

A watercolor illustration of a night sky with a bright yellow star and a small stable with figures inside. The sky is a mix of dark blue, purple, and yellow. The star is a bright yellow four-pointed star with a soft glow. Below the star, a small stable is visible with two figures inside. The ground is a dark brown color.

*Noel!*  
*Noel!*

*Monday, December 19, 2022 | 7:00pm*  
*Central United Methodist Church Chapel*



*Welcome!*

*We are so glad you joined  
us this evening!*

*We look forward to the time that we will  
share throughout this beautiful concert in  
praise of our Savior for to be!*



# Program

## GATHERING MUSIC

Nathan Clements, *piano*

### **Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming** ES IST EIN' ROS'

15<sup>th</sup> Century German Carol  
Translated by Theodore Baker

*"Es ist ein Ros entsprungen" ("A rose has sprung up"), most commonly translated to English as **Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming** or "A Spotless Rose", is a Christmas carol and Marian Hymn of German origin. The hymn has been used with the focus of the song being Mary or Jesus, respectively. In addition, there have been numerous versions of the hymn, with varying texts and lengths. The tune most familiar today and played tonight appears in the Speyer Hymnal (printed in Cologne in 1599), and the familiar harmonization was written by German composer Michael Praetorius in 1609. The English translation **Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming** was written by Theodore Baker in 1894.*

- Diana Leigh Matthews

### **God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen** GOD REST YOU MERRY

Traditional English Carol  
arr. Dietmar Steinhauer

*"God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" has been a traditional carol since the mid-18th Century. Some speculate that this is due to Queen Victoria's love of carols. Charles Dickens referenced the song in his classic, "A Christmas Carol." The song describes how Jesus has come to "save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray" which is an appropriate theme for all mankind—and epitomized by Scrooge. "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" is somber and yet uplifting and inspiring. It is centered around the birth of Christ and conveys the Christmas message of hope and abundant joy.*

- Lisa Schnedler

### **In The Bleak Midwinter** CRANHAM

Poem by Christina Rossetti  
Music by Gustav Holst

*"In the Bleak Midwinter" is a Christmas carol based on a poem by the English poet Christina Rossetti. Its lyrics poetically describe the birth of Jesus and the scene of His nativity. In verse one, Rossetti describes the physical circumstances of the Incarnation in Bethlehem. The poem was published, under the title "A Christmas Carol", in the January 1872 issue of Scribner's Monthly. The poem first appeared set to music in The English Hymnal in 1906 with a setting by Gustav Holst.*

- C. Michael Hawin

### **The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came** GABRIEL'S MESSAGE

Traditional Basque Carol

*"Gabriel's Message", or "The angel Gabriel from heaven came" (Basque: "Birjina gatzettabat zegoen") is a Basque Christmas folk carol about the Annunciation to the Virgin Mary. It quotes the biblical account of that event (Luke, Chapter 1, verses 26-38) and Mary's Magnificat (Luke 1.46-55). It was translated into English by Sabine Baring-Gould and is best known from that version.*

- Diana Leigh Matthews

**Once In Royal David's City**  
IRBY

Words by Cecil F. Alexander  
Music by Henry J. Gauntlett

*Hymns for Little Children was a collection of poems aimed to elucidate parts of the Apostles' Creed for use in Sunday schools or in the home - "Once in Royal David's City" told the story of the Nativity of Jesus to illuminate "Born of the Virgin Mary". Other well-known hymns in the collection included "All Things Bright and Beautiful" ("Maker of Heaven and Earth") and "There is a green hill far away" ("Was crucified dead and buried"). Alexander was married to the Anglican clergyman William Alexander, who was Archbishop of Armagh, and her most famous poems are commemorated in a memorial window at St Columb's Cathedral, Derry.*

- Diana Leigh Matthews

**UKRAINIAN BELL CAROL**

arr. Michael G. Sinshack

Nathan Clements, *piano*

*According to the Ukraine government website, "Carol of the Bells" was not a carol: It was "Shchedryk," a four-note melody dating back to the pre-Christian era that Ukrainians sang in the spring when swallows returned from their winter migration. The song was part of New Year celebrations meant to bless each other with a prosperous harvest. Nearly two decades after "Schedryk" was born, the swallows were changed to bells and the Ukrainian spring became an American Christmas. The song, "Carol of the Bells," has been ingrained in U.S. Christmas culture since the 1940s.*

