



For God So Loved the Cosmos...

3:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m., Sunday, December 4, 2022

Service of Lessons and Carols

LaGrave Avenue Christian Reformed Church

Grand Rapids, Michigan

**For God so loved the cosmos that he gave his one and only Son, that
whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.**

—John 3:16

The Old Testament unfolds the cosmic nature of God's promised redemption "far as the curse is found." Looking ahead to the advent of the Messiah, the Prophets foretold not only the forgiveness of sin and the healing of individual trauma that the Messiah would bring about, but also the healing of the entire creation. Isaiah envisions a day where carnivorous animals are healed of their violence, and Ezekiel sees visions of a temple-of-holiness that overflows with fresh water that provides for swarming fish, verdant trees, and abundant fruit.

Reflecting back on the coming of the Messiah, Paul not only testified that it was in Jesus Christ that all things were created, but also that in Jesus Christ, God was at work to "reconcile to himself all things" (Col. 1:15): "Yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist" (I Cor. 8:6).

This vision inspired Augustine to preach Christmas sermons year after year which reveled in paradox: "the one who comes in a manger is the one in whom all things hold together." For centuries since, poets and musicians have evoked this all-of-creation vision memorably during Advent and Christmastide, gracing us with texts and melodies and rhythms which celebrate trees clapping their hands, fish jumping for joy, stars declaring their maker's praise, and animals gathered around the manger.

Resolving to resist any tendency to downplay or distort or narrow this robustly cosmic vision, our singing this semester, and now in this service, recounts the grand narrative of the Christmas gospel, wonders at the mystery of the Word-made-flesh, and announces the redemption of all creation. This theme challenges and inspires us in a year that has given us our most vivid glimpse yet of the far reaches of the cosmos through the James Webb Space Telescope, a year in which we have been "considering the heavens, the moon and the stars which you, God, have established" (Psalm 8:3).

In this year's succession of lessons and carols, "O Little Town of Bethlehem" and "O Come All Ye Faithful" find their place, and so do "For the Beauty of the Earth," and "This Is My Fathers' World." We receive with gratitude the Christo-centric creational hymns of medieval poets and mystics Prudentius and Hildegard, and of living hymnwriters, who have been exploring this theme with renewed intentionality. How splendid it is to sing together some of the most creational carols of all—"Of the Father's Love, Begotten," "Joy to the World," and "Angels from the Realms of Glory."

It is fitting that our "preachers" tonight are 80+ singers from the full range of programs of study at Calvin University—the arts, humanities, sciences, business and social work, education, and health care. Every year in every discipline and field of study, we are called to explore this all-of-creation vision for God's redemption in Christ, drawing deeply on the gifts of biblical prophecy and sung prayer that we receive together in this service.

For God So Loved the Cosmos...

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Prelude:

Partita on “All Creatures of Our God and King”

Charles Callahan

Movements: *Entrada, Chorale, Duo, Trio, Reflection, Toccata*

O magnum mysterium (“O Great Mystery”)

Giovanni Gabrieli

Noel: Votre bonté grand dieu (“Your Kindness, Great God”)

Claude Balbastre

Partita on “All Creatures of Our God and King”

Music: Charles Callahan © 1989 MorningStar Music Publishers

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O Magnum mysterium

Music: Giovanni Gabrieli, ed. and arr. S. Drummond Wolff © 1972 Concordia Publishing House

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Noel votre bonté grand dieu

Music: Claude Balbastre (1724-1799), P.D.

Choral Introit: “*Caritas abundat (Love Abounds)*”

Women’s Chorale

by Hildegard von Bingen,

adapt. Alexis VanZalen

*Caritas abundat in omnia
de imis excellentissima super sidera
atque amantissima in omnia
quia summo regi osculum pacis dedit*

*Divine Love abounds in all things,
most exalted from the depths to beyond the stars,
and also the most loving among all things
because she gave the High King the kiss of peace.*

Psalm 85:10–11

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,
and righteousness will look down from the sky.

