



**TOORAK
UNITING
CHURCH**

We are a people who follow
the way of Jesus of Nazareth.
His words and actions
inform our living today.

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Please sign in using the QR code. If you do not have mobile phone access, the elder on duty can assist. Masks must be worn at all times, including while singing.

Order of Service

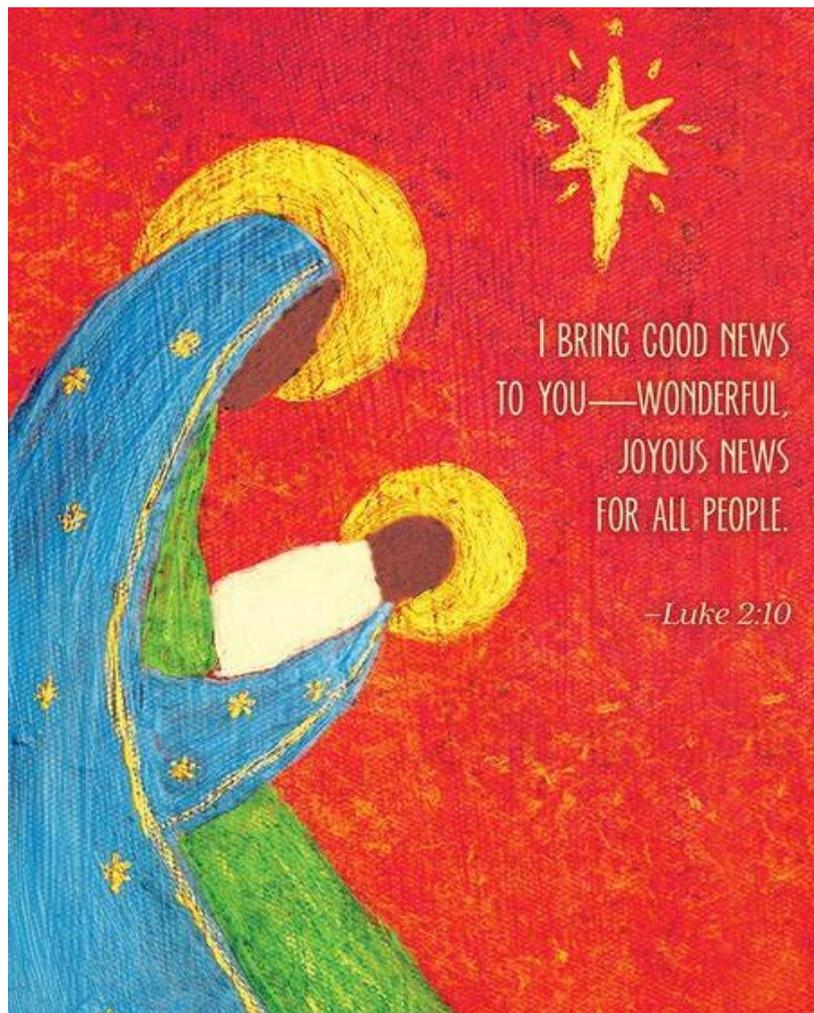
Friday 24 December 2021

Christmas Eve Worship Concert

Worship Leader Rev Peter Whitaker

Conductor Ursula Paez

Organist Tristan Sumarna



Prelude String Quartet in C major, Op. 2, No. 6
Allegro con spirito, Largo assai, Tempo di minuetto
Luigi Boccherini 1743-1805
Emjodore String Quartet

Introit From heaven above to earth I come *Valentin Schumann*

Opening Prayer

Solo Cantique de Noel (O Holy Night) *Adolphe Adam 1803-1856*
Soloist: James Penn

Reading Luke 2: 1-7 *Anne Smith*

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register.

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

Hymn 303

Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the new-born King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful, all you nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem'.

Refrain

Hark the herald angels sing
glory to the new-born King.

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb:
veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail the incarnate Deity,
pleased in human flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel.

Refrain

Hail the heaven-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 need die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.

Refrain

A Christmas Garland on “Greensleeves”

Richard Shephard 1949-2021

I. Prelude Instrumental

II. Chorus

*What child is this? the heavens sing to hear the news the angels bring,
in Bethlehem is born a king. Glad tidings to the nations. News of great
joy, great mirth: the telling of our Saviour's birth. News, news to all the
earth of the babe, the Son of Mary. When sin departs before Your
grace, then life and health come in its place; The gift is given to every
race . We praise the newborn baby. All out of darkness we have light ,
which made the angels sing this night; Glory to God, and in his sight,
the Peace of the Lord everlasting.*

III. The Annunciation—Alto, Soprano, Baritone solo

*In the sixth month, the Angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a virgin
espoused to a man whose name was Joseph. And the virgin's name
was Mary.*

*Hail, thou that art highly favoured. The Lord is with thee. Blessed art
thou among women. For behold, thou shalt bring forth a son, and shalt
call his name Jesus.*

How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?

