



Abendmusik

DIR MICHAEL MURRAY

ADVENT VESPERS

Saturday, December 10, 2022, 7:30 p.m., Emmanuel Free Reformed Church, Abbotsford
Sunday, December 11, 2022, 7:30 p.m., St. Philip's Anglican Church, Vancouver

Thank you for leaving your offering in a basket at the back of the church.

If you wish to have a **receipt for your donation** for tax purposes, please ensure that either your cheque or offering envelope has your full name and address with postal code.

If you wish to receive your **receipt by e-mail**, please include your email address on your envelope (your home address is also required).

Offering cheques can be made payable to

Menno Hall

To receive the choir's mailings or emails, please visit: <http://pcda.bc.ca/avc-choir/contact/>

Letter from our President

At the Pacific Centre for Discipleship Association, we are still waiting patiently for rezoning and development permit approvals from the University Endowment Lands as we work with our partners at MCC Legacy Trust to collaboratively develop Menno Hall at the corner of Wesbrook Mall and University Boulevard. Menno Hall will be a unique community, combining our new student residence, institutional space—including a new Centre for Peace Studies—and rental apartments that meet BC Housing’s Middle Income affordability guidelines. During the information sessions and open house events last May and June we received a lot of public support for our rezoning application based on the design that we presented at MennoHall.com. You can still browse that website and watch the fly-through video from our architects!

As interest rates and the cost of living in general continues to rise, we are especially grateful for your ongoing generosity in support of the choir and our student ministry programs. In addition to the usual ways to donate, we are also able to accept INTERAC e-Transfers to info@pcda.bc.ca for which you can receive a charitable donation receipt by e-mail if we have your e-mail and postal address on file. If you not already on our mailing list, please visit pcda.bc.ca/subscribe to sign up for future news and big announcements!

Kevin Hiebert, President
On behalf of the PCDA Board of Directors,
Menno Hall and Abendmusik



Choir’s Preparatory Prayer

Director In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **AMEN.**

O God, whose saints and angels delight to worship in heaven, be ever present with your servants who seek, through art and music to perfect the praises offered by your people on earth, and grant to them even now, a glimpse of your beauty, and make them worthy to behold Thee forevermore. **AMEN.**

Byzantine Rite, prayer said before singing

Advent Choral Vespers

Livestreaming and a recording of the Advent Vespers at St Philip's are available at:

<https://pcda.bc.ca/video/choir.htm>

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 Thomas Tomkins (1572-1656)

Advent Responsive Reading and Prayer

One Behold, I stand at the door and knock:
if any of you hear my voice, and open the door,
I will come in, and will sup with you,
and you with me. Revelation 3:20

All **Open up, O my heart,
Jesus comes and takes possession.
Though I am only dust and earth,
Still he will not disdain to show his delight
That I become his dwelling place.
O how blessed I will be!**

Erdmann Neumeister (1671-1756), from Bach's Cantata 61 (1714)

One Lord God, we adore you because you have come to us in the past.

**ALL You have spoken to us through the Law of Israel.
You have challenged us in the words of the prophets.
You have shown us in Jesus what you are really like.**

One Lord God, we adore you because you still come to us now.

**ALL You come to us through other people,
and their love and concern for us.
You come to us through men and women who need our help.
You come to us as we worship you with your people.**

One Lord God, we adore you because you will come to us at the end.

**ALL You will be with us at the hour of death.
You will still reign supreme when all human institutions fail.
You will still be God when our history has run its course.**

One We welcome you, the God who comes.

ALL Come to us now in the power of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

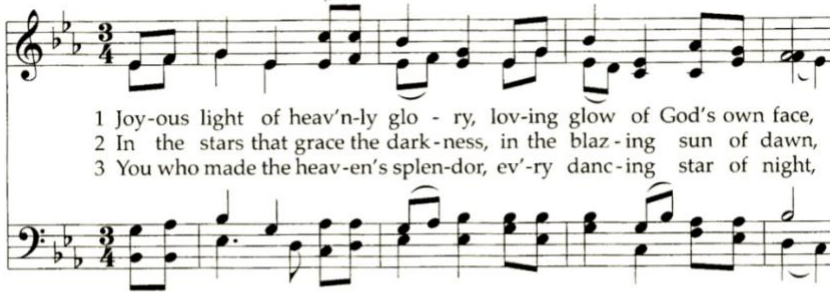
From Contemporary Prayers, ed. by Caryl Micklem

One Almighty God, give each of us grace to cast away the works of darkness,
and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your
Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility;

