

Advent
Even song
Carols from Europe

December 9, 2012
6:00 p.m.

The Second Presbyterian Church
Westminster Singers and Chamber Orchestra

Dr. Gabriel C. Statom, *Director*

Dear Church Family and Guests,



Welcome to tonight's evensong service! We hope that you will feel at home and enjoy the special holiday music we have prepared for you. Please visit our Welcome Center for more information about Second Presbyterian, as well as a schedule of future music events, especially our annual *Festival of Carols* next Sunday evening at 6:00 p.m.

This year the Westminster Singers and our Chamber Orchestra will be taking you on an imaginary trip to Europe's greatest cathedrals, where you will hear some of the most loved Christmas music in the world. We will present a variety of pieces — some familiar, some not — from France, Germany, Spain, Poland, and Great Britain.

Though most familiar with the English Christmas carols, you may be surprised at how many of the other European carols are also familiar to you. *Silent Night*, one of those great carols, had its origin in Germany. The centuries of Advent and Christmas traditions in these countries have had a great influence on our American melting-pot culture and on the music that we celebrate with year after year.

We hope that you will feel transported to Europe this evening and experience Christmas with a new perspective on the carols that we sing annually. Allow the texts and music to take you to the beautiful cradle of Christ's birth as you meditate on the love God has poured down on us.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'G. Statom', written in a cursive style.

Dr. Gabriel C. Statom

Director of Music

Advent Evensong

Carols from Europe

Tonight's service highlights the incarnation of our Lord with carols from Spain, France, Germany, Poland, and Great Britain. Many of the carols will be new and some will be very familiar. We pray that you will be moved by the mystery of the incarnation proclaimed through the beauty of music and will be drawn to closer adoration of our Lord Jesus as we reflect and meditate on His love.

*Please prepare for worship by silencing your phones at this time.
Please join in singing and reading when indicated with bold text.*

Call to Worship Rev. Michael Stokke

*Please sign in with the Friendship Pad in your pew.
We especially hope our visitors will sign in so that we can share more
about our church, including announcements about future special events.*

✦**Hymn of Light: Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence**
p. 193 in the Hymnal

✦**Prayer of Light**

Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Almighty God, we give You thanks for surrounding us,
as daylight has faded, with the brightness of the light of Christ.
We implore of Your great mercy, that as You enfold us with the radiance of this light,
so You would shine into our hearts the brightness of Your Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Grant us Your peace and mercy during this time of restful meditation and reflection. Amen.**

Basque and Catalan Carols (Regions of Spain)

Gabriel's Message
Brett Trimble, soloist

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
"All hail," said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favored lady,"
Gloria!

"For known a blessed Mother thou shalt be,
All generations laud and honor thee,
Thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
Most highly favored lady,"
Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said,
"My soul shall laud and magnify His holy name,"
Most highly favored lady,
Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel the Christ, was born
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:
Most highly favored lady,
Gloria!

Shepherds' Noël

Tucker Williams, soloist

*Hasten to Bethlehem joyfully dancing,
To welcome the King!*

Shepherds make ready a cradle for Jesus,
Tiny new King in His sweet mother's arms.

Sing Him a lullaby tender and gentle,
Till He lies slumbering free from all care.

What can we offer as gifts to the Baby,
Tokens of love for this Infant so mild?

Bring Him the fruit gathered new from your gardens,
Lay it before Him with hearts full of love.

Bring Him a shawl for the wind it blows coldly,
Mittens for warming His tiny cold hands.

Mary will comfort His tears and His sorrows,
Angel hosts hovering keep Him from harm.

Weep no more, Jesus, for grieving is ended,
Grieving is ended this glad Christmas night.

The Infant King

Bj Webster, soloist

Sing lullaby!
Lullaby Baby, now reclining, sing lullaby!
Hush, do not wake the infant King.
Angels are watching, stars are shining
Over the place where He is lying: sing lullaby!

Sing lullaby!
Lullaby Baby, now a-sleeping, sing lullaby!
Hush, do not wake the infant King.
Soon will come sorrow with the morning,
Soon will come bitter grief and weeping: sing lullaby!

