Son of God to find.

REFRAIN
O tid - ings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and joy,