

# Letter from our President

At the Pacific Centre for Discipleship Association, we patiently wait for building approvals from the University Endowment Lands as we work with our partners at the MCC Legacy Trust to collaboratively develop our site at the corner of Wesbrook Mall and University Boulevard. Menno Hall will be a unique community, combining our new student residence, institutional space for peace studies, and rental apartments that meet BC government affordability guidelines. We will post more details about the project at <u>pcda.bc.ca/menno-hall</u> and <u>MennoHall.ca</u> once the public consultation period for our rezoning application opens up in the coming months.

We look forward to expanding the Christian student ministry that we were able to provide at the Menno Simons Centre for 34 years. Last Advent, in the midst of the pandemic, supporters like you continued to faithfully listen to Abendmusik (even when it was only possible to do from home) and generously contributed to our programs! We are so glad to be able to share this season's service with you in person!

In addition to the usual ways to donate, we are now able to accept INTERAC e-Transfers sent to <u>info@pcda.bc.ca</u> for which you can receive a charitable donation receipt by e-mail, with our gratitude!

Kevin Hiebert, President, Pacific Centre for Discipleship Association Menno Hall and Abendmusik P.S. You can contact our Menno House Committee at <u>ubc@mennosimonscentre.org</u> (not .com) with your questions or ideas.

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#### **Choir's Private Preparatory Prayer** (in the gym)

Director O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving,

let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

Choir For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods. For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

Psalm 95: 1-3;7

# Advent Choral Bespers

Livestreaming and a recording of this evening's Advent Vespers are available at: <u>https://pcda.bc.ca/video/choir.htm</u>

#### Preces

O Lord, open Thou our lips,	
and our mouth shall shew forth Thy praise.	Psalm 51:15
O God, make speed to save us.	
O Lord, make haste to help us.	Psalm 40:13
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost,	
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:	
world without end. Amen.	
Praise ye the Lord!	Psalm 150:1
The Lord's Name be praised.	

Music by William Smith (1603-1645)

### Advent Responsive Reading<sup>1</sup> and Prayer

- One Listen to my prayer, YHWH,
- All hear my cries for help.
- One Listen, O House of David! Is it not enough for you to weary those around you, must you also weary God?
- All Therefore, the Holy One will give you a sign: This young woman will become pregnant and will give birth. You will name the child Immanu-El. This child will be living on curds and honey by the time it knows how to refuse evil and do good.
- One Hallelujah! How good it is to praise our God! How pleasant and how fitting to sing God's praise!
- All YHWH rebuilds Jerusalem, and gathers Israel's exiles.
- One God heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.
- All God knows the number of the stars and calls each one by name.

Psalm 86:6

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> All scripture readings this evening come from *The Inclusive Bible, the first egalitarian translation* (2007).

- One Great is YHWH, and mighty in power; there is no limit to God's wisdom.
- All Sing to our God with thanksgiving; sing praise with the harp to our God who covers the heavens with clouds, who provides rain for the earth, who makes grass sprout on the mountains and herbs for the service of the people, who gives food to the cattle, and to the young ravens when they cry.
- One God does not thrill to the strength of the horse, or revel in the fleetness of humans.
- All YHWH delights in those who worship with reverence and put their hope in divine love.

Psalm 147:1-7, 11-12

- One Almighty God, give all of us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility;
- All That in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### **Advent Matins Responsory**

Cantor	I look from afar:
1st soloist	and lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth.
Cantor	Go ye out to meet him and say:
Choir	Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?
2nd soloist	High and low, rich and poor, one with another,
Choir	go ye out to meet him and say:
3rd soloist	Hear, O thou Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep,
Choir	tell us, art thou he that should come?
Women	Stir up thy strength, O Lord, and come
Choir	to reign over thy people Israel.
Cantor	Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
Choir	I look from afar: and lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud cov'ring
	the whole earth.

Men	Go ye out to meet him and say:
Choir	Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?

