

A photograph of a nativity scene inside a rustic wooden stable. The scene is set against a dark night sky filled with stars. A bright, multi-pointed star, representing the Star of Bethlehem, is the central focus, shining brightly and casting a long, vertical beam of light down towards a wooden manger. The manger is filled with straw and is positioned in the center of the stable. The wooden beams of the stable's roof are visible, creating a sense of depth and perspective. The overall atmosphere is serene and spiritual.

Come to set us Free



FESTIVAL OF READINGS AND CAROLS
ADVENT & CHRISTMAS AT THE PAULIST CENTER • 2025

THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

a prelude presented by the youth of the Paulist Center

Sunday, December 14 • 2:00 pm

Pageant Director: Susan Rutkowski

Assistant Director: Liz Framski

Narrator: Robert Wolfe

Mary: Izzy Damian

Joseph: Ivander Dewi Saraswati

Baby Jesus: Bridget Miller

Star: Rose Bhattacharyya

Wise People: Cillian Byrne, Genevieve Wolfe, Lucy Kerr

Angel Gabriella: Iris Wolfe

Angels: Gwen Kerr, Petra Spicer, Frances Damian, Eleanor Spicer, Zula Slocum-Wei, Etta Slocum-Wei

Shepherds: Leif Ladner, Xavier Rauseo-Ricupero, Lincoln Kang

Sheep, Donkeys & Cows: Owen Bhattacharyya, Chloe Kang, Matthew Ladner, Samuel Sulewski,
Ellie Ladner, Caleb Kang, Coco Ladner

**Thank you to all the parents who coordinated different groups of the cast
and with set production!*

A FESTIVAL OF READINGS AND CAROLS
COME TO SET US FREE
THE PAULIST CENTER • BOSTON, MA

– PLEASE HOLD ALL APPLAUSE UNTIL THE END OF THE PROGRAM –

Prelude and Processional

Call to Worship

“Advent”

from *To God I Give My Melody: Reflections for Worship*
by Susan Palo Cherwien

Creator of the Stars of Night

Verses, Latin 9th C; The Hymnal 1982

Refrain text by Carol Browning

Arranged by Carol Browning

Tune: CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM

Tenors and Basses

Creator of the stars of night,
Your people’s everlasting light,
O Christ, Redeemer of us all,
We pray you hear us when we call.

Refrain (All sing):

Come, O Lord, and bring your light,
O radiant star, our heart’s delight.
O God-with-us, Emmanuel,
With your love, the dark dispel.

Sopranos and Altos

In sorrow that the ancient curse
Should doom to death a universe,
You came, O Savior, to set free
Your own in glorious liberty. *(Refrain)*

Tenors and Basses

When this old world drew on toward night,
You came, but not in splendor bright,
Not as a monarch but the child
Of Mary, blameless, mother mild. *(Refrain)*

Sopranos and Altos

At your great Name, O Jesus, now
All knees must bend all hearts must bow:
All things on earth with one accord,
Like those in heaven shall call you Lord. *(Refrain)*

Full Choir

Come in your holy might, we pray,
Redeem us for eternal day;
Defend us while we dwell below
From all assaults of our dread foe. *(Refrain)*

Invocation

God of Day and God of Darkness

Words by Marty Haugen

Harmonization by Ronald Nelson

Tune: BEACH SPRING

All sing

God of day and God of darkness,
Now we stand before the night;
As the shadows stretch and deepen,
Come and make our darkness bright.
All creation still is groaning
For the dawning of your might,
When the Sun of peace and justice
Fills the earth with radiant light.

Tenors and Basses

Still the nations curse the darkness,
Still the rich oppress the poor;
Still the earth is bruised and broken
By the ones who still want more.
Come and wake us from our sleeping,
So our hearts cannot ignore
All your people lost and broken,
All your children at our door.

Sopranos and Altos

Show us Christ in one another,
Make us servants strong and true;
Give us all your love of justice
So we do what you would do.
Let us call all people holy,
Let us pledge our lives anew,
Make us one with all the lowly,
Let us all be one in you.

All sing

You shall be the path that guides us,
You the light that in us burns;
Shining deep within all people,
Yours the love that we must learn,
For our hearts shall wander restless
'Til they safe to you return;
Finding you in one another,
We shall all your face discern.

All sing

Praise to you in day and darkness,
You our source and you our end;
Praise to you who love and nurture us
As a father, mother, friend.
Grant us all a peaceful resting,
Let each mind and body mend,
So we rise refreshed tomorrow,
Hearts renewed to Kingdom tend.