Glory be to the Father, to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Text: Hildegard von Bingen, P.D.; Psalm 85:10–11 (NRSV)

Music: Hildegard von Bingen, P.D.; apt. Alexis VanZalen © 2022 GIA Publications, Inc.

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In the monastic tradition, monks and nuns sing through all 150 psalms every week in a series of seven or eight short daily prayer services, collectively known as the Liturgy of the Hours or the Divine Office. The psalms are often paired with short antiphons, which are sung before and after their corresponding psalm, or sometimes after every other verse, like a refrain. **Hildegard’s *Caritas abundat*** is longer than most antiphons, but connects well with Psalm 85, which is often assigned to be read on this, the second Sunday of Advent. Psalm 85 looks forward to salvation in Christ and to Christ’s return, a day where “righteousness and peace will kiss each other.” Similarly, in *Caritas abundat*, Hildegard adopts the intimate imagery of the Song of Songs to describe a feminine personification of the Holy Spirit (Divine Love) giving the High King (God the Father) the kiss of peace.

* Processional: “*Hail to the Lord’s Anointed (Psalm 72)*”

Congregation

arr. Roy Hopp

Text: James Montgomery, 1822, P.D.; rev. Bert Polman, 1985 © 1989 Faith Alive Christian Resources

Music: Roy Hopp © 1989 Faith Alive Christian Resources

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* *Please rise in body or in spirit.*

* Greeting and Bidding Prayer

Pastor: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come,
and from the seven spirits who are before his throne,
and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness,
the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

All: **To him who loves us
and freed us from our sins by his blood,
and made us to be a kingdom,
priests serving his God and Father,
to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.**

—*Revelation 1:5–6*

Pastor: Beloved in Christ, in this season of Advent, we prepare ourselves so that we may be shown its true meaning. We have gathered to hear, in readings from the holy scriptures, how the prophets of Israel foretold that God would visit and redeem his waiting people and bring healing to the world God so loves. We rehearse the account of the loving purposes of God—from the glorious creation of the world, through the first days of our disobedience, to the glorious recreation brought us by our Lord Jesus Christ, the firstborn of all creation, through whom all things were made. In carols and anthems, we rejoice that the good purpose of God is being mightily fulfilled, encourage each other in Christian hope, and unite our hearts to pray—for the nations of the world, for the care of earth, for those who have not heard the good news of God or who do not believe it; for those who live today in the valley of the shadow of death, and for the church in this place and everywhere, that it may be freed from all evil and fear as it bears witness to the coming of the Lord. We do so, remembering with gratitude those who rejoice with us, but on another shore, that multitude no one can number from every nation, whose hope was in the Word made flesh. These prayers we humbly offer as we meditate on the readings from holy scripture, and also now, in the words that our Lord Jesus Christ taught us.

All: **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
Forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory forever. Amen!**

I. Advent hope grounded in Creator God

Scripture: Psalm 33:1–9, 20–22

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous.
Praise befits the upright.
Praise the Lord with the lyre;
make melody to him with the harp of ten strings.
Sing to him a new song;
play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.

For the word of the Lord is upright,
and all his work is done in faithfulness.
He loves righteousness and justice;
the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord.

By the word of the Lord the heavens were made
and all their host by the breath of his mouth.
He gathered the waters of the sea as in a bottle;
he put the deeps in storehouses.

Let all the earth fear the Lord;
let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him,
for he spoke, and it came to be;
he commanded, and it stood firm.

Our soul waits for the Lord;
he is our help and shield.
Our heart is glad in him
because we trust in his holy name.
Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us,
even as we hope in you.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

by John Rutter

Women's Chorale

For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies,
Lord of all, to thee we raise this, our joyful hymn of praise.

For the beauty of the hour of the day and of the night,
hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light,
Lord of all, to thee we raise this, our joyful hymn of praise.

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild,
Lord of all, to thee we raise this, our joyful hymn of praise.