Sing lullaby!
Lullaby Baby, now a-dozing, sing lullaby!
Hush, do not wake the infant King.
Soon comes the cross, the nails, the piercing,
Then in the grave at last reposing; sing lullaby!

Sing lullaby!
Lullaby, is the Babe awaking? Sing lullaby!
Hush, do not stir the infant King.
Dreaming of Easter, gladsome morning,
Conquering death, its bondage breaking: sing lullaby!

Prayers of Confession and Intercession

Assurance of Divine Pardon

French Carols

Il Est Né le Divin Enfant (*Born on Earth the Divine Christ Child*)

*Born on earth the divine Christ Child,
Oboes rejoice, with bagpipes vying;
Born on earth the divine Christ Child,
Sing to welcome the Savior mild.*

'Tis four thousand years and more
Men His birth have been prophesying;
'Tis four thousand years and more
While we longed for the joys in store.

Ah! Such beauty and charm adore!
Ah! Such perfection of grace undying!
Ah! Such beauty and charm adore,
Promised us in days of yore.

In a stable here on earth,
Jesus, in a manger lying,
In a stable here on earth,
O how lowly our Savior's birth!

Jesus, Savior, heaven's Lord,
Tiny child in the manger crying,
Jesus, Savior, heaven's Lord,
Christ our King for evermore.

Reading

Peggy Stephens, reader; Hymn written by Joseph Hart (1712-1768)

Inspired by the theological teachings of French theologian, Jean Calvin

The Lord that made both heaven and earth,
And was Himself made man,
Lay in the womb, before His birth,
Contracted to a span.

Behold, from what beginnings small
Our great salvation rose;
The strength of God is owned by all;
But who his weakness knows?

Let not the strong, the weak, despise;
Their faith, though small, is true;
Though low they seem in others' eyes,
Their Savior seemed so too.

Nor meanly of the tempted think;
For O what tongue can tell
How low the Lord of life must sink,
Before He vanquished hell?

As in the days of flesh He grew
In wisdom, stature, grace,
So in the soul that's born anew,
He keeps a gradual pace.

No less almighty at His birth,
Than on His throne supreme;
His shoulders held up heaven and earth,
When Mary held up Him.

Noël Nouvelet

Nowell, sing nowell good people gathered here;
Offer thanks, ye faithful, to the news give ear.

Sing we nowell, a new King born today;
Nowell, sing nowell good people gathered here.

Unto humble shepherds came the angel near;
“Hence,” said he, “to Bethlehem, be ye of good cheer.”

Seek there the Lamb of God, love's own pure ray;
Nowell, sing nowell good people gathered here.

When to Bethlehem they came in lowly fear;
Found they gentle Mary with her Son so dear.

Heav'n's mighty Lord all cradled in the hay,
Nowell, sing nowell good people gathered here.

Eastern sages seek Him, in the darkness drear
By a star illumined shining forth so clear,

Guiding them to Bethlehem far away.
Nowell, sing nowell good people gathered here.

Now doth our Savior Jesus Christ appear,
Bringing salvation promised many a year

By His redeeming blood this happy day!
Nowell, sing nowell good people gathered here.

Quelle Est Cette Odeur Agreable

Emily Taylor, soloist (first verse sung in French)

*Whence is that goodly fragrance flowing,
Stealing our senses all away?
Never the like did come a-blowing,
Shepherds, in flow'ry fields in May,
Whence is that goodly fragrance flowing,
Stealing our senses all away?*

What is that light so brilliant, breaking
Here in the night across our eyes?
Never so bright the day-star waking,
Started to climb the morning skies!
What is that light so brilliant, breaking
Here in the night across our eyes?

Bethlehem! There in manger lying
Find your Redeemer haste away,
Run ye with eager footsteps hieing!
Worship the Savior born today!
Bethlehem! there in manger lying
Find your Redeemer haste away.