Reading

"New Consciousness"

from *Glory into Glory: Reflections for Worship*
by Susan Palo Cherwien

Make Straight in the Desert a Highway

Words by Carl P. Daw

Music by Judy Hunnicutt

Make straight in the desert a highway,
prepare the way of the Lord:
let mountains and hills bow down humbly
and valleys rise up for their King.
In joy shall the wilderness blossom,
and streams through the desert be poured
the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and tongues that were silent shall sing.

Break forth into singing, O Zion,
your King is coming to you,
Jerusalem, shout with rejoicing,
he comes to redeem you from fear.
For God shall bring peace and abundance,
your praise and renown to renew:
prepare to receive your salvation
the promised Redeemer is near.

The reign of the Lord will be gracious,
its blessings ever will last;
for then will God bring to fulfillment
the promise of peace from above.
All creatures will prosper together,
to plowshares all swords will be cast:
earth's people will find their true freedom
in God's perfect kingdom of love.

Comfort, My People

Words and Music by Ian Callahan

Comfort, my people,
and calm all your fear;
the day of salvation
is quickly drawing near.
The One you long to see
will soon set you free.
O come, Lord Jesus, come.
O come, Lord Jesus, come.

Silence the thunder,
silence sounds of war.
End all destruction
and comfort those who mourn.
Your dream draws near,
your vision is vision is here.
O come, Lord Jesus, come.
O come, Lord Jesus, come.

Be light in the light in the darkness,
be truth for our truth for our lives.
Be strength for the helpless,
the poor and lost who cry.
O saving voice,
O living choice,
O come, Lord Jesus, come.
O come, Lord Jesus, come.

Reading

"God Praised in Justice"

from *Crossings: Meditations for Worship*

by Susan Palo Cherwien

Come to Set Us Free

Words and music by Bernadette Farrell

Arrangement by Normand Gouin

Come to set us free! Come to set us free!
Come, O Lord; come, O Lord!
Come to set us free!

Refrain

Come to set us free, come to make us your own.
Come to show the way to your people, your chosen.
Open our lives to the light of your promise.
Come to our hearts with healing,
come to our minds with power,
come to us and bring us your life.

You are light which shines in darkness,
Morning Star which never sets.
Open our eyes which only dimly see
the truth which sets us free.

You are hope which brings us courage,
you are strength which never fails.
Open our minds to ways we do not know,
but where your Spirit grows.

You are promise of salvation,
you are God in human form.
Bring to our world of emptiness and fear
the Word we long to hear.

Come to set us free! Come to set us free!
Come, O Lord; come, O Lord!
Come to set us free!

Rejoice and Sing!

Words and music by Karen Marroli

You have turned my mourning into dancing;
you cast off my sadness and clothed me with joy!

Rejoice, O Daughter Zion, and sing!
The Lord is in your midst,
a great defender who saves.
O rejoice, rejoice and sing!

Rejoice, O Daughter Zion, and sing,
the Lord is with you.
The Lord shall be your strength.
O rejoice and sing a new song!

The Lord shall delight in you.
God shall renew you in love
and rejoice over you in song!

Rejoice, O Daughter Zion, and sing,
the Lord is with you.
The Lord shall be your strength.
O rejoice and sing a new song!

The Lord shall embrace you and bring you home,
restore you with a song!

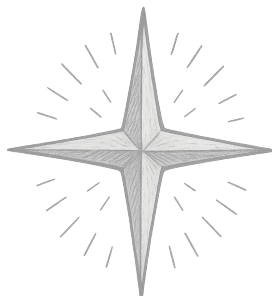
Rejoice, O Daughter Zion, and sing,
the Lord is with you.
The Lord shall be your strength.
O rejoice and sing a new song!

Reading

"God Praised in Hope"

from *Crossings: Meditations for Worship*

by Susan Palo Cherwien



O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

Mode I, French, 15th c.

Adapt Thomas Helmore, 1811-1890

Latin 9th c., trans by. John M. Neale

Arranged by Tony Alonso

Solist: Manny Lim

Solo

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel!

Sopranos and Altos

O come, thou Rod of Jesse's stem,
from every foe deliver them
that trust thy mighty power to save,
and give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel!

Tenors and Basses

O come, thou Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel!

All sing

O come, thou Dayspring from on high
and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel!

All sing

O come, Desire of nations, bind
in one the hearts of humankind;
O bid our sad divisions cease,
And be for us the King of Peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel!