For each perfect gift of thine to our race so freely given,
graces human and divine, flow'rs of earth and buds of heav'n,
Lord of all, to thee we raise this, our joyful hymn of praise.

Text: F.S. Pierpoint, P.D.
Music: John Rutter © 1980 Oxford University Press
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*“Of the Father's Love Begotten”

arr. David Willcocks

Congregation

Text: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348–413); tr. composite, P.D.
Music: David Willcocks © 1963 Oxford University Press
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II. All creation groans in expectation

Scripture: Romans 8:18–24

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees?

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

arr. Mack Wilberg

Campus Choir

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.

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.

Text: Christina Rossetti, 1872, P.D.
Music: Gustav Holst, 1906, P.D.; arr. Mack Wilberg © 2011 Oxford University Press
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“This is My Father’s World”

arr. Elaine Hagenberg

Capella

This is my Father’s world, and to my listening ears
all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.
This is my Father’s world; I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas, his hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father’s world: the birds their carols raise,
the morning light, the lily white declare their Maker’s praise.
This is my Father’s world: he shines in all that’s fair;
in the rustling grass I hear Him pass, he speaks to me everywhere.

This is my Father’s world; O let me ne’er forget
that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Ruler yet.
This is my Father’s world; the battle is not done.
Jesus who died will be satisfied and heaven and earth be one.

Text: Maltbie D. Babcock, 1901, P.D.
Music: Traditional English, P.D.; arr. Elaine Hagenberg © 2016 Hinshaw Music
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III. Visions of wolves, lambs, leopards, lions, cows, bears, asps and fish in a renewed creation

Scripture: Isaiah 11:1–9

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see
or decide by what his ears hear,
but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor
and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb;
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
the calf and the lion will feed together,
and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

Scripture: Ezekiel 47:6–12

He said to me, “Mortal, have you seen this?”

Then he led me back along the bank of the river. As I came back, I saw on the bank of the river a great many trees on the one side and on the other. He said to me, “This water flows toward the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah, and when it enters the sea, the sea of stagnant waters, the water will become fresh. Wherever the river goes, every living creature that swarms will live, and there will be very many fish once these waters reach there. It will become fresh, and everything will live where the river goes. People will stand fishing beside the sea from En-gedi to En-eglaim; it will be a place for the spreading of nets; its fish will be of a great many kinds, like the fish of the Great Sea. But its swamps and marshes will not become fresh; they are to be left for salt. On the banks, on both sides of the river, there will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither nor their fruit fail, but they will bear fresh fruit every month, because the water for them flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food and their leaves for healing.”

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

“The Lamb”

by John Tavener

Capella

Little Lamb, who made thee?
Dost thou know who made thee?
Gave thee life, and bid thee feed
by the stream and o’er the mead;
gave thee clothing of delight,
softest clothing, woolly, bright;
gave thee such a tender voice,
making all the vales rejoice?
Little Lamb who made thee?
Dost thou know who made thee?

Little Lamb, I’ll tell thee,
Little Lamb, I’ll tell thee:
he is called by thy name,
for he calls himself a Lamb.
He is meek, and he is mild;
he became a little child.
I, a child, and thou a lamb,
we are called by his name.
Little Lamb, God bless thee!
Little Lamb, God bless thee!

“En Belén tocan a fuego (*In Bethlehem They Ring the Bells*)”

adapt. Conrad Susa

Women's Chorale

En Belén tocan a fuego,
del portal salen las llamas,
porque dicen que ha nacido
el Redentor de las almas.

*In Bethlehem they ring the bells as if, on fire,
flames rise from the stable,
because they say, “He is born,
the Redeemer of souls.”*

Refrain:

Brincan y bailan los peces en el río,
brincan y bailan por ver a Dios nacido.
Brincan y bailan los peces en el agua,
brincan y bailan de ver nacida el alba.

Refrain:

*The fish jump and dance in the river,
they jump and dance to see God born.
The fish jump and dance in the water,
they jump and dance to see the dawn rise.*

La Virgen lava pañales
y los tiende en el romero.
Los pajarillos cantaban
y el agua se iba riendo.

