



Est. 1749; Lititz, PA



# Christmas Vigil Service

As a gift to our planet, please leave this ode on the pew after the service to be reused.

## THE PRELUDE *(See insert)*

### CHOIR: *Stille Nacht* *(Silent Night)*

Franz Gruber (1787-1863)

*Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!  
Alles schläft; einsam wacht  
nur das heilige Elternpaar  
das im Stalle zu Bethlehem war,  
bei dem himmlischen Kind.*

*Silent night, holy night  
all sleep, only awake  
are the Holy parents  
who are in the stable in Bethlehem  
with the heavenly child.*

*Glänzende Pracht strahlt durch die Nacht.  
Hirten wird's kund gemacht,  
durch der Engel Hallelujah,  
tönt es laut von fern und nah:  
"Christ, der Retter ist da."*

*Glowing splendor shines through  
the night; to the shepherds it is told.  
The angels' Hallelujahs  
resound loud from far and near:  
"Christ the Savior is here."*

*Licht statt Nacht hat gebracht  
heil'ges Kind, deine Macht.  
Lieblich liegst du gebettet auf Stroh  
O, wie macht uns dein Antlitz so froh,  
froh dein kommen auf Erd'.*

*Light instead of night,  
Holy Child, your might has brought.  
Lovely you lie on a bed of straw.  
O, how happy your Countenance  
makes us; glad for your coming to earth.*

### CONGREGATION *(All standing)*

All glo - ry to Im - man - uel's name your  
Well might the shep - herds haste a - way this

hea - ven - ly choirs do sing; glad - ly the her - alds  
won - drous — babe to see; the Ma - gi came from

peace pro-claim, peace from our— God and King. That  
far to pray and 'fore Him bow the knee! The

God is in a man - ger laid, by whose own word the  
Ho - ly Spir - it's wit - ness bright led them to seek that

hea - vens were made; Je - ho - vah has be -  
hea - ven - ly light. The an - gel's glo - ry,

come a babe, a won - der— ev - er— new.  
and the star, from Him re - flect - ed are.

**PRAYER**

**OFFERING AND OFFERTORY** (*See insert*)

**THE SCRIPTURES:**

Luke 2:1-20

**2** <sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. <sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” <sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**CHILDREN’S CHOIR** (*See insert*)

THE LOVEFEAST IS SERVED DURING THE FOLLOWING HYMNS.

Upsala, II

23, A



Go to Beth - le - hem with long - ing,  
and with cheer - ful car - ols throug - ing,  
for a sight of that babe pre - cious,  
with whose birth this night - did bless - us.

Herrnhut

11, A



What good news the an - gels bring!  
He who rules both hea - ven and earth  
Lift your hearts and good voi - ces high;  
Peace on earth, good - will is sung!  
What glad ti - dings of our king!  
has in Beth - le - hem his birth;  
let ho - san - nas fill the sky;  
Now to us our God is come.  
Christ the Lord is born to - day,  
him - shall all the faith - ful see,  
glo - ry be to God a - bove,  
An - gels join his name to praise,  
Christ, who takes our sin a - way,  
and re - joice e - ter - nal - ly.  
who is in - fi - nite in love.  
help to sing re - deem - ing grace.

Wor-ship, hon-or, power and bless-ing Christ is wor-thy

to re-ceive; loud-est prais-es with-out ceas-ing

good it is for us to give. Help, you bright, an-gel-ic spir-its,

bring your sweet-est, nob-lest lays, help to sing our

Sav-ior's mer-its, help to chant Im-man-uel's praise.

Hail, Thou won-drous in-fant stran-ger, born lost E-den  
Say, ye blest ser-a-phic le-gions, what has brought your  
We this of-fered Sav-ior need-ed, thus we join your

to re-gain; wel-come in Thy hum-ble man-ger,  
Mak-er down? Say why did He leave your re-gions,  
thine with joy; we by none will be ex-ceed-ed,

wel-come to Thy crea-ture man; hail Im-man-uel,  
why fore-sake His heav-en-ly throne? Notes mel-o-dious,  
while we laud this mys-ter-y, and with won-der,

hail Im-man-uel, you who were when time be-gan.  
notes mel-o-dious, tell the cause: good-will to man.  
and with won-der, God in-car-nate glo-ri-fy.

