

# Sing Noel

A Christmas Concert

*Presented by*

The First Pres Choir with special guests

David John Hailey, soloist

Joel Raney, pianist

Paul Detterman, organist

Jane Holstein, director · Josh Ring, accompanist

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2024**

**4:00 PM**

*Freewill Offering | [www.firstpresrf.org](http://www.firstpresrf.org)*

*Wheelchair & Hearing Accessible*



# Concert Program

## PROCESSIONAL ON O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

arr. Cynthia Dobrinski

## SING WE NOW OF CHRISTMAS

arr. Kyle Pederson

Sing we now of Christmas, Noel sing we here.  
Hearts in expectation, Noel drawing near.  
Sing we Noel, Noel, Noel;  
sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel.

In stillness lays the world in silent reverie;  
longing for the birth of love and mercy.  
Yearning for hope, good news to fill our souls;  
turning to the manger that grounds all mystery.

Angels bending low, shepherds bend their knee,  
Wisemen from the east, all have come the child to see.  
All of creation where love has come to dwell;  
sing we now of Christmas, the good news that we tell.  
Sing Noel! Sing Noel! Sing Noel!

## THE FIRST NOEL

*Please stand and join in singing*

The first Noel, the angel did say, was to certain poor shepherds  
in fields where 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.

Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
that hath made heaven and earth of naught,  
and with his blood mankind hath bought.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

## WELCOME

Rev. Donna Marsh

## GLORIA

*John Rutter*

*Gloria in excelsis Deo.  
Et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis.  
Laudamus Te. Benedicimus Te.  
Adoramus Te. Glorificamus Te.  
Gratias agimus tibi  
Propter magnam gloriam tuam.*

Glory to God in the highest.  
And on earth peace to those of good will.  
We praise thee. We bless thee.  
We adore thee. We glorify thee.  
Thanks we give to thee  
Because of thy great glory.

## COMMENTARY

### O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

*arr. Dan Forrest*

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.

For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars together, proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to all the earth.

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.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray!  
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell!  
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord, Emmanuel!

*Philipps Brooks*

## NOEL, NOEL

*Carl Schalk*

### IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER

*arr. Mark Hayes  
David John Hailey, soloist*

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan, earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow, in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, heav'n cannot hold him, nor earth sustain; heav'n and earth  
shall flee away when he comes to reign.  
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed, the Lord God almighty, Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there, cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;  
but his mother only in her maiden bliss, worshiped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a Wise Man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him; give my heart.

*Christina Rossetti*

## **WE THREE KINGS**

Joel Raney, solo piano

## **OVERTURE**

*I Saw Three Ships, Sing We Now of Christmas,  
O Holy Night (Londonderry Air), Coventry Carol*

*Joel Raney*

## **CELTIC CHRISTMAS LULLABY**

In a lowly stable in Bethlehem, under starlight glowing above,  
a Gift was given, a Child was born, and heaven spilled over with love.

From a quiet hillside near Bethlehem came shepherds seeking the Child; and they fell to their  
knees as they worshiped him, Mary's baby so tender and mild.

And the manger cradled a holy sight, and the stars began to sing.  
As the angels danced in the morning light, all the bells of heaven did ring!  
And the rocks and rivers and mountains rejoiced; and the whole wide world did sing, "Emmanuel,  
Emmanuel, welcome the newborn King."

And as Mary whispered a lullaby, heaven's angels sang of his birth,  
of joy to the world, of love's pure Light, and the promise of peace on earth.

## **O HOLY NIGHT**

David John Hailey, soloist

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining,  
it is the night of our dear Savior's birth;  
long lay the world in sin and error pining,  
till he appeared and the soul felt its worth.  
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,  
for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!  
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!  
O holy night, O night divine, when Christ was born!

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming,  
with glowing hearts we by his cradle stand.  
Over the world a star is sweetly gleaming  
to lead the wise men from a distant land.  
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we;  
with all our hearts we praise his holy name.  
Christ is the Lord, O praise his name forever more.  
O holy night, O night divine, when Christ was born!

*John S. Dwight*

## COME AND ADORE HIM

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!  
Come and behold him, born the King of angels.  
Come, and let us adore him.  
Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation!  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:  
"Glory to God, all glory in the highest!"  
Come, and let us adore him.  
Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.  
Come, and let us adore him.  
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, Christ the Lord.