*Virgin Mary washes the swaddling clothes
and hangs them on a rosemary bush.
All the birds are singing,
and the river flows with laughter.*

Text: Traditional, P.D.

Music: Traditional, P.D.; arr. Conrad Susa © 1993 E.C. Schirmer Music Company Inc.

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* “Joy to the World”

arr. David Cherwien

Congregation

Text: Isaac Watts, 1719, P.D.

Music: George Frederick Handel, 1742, P.D.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1836, P.D.; arr. David Cherwien © 2020 Birnamwood Publications

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In no way should the Christian faith be represented as otherworldly or anti-creation. Rather, grace and nature are united in the Christian faith, and general revelation links the kingdom of heaven and the kingdom of earth—it joins creation and redemption together in one great eschatological cantata of praise. Grace restores nature, a religious life is woven into the very fabric of ordinary human experience. Finally, God is one and the same living God in creation and redemption; grace restores nature.

—*Herman Bavinck, Church Dogmatics, vol. 1, chapter 10*

IV. Mountains, hills, leaves and trees singing and clapping praise

Scripture: Isaiah 55:6–13

Seek the Lord while he may be found;
call upon him while he is near;
let the wicked forsake their way
and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

For you shall go out in joy
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle,
and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

“Now the Heavens Start to Whisper”

by Thomas Keesecker

Campus Choir

Now the heavens start to whisper, as the veil is growing thin.
Earth from slumber wakes to listen to the stirring, faint within:
seed of promise, deeply planted, child to spring from Jesse’s stem!
Like the soil beneath the frost line, hearts grow soft to welcome him.

Heavy clouds that block the moonlight now begin to drift away.
Diamond brilliance through the darkness shines the hope of coming day.
Christ, the morning star of splendor, gleams within a world grown dim.
Heaven’s ember fans to fullness; hearts grow warm to welcome him.

Christ, eternal sun of justice, Christ, the rose of wisdom’s seed,
come to bless with fire and fragrance hours of yearning, hurt, and need.
In the lonely, in the stranger, in the outcast, hid from view:
child who comes to grace the manger, teach our hearts to welcome you.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle © 2006 GIA Publications, Inc.
Music: Welsh melody, P.D.; arr. Thomas Keesecker © 2017 Augsburg Fortress
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“Light Dawns on a Weary World”

arr. Mack Wilberg

Campus Choir, Capella, and Women’s Chorale

Light dawns on a weary world when eyes begin to see all people’s dignity.
Light dawns on a weary world: the promised day of justice comes.

Refrain:

The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;
the hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!
We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,
as all the world wonder echoes *shalom*.

Love grows in a weary world when hungry hearts find bread and children’s dreams are fed.
Love grows in a weary world; the promised feast of plenty comes.

Hope blooms in a weary world when creatures, once forlorn, find wilderness reborn.
Hope blooms in a weary world: the promised green of Eden comes.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle © 2017 Oxford University Press
Music: Mack Wilberg © 2017 Oxford University Press
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* **“God Reigns! Earth Rejoices!”**

text by Michael Morgan

Congregation

Text: Michael Morgan © 2011 Michael Morgan, admin. Faith Alive Christian Resources
Music: Medieval French carol, P.D.
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V. The humble birth of Messiah, the majestic song of angels

Scripture: Luke 2:1–15

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. 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. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 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 in the guest room.

Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 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: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

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.”

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!”

arr. Philip Ledger

Campus Choir

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today.
Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heavenly door, and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Text: German/Latin, medieval; tr. John M. Neale, 1853, P.D.

Music: German, 14th c., P.D.; arr. Philip Ledger © 1998 Roger Dean Publishing Company, a division of The Lorenz Corporation
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“O magnum mysterium (O Great Mystery)”

by César Alejandro Carrillo

Capella

O magnum mysterium
et admirabile sacramentum
ut animalia viderent Dominum
natum iacentem in praesepe

*O great mystery
and wondrous sacrament,
that animals should see the new-born Lord
lying in their manger.*

Beata Virga cuius viscera
meruerunt portare Dominum
Iesum Christum

*Blessed is the Virgin whose womb
was worthy to bear the Lord
Jesus Christ.*

Text: Medieval Latin, P.D.