"Pastorale"

Concerto grosso in G minor, Op. 6

Christmas Concerto

Arcangelo Corelli, 1653-1713

Reading

"The Return of Light"

from *Crossings: Meditations for Worship*

by Susan Palo Cherwien

All Earth Is Hopeful/ Todo la Tierra

Words and music by Alberto Taulé

Arrangement by James E. Bobb

Toda la tierra espera al Salvador:
viene a traer a los hombres la verdad,
a sembrar por el mundo semillas de amor.
A todos los pobres su brazo salvará.

All earth is hopeful; the Savior comes at last!
Furrows lie open for God's creative task;
This, the labor of people who struggle to see
How God's truth and justice set everybody free.

Dice el profeta al pueblo de Israel:
"Pronto la luz del Mesías brillará.
Dios se acerca a nosotros: su nombre, Emmanuel".
¡Germinen la tierra amor y libertad!

People of Israel, you heard the prophet tell:
"A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel:"
she conceived him, "God with Us,"
our brother, whose birth restores hope and courage
to children of this earth.

Mountains and valleys will have to be prepared;
new highways opened, new protocols declared.
Almost Here! God is nearing,
in beauty and grace!
All clear every gateway, in haste come out in haste!

We first saw Jesus as baby in a crib.
This same Lord Jesus today has come to live
in our world he is present,
in neighbors we see, our Jesus is with us,
and ever sets us free!

This Silent Night

Words and Music by Steven James

Quiet night, a silent night,
no familiar sound;
frightened, weary, unprepared,
they crossed the foreign ground.
To Bethlehem to bear a child,
a future most unknown;
surrounded by the grace of God,
yet feeling so alone.

Darkest night and darkest hour,
faint stars glow overhead;
wandering through the streets,
they went to find the babe a bed.
A sordid stable, cattle kept
amid the evening gloam;
unsure of what would come to be
so far away from home.

Then like the morning's dawn,
a ray of light shown through,
and for a moment time stood still
with peace and hope anew.

Through the dark, be our light,
bring us home this silent night.

Quiet night, this silent night,
the journey's now our own;
a choice to make, a chance to take,
a flight from what we've know.
The time is nearing can't go back;
the present's now the past.
With doubt and with uncertainty,
we see the die is cast.

Darkness may cover us,
grim shadows of the night;
though as that eve in Bethlehem,
love will be our light.

Through the dark, be our light,
bring us home this silent night.
Grant us peace, give us sight,
make us whole this silent night.

Quiet night, this silent night.

Reading

"God Praised in Incarnation"

from *Crossings: Meditations for Worship*
by Susan Palo Cherwien

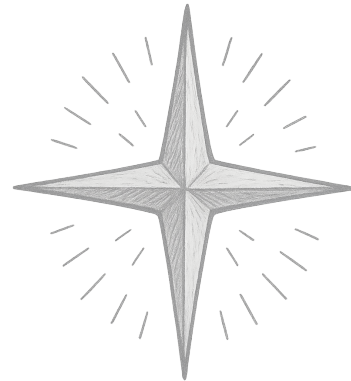
Sizalelwe Indodana

Traditional South African Carol

Arranged by Victor C. Johnson

Soloist: Jackie Salas

Sizalelwe Indodana
Unto us a child is born
Igama laya ngu Jesu
His name is Jesus
Iyo yodwa Umsindisi
He has come to save the world.



Sussex Carol

Traditional English Carol

Arranged by Matthew Culloton

On Christmas night all Christians sing
to hear the news the angels bring;
on Christmas night all Christians sing
to hear the news the angels bring:
news of great joy, news of great mirth,
news of our merciful King's birth.

Then why should all the earth be sad,
since our Redeemer made us glad?
Then why should all the earth be sad,
since our Redeemer made us glad,
when from our sin he set us free,
all for to gain our liberty?

When sin departs before his grace,
then life and health come in its place;
when sin departs before his grace,
then life and health come in its place;
angels and all with joy may sing,
all for to see the newborn King.

All out of darkness we have light,
which made the angels sing this night;
all out of darkness we have light,
which made the angels sing this night:
"Glory to God and peace to all,
now and forevermore. Amen."

