

AN EVER-WIDENING CIRCLE OF GRACE



Ridgefield-Crystal Lake Presbyterian Church

8505 Church Street | Crystal Lake, IL 60012 | 815.459.1132
www.rclpc.org | office@rclpc.org



John Dillon, Pastor
December 11, 2022 | 10:00 am
Third Sunday in Advent

CHOIR CANTATA

SPECIAL MUSIC: CAMDEN KORONKIEWICZ

DIRECTED BY: ANTHONY JAY HOUSTON AND SCOTT IDTINGS

ACCOMPANISTS: ANN LEGG AND MIKE GRISWOLD

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR: STEVE CONNELL

TECHNICAL ASSISTANT: WILL EMMANUEL

WE GATHER IN GRACE

A “+” indicates all are invited to stand.

PRELUDE

HEY HO NOBODY HOME
DECK THE HALLS

Camden Koronkiewicz

English Folk Song
Traditional Carol

WORDS OF WELCOME

+THRESHOLD MOMENT (LUKE 1:48B-50)

One: Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy
is His name. His mercy is for those who revere Him

All: from generation to generation

+HYMN # 140 ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID’S CITY

ADVENT CANDLE: *A CANDLE IS BURNING*

Words: Sandra Dean

Tune: Away in the Manger

**A candle is burning, a candle of JOY
A candle to welcome brave Mary’s new boy
Our hearts fill with wonder and eyes light and glow
As joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

One: God of mercy, a million times a day we have the
opportunity to be gracious, to assume the best in others, to
give the benefit of the doubt.

**All: A million times a day we could choose the better way,
but so often we don’t.**

One: Fear and greed kick in. Assumptions and insecurities take
the wheel. Comparison and critique lead the charge.

**All: Forgive us for forgetting that we are descendants of
Joseph. Forgive us for forgetting that grace and mercy
are in our blood. Forgive us for forgetting that all
belong to you. Give us the courage to love even bigger
than before, and the wisdom to choose a better way.**

~Silence~

Pastor: Family of Faith, hear this good news: We who have chosen wrong, are given a second chance. We who have lost our way, are welcomed into community. We who feel alone, are seen, held, and known. This is the good news of the gospel. No matter how many times we choose wrong or lose our way, God continues to be a God of second chances, community, and love. Thanks be to God! Amen

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in a God who offers second chances and does not hold grudges. We believe in a God who opens the door to new life and leaves the porch light on for us when we get lost. We believe in a God who believes in us— believes that we can make a difference, that we can choose grace over comparison, love over hate, peace over war. And so we strive to live our lives in love. We strive to listen as Joseph listened, and to be the people that God calls us to be. It's all that easy, and it's all that hard. This we believe. Amen.

PASSING OF PEACE WITH THOSE IN PERSON AND ONLINE

+RESPONSE: HYMN # 113 ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

WE GROW IN GRACE

SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 35:1-10 and Matthew 1:18-25

THE WORD PROCLAIMED:

A CEREMONY OF CAROLS

Benjamin Britten

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

OFFERING: GREENSLEEVES (TRAD.)

Will & Naomi Emmanuel

+DOXOLOGY: HYMN #143 ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY V4
**All creation, join in praising God the Father,
Spirit, Son, evermore your voices raising
to the eternal Three in One:**

+PRAYER OF DEDICATION

WE GO IN GRACE

+HYMN #88 (VV. 2,5) O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

+SENDING

One: As you leave this place, may you go knowing that from generation to generation,

All: we have been claimed and loved.

One: From generation to generation,

All: God has been by our side.

One: From generation to generation,

All: we are not alone.

One: The God of yesterday and the God of tomorrow

All: knows me by name, loves me, and calls me forth,

One: saying, "Go be the person you are called to be, love wildly, do justice, and choose Christ's way".

All: May it be so. Amen.