Music: César Alejandro Carrillo © 2000 César Alejandro Carrillo
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*“Angels from the Realms of Glory”

arr. John Ferguson

Congregation

Text: James Montgomery, 1816, P.D.

Music: Henry Smart, 1867, P.D.; arr. John Ferguson © 1992 GIA Publications
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VI. Looking to the heavens in faithful hope and expectation

Scripture: Deuteronomy 4:1–2, 14–19

“So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the LORD your God with which I am charging you.

“And the LORD charged me at that time to teach you statutes and ordinances for you to observe in the land that you are about to cross into and occupy.

“Since you saw no form when the Lord spoke to you at Horeb out of the fire, watch yourselves closely, so that you do not act corruptly by making an idol for yourselves in the form of any figure: the likeness of male or female, the likeness of any animal that is on the earth, the likeness of any winged bird that flies in the air, the likeness of anything that creeps on the ground, the likeness of any fish that is in the water under the earth. And when you look up to the heavens and see the sun, the moon, and the stars, all the host of heaven, do not be led astray and bow down to them and serve them, things that the LORD your God has allotted to all the peoples everywhere under heaven.”

Scripture: Matthew 2:1–6

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

‘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.’ ”

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

“Psalm 8”

by Dan Forrest

Women's Chorale

Adonai, Adonenu, O Lord, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars that you have set in place,
what are mortals that you care for them, O Lord?

O Lord, our Lord, *Adonai, Adonenu*,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Text: Psalm 8:1, 3, 4, P.D.
Music: Dan Forrest © 2010 Hal Leonard Corporation
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* “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams

Congregation

Text: Phillips Brooks (1835–1893), P.D.
Music: Traditional English, P.D.; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, P.D.; desc. Thomas Armstrong, P.D.

VII. The Word, the Son, making all things new

Scripture: John 1:1–5, 14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Scripture: Hebrews 1:1–3

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God’s glory and the exact imprint of God’s very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

“All Things New”

by Elaine Hagenberg

Capella

Light after darkness, gain after loss,
strength after weakness, crown after cross;
sweet after bitter, hope after fears,
home after wandering, praise after tears.

Refrain:

Alpha and Omega, beginning and the end;
God is making all things new.
Springs of living water shall wash away each tear.
God is making all things new.

Sight after mystery, sun after rain,
joy after sorrow, peace after pain;
near after distant, gleam after gloom,
love after loneliness, life after tomb.

Text: Frances Havergal (1836–1879), P.D.
Music: Elaine Hagenberg © 2021 Beckenhorst Press
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*** Acclamation**

1 Timothy 3:6 and Psalm 96:11–13

Pastor: Beyond all question, the mystery from which true godliness springs is great:
Jesus Christ appeared in the flesh,

All: **was vindicated by the Spirit,**

Pastor: was seen by angels,

All: **was preached among the nations,**

Pastor: was believed on in the world,

All: **was taken up in glory.**

Pastor: Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;

All: **let the sea roar and all that fills it;**

let the field exult and everything in it.

Pastor: Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy

before the LORD, for he is coming,

for he is coming to judge the earth.

All: **The LORD will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with his truth.**

*** Prayer**

Pastor: God of grace and glory,
in this world so filled with despair, we cling to your promise:
surely Christ is coming soon.

As we wait for this glorious appearing,
we pray for the cosmos that you so love,
and for the multitudes you are gathering,
from every nation, tribe, people, and language.

All: **Send your Holy Spirit, we pray,
to renew the face of the earth,
to bring healing to the nations,
and to strengthen us to be people of eager expectation
and ministers of your peace.
Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

*** Benediction**

Pastor: May the God of peace sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept
sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is
faithful, and he will do this.

