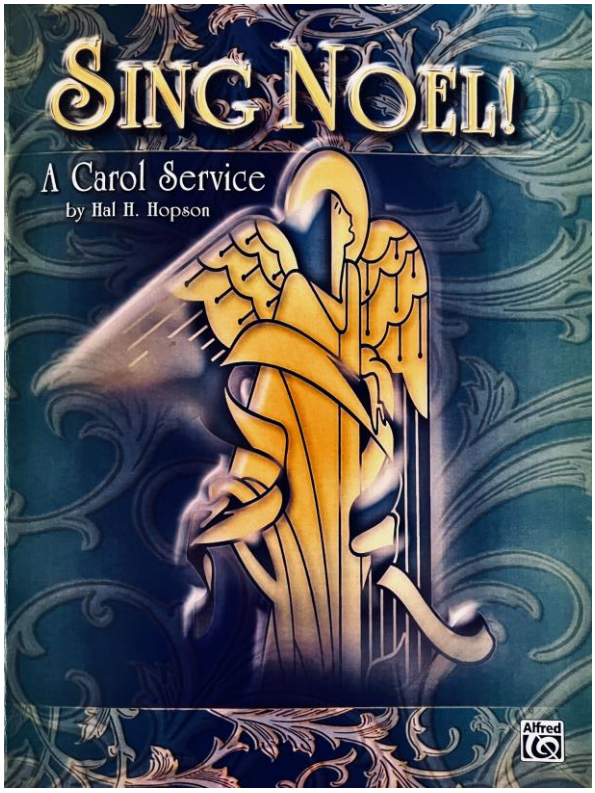
Sing Noel! A Carol Service By Hal Hopson

Presented by the United Church of Chester Choir

December 17th, 2023 at 10:00 am



Carol Prelude

Opening Proclamation from Chanticleer
by William Austin (1587-1634)

Sing Noel a traditional African carol

The Promised Messiah is Heralded by John the Baptist from Comfort, Comfort Ye My People
by J. Olearius (1611-1684)

Prepare the Way, O Zion from the Swenska Psalmboken (1697)

The Annunciation text by Venantius Fortunatus
translated by J. Neale (1818-1866)

The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came, a Basque carol

The Joy of the Shepherds from At Bethlehem
by Richard Crenshaw (1612-1649)

The First Noel a traditional English carol
Sung by Choir and Congregation

Lyrics:

The first Noel, the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far; and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

The Angel's Song of Peace from Christmas Bells
by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882)

Ding! Dong! Merrily on High a 16th century French carol

A Servant- King Is Born from New Prince, New Pomp
by Robert Southwell (1561-1595)

O Little Town of Bethlehem by L. H. Redner (1868)

Sung by Choir and Congregation Lyrics:

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.

(Women voices only) For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above, while mortals sleep the angels keep their watch of wondring love. O morning stars together, proclaim the holy birth, and praises

sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth!

(All Voices) How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is giv'n; so God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n. No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

Mary, The Tender Mother of Jesus
anonymous medieval text

The Christ-Child's Lullaby a traditional Scottish carol

The King's Pay Their Homage from Prayers at Christmas by Nathaniel Wanley (1634-1680)

March of the Kings a 13th century French carol

The Whole World Sings Noel from What Sweeter Music Can We Bring
by Robert Herrick (1591-1674)

O Come, Joyfully (O come all ye faithful, Joy to the world)

Sung by the Choir and Congregation

Lyrics:

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; O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King; let every 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.

The Word Became Flesh and Lived Among Us from While All Things Were In Quiet Silence from the Christmas Vespers of the Anglican Church, Love Came Down At Christmas by Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

Silent Night, Holy Night
by Franz Gruber and text by Joseph Mohr

Sung by Choir and Congregation:

Lyrics:

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.

Choir only:

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!

(Male voices in chorus and congregation only): 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.

(Choir and congregation): 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

The Blessing

Soloists: Ed Epright, tenor and Pauline Hyla, soprano

Narrators: Rev. Eileen Sypher and Daphne Stitt

Instrumentalists:

Emily Muller, violin

Rev. Alan Froggatt, violin

Bridget Haines, viola

Kris Meier, cello

Tom Briggs, percussion

Karli Gilbertson, piano

Chorus:

Cheryl Archer

Jennifer Gill

Claudia Epright

Abbey Weiss

Bridget Forant

Casey Snyder

Ruth Mowry

Susan Bird

Pauline Hyla

Margie Warner

Diane Adams

Pat Holloway

Anne Skagen

Ed Epright

Paul Indorf

Richard Holloway

The UCC Choir would like to acknowledge the generous donation made in longtime chorister Steve Williams' memory which made the purchase of our cantata scores possible.