*We gather in grace, we grow in grace, we go in grace...
The journey continues in an ever-widening circle of grace.*

Our worship service is being livestreamed and is on Zoom



Visit Our Welcome Page...

rclpc.org/welcomeToRCLPC.html

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RCLPC Choir

Sopranos

Paula Ekstrom
Katy Holub
Kayla McIntyre*
Bethany Sternberg*

Altos

Deb Bendis
Mary Finch
Kristi Geggie
Beth Holland
Karen Salman

Tenors

Mike Griswold
Bolt Meyer*
Fred Neuschel

Basses

Stephen Connell
Ian Farrell Freeland*
Scott Iddings
Jac Kelewae
Jim Pracht
Dave Steele
Nathan Szadowski*

**Guest Singer from the Crystal Lake Central Madrigals*

Rehearsal Accompanist - Ann Legg
Assistant Music Director - Scott Iddings
Music Director - Anthony Jay Houston
Harpist - Nanette Felix

About our Harpist: Nanette Felix is a vivacious and charming performer. Her repertoire encompasses a variety of classical, popular, jazz and rock & roll literature. She currently has recorded 5 CD's. Nanette has achieved recognition not only for her performances as a principal harpist for the Rockford Symphony but also for her appearances with other prominent orchestras including the Peoria Symphony, Evansville Philharmonic, Indianapolis Civic Symphony, the Chattanooga Opera Association, Dubuque, Cedar Rapids, and Quad City Symphonies as well as numerous choirs and chamber groups. Other intriguing performances have been with rock & roll legends Rick Neilson of Cheap Trick, Dennis DeYoung of Styx, the Moody Blues, Ray Charles and Doc Severinsen. For more information contact www.nanettefelix.com.

A Ceremony of Carols

A Ceremony of Carols was written in 1942, when the English composer Benjamin Britten was 29 years old. It is one of the composer's most popular and widely performed works, particularly at the Christmas season. *A Ceremony of Carols* was composed in part during five weeks that Britten spent traveling by ship from New York to England during the Second World War. During the voyage the ship stopped in Halifax, Nova Scotia, where Britten purchased a book of medieval poetry. Poems from this book, along with Gregorian Chant and other poetry spanning 14th to 16th century England, were the inspiration for *A Ceremony of Carols*, which includes both a Christmas narrative as well as references to the rebirth of spring. The work was innovative, in many respects, such as the use of harp as the sole accompanying instrument for a large choral work.

Movements

- 1. PROCESSION "HODIE CHRISTUS NATUS EST"**
Based on liturgical Gregorian chant, sung in Latin, and rejoicing in the birth of Christ
- 2. WOLCUM YOLE!**
Based on ancient text to welcome the Yule season
- 3. THERE IS NO ROSE**
In this carol, the rose is a reference to Mary; text alternates between Latin and English
- 5. AS DEW IN APRILLE**
Based on an anon. 15th century poem, praising Mary
- 6. THIS LITTLE BABE**
Based on a poem by the Jesuit poet Robert Southwell.
- 7. INTERLUDE**
Instrumental harp solo
- 8. IN FREEZING WINTER NIGHT**
"In Freezing Winter Night" is another text by Southwell. This movement calls out to the circumstances of the birth of Jesus.
- 10. DEO GRACIAS**
"Deo gracias" (Thanks be to God) is based on a macaronic poem from the 15th century.
- 11. RECESSION "HODIE CHRIST**

Once in Royal David's City 140

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly
 2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and
 3 Je - sus is our child - hood's pat - tern; day by day like
 4 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re -

cat - tle shed, where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a
 Lord of all, and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his
 us he grew; he was lit - tle, weak and help - less; tears and
 deem - ing love; for that child so dear and gen - tle is our

man - ger for his bed: Mar - y was that moth - er
 cra - dle was a stall; with the poor and meek and
 smiles like us he knew; and he feels for all our
 Lord in heaven a - bove; and he leads his chil - dren

mild; Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
 low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
 sad - ness, and he shares in all our glad - ness.
 on to the place where he is gone.

Like "All Things Bright and Beautiful" (see no. 20), this popular Christmas hymn was written by an Irish poet to illustrate for children the various articles of the Apostles' Creed. It is not known which of several English villages the composer had in mind when naming this tune.