- Ukrainian Government Website, Ukrainian Carols History Archive

**HYMN**

**O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**  
VENI EMMANUEL

vv. 1-4, 7 United Methodist Hymnal No. 211  
15<sup>th</sup> Century French Carol

Trio / Congregation

**EMMANUEL**

arr. Carol Tornquist

Nathan Clements, *piano*

*Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel. God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.*  
Text Written by Bob McGee, 1976, Adapted from Matthew 1:23

**O EMMANUEL**

Words and Music by Karen Marolli

Trio / Nathan Clements, *piano*

*Shadows are deep'ning and evening is falling, dusk ever hast'ning our midnight of souls. Light to our darkness and hope for our longing, come dwell among us 'till daylight consoles. O Emmanuel, your people are calling, calling for healing as darkness unfolds. Shadows are deep'ning and evening is falling, dusk ever hast'ning our midnight of souls.*

*Come as the artist, forever creating torrents of dayspring where all tears have dried. Bring us your sunrise, the darkness a bating. Bring us your healing for hearts broken wide. O Emmanuel, your people are waiting, waiting for solace; O come and be our guide. Come as the artist, forever creating torrents of dayspring where all tears have dried.*

*\*Brightest and best of the stars of the morning, dawn on our darkness and lend us your aid.*

Text written by Karen Marolli

\*Text from "Brightest and Best of the Stars," Reginald Herber, 1783-1826, and written in 1811, *alt*, (PD).

## HYMN

### It Came Upon The Midnight Clear CAROL

United Methodist Hymnal No. 218  
Written by Richard Storrs Willis

Trio / Congregation

## MARY DID YOU KNOW?

arr. Chrissy Ricker

Nathan Clements, *piano*

*The lyrics to "Mary Did You Know?" were written by Mark Lowry in 1984. In 1984, Lowry was contacted by Liberty's president, Jerry Falwell, who asked him to write the program for The Living Christmas Tree, a church music performance. While writing the program that year, Lowry meditated on the Christmas story found in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke and especially pondered the person of Mary, the mother of Jesus. He asked questions now posed in the song: Did Mary know her Son was as special as He was? Did she know that her Son had come to save humanity, including her? Did she know that her baby would be able to heal, to calm storms, to walk on water? Did Mary know that she was kissing the face of God?*

- Kristi Walker

## COME, DEAREST CHILD (BREAK FORTH O BEAUTOUS HEAVEN'LY LIGHT)

Music by Ralph Manuel

Words by Johann Rist and Fred Pratt Green

Trio / Frank Casstevens, *piano*

*Break forth, O beauteous heav'nly light, and usher in the morning; you shepherds, shrink not with affright, but hear the angel's warning. This child now weak in infancy, our confidence and joy shall be, the pow'r of Satan breaking, our peace eternal making.*

*This night of wonder, night of joy, was born the Christ, our brother; he comes, not mighty to destroy, to bid us love each other. How could he quit his kindly state for such a world of greed and hate? What deep humiliation secured the world's salvation!*

*Come, dearest child, into our hearts, and leave your crib behind you! Let this be where the new life starts for all who seek and find you. To you be honor, thanks and praise, for all your gifts this time of grace: come, conquer and deliver this world, and us, forever.*

*Amen, amen.*

Stanza 1 text written by Johann Rist, 1641, *tr.* John Troutbeck, 1885, *alt.*

Stanzas 2,3 text written by Fred Pratt Green, 1986, Adapted from Luke 2:8-14

## HYMN

### O Come, All Ye Faithful ADESTE FIDELIS

vv. 1-5 United Methodist Hymnal No. 234  
Written by John F. Wade

Trio / Congregation

## GLORIA! FROM VIVALDI'S GLORIA

by Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741)

Edited and arranged by Patrick M. Liebergen

Nathan Clements, *piano*

*Gloria, gloria, gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo, in excelsis Deo, Gloria, gloria, gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

Text in Latin written by Antonio Vivaldi

# JOYFUL ANGELS SING! (A CHRISTMAS CONCERTATO)

arr. Brad Nix

Trio / Frank Casstevens, *piano*

*Sing out for joy, the Lord is Born! Sing out for joy, the Lord is born! Joy! Joy! Joy! Joy! Joy! Joy! Joy! Joy! Let all creation sing for joy! Sing for joy!*

*Joy to the world! the Lord is come; let earth receive her King; let ev'ry heart prepare Him room, and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.*

*He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove, the glories of His righteousness, and wonders of His love, and wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders of His love.*