## Tallis' Canon

22, T

The new - born babe whom Mar - y bore,  
Is God in heav - en now our friend?  
Be glad, my soul, a - rise and bless

Je - sus, God bless'd for ev - er - more,  
Then mer - cies count - less He will send  
this child, the Lord, our right - eous - ness.

brings in an - oth - er year of grace  
to bless us for the Christ - child's sake,  
Take com - fort, you who mourn and fear,

for His be - lov - ed, chos - en race.  
who on Him - self our sins did take.  
weep not, fear not, Je - sus is here!

## Seelenbräutigam

68, A

Je - sus, who with Thee can com - par - ed be?

Source of rest and con - so - la - tion,

life and light, and full sal - va - tion;

son of God, with Thee none com - par - ed be.

## A MORAVIAN BLESSING

Come, Lord Jesus, our guest to be,  
And bless these gifts bestowed by Thee,  
Bless our loved ones everywhere,  
And keep them in Thy loving care.  
Amen.

### CHOIR:

***Thou Child Divine*** Johann Abraham Peter Schultze (1747-1800)

*Thou child divine, Immanuel,  
welcome unto Thy humble manger,  
With heartfelt joy Thy birth we hail,  
and greet with songs the heavenly stranger!*

*Our doubts and fears and sadness  
are turned to joy and gladness,  
Good will to men and peace on earth  
are now declared by a Savior's birth,*

*Hosanna! Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord!*

***Benedictus***, from XII Messe (Harmoniemesse, 1802)  
Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)

*Blessed is He who cometh in the name of the Lord!*

## THE CUPS ARE COLLECTED DURING THE FOLLOWING HYMNS.

Batty 16, A

Wel-come, bless-ed— heaven-ly stran-ger! O-pen,  
O most might-y— O most ho-ly, far a-

The musical notation consists of a treble and bass clef staff in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is primarily in the treble clef, with the bass clef providing a harmonic accompaniment.

Ho-ly Ghost, my eyes; Lead me to my Sav-ior's  
bove the ser-aph's thought! Zi-on, view your king as

The musical notation continues from the previous system, maintaining the same treble and bass clef staff structure and key signature.

man-ger, show me where my Je-sus lies.  
low-ly as in-spir-ed pro-phets taught.

The musical notation concludes the third hymn, ending with a double bar line. The treble and bass clef staff structure and key signature remain consistent.

Splendor

Christ the Lord, the Lord most glo - rious,  
Praise the Lord, for on us shin - eth  
Praise the Lord, whose sav - ing splen - dor  
Praise the Lord, God our sal - va - tion,

now is born; O shout a - loud! All by Him are  
Christ, the Son of Right - eous - ness; He to us in  
shines in - to the dark - est night; O what prais - es  
praise Him who re - triev - ed our loss; sing, with awe, and

made vic - to - rious; praise your Sav - ior, hail your God!  
love in - clin - eth, cheers our souls with pard - ning grace.  
shall we ren - der for this ne - ver - ceas - ing light.  
love's de - vo - tion, Hal - le - lu - jah, God with us.

Music by the congregation's pastor, Rev. Johann Christian Bechler (1784-1857)

St. Oswald

Hail! Thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus,  
Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion,  
Born your peo - ple to de - liv - er;  
By your own e - ter - nal spi - rit,

born to set your peo - ple free;  
hope of all the earth Thou art;  
born rule a child, yet God our king;  
rule in all our hearts a - lone;

from our fears and sins re - lease us,  
long - de - sired of ev - ery na - tion,  
born to reign in us for - ev - er;  
by your all - suf - fi - cient mer - it,

let us find our rest in Thee.  
joy of ev - ery wait - ing heart.  
now your gra - cious king - dom bring.  
raise us to your glo - rious throne.