Polish Carols

The Coming of Our King

Hark, do you hear how the angel voices sing,
Bearing the news of the coming of our King?
Jesus Christ is born to save us;
Satan's power no more enslaves us.

See now a star shining in the eastern skies,
Guiding the wise men where the infant lies;
Gifts they bring of richest treasure,
Offer homage without measure.

Hush for the baby lies sleeping in the hay,
Cradled at Bethlehem far away.
Ox and ass before Him kneeling,
Mary's love, His sorrows healing.

Come with the wise men your faithful homage pay,
Sing and rejoice that our Lord is born today.
Greet the child with shouts of gladness,
Banish sorrow, banish sadness.

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Infant holy, Infant lowly,
For His bed a cattle stall.
Oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the Babe is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging angels singing,
Nowells ringing, tidings bringing,
Christ the Babe is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping
Vigil till the morning new
Saw the glory, heard the story,
Tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
Praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the Babe was born for you.

German Carols

Responsive Reading

Hymn by German theologian, Martin Luther
"From Heaven Above to Earth I Come"

From Heaven above to earth I come,
to bear good news to every home;
glad tidings of great joy I bring,
whereof I now will say and sing.

**To you, Christmas night, is born a Child
of Mary, chosen mother mild;
this tender Child of lowly birth,
shall be the joy of all your earth.**

'Tis Christ our God, Who far on high
had heard your sad and bitter cry;
Himself will your Salvation be,
Himself from sin will make you free.

**He brings those blessings long ago
prepared by God for all below;
that in His heavenly kingdom blest
you may with us forever rest.**

These are the tokens ye shall mark,
the swaddling clothes and manger dark;
there shall ye find the young Child laid,
by Whom the heavens and earth were made.

**Now let us all, with gladsome cheer,
follow the shepherds, and draw near
to see this wondrous Gift of God,
Who hath His own dear Son bestowed.**

Give heed, my heart, lift up thine eyes!
What is it in yon manger lies?
Who is this Child, so young and fair?
The blessed Christ Child lieth there!

**Welcome to earth, Thou noble Guest,
through Whom even wicked men are blest!
Thou com'st to share our misery,
what can we render, Lord, to Thee?**

Ah, Lord, Who hast created all,
how hast Thou made Thee weak and small,
to lie upon the coarse dry grass,
the food of humble ox and ass.

**Were earth a thousand times as fair,
beset with gold and jewels rare,
she yet were far too poor to be
a narrow cradle, Lord, for Thee.**

For velvets soft and silken stuff
Thou hast but hay and straw so rough,
whereon Thou King, so rich and great,
as it were Thy heaven, art throned in state.

Stille Nacht (Silent Night)
Sung in German

*Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht!
Alles schläft; einsam wacht
Nur das traute hoch heilige Paar.
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!*

*Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht!
Hirten erst kund gemacht,
Durch der Engel Halleluja,
Tönt es laut von Fern und Na:
Christ, der Retter, ist da!
Christ, der Retter, ist da!*

*Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht!
Gottes Sohn! O wie lacht
Lieb' aus deinem göttlichen Mund,
Da uns schlägt die rettende Stund',
Christ, in deiner Geburt!
Christ, in deiner Geburt!*

**Thus hath it pleased Thee to make plain
the truth to us, poor fools and vain,
That this world's honor, wealth and might
are naught and worthless in Thy sight.**

Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,
Make Thee a bed, soft, undefiled,
Here in my poor heart's inmost shrine,
that I may evermore be Thine.

**My heart for very joy doth leap,
my lips no more can silence keep,
I too must sing, with joyful tongue,
that sweetest ancient cradle song.**

Glory to God in highest Heaven,
Who unto man His Son hath given,
while angels sing, with pious mirth,
a glad New Year to all the earth.

Silent night! Holy night!
All are sleeping, alone and awake
Only the intimate holy pair,
Lovely Boy with curly hair,
Sleep in heavenly peace!
Sleep in heavenly peace!

Silent night! Holy night!
To shepherds it was first made known
By the angel, Halleluia;
Sounding forth loudly far and near:
Jesus the Savior is here!
Jesus the Savior is here!

Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, O how He laughs
Love from Your divine mouth,
Then it hits us - the hour of salvation.
Jesus at Your birth!
Jesus at Your birth!

Scripture Reading. Isaiah 11:1-9
This is the Word of the Lord. (p. 575 in *pew Bible*)
Thanks be to God.

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Marjorie Bowman, soloist

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung.
Of Jesse's lineage coming as saints of old have sung.
It came a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter,
When half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind:
With Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright she bore to us a Savior,
When half spent was the night.

This Flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere;
True man, yet very God, from sin and death He saves us,
And lightens every load.

Homily

Rev. Sanders L. Willson

English and Cornish Carols

Sans Day Carol

Now the Holly bears a berry as white as the milk,
And Mary bore Jesus, who was wrapped up in silk.

*And Mary bore Jesus Christ our Saviour to be,
And the first tree in the greenwood, it was the Holly.*

Now the Holly bears a berry as green as the grass,
And Mary bore Jesus, Who died on the cross.

Now the Holly bears a berry as black as the coal,
And Mary bore Jesus, Who died for us all.

Now the Holly bears a berry as blood is it red,
Then trust we our Saviour Who rose from the dead.

I Saw Three Ships

*I saw three ships come sailing in,
On Christmas day, on Christmas day,
I saw three ships come sailing in,
On Christmas day in the morning.*

And what was in those ships all three?
Our Saviour Christ and His lady.
Pray whither sailed those ships all three?
Oh, they sailed into Bethlehem,
And all the bells on earth shall ring,
And all the angels in Heaven shall sing.
And all the souls on earth shall sing.
Then let us all rejoice, amain.

✦ Congregational Hymn

How Great Our Joy

While by the sheep we watched at night,
Glad tidings brought an angel bright.

How great our joy! Great our joy!

Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!

Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!

Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!

There shall be born, so He did say,
in Bethlehem a Child today.

Refrain

There shall the Child lie in a stall,
this Child Who shall redeem us all.

Refrain

This gift of God we'll cherish well,
that ever joy our hearts shall fill.

Refrain

Benediction

✦ *Indicates congregation standing*

We invite you all to join us after the evensong service in the lobby area west of the Sanctuary for a cup of hot wassail.

Festival of CAROLS

Join us next Sunday, December 16 at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

An evening of sing-along Christmas carols and well-loved classics with the full
Chancel Choir and Orchestra — a holiday favorite of the Memphis community.

THE MUSIC MINISTRY OF SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DR. GABRIEL C. STATOM, *Director of Music*

CHRISTY YOUNG, *Assistant Director*

LENORA MORROW, *Organist/Accompanist*

TERRI THEIL, *Director of Children's Music/Conservatory*

GINGER STATOM, *Director of Youth Choir*

MOLLY JOHNSON, *Music Intern*

MARY QUINLAN, *Administrative Assistant*

THE WESTMINSTER SINGERS

Marjorie Bowman
Pat Corbitt
Emily Taylor
Elizabeth Wall
Suzanne Burgar
BJ Webster
Ginger Statom
Lee Wallace
Anne Thompson

Terri Theil
Christy Young
Nicole Swain
Martha Hopper
Molly Johnson
Jerry Bowman
Tucker Williams
Dan Whipple
Robert Sutton

Warren Jones
Colby Morgan
David Dennis
Brett Trimble
Roger Fakes
Chuck Curtis
Bob Neal
John Beckham

ORCHESTRA

Violin 1

Paul Turnbow
Long Long Kang
Andy Yu

Violin 2

Gaylon Patterson
Ramona Popescu

Viola

Beth Luscombe
Marshall Fine

Cello

Milena Albrecht
Iren Zombor

Bass

Scott Best

Flute

Jennifer Compton
Dee Walker

Oboe

Joseph Salvalaggio
Saundra D'Amato

Bassoon

Katherine McCormick

Horn

Dan Phillips
Robert Patterson

Harp

Marian Shaffer

Orchestra Manager

Greg Luscombe

