



The  
Sixty-Third  
Tri-Church  
Christmas Festival

Featuring the  
Choirs & Congregations of

St. Paul's  
Evangelical Lutheran  
Church

&

St. Paul's  
Greek Orthodox Church

&

Sacred Heart  
Catholic Church

Sunday December 10th at 4 O'clock in the Afternoon

**Sunday, December 10th, 2023 4:00 PM**  
**The Second Sunday in Advent**

+ *Please Stand*

**Prelude Music**

**Festival Brass Quartet - Holiday Music**

Alyse Hudson, Noel Imel Hutcheson  
David Elliott & Dave Fulton

**Piano - Christmas Meditations**

+ Rebecca McClain, St. Paul's

**Welcome**

**Rev. Peter J. Hartmann**

**Processional Hymn**

**Rebecca McClain, Organ**

**“O Come All Ye Faithful”**

- 1 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, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!
- 2 The highest, most holy, light of light eternal,  
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes; Son of the Father  
now in flesh appearing!  
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!
- 3 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God in the highest:  
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!
- 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n! Word of the Father,  
now in flesh appearing:  
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

**Invocation**

**Rev. Peter J. Hartmann**

**Congregational Carol**

Rebecca McClain, Organ

+

**“O Little Town of Bethlehem”**

- 1 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.
- 2 For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring  
love. O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
- 3 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.
- 4 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;  
oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

**The First Lesson**

**Isaiah 40:1-5**

**Rev. Peter J. Hartmann**

<sup>1</sup>Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. <sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. <sup>3</sup>A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. <sup>4</sup>Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. <sup>5</sup>Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

**The Festival Choir**

Rebecca McClain, Accompanist  
Donald R. Martin, Jr., Director of Music

**“Every Valley”**

**John Ness Beck**

## **The Second Lesson**

**Isaiah 9:2-7**

**Fr. Tom Guerry**

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined. <sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. <sup>4</sup>For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. <sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup>For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup>His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

## **The Festival Choir**

**“And the Glory of The Lord”**

“The Messiah” G.F. Handel

Mr. Richard Morgan, Accompanist

Donald R. Martin, Jr., Director of Music

## **The Third Lesson**

**Matthew 1:18-21**

**Fr. Kevin O’Keefe**

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.

## Congregational Carol

### + “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

1 Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

***Refrain***

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.

2 Oh, come, oh, come, great Lord of might, who to your tribes on  
Sinai's height, in ancient times once gave the law  
in cloud, and majesty, and awe. ***Refrain***

3 Oh, come, strong Branch of Jesse, free your own from Satan's  
tyranny; from depths of hell your people save  
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. ***Refrain***

4 Oh, come, blest Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by your  
advent here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadows put to flight. ***Refrain***

5 Oh, come, O Key of David, come, and open wide our heav'nly  
home; make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery. ***Refrain***

## The Fourth Lesson

**Matthew 1:22-25**

**St. Paul's Lutheran**

<sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord  
through the prophet: <sup>23</sup>"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a  
son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is  
with us." <sup>24</sup>When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of  
the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, <sup>25</sup>but had no  
marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named  
him Jesus.

## The Festival Choir

### “Kontakia” (To A Virgin)

Rebecca McClain, Accompanist

Donald R. Martin, Jr., Director of Music

## **The Fifth Lesson**

**Luke 2:1-7**

**St. Paul's Greek Orthodox**

<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.

+ **Congregational Carol**

Rebecca McClain, Organ

### **"Away In A Manger"**

- 1        Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus lai  
          down his sweet head; the stars in the sky looked down where he  
          lay; the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
- 2        The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes, but little Lord Jesus  
          no crying he makes. I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the  
          sky and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.
- 3        Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay close by me forever  
          and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in your tender  
          care and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

## **The Sixth Lesson**

**Luke 2:8-16**

**Sacred Heart Catholic Church**

<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.

+ **Congregational Carol** Rebecca McClain, Organ  
**“We Three Kings”**

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

***Refrain***

Oh, star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;  
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!

Born a king on Bethlehem’s plain, gold I bring to crown him again;  
king forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign. ***Refrain***

Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a deity nigh;  
prayer and praising, gladly raising, worshiping God Most High. ***Refrain***

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb. ***Refrain***

Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice;  
heav’n sings alleluia: alleluia the earth replies. ***Refrain***

Text: John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1820-1891, alt.

**The Seventh Lesson**

**Mathew 2:1-11**

**St. Paul’s Lutheran Church**

<sup>1</sup>In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: <sup>6</sup>"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel." <sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." <sup>9</sup>When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

+ **Congregational Carol** Rebecca McClain, Organ

**“Silent Night”**

- 1 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.
- 2 Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;  
glories stream from heaven afar, heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!  
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!
- 3 Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light  
radiant beams from your holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

**Closing Prayer & Benediction Rev. Peter Hartmann**

**Congregational Carol** Rebecca McClain, Organ

**“Joy to the World”**

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;  
let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
- 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
- 3 No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.
- 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

**Organ Postlude - Richard Morgan**

“Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her” J.S. Bach

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*You are Cordially Invited to Attend a Reception Immediately  
Following the Festival at the Hellenic Center of  
St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Church, Anderson Street.*

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*The Festival Brass is Given to the Glory of Almighty God  
And in Honor of Rebecca McClain, Organist, St. Paul's Lutheran  
And Richard Morgan, Organist, Sacred Heart Catholic Church  
By Donald & Lisa Martin.*

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*A Special Thank You to David & Dianne Fennell For Coordinating  
Our Pageant Costumes and Performers.*