MEDITATION

Soloists, Choirs - *Italic*  
 Congregation - **Bold** (verse 4)

Hagen

310, B

1. Morn - ing Star, O cheer - ing sight! Ere Thou  
 2. Morn - ing Star, Thy glo - ry bright far ex -  
 3. Thy glad beams, Thou Morn - ing Star, cheer the  
 4. Morn - ing Star, my soul's true Light, tar - ry

cam'st how dark earth's night! Morn - ing Star, O cheer - ing sight! Ere Thou  
 cels the sun's clear light; Morn - ing Star, Thy glo - ry bright far ex -  
 na - tions near and far. Thy glad beams, Thou Morn - ing Star, cheer the  
 not, dis - pel my night; Morn - ing Star, my soul's true Light, tar - ry

cam'st how dark earth's night! Je - sus mine, in me shine; in me  
 cels the sun's clear light. Je - sus be, con - stant - ly, con - stant -  
 na - tions near and far. Thee we own, Lord a - lone, Lord a -  
 not, dis - pel my night; Je - sus mine, in me shine; in me

shine, Je - sus mine; fill my heart with light di - vine.  
 ly, Je - sus be more than thou - sand suns to me.  
 lone, Thee we own. Man's great Sav - ior, God's dear Son.  
 shine, Je - sus mine; fill my heart with light di - vine.

Batty

16, A

Christ is born, the great a - noint - ed; heaven and

earth His glo - ry sing; O re - ceive whom God ap -

point - ed for your proph - et, priest and king!

**CHOIR:**

*Mache dich auf*

Karl Gottlieb Reissiger (1798-1851)

*Mache dich auf, werde Licht!  
 Denn dein Licht kommt,  
 Und die Herrlichkeit des Herrn  
 Gebet auf über dir.*

*Arise, shine,  
 for your light has come,  
 and the glory of the Lord  
 has risen upon you.  
 -Isaiah 60:1*



Be - hold, a great, a heaven - ly light, from  
In - car - nate God, ex - ert Thy power! A -  
What heights, what depths of love di - vine, in

Beth - lehem's man - ger shin - ing bright, a -  
rise, thou glor - ious con - quer - or! Sub -  
thy blest in - car - na - tion shine! Let

round those who in dark - ness dwell,  
due sin, death, and ev - ery foe,  
heaven and earth u - nite their lays,

the night of e - vil to dis - pel.  
e - rect thy king - dom here be - low.  
to mag - ni - fy thy bound - less grace.

**\*PLEASE STAND FOR THE FINAL HYMN**

Sing hal - le - lu - jah, Christ doth live, our  
Sing hal - le - lu - jah, praise the Lord! Sing

light for - ev - er more; the Prince of Peace all  
with a cheer - ful voice; ex - alt our God with

glo - ry give, His bless - ed name a - dore;  
one ac - cord, and in His name re - joice.

with kings of old, your hom - age pay to  
Ne'er cease to sing, thou ran - somed host, praise

Him who in a man - ger lay; with Ju - dah's shep - herds,  
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost; un - til in realms of  
 bring a - gain the an - gels' song to men.  
 end - less light your prais - es shall u - nite.

Music written in Lititz (1824) by the congregation's pastor, J. C. Bechler  
 Stanza 1: Christmas stanza for Lititz congregation (c. 1944) by  
 Rev. Louis Heubener, elder and choir member.

**BENEDICTION AND SILENT PRAYER**

*(Worshippers are asked to bow in prayer as the pastors  
 and children's choir leave the sanctuary.)*

**POSTLUDE**

**CHRISTMAS HYMNS AND CAROLS**

*Trombone Choir on Church Square following the service.*

**In the Spirit of Conservation**

*We appreciate the donation of your beeswax candle to be re-melted and formed for  
 next year. Containers are located at the exits or please hand to an usher as you  
 leave.*

*Additionally, the Vigil bulletins are reused from service to service and from year to  
 year. If you do not need yours, please leave your bulletin on the seat. Thank you.*

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*Is God in Heaven now our friend?*



*Then mercies countless He will send*