*Angels from the realms of glory, wing you flight o'er all the earth: ye who sang creation's story, now proclaim the Messiah's birth: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King. Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King.*

*Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King; peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!" Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies; with th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"*

*Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness! Light and life to all He brings, risen with healing in His wings. Mild He lays His glory by, born that we no more may die, born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth. Hark! the herald angels sing, "glory to the newborn King!"*

*Sing out for joy, the Lord is born! Christ, the Lord, is born!*

Stanzas 1, 7, written by Brad Nix

Stanzas 2, 3, *Joy to the World!* by George Frideric Handel

Stanza 4, *Angels from the Realms of Glory* by Henry T. Smart

Stanzas 5, 6, *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing* by Felix Mendelssohn

# GO, TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

arr. Mark R. Kellner  
Traditional Spiritual

Nathan Clements, *piano*

*Go Tell It on the Mountain originated as a spiritual and dates back to at least 1865, although probably much earlier. The song is considered a Christmas carol because of the original lyrics about Jesus birth. Go Tell It on the Mountain gained popularity with the birth and growth of blues, jazz and early rock 'n' roll in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Go Tell It On the Mountain has progressed from the vivid imagination of an illiterate slave to a world famous song in the past two centuries. African Americans have a rich musical history through the use of passing down stories in the guise of a song. These songs are called spirituals and the slaves often sung them in the fields, while working and in their celebrations. These songs have a feeling of "incredible majesty and haunting beauty."*

- Diana Leigh Matthews

# A CELTIC CHRISTMAS OVERTURE

arr. Larry Shackley

Nathan Clements, *piano*

*Larry Shackley's Celtic Twist on Christmas incorporates 4 christmas carols; "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice", German melody, 14<sup>th</sup> century, "The Wexford Carol", Irish carol, 12<sup>th</sup> century, "O Little Town of Bethlehem", alternate tune: FOREST GREEN, English folk melody, "Joy to the World", George Frideric Handel. This arrangement matches melodies and harmonies in an exuberant way, contrasts loud to soft, and joyful to calm in a way like no other.*

**JOY HAS DAWNED WITH ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH** Choral Setting by Lloyd Larson  
 Words and Music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townsend  
*GLORIA*, French Carol, 18<sup>th</sup> century

Trio / Frank Casstevens, *piano*

*Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*Joy has dawned upon the world, promised from creation; God's salvation now unfurled, hope for ev'ry nation. Not with fanfares from above, not with scenes of glory, but the humble gift of love: Jesus born of Mary.*

*Sounds of wonder fill the sky with the songs of angels as the mighty Prince of Life shelters in a stable. Hands that set each star in place, shaped the earth in darkness, cling now to a mother's breast vuln'erable and helpless.*

*Come to Bethlehem, and see Him whose birth the angels sing; come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.*

*Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*Shepherds bow before the Lamb, gazing at the glory; gifts of men from distant lands prophesy the story.*

*Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

Stanzas 2, 3, 4, 6, written by Keith Getty and Stuart Townsend  
 Stanzas 1, 5, 7, Traditional French Carol, Adapted from Luke 2:6-20

## HYMN

### The First Noel

THE FIRST NOEL

United Methodist Hymnal No. 245

Traditional English Carol

Trio / Congregation

## SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT

Words by Joseph Mohr, Adapted from Luke 2:6-20

Music by Franz Gruber

Congregation / Trio / JC Hightower, *soloist in German* / Greg Bass, *guitar* / Nathan Clements, *piano*

Please sing the first verse in bold:

***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.***

*Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake, at the sight; glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing Alleluia! Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!*

*Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht! Alles schlaf, einsam wacht nur das traute hoch heilige Paar, Holder Knabemil lockigem Haar, schlaf im himmlischer Ruh, schlaf im himmlischer Ruh.*

*Silent Night, holy night wondrous star, lend thy light; with the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King; Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!*

Final two verses will be played on the piano



# Participants

## **The Festivale Trio**

*Greg Bass | JC Hightower | David Clements*

## **The Trio Accompanists**

*Nathan Clements | Frank Casstevens*

## **Pianist**

*Nathan Clements*

# Many Thanks To

*The musicians participating  
Gabe Febus for his audio-visual help  
Kalli Clements for her logistical help  
Julie Miles for her help with the program  
Central United Methodist Church for offering  
what a beautiful house of worship for the program  
and to,  
Everyone who attended*

*We Wish You a very Merry and Blessed  
Christmas Season and a Glorious New Year!*