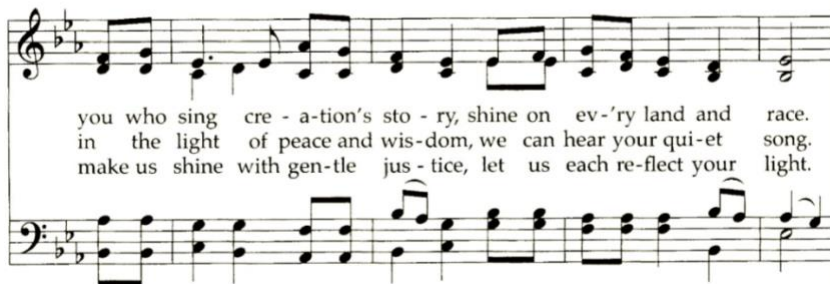
**All That in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge
both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who
lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Advent Hymn

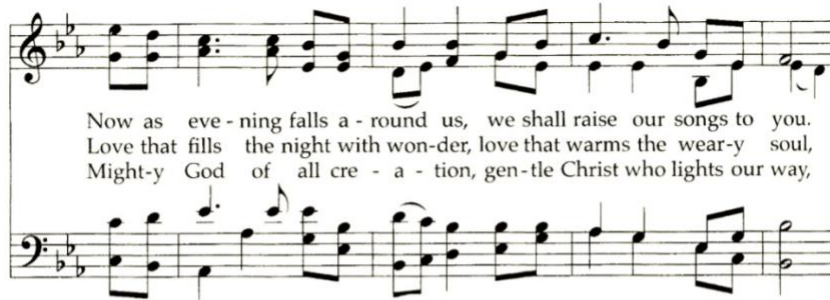
(Please stand for the hymn and then be seated)



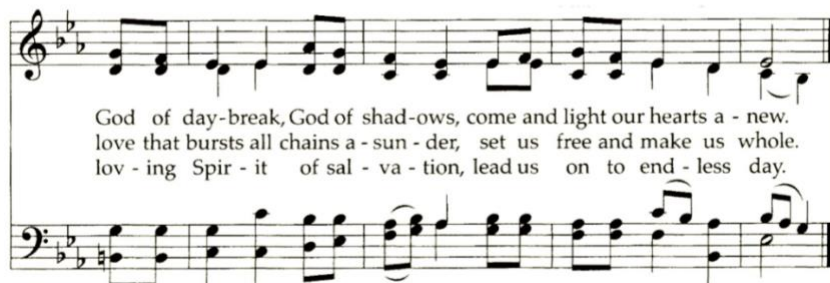
1 Joy-ous light of heav'n-ly glo - ry, lov-ing glow of God's own face,
2 In the stars that grace the dark-ness, in the blaz-ing sun of dawn,
3 You who made the heav-en's splen-dor, ev'-ry danc-ing star of night,



you who sing cre - a-tion's sto - ry, shine on ev-'ry land and race.
in the light of peace and wis-dom, we can hear your qui-et song.
make us shine with gen-tle jus - tice, let us each re-lect your light.



Now as eve - ning falls a - round us, we shall raise our songs to you.
Love that fills the night with won-der, love that warms the wear-y soul,
Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, gen-tle Christ who lights our way,



God of day-break, God of shad-ows, come and light our hearts a - new.
love that bursts all chains a - sun - der, set us free and make us whole.
lov - ing Spir - it of sal - va - tion, lead us on to end - less day.

Magnificat

The poem attributed to the young Mary while still pregnant is considered so important that it is sung daily during either Vespers or Anglican Evensong. The words weave together a wonderful summary of Old Testament societal ideals—ideals which one cannot imagine ever being part of our lives. Even so, ideals remain essential as our goals, especially during Advent. The German composer, Leonhard Lechner was composer, tenor singer, and the head of music at the Protestant court in Stuttgart. His most famous student was Orlando di Lasso. Lechner's music follows the typical musical performance pattern of alternating chant with writing in four-part harmony for the full choir.

Chant:

Magnificat anima mea Dominum: My soul magnifies the Lord,

Choir:

et exultavit spiritus meus and my spirit rejoices
in Deo salutari meo. in God my Saviour.

Chant:

Quia respexit For he has looked with favour
humilitatem ancillae suae: on the lowliness of his servant.
ecce enim ex hoc beatam me dicent Surely, from now on all generations
omnes generationes. will call me blessed.

Choir:

Quia fecit mihi magna qui potens est: For the Mighty One has done great things for me,
et sanctum nomen ejus. and holy is his name.

Chant:

Et misericordia ejus His mercy is for those who fear him
a progenie in progenies timentibus eum. from generation to generation.

Choir:

Fecit potentiam in brachio suo: He has shown strength with his arm;
dispersit superbos mente cordis sui. he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

Chant:

Deposuit potentes de sede, He has brought down the powerful from
et exaltavit humiles. their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;

Choir:

Esurientes implevit bonis: He has filled the hungry with good things,
et divites dimisit inanes. and sent the rich away empty.