First Responsory in Matins for Advent Sunday, early mediaeval Roman Rite; music adapted from a Magnificat by Palestrina (1525-1594), arr. Stephen Cleobury (1948-2019)

#### Come, thou Redeemer of the Earth

This text, commonly attributed to St Ambrose, stresses equally the divinity and the humanity of Jesus, addressing one of the questions (or beliefs) which haunted and absolutely perplexed the minds of many Christians in the early centuries. The virgin birth is the theme of the first three verses. Verses 3 and 4 are built around the metaphor of a runner going through life, from birth to death and back to God. Verse 5, "O equal to thy Father, thou! / Gird on thy fleshly mantle now" highlights in but a few words the dual nature of Christ.

Come, thou Redeemer of the earth, And manifest thy virgin-birth: Let ev'ry age adoring fall, Such birth befits the God of all.

Begotten of no human will, But of the Spirit, thou art still The Word of God, in flesh arrayed, The Saviour, now to man displayed.

Forth from that chamber goeth he, That royal home of purity, A giant in two-fold substance one, Rejoicing now his course to run. From God the Father he proceeds, To God the Father back he speeds, Runs out his course to death and hell, Returns on God's high throne to dwell.

O equal to thy Father, thou! Gird on thy fleshly mantle now, The weakness of our mortal state With deathless might invigorate.

Thy cradle here shall glitter bright, And darkness glow with newborn light, No more shall night extinguish day, Where love's bright beams their power display.

O Jesu, Virgin-born, to thee Eternal praise and glory be, Whom with the Father we adore And Holy Spirit, evermore. Amen.

St. Ambrose (c. 340-397), trans. J. M. Neale (1818-1866); music by Michael Praetorius (1571-1621), arr. Stephen Cleobury (b. 1948-2019)

Advent Hymn (Please stand for the hymn and then be seated)



#### Adam lay ybounden

This wonderful 15<sup>th</sup>-century text cleverly notes that if Adam had never sinned, the Virgin Mary (and therefore Jesus) would never have been necessary. But since Adam did sin some "4,000 winter" ago, Mary was asked to become "our Lady" and be the mother of Jesus. *Deo gracias*! Lesson: Always look on the bright side.

Adam lay ybounden, Bounden in a bond; Four thousand winter Thought he not too long. Deo gracias! [Thanks be to God!] Ne had the apple taken been, The apple taken been, Ne had never our Lady Abeen heavene queen. Deo gracias!

And all was for an apple, An apple that he took, As clerkes [clergy] finden Written in their book [Bible] Deo gracias! Blessed be the time That apple taken was; Therefore we moun [must] singen; 'Deo gracias!' Deo gracias!

Fifteenth-century carol text; music by Philip Ledger (1937-2012)

#### Let all mortal flesh keep silence

Starting as the Greek *Cherubic Hymn* for the Eastern Orthodox Church Liturgy for St. James (Jerusalem), this early hymn was given new life when provided a poetic translation by Gerard Moultrie, an Anglican clergyman known for his many translations of hymn texts from Greek, Latin and German. His translation was first combined with this evening's melody in the *English Hymnal* of 1906.

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand; Ponder nothing earthly minded, For with blessing in his hand, Christ our God to earth descendeth, Our full homage to demand.

Rank on rank the host of heaven Spreads its vanguard on the way, As the Light of light descendeth From the realms of endless day, That the pow'rs of hell may vanish As the darkness clears away. King of kings, yet born of Mary, As of old on earth he stood, Lord of lords in human vesture, In the body and the blood, He will give to all the faithful His own self for heav'nly food.

At his feet the six-winged seraph; Cherubim with sleepless eye, Veil their faces to the presence, As with ceaseless voice they cry, Alleluia, alleluia, Alleluia, Lord most high.

Text from the Liturgy of St. James of Jerusalem (5<sup>th</sup> c.), translated by Gerard Moultrie (1864); melody from a 17<sup>th</sup>-c. French carol, arr. Stephen Cleobury (1948-2019)

#### Responsive Reading from Philippians 3:20-4:1, 4-7

- One We have our citizenship in heaven;
- All it's from there that we eagerly await the coming of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who will give a new form to this lowly body of ours and remake it according to the pattern of the glorified body, by Christ's power to bring everything under subjection.
- One For these reasons, my sisters and brothers—you whom I so love and long for, you who are my joy and my crown—continue, my dear ones, to stand firm in Christ Jesus.
- All Rejoice in the Saviour always! I say it again: Rejoice!
- One Let everyone see your forbearing spirit. Our Saviour is near.
- All Dismiss all anxiety from your minds;
- One instead, present your needs to God through prayer and petition, giving thanks for all circumstances.
- All Then God's own peace, which is beyond all understanding, will stand guard over your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