All: **Alleluia! Amen.**

* **Recessional: “O Come, All Ye Faithful”**

Congregation

arr. John Ferguson

desc. David Willcocks

Text: attr. John F. Wade, 1743, P.D.; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1831, P.D.; verse 2 by Debra Rienstra © 2022 Debra Rienstra
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Organ Postlude: Variations on “Joy to the World”

Variations: Trumpet Tune, Canzona, Fantasy

Michael Helman

*An offering of thanks will be received as you leave the sanctuary,
designated by the deacons of LaGrave Avenue Christian Reformed Church
for the Calvin University music scholarships.*

*We also warmly invite you to donate to the Calvin University Choir and Community Fund
on the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship giving page:
connect.calvin.edu/giving/cicw.*



*This endowment supports the commissioning of new choral works,
the hosting of guest choirs and conductors,
the preparation of this annual Lessons & Carols service,
and the exploration of the rich history and global diversity of choral music,
especially as related to worship practices worldwide.*

Service Leaders

3 p.m.

Presiding Minister – John D. Witvliet, Director, Calvin Institute of Christian Worship

Bible Bearer – McKenna Walter, member of Capella

Cross Bearer – Connor Sincerbeaux, member of Campus Choir

Reader I – Tim Steele, Co-chair of the Department of Visual and Performing Arts

Reader II – Noah Toly, Provost of Calvin University

Reader III – Jennifer Holberg, Chair of the English Department, Co-director of the Calvin Center for Faith & Writing

Reader IV – Forrest Wakeman, Professor of Music Theory, Composition and Piano

Reader V – Amy Miller, President of Women’s Chorale

Reader VI – Benita Wolters-Fredlund, Dean of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences

Reader VII – Aaron Polet, Conductor of Campus Choir

6 p.m.

Presiding Minister – Peter Jonker, Minister of Preaching, LaGrave Avenue Christian Reformed Church

Bible Bearer – Catherine Kortman, member of Women’s Chorale

Cross Bearer – Asa Deeren, member of Campus Choir

Reader I – Jim Ludema, Dean of School of Business

Reader II – Arlene Hoogewerf, Dean of STEM

Reader III – Deb Rienstra, Professor of English

Reader IV – Wiebe Boer, President of Calvin University

Reader V – Pearl Shangkuan, Director of Choral Activities

Reader VI – Jonas Tilburt, President of Capella

Reader VII – Derek Schuurman, Professor of Computer Science

Instrumentalists

Organ – Kenneth Bos

Piano – Cynthia Haas and Linda Hosington

Violin – Elise Greidanus

Trumpet – Gregory Alley and Ryan Dick

Trombone – Ben Huisman and Peter Tigchelaar

The Scripture references contained herein are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible © 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Campus Choir