Chant:

Suscepit Israel puerum suum, He has helped his servant Israel,
recordatus misericordiae suae. in remembrance of his mercy,

Choir:

Sicut locutus est ad patres nostros, according to the promise he made to our ancestors,

Abraham et semini ejus in saecula.

to Abraham and to his descendants forever.

Chant:

*Gloria Patri, et Filio,
et Spiritui Sancto.*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit,

Choir:

*Sicut erat in principio,
et nunc, et semper,
et in saecula saeculorum. Amen.*

as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen.

Leonard Lechner (c. 1553-1606)

Creator of the Stars of Night

Creator of the stars of night (Conditor alme siderum) is the hymn text traditionally sung in monasteries during Vespers throughout the four weeks of Advent. The Latin words come from a 9th-century manuscript from Bern, Switzerland. The concluding verse is one of the first to give the Trinitarian form of praise now known as the doxology, building on the Hebrew notion of giving praise to God and asserting God's infinity in time.

Creator of the stars of night,
Thy people's everlasting light,
Jesu, Redeemer, save us all,
And hear thy servants when they call.

At thy great name, exalted now,
All knees must bend, all hearts must bow,
And things in heav'n and earth shall own
That thou art Lord and King alone.

Thou cam'st, bridegroom of the bride,
As drew the world to evening-tide,
Proceeding from a virgin shrine,
The Son of Man, yet all divine.

To God the Father, God the Son,
And God the Spirit, Three in One,
Laud, honour, might, and glory be
From age to age eternally.
Amen.

9th c Advent Vespers hymn, trans. J.M. Neale (1818-1866);
music by Malcolm Archer (b. 1952)

Responsive Reading

One Then John's father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy:

**All Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for he has looked favourably on his people and redeemed them.**

One He has raised up a mighty saviour for us in the house of his servant David,
as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we would be saved
from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.

**All Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his
holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us that we,
being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in
holiness and righteousness before him all our days.**

One And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the
Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people
by the forgiveness of their sins.

**All By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us,
to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

Fuit homo missus a Deo

The preparatory ministry of John the Baptizer is traditionally recalled during Advent as we prepare for our commemoration of the Incarnation and birth of Christ. Jesus was apparently known for working with John along the Jordan River. Jesus then undertook his own related yet independent ministry, teaching and giving speeches far beyond the Jordan.

*Fuit homo missus a Deo,
cui nomen erat Joannes.
Hic venit in testimonium,
ut testimonium perhiberet de lumine,
et pararet Domino plebem perfectam.*

There was a man sent from God,
Whose name was John.
This man came as a witness,
to give testimony about the light,
and to prepare for the Lord a perfect
people.

John 1:6-7; motet for the Nativity of John the Baptist;
music by Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (c. 1525-1594, pub. 1564)

Advent Hymn

Please stand for the hymn and then be seated.

Descant

5 Hon - our, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the

1 Hark, a her - ald voice is soun - ding; "Christ is
 2 Wa - kened by the sol - emn warn - ing, let the
 3 Lo, the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, comes with
 4 that when next he comes with glo - ry, and the
 unison 5 Hon - our, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the

Fa - ther and the Son, with the ev - er -

nigh," it seems to say. "Cast a - way the
 earth - bound soul a - rise; Christ our sun, all
 par - don down from heaven; let us all, with
 world is wrapped in fear, with his mer - cy
 Fa - ther and the Son, with the ev - er -

last - ing Spir - it, while e - ter - nal a - ges run.

dreams of dark - ness, O ye chil - dren of the day!"
 sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
 deep re - pen - tance, pray that we may be for - given,
 he may shield us, and with words of love draw near.
 last - ing Spir - it, while e - ter - nal a - ges run.

Text: Latin (*Vox clare*, 10th cent.); tr. Edward Caswall (1814–1878), alt.

Music: William Henry Monk (1823–1889); desc. Alan Gray (1855–1935). Desc. © Cambridge University Press.

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MERTON

Psalm 121

I will lift up my eyes to the hills;
From where is my help to come?
My help comes from the Lord,
The maker of heaven and earth.
He will not let your foot be moved
And he who watches over you will not fall asleep.
Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel
Shall neither slumber nor sleep;
The Lord himself watches over you;
The Lord is your shade at your right hand.
So that the sun shall not strike you by day,
Nor the moon by night.
The Lord shall preserve you from all evil;
It is he who shall keep you safe.
The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in,
From this time forth for evermore.
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.