#### **Rejoice in the Lord alway**

Although we have just read this passage from St Paul to the church in Philippi in modern English, it is still refreshing to hear these ideas expressed in the eloquence of the English which predated the King James Version by half a century. The phrase, "the Lord is e'en at hand" illustrates Paul's firm belief that because the Second Coming of Christ Jesus is imminent, our behaviour should be modified. Instead of worrying about life and about saving up enough money ("be careful for nothing"), we should spend time in prayer, rejoicing, and being gentle with others.

Rejoice in the Lord alway, and again I say, rejoice.

Let your softness be known unto all men:

the Lord is e'en at hand.

Be careful for nothing:

but in all prayer and supplication,

let your petitions be manifest unto God with giving of thanks.

And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesu. Amen.

Philippians 4:4-7 (KJV); music by an unknown mid-16<sup>th</sup>-c. English composer.

#### **On Jordan's Bank**

Charles Coffin was the rector of the University of Paris and publisher of 100 Latin hymns. This popular Advent hymn (by now included in more than 200 hymnals) recalls the story of John the Baptist heralding the appearance of Jesus at the Jordan River, when Jesus joined those seeking John's baptism. Mark's gospel suggests that Jesus was briefly with John, possibly working with him and learning from him. Jesus only began working independently after John was arrested.

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry Announces that the Lord is nigh; Awake and hearken, for he brings Glad tidings from the King of kings! For thou art our salvation, Lord, Our refuge, and our great reward, Without thy grace we waste away Like flow'rs that wither and decay. Then cleansed be ev'ry Christian breast, And furnished for so great a guest! Yea, let us each our heart prepare For Christ to come and enter there. All praise eternal Son to thee, Whose advent sets thy people free, Whom, with the Father, we adore, And Holy Ghost for evermore.

Charles Coffin (1676-1749; pub. 1736), tr by John Chandler (1806-1876; pub. 1837); music by Malcolm Archer, arr. (b. 1952)

#### **People look East**

This Advent text from 1928 is by Eleanor Farjeon, an author whose 80 books for children enjoyed enormous popularity in the early 1900s. The text's meter works beautifully with the old Besançon carol melody. This arrangement is by Barry Ferguson, former organist at Peterborough Cathedral and Rochester Cathedral. The song includes many metaphors, such as "the guest", "the rose", "light", "seed", etc. Since the sun rises in the east, "east" came to symbolize the dawn of a new day, and in this case, a new era. Historically, some Christians even expected the Second Coming to come from the East, and many churches face east (*e.g.*, St Philip's Anglican). The bowl (verse 3) refers to the heavens, which are about to receive one more star—in the east.

People, look east. The time is near Of the crowning of the year. Make your house fair as you are able, Trim the hearth and set the table. People, look east and sing today: Love, the guest, is on the way. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim One more light the bowl shall brim, Shining beyond the frosty weather Bright as sun and moon together. People, look east and sing today: Love, the star, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,<br/>One more seed is planted there:Angels, announce to man and beastGive up your strength the seed to nourish,<br/>That in course the flower may flourish.Him who cometh from the East.People, look east and sing today:<br/>Love, the rose, is on the way.With the word, the Lord is coming.

Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965); Basançon carol melody, arr Barry Ferguson (b. 1942

#### The Cherry Tree Carol

Matthew's nativity narrative is clear: Joseph, a descendant of Jesse, was profoundly upset by his fiancée's unexpected pregnancy but was finally convinced to stay with her because of a dream (in Matthew's gospel, dreams were understood to be opportunities for God to give guidance to humans). This ancient English carol gives us a glimpse into the ways medieval minds happily 'filled in' (invented) stories about what might have happened. This legend illustrates poor Joseph's inner turmoil and doubt in an overtly human way as he finally explodes to his pregnant fiancée, "Let him pluck thee a cherry / That brought thee with child." Every listener in those bygone days knew that this was a golden opportunity for a miracle or two, anything to prove Mary's innocence and purity.