*John F. Wade*

*From Have You Heard?, performed in Carnegie Hall on December 2, 2024  
with members from the First Pres Choir, Joel Raney, conductor*

## **FREEWILL OFFERING**

*donations by Zelle® at [donations@firstpresrf.org](mailto:donations@firstpresrf.org)*

## **HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING**

*Please stand and join in singing*

*arr. David Willcocks*

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King:  
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;  
with th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb:  
veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th' incarnate Deity,  
pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

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 may die,  
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

## **COMMENTARY**

## WHEN THE SONG OF THE ANGELS IS STILLED

*Elizabeth Alexander*

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and the princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,  
The work of Christmas begins:

*To find the lost,  
To heal the broken,  
To feed the hungry,  
To release the prisoner,  
To rebuild the nations,  
To bring peace among people,  
To make music in the heart.*

*Howard Thurman*

## I WANT TO WALK AS A CHILD OF THE LIGHT

*arr. Erik Dewar & Dan Forrest*

I want to walk as a child of the light; I want to follow Jesus.  
God set the stars to give light to the world; the star of my heart is Jesus.  
In him there is no darkness at all; the night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God: Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I want to see the brightness of God; I want to look at Jesus.  
Clear Sun of righteousness shine on my path, and show me the way to the Father.  
In him there is no darkness at all; the night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God: Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

**ALL: I'm looking for the coming of Christ; I want to be with Jesus.  
When we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of Jesus.  
In him there is no darkness at all; the night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God: Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

*Kathleen Thomerson*

## WONDERFUL PEACE

*Gustav Nordqvist*

Peace, peace, wonderful peace,  
Peace to the world is given;  
Hushed are the angels, so still in the night,  
Then in the east shone a heavenly light.  
Join in the chorus, his praises sing!  
"Glory to God, to the newly born King!"  
Peace, peace, wonderful peace,  
Peace to the world is given.

Peace, peace, bearer of peace,  
All of good will receive him.  
Holiest of nights, O most wondrous of days,  
Shepherds and kings lift their voices in praise.  
Join in the chorus, his praises sing!  
"Glory to God, to the newly born King!"  
Peace, peace, wonderful peace,  
Peace to the world is given.

*tr. Norman Luboff*

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CHOIR**  
**Dr. Jane Holstein, Director**  
**Dr. Josh Ring, Associate**

**Sopranos**

Laura Juliano  
Jessica McAdam  
June Oliver  
Cheryl Rotundo  
Beth Siegel  
Annika Tenhor

**Altos**

Mary Ann Cooper  
Debbie Detterman  
Jessica Hwang  
Ruth Johnson  
Jill Panovich  
Kristen Schumacher

**Tenors**

Lin Hancock  
Rick Hibbert  
Bret Juliano  
James Kiel  
Josh Siegel  
David Weck

**Basses**

Douglas Colber  
James Hunt  
Gregg Johnson  
Mark Jurewicz  
James Richards  
Ryan Schumacher

**INSTRUMENTALISTS**

Kelly Jozwiak, violin  
Timothy Holman, violin  
Hannah Mullins, viola

Molly Rife, cello  
Tricia Wzalo, oboe  
Mackenzie Bufis, percussion

**SPECIAL GUESTS**

David John Hailey, baritone soloist  
Joel Raney, pianist  
Paul Detterman, organist

**COMMENTATOR**

Rev. Donna Marsh



*“Noel” is an old word that points us to the heart of Christmas: not to the tree, the gingerbread, or the mistletoe, but the moment God entered his creation at Bethlehem and changed the world forever. May you Sing Noel! and have a blessed Christmas and a hopeful new year.*

*Merry Christmas*

# PLEASE JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

*Come as you are to First Pres River Forest! We may look like any church on the outside, but what you will find inside is what matters. There is laughter and noise. There are children. There are teenagers. There are adults. There is mess. There is music. There is beauty. There is mission work. There are Bible studies. There are celebrations. There is worship. We invite you to come and see what we mean. Feel the vibrancy. Feel the sincerity. Feel the love of Christ. In all the different things we do, we have one singular focus on the main thing: it's Jesus!*



## Candlelight Christmas Eve

### WORSHIP SERVICES

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

3:00 PM\* 8:00 PM\* 10:30 PM

First Presbyterian Church of River Forest is wheelchair and hearing accessible.

\*Also livestreamed at [firstpresrf.org](http://firstpresrf.org)

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF RIVER FOREST

### Education for All Ages:

Adult Education	9:00 am Sundays in the Maxwell Room or online
Parent Oasis	9:00 am Sundays in the Primary Room
Sunday Kids Club	9:00 am Sundays in the Kids Clubhouse
Middle & High School Classes	9:00 am Sundays in Middle & High School Rooms
<b>Sunday Worship</b>	10:15 am Sundays, in person or livestream

**Middle & High School Groups** Sunday evenings

**Summer Bible Camp** Registration opens mid-February for July camp

**Lenten Soup Suppers** Wednesday evenings, beginning March 12

**Holy Week & Easter Sunday Worship** April 13 through April 20

### WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF RIVER FOREST

*First Pres is a community dedicated to growing as apprentices of Jesus Christ to reflect God's love. We are happy to have you with us today and invite you to fill out one of the welcome cards in the pews.*