Henry Walford Davies (1869-1941)

Ecce virgo concipiet

This is one of the best-known verses in Isaiah. Although the prophet had no clear notion about the exact nature of this child, the compilers of both the gospel of Matthew and Luke clearly had this verse in the back of their minds when selecting which stories to include in their infancy accounts. We only find the word “Emmanuel/Immanuel” once in the New Testament (Matthew 1:23). Heinrich Isaac was the favourite composer of Maximilian I (“The Great” as he liked to be called). This industrious musician composed motets for every Sunday of the Liturgical Year. This motet was to be sung during communion on the final Sunday of Advent.

*Ecce virgo concipiet
et pariet filium
et vocabitur nomen eius Emmanuel.
Alleluia.*

Behold, a virgin shall conceive
and bear a son,
And shall call his name Immanuel.
Alleluia.

Isaiah 7:14, Communion antiphon for Advent IV; music by Heinrich Isaac (c. 1450-1517)

Virga Jesse floruit

Our final motet is Bruckner's glorious *Virga Jesse floruit*, which was first performed by the Hofmusikkapelle in Vienna on December 8, 1885, when it was heard as the motet following the reading of the epistle for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

*Virga Jesse floruit:
Virgo Deum et hominem genuit:
pacem Deus redidit,
in se reconcilians ima summis.
Alleluja.*

The rod of Jesse has blossomed;
a Virgin has brought forth God and man;
God has restored peace,
reconciling in Himself the lowest
with the highest. Alleluia.

Isaiah 11; music by Anton Bruckner (1824-1896)

Morning Star

Born and raised in Estonia, Arvo Pärt has become one of today's best-known composers of classical sacred music. Durham University (England) recognized the importance of his work by awarding him an honorary doctorate (2003). In 2007, he composed *Morning Star* for that university's 175th anniversary. Pärt set to music the prayer in Durham's Cathedral, displayed in gold above the tomb for the Venerable Bede, whose *Ecclesiastical History of England* (731 AD) earned him the title, "Father of English history". Among other things, Bede championed using AD and BC as a uniform way to refer to years. Pärt's work opens with the clarity and simplicity which typifies so many of his compositions, slowly gaining in complexity and dissonance, and climaxing with the prayer's final line, "And opens everlasting day."

Christ is the morning star,
Who, when the night of this world is past,
Brings to his saints the promise of the light of life
And opens everlasting day.

Venerable Bede (672/673-735 AD); music by Arvo Pärt (b. 1935)

Prayers and Sung Refrain

Noth - ing, noth - ing, noth - ing, noth - ing,

noth - ing can sep - a - rate us

from the love of God.

Romans 8:39; music by James E. Clemens, *Voices Together* (2021)

[Sung refrain: Nothing, nothing . . .]

I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation,

will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:35

[Sung refrain: Nothing, nothing . . .]

Who will separate us from the Love of Christ? Will hardship or distress,

persecution or famine, nakedness, peril or the sword?

Romans 8:35

[Sung refrain: Nothing, nothing]

If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not, with him, also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us..

Romans 8:31b-34

[Sung refrain: Nothing, nothing]

Give me this night, O God,
the peace of mind which is truly rest.
Take from me all resentment for anything

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: Nothing, nothing]

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: Nothing, nothing]

Vesper Responsory

Chant Judah and Jerusalem, fear not, nor be dismayed;
Choir Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.
Chant 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.
Chant 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 eye;
hide me under the shadow of your wings.
Amen. Psalm 17:8

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

Abendmusik Choir, Advent MCMXXIII

Michael Murray, *Director, organ*

Ruth Enns, *Chair Abendmusik Committee, publicity, piano*

Karen Thiessen, *Manager*

J. Evan Kreider, *Prayers, programme notes, photography, librarian*

Andrea Siemens, *Postcard design*

Catherine Cooper, *Calligraphy*

Greta Bartsch

Rosemary Bell

Maureen Bennington

Warren Code

Patricia Corry

Kathryn Day

Lucia Eitzen

Ruth Enns

Cynthia Friesen

Zena Helm

Martha Kendall

Brooke Kinniburgh

Steve Krehbiel

J. Evan Kreider

John Kroeker

Allan Larson

Katherine Lumsdon

Michael McKenzie

Jane Pulkingham

Christoph Schwarzbach

Glenn Sutherland

Karen Thiessen

David Wallace

Jenny Wallace



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:

<http://pcda.bc.ca/avc-choir/sing-with-us/>

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 Vespers MXXXIII

ABBOTSFORD
Sat., March 4, 2023, 7:30 p.m.
Emmanuel Free Reformed Church
3386 Mount Lehman Road

VANCOUVER
Sun., March 5, 2023, 7:30 p.m.
St. Philip's Anglican Church
3737 West 27th Avenue