Aaron Polet, conductor

Cynthia Haas, accompanist

Soprano

Adrienne Cosens, *Ontario, Canada*

Willow Grey-Lughod, *Grand Rapids, MI*

Helen Lee, *Gyeonggi-do, Korea*

Penny Williams, *Grand Haven, MI*

Alto

Rachel Cremer, *Jenison, MI*

Skye Herlien, *Lombard, IL*

Amanda Janvier, *Penn Hills, PA*

Olatuke Jayeola, *Lagos, Nigeria*

Isabella Venman, *Mentor, OH*

Tenor

Charles Amponsah, *Richmond, VA*

Benjamin Jarvis, *Hudsonville, MI*

Musa Kwong, *Chiang Mai, Thailand*

Ewan McMullen, *Ellicott City, MD*

Yohan Shin, *Gyeongsangbuk-do, Korea*

Connor Sincerbeaux

Carter Strobel, *Alto, MI*

Isaac Xie, *Zhejiang, China*

Bass

Landon Culver, *Zeeland, MI*

Asa Deeren, *Marion, OH*

Peter DeKruyter, *Holland, MI*

Geoffrey Dicks, *Dearborn, MI*

Andrew Doyle, *Haddon Heights, NJ*

David Ensley, *Comstock Park, MI*

Weston Fields, *Beaver Dam, WI*

Stephen Gillich, *Byron Center, MI*

Jeremiah Joseph, *Pakistan*

Caleb Kamerman, *Manhattan, MT*

Lucas Postuma, *Grand Rapids, MI*

Capella

Dr. Pearl Shangkuan, conductor

Dr. Kenneth Bos, accompanist

Soprano

- * Skylar Higgins, *Grand Rapids, MI*
- Anneka Katje, *Grand Rapids, MI*
- Arielle Moody, *Tuckerton, NJ*
- Eliannah Reynolds, *Littleton, CO*
- Maia Reynolds, *Byron Center, MI*
- Sophia Schrier, *Hudsonville, MI*
- * Abby Vander Ploeg, *Byron Center, MI*
- Annie Winikka, *Newberg, OR*
- Kate Witvliet, *Wyoming, MI*
- † Madeline Witvliet, *Wyoming, MI*

Alto

- Jessica Bedow, *Saitama, Japan*
- Angela Blinne, *Fort Collins, CO*
- Rachel Bosman, *Grand Rapids, MI*
- † Alison Hoekstra, *Hudsonville, MI*
- Danielle Meyer, *Grand Rapids, MI*
- Grace Pilarksi, *Rockford, MI*
- Anna Riemersma, *Jenison, MI*
- * Anne Vogelzang, *Rockford, MI*
- Anna Walhof, *Visalia, CA*
- *† McKenna Walter, *Tucson, AZ*

Tenor

- * Austin Duimstra, *Cedar Springs, MI*
- Aidan Hillman, *Rockford, MI*
- Jordan Kerkstra, *Grandville, MI*
- Jack Lanning, *Grandville, MI*
- Landon Pasma, *Middleville, MI*
- Noah Pehrson, *Wheaton, IL*
- * Junchen (David) Qu, *Beijing, China*
- Chad Scholtens, *Grand Rapids, MI*
- Henry Teusink, *Holland, MI*

Bass

- Aidan Bakker, *Shoreline, WA*
- *† Ben Bruxvoort, *Pacifica, CA*
- Peter Chesebro, *Wayland, MI*
- David Clausing, *Grand Haven, MI*
- Joshua DeWindt, *Hudsonville, MI*
- Andrew Jackson, *Davison, MI*
- James Norman, *Grand Rapids, MI*
- David Ruitter, *Seattle, WA*
- Mark Stefely, *Mount Prospect, IL*
- *† Jonas Tilburt, *Phoenix, AZ*
- † Matthew Toldy, *Grand Rapids, MI*

† *Officers*

* *Section Leaders*

Women's Chorale

Dr. Pearl Shangkuan, conductor
Linda Hoisington, accompanist

Soprano 1

Anna Jipping, *Chattanooga, TN*
* Amy Miller, *Grand Rapids, MI*
Karis Schoon, *Grand Rapids, MI*
Chantale van Tassel, *Hong Kong*
Annika Wilson, *Colorado Springs, CO*

Soprano 2

Maria Buist, *Randolph, WI*
Mariana Dykstra, *Paraná, Brazil*
* Catherine Kortman, *Grandville, MI*
* Emilyn Shortridge, *Plymouth, MI*

Alto

Grace Cheong, *Phoenix, AZ*
Catherine Dicks, *Dearborn, MI*
Haley Holcomb, *Albany, OR*
Meghan McKnight, *Grant, MI*
Michaela Ulam, *Sherwood, OR*

* *Officers*

Cover art

This image from the James Webb Space Telescope, taken on July 12, 2022, shows the “Cosmic Cliffs” of the Carina Nebula. Behind the curtain of dust and gas are baby stars. Webb’s new view gives a rare peek at stars in their earliest stages of formation. For an individual star, this period lasts about 50,000 to 100,000 years.

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but also as a devotional guide for personal, family, or small group use.*

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