Reading

"Incarnation"

from *Glory into Glory: Reflections for Worship*
by Susan Palo Cherwien

O Holy Night

Music and Words by Adolf Adam

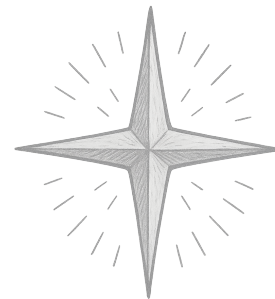
Arranged by James Biery

Solost: Meagan Schrock

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining;
it is the night of the dear Savior's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,
for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!
O night divine! O night when Christ was born!
O night divine! O night, O night divine!

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming,
with glowing hearts by His cradle we stand.
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,
there came the wise men from Orient land.
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger;
in all our trials born to be our friend.
He knows our need, to our weakness is no stranger.
Behold your King; before Him lowly bend!
Behold your King; before Him lowly bend!

Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love and His gospel is peace.
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our neighbor
and in His name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
let all within us praise His holy name.
Christ is the Lord! O praise His name forever!
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!



Night of Silence/Silent Night

Words and music by Daniel Kantor

Arranged by John Ferguson

SILENT NIGHT by Franz Gruber, 1787-1863

Choir alone

Cold are the people, winter of life,
we tremble in shadows this cold endless night,
frozen in the snow lie roses sleeping,
flowers that will echo the sunrise,
fire of hope is our only warmth,
weary, it's flame will be dying soon.

Choir alone

Voice in the distance, call in the night,
on wind you enfold us, you speak of the light,
gentle on the ear you whisper softly,
rumors of a dawn so embracing,
breathless love awaits darkened souls,
soon will we know of the morning.

Choir alone

Spirit among us, shine like the star,
Your light that guides shepherds
and kings from afar,
shimmer in the sky so empty, lonely,
rising in the warmth of your son's love,
star unknowing of night and day,
Spirit we wait for your loving Son.

All sing

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.

All sing

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."

All sing

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,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Blessing

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

Attr: Geroqe Frideric Handel, 1685-1759

Arranged by Richard Proulx, 1937-2010

All

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare Him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

Choir alone

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let us our songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

Choir alone

No more let sin and sorrow grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow,
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as, the curse is found.

Joy to the world!

All

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.

Closing Remarks

Rick Walsh, CSP

*Please join us for a reception in the auditorium
immediately following the program.*

Texts used and adapted for the festival—*Crossings,
From Glory Into Glory, To God I Give My Melody: Meditations for Worship*
by Susan Palo Cherwein © 2009, Morning Star Music Publishers.

SOPRANOS

Pat Wilkinson
Julie Ladner
Hillary Cicerone
Naomi Hinchon
Grace Lee
Elissa Uspensky
Meagan Schrock
Maja Sabalic-Schoener

ALTOS

Janis Young
Minky Hyun
Lucia Papile
Jackie Salas
Patricia Montano
Mares Beauvais
Terry Witherell

TENORS

Manny Lim
Jordan Johnson
Michael Fallon
Ayden Kowalski
Elizabeth Amas

BASSES

Eric Averion
Daniel Goessling
Bill Sharka
Fred Colangelo
Francesco Tena
Jason Schoener

ACCOMPANIST

Tom Nunan

FLUTE

Kathryn Sheehan

VIOLIN I

Joshua Rosenthal

OBOE

Ben Fox

BASS FLUTE

Kathryn Sheehan

CELLO

Davis Mann

PERCUSSION

Ellen Jacobson

ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANTS

READERS

Greg Nash, *Saturday*
Trish Fontanilla, *Saturday*
Beth Kress, *Sunday*
Rosa Mazzeo, *Sunday*

AUDIO VISUAL

Andre Boudreau

LIVESTREAM

Andre Boudreau

RECEPTION | HOSPITALITY

Liz Framski
Deb Heimel
Susan Ruskowski

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*Heartfelt thanks to all those who helped with set-up, hospitality, donations,
and pre-program preparations.*

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Larry DiCara
John and Marylou Domino
Donovan/Lyons Families
Daniel Goessling
In memory of Deborah Peters Goessling
Jim Gorman and Joanne Ekhaml
Thomas Gosnell
Philip Hamilton
Rebecca and Deborah Heimel
Maggie Keefe
In honor of Doris and Bill Keefe
Nancy Kendrick and Peter Beatty
Mary Lesko
Bonnie MacLeod
Catie McElwee and Rick Steinmetz
The Boston Paulists
*in gratitude to Norm Gouin
and our Center members*
In Memory of Rosanne Procopio
and Nathan Bourque
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Pat Rutherford
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In Memory of George Fitzgerald CSP
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Marisa McQuaid
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