The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee. For with God nothing shall be impossible.

Behold the handmaid of the Lord. Be it unto me according to thy word.

IV. Magnificat—Soprano solo and Choir

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath magnified me and holy is his name. And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations. He hath showed strength with his arm. He hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their heart. He hath put down the mighty from their seat and hath exalted the humble and meek. He hath filled the hungry with good things and the rich he hath sent empty away. He rememb'ring his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel; As he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed forever.

Come thou redeemer of the earth let every age adoring fall and manifest thy virgin birth the birth befits the God of all. Word of God in flesh arrayed, the promised truth to us displayed.

Hail, hail, be not afraid the angel said to Mary. The cradle here shall glitter bright where endless faith shall shine serene, the darkness breathes a newer light and twilight never intervenes. Come come Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel Within our hearts to dwell, the babe the son of Mary.

V. And it came to pass—Baritone recitative and solo

And it came to pass in those days that a decree that all the world should be taxed. Joseph went up to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, to be registered with Mary, who was great with child. So it was, that while they were there, the days were accomplished for her to be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Why lies He in such mean estate Where ox and ass are feeding? Good Christian, fear, for sinners here The silent Word is pleading. Nails, spear shall pierce him through, The Cross be borne for me, for you; Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mary!

VI. Chorus

What child is this, who, laid to rest on Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping? This, this is Christ the King whom shepherds guard and angels sing; Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the babe, the son of Mary. So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh; come peasant, king to own Him. The King of kings salvation brings. Let loving hearts enthrone Him. Raise, raise, the

*song on high. The virgin sings her lullaby, Joy, joy, for Christ is born:
the babe, the son of Mary!*

VII. Postlude Instrumental

Reading Luke 2: 8-16

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests."

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

Solo La alborada de la Esperanza (The Dawn of Hope)

José Elizondo 1972-

Joshua Dema, Cello

The inspiration for this composition is the journey from darkness to light that happens when someone faces a challenging situation and is able to turn around and focus on a more positive future to come. Even though there is some struggle and melancholy in this journey, it gets transformed into hope.

Solo Maria Wiegenlied Soloist: Catherine McLean

Max Reger 1873-1916

Amid the roses Mary sits and rocks her Jesus-child, while amid the treetops sighs the breeze so warm and mild. And soft and sweetly sings a bird upon a bough: Ah, baby, dear one, slumber now! Happy is Thy laughter, Holy is Thy silent rest, lay Thy head in slumber Fondly on Thy Mother's breast. Ah, baby, dear one, slumber now!

(Translation: https://www.lieder.net/lieder/get_text.html?TextId=91835)

A Christmas Reflection

Solo Gesù Bambino *Pietro A. Yon 1866-1943*

Soprano: C. DeVere, Flute: I. Brown, Piano: T. Sumarna

*When blossoms flowered 'mid the snows upon a winter night,
was born the Child, the Christmas Rose, the King of Love and
Light. The angels sang, the shepherds sang, The grateful earth
rejoiced; and at His blessed birth the stars, their exultation
voiced. "O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord" Again the
heart with rapture glows to greet the holy night that gave the
world its Christmas Rose, the King of Love and Light. Let every
voice acclaim His name, the grateful chorus swell. From
paradise to earth He came that we with Him might dwell.
"O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord."*

Reading John 1: 1-14 Peter Whitaker

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Hymn 311

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 Saviour is born,
Christ the Saviour is born.'

Silent night, holy night:
Wondrous star, lend your light;
with the angels let us sing
Alleluia to our King; Christ our Saviour is born,
Christ our Saviour is born.

Blessing

Postlude Herr Christ, der ein'ge Gottes-Sohn BWV601

J S Bach 1685-1750

Soloists and Instrumentalists

Conductor	Ursula Paez
Organ/Piano	Tristan Sumarna
Soprano	Catriona DeVere
Mezzo-Soprano	Catherine McLean
Tenor	James Penn
Double Bass	Chris Gelok
Flute	Issie Brown

Members of the Emjodore String Quartet

Violin	Emily Frazer
Violin	Rennata Morrison
Viola	Dovi Hanner
Cello	Joshua Dema

All offerings will be given directly to the Christmas Bowl 2021 -

Act for Peace. You can use their envelope to make a donation and place it in the bowl provided or your offering can be made via Direct Debit:

Account Name: Toorak Uniting Church BSB: 033086, Account Number: 911892

Please reference your donation as "C Bowl"



The flowers in the Church today are from Anne Smith

Welcome to Toorak Uniting Church

We welcome all people irrespective of race, religion, political views, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, or age. Wherever you are on your faith journey, wherever you have come from and wherever you are going to; whatever you believe, whatever you do not believe, you are welcome here at Toorak Uniting Church.

Toorak Uniting Church has been a proud member of the Toorak Ecumenical Movement since signing the Ecumenical Agreement in 1980. We pray for our partner churches: St Peter's Roman Catholic Church, St John's Anglican Church and the Swedish Church.