Joseph was an old man, And an old man was he, When he wedded Mary In the land of Galilee.

Joseph and Mary Walk'd through an orchard good Where was cherries and berries So red as any blood.

O then bespoke Mary, So meek and O so mild, 'Pluck me one cherry, Joseph; For I am with child.'

O then bespoke Joseph, With words most unkind, 'Let him pluck thee a cherry That brought thee with child.' O then bespoke the baby Within his mother's womb: 'Bow down then the tallest tree For my mother to have some.'

Then bowed down the highest tree Unto his mother's hand; Then she cried, 'See Joseph, I have cherries at command.'

O then bespoke Joseph, 'I have done Mary wrong; But cheer up my dearest, And be ye not cast down.'

Then Mary plucked a cherry, As red as any blood, Then Mary went she homeward All with her heavy load.

English traditional carol; music arr. Stephen Cleobury (b. 1948)

#### Prayer for the Blessing of Light

The opening words of this prayer are often spoken during the weekly lighting of the Sabbath candles or for high feasts, such as Seder dinners. Biblical writers frequently associated night and darkness with humanity's inability to find its way, or with its living in ways contrary to those which are good. The cleansing 'by your refining fire' (line 4) introduces light into this darkness. "Rouse us then from sleep of sin" reflects our living in darkness, but the prayer immediately offers the hope that we will "enter your kingdom" where our God is "the true light." As we approach this year's darkest days, we have opportunity to reflect on these metaphors of day and night, themes often employed during the four weeks of Advent.

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe,

Eternal creator of day and night.

Now, as darkness is falling, hear the prayer of your faithful people.

Wash away our transgressions, cleanse us by your refining fire,

and make us temples of your Holy Spirit.

May we live in watchfulness

as we wait for the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ,

who shall judge the world and all its works.

Rouse us then from sleep of sin

And make us ready to enter your kingdom where songs of praise forever sound. For you are the true light, who lightens everyone,

and the new heavens and the new earth join

to sing your praise now and for evermore. Amen.

Based on Veni Emmanuel, arr. Malcolm Archer (b. 1952)

#### Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen

The second verse of this Advent song cites Isaiah (11:1-2), which mediæval Christians saw as an important prophecy foretelling the coming of the Christ. Like many Advent songs, *Es ist ein Ros'* focuses on Mary (verse 2), who was sometimes called "a spotless rose" and "the rose without thorns". The words "From a tender root" refer to the Tree of Jesse, a metaphor for Jesus' ancestors, particularly King David. The words concluding verse two, "Right at midnight", symbolize hope being born during the very darkest part of one of the longest nights of the year. After the first two verses had been sung for over 200 years, Friedrich Layritz added a third verse in 1832.

Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen Aus einer Wurzel zart. Wie uns die Alten sungen: Von Jesse kam die Art Und hat ein Blümlein bracht Mitten im kalten Winter Wohl zu der halben Nacht.

Das Röslein, das ich meine, Davon Jesaja sagt, Hat uns gebracht alleine Marie, die reine Magd; Aus Gottes ew'gem Rat Hat sie ein Kind geboren Wohl zu der halben Nacht.

Das Blümelein so kleine, Das duftet uns so süß; Mit seinem hellen Scheine Vertreibts die Finsternis: Wahr'r Mensch und wahrer Gott, Hilft uns aus allem Leide, Rettet von Sünd' und Tod. A rose has sprung up From a tender root. As the old ones sang to us, Its lineage was from Jesse. And it has brought forth a floweret In the middle of the cold winter, Right at midnight.

The rosebud that I mean, Of which Isaiah told Is Mary, the pure, Who brought us the floweret. At God's immortal word, She has borne a child Right at midnight.

The little flower, so small, That smells so sweet to us With its clear light Dispels the darkness. True man and true God, He helps us from all trouble, Saves us from sin and death.

Verses 1-2, anonymous, verse 3 by Friedrich Layritz (1808-1858); music by Michael Praetorius (1571-1621), arr. Donald Cashmore (1926-2013)

Advent Hymn

Please stand for the hymn and then be seated.