88 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
 4 O come, thou Root of Jes - se, free thine own from



cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
 all things might - i - ly: to us the path of knowl - edge
 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
 Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple



here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 show; and teach us in her ways to go. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
 law in cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
 save and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.



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

- 5 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 thee, O Israel.
- 6 O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
 our spirits by thine advent here;
 disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 and death's dark shadows put to flight.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 shall come to thee, O Israel.
- 7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
 all peoples in one heart and mind;
 bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
 fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 shall come to thee, O Israel.

One stanza of this paraphrase of the great O Antiphons may be sung on each of the last days of Advent as follows:

- | | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Dec. 17: O Wisdom (2) | Dec. 20: O Key of David (5) | Dec. 23: O Emmanuel (1) |
| Dec. 18: O Lord of might (3) | Dec. 21: O Dayspring (6) | |
| Dec. 19: O Root of Jesse (4) | Dec. 22: O Desire of Nations (7) | |

These titles of the coming Christ appeared in daily Vesper antiphons sung during the week before Christmas; their roots date at least to the reign of Charlemagne. Both text and tune are the fruit of 19th-century efforts to reclaim Christian treasures from pre-Reformation sources.

CHRISTMAS JOY
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

LEADERSHIP, PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE



The Christmas Joy Offering provides assistance to current and retired church workers and their families in their time of need, and develops our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Presbyterian Mission

The Christmas Joy Offering is one of four annual special offerings. The church-wide Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) play an important role in defining what it means to be a congregational church in the 21st century, bringing together the diversity of the PC (USA) to focus and take faith-based action on shared concerns. The Special Offerings offer opportunities for partnership, learning, and witness and they profoundly affect the life of the church as a collective witness to Jesus Christ's love for the whole church.

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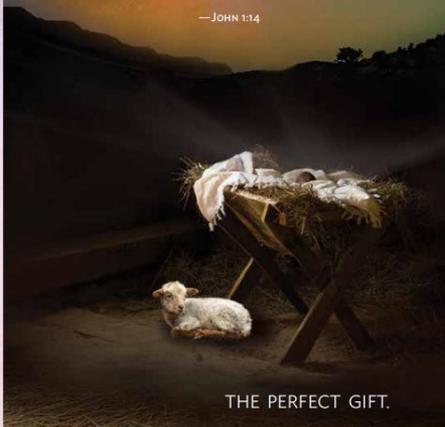


CHRISTMAS JOY
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

LEADERSHIP, PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

And the Word became flesh and lived among us...

— JOHN 1:14



THE PERFECT GIFT.

When we give to the Christmas Joy Offering, we share our love with the leaders of our Church — past, present and future.

50%

of your gifts assist current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial needs.



Rev. Sunjae Jung was living in Korea with his family when he was called to serve the Athens Korean Presbyterian Church near Atlanta. Shortly after the family arrived, COVID struck, leading to a severe financial impact on both his congregation and his family. The family found itself struggling to make ends meet. They applied for and received an Emergency Grant split evenly between the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and the Northeast Georgia Presbytery.

"I truly believe these programs have met Rev. Jung at a time of real need, and I'm hopeful good momentum is on his horizon so he can continue to lend his gifts towards ministry."

— Lucas McCool, Assistance Program Operations Manager, PC(USA) Board of Pensions



50%

of your gifts make it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

Samual Polanco credits his experience at the Menaul School as being instrumental in breaking down life's many barriers. That Jesus broke down dividing walls and welcomed everyone is very much a reality on the Menaul campus, especially during mission week. Samual and his classmates spent five days on the U.S.-Mexico border with the goal of building understanding and relationships.

"We teach that faith is to be lived out in the world. Because so many young people today see the church as building walls to isolate and separate, we at Menaul are all about opening doors to the richness of God's creation."

— John Sitler, Teacher, Menaul School

PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY...
FOR WHEN WE ALL DO A LITTLE,
IT ADDS UP TO A LOT!