## **Prayers<sup>2</sup> and Sung Refrain**



#### [Sung refrain: I Love the Lord]

Send, O God, into the darkness of this troubled world, the light of your Son: let the star of your hope touch the minds of all people with the bright beams of mercy and truth, and so direct our steps that we may always walk in the way revealed to us. John Wallace Suter (1890-1977)

#### [Sung refrain: I Love the Lord]

God, baptize our hearts into a sense of the conditions and needs of all people. George Fox (1624-1691), Founder of the Society of Friends

#### [Sung refrain: | Love the Lord]

Give me this night, O God, the peace of mind which is truly rest. Take from me all resentment for anything Psalm 116: 1,4; music by the Iona Community (1987)

which has been withheld from me; all foolish worry about the future and all futile regret about the past. Help me to be at peace with myself, at peace with all those I meet, at peace with you; so indeed may I lay myself down to rest in peace.

Anonymous

#### [Sung refrain: I Love the Lord]

And now unto him who is able to keep us from falling and lift us from the dark valley of despair to the mountains of hope, from the midnight of desperation to the daybreak of joy, to him be power and authority, for ever and ever. Amen. Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929-1968) [Sung refrain: I Love the Lord]

<sup>2</sup> Horton Davies, ed., *The Communion of Saints, Prayer of the Famous* (Eerdmans Pub. Co., 1990)

## **Vesper Responsory**

Cantor	Judah and Jerusalem, fear not, nor be dismayed;
Choir	Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.
Cantor	Stand ye still, and ye shall see the salvation of the Lord.
Choir	Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.
Cantor	Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
Choir	Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.

2 Chronicles 20:17 (KJV), Responsory of Advent Sunday for the Office of Matins, early mediaeval Roman Rite; music by Giovanni Palestrina (1525-1594), adopt. Philip Ledger (1937-2012)

We invite you to remain for silent meditation as the choir recesses.

#### Choir's Private Closing Prayer (in atrium)

Director	Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit this night,	
	for you have redeemed me.	Psalm 31:5
Choir:	O God of goodness and truth, keep me as the apple of your e	ye;
	hide me under the shadow of your wings.	
	Amen.	Psalm 17:8
	Book	Common Draver (1029)

Book of Common Prayer (1928) music by Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625)

## Abendmusik Choir, Advent MMXXI

Michael Murray, Director, organ Ruth Enns, Chair Abendmusik Committee, publicity, piano Carl Bear, Organ Karen Thiessen, Manager J. Evan Kreider, Prayers, programme notes, photography, librarian Andrea Siemens, Postcard design Catherine Cooper, Calligraphy

Greta Bartsch Carl Bear Rosemary Bell Maureen Bennington Celia Brogan Warren Code Kathryn Day Lucia Eitzen Janet Enns Jim Enns Ruth Enns Priska Helm Zena Helm Martha Kendall Brooke Kinniburgh Steve Krehbiel J. Evan Kreider John Kroeker Katherine Lumsdon Michael McKenzie Jane Pulkingham Christoph Schwarzbach Glenn Sutherland Karen Thiessen David Wallace Jenny Wallace

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Founded in 1991 by Eric Hannan, the *Abendmusik Choir's* Vespers offer classical sacred music appropriate to the Liturgical Year (Advent and Lent) and prayers written across the centuries. The offerings support both the choir and construction of the proposed Menno Hall across the street from UBC and Regent College. Like the Christian students we support, our singers are drawn from many denominations.

Anyone interested in auditioning to sing with *Abendmusik* should contact Michael Murray's office at St. Philip's Anglican Church (604-224-3238 ext. 302) or fill out the form found at: <u>https://pcda.bc.ca/avc-choir/sing-with-us/</u>

# MENNO HALL

PO Box 74782 Connaught PO • Vancouver, B.C. • V6K 0E4 http://pcda.bc.ca/

INTERAC e-Transfers can be sent to info@pcda.bc.ca

# Lenten Bespers MMXXII

ABBOTSFORD Sat., March 5, 2022, 7:30 p.m. Emmanuel Free Reformed Church 3386 Mount Lehman Road VANCOUVER Sun., March 6, 2022, 7:30 p.m. St. Philip's Anglican Church 3737 West 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue