



# The WESTERN RESERVE CHORALE

*David Gilson, Artistic Director*

*Sara Smith, Accompanist*

presents

## *A Season of Light*

December 5, 2021

Church of the Gesu, University Heights, OH

JOY TO THE WORLD (from *Anniversary Carols*)

arr. Jackson Berkey

text by Isaac Watts

No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found.

Joy to the world! the Lord is come;  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare him room,  
And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the world! the Saviour reigns;  
Let men their songs employ;  
While fields, floods, rocks, hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

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.

## IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER

arr. Matthew Culloton

poetry by Christina Rossetti

soprano soli: Karen Ling, Samantha Miller, Laura Otis,

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

Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;  
Heav'n and earth shall flee away when he comes to rain  
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed  
The lord God almighty, Jesus Christ.  
Angels and archangels may have gathered there;  
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air  
But his mother only, in here maiden bliss  
Worshipped the beloved with a kiss

Oh, 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 can I give him: give my heart.  
I give my heart.

## HANEIROT HALALU

Michael Reid Winikoff

Hanerot halalu, anachnu madlikin  
Al hanisim v'al hanifla'ot  
V'al hat'shu'ot, v'al hamilchamot  
Sh'asita la-avoteinu  
Bayamim haheim bazman hazeh  
Al y'dei kohanecha hak'doshim.

V'chol sh'monat yemei Chanukkah  
Haneirot halalu kodesh heim.  
V'ei lanu r'shut l'hishtameish bahem  
Ela lirotam bilvad  
K'dei l'hodot ul'halleil l'shimcha hagadol  
Al nissehcha v'al y'shuatehcha  
V'al nifl'otecha.  
These lights we kindle

To commemorate the miracles  
And victories  
Which you wrought for our ancestors  
In ancient days at this season  
Through the hands of Your consecrated  
priests.

Through all eight days of Chanukkah  
These lights are sacred  
They are not for us to utilize,  
But to contemplate  
In praise and in thanksgiving to your great  
name  
For Your miraculous, saving,  
and wondrous deeds

## THE COLD DEMANDS A SILENCE

Stephen Chatman

poetry by Tara Wohlberg

The cold demands a silence of the land,  
A looking inward  
The undressed, trembling aspens  
Barren lines, memories of lush shade and long days  
Replaced by the privacy of winter.  
The snow kissed winds blow and blow,  
The cold a purity  
A taste of the passing of time.  
These drawn out days of night  
Gold crescent moon, night.  
The fireweed flowers nap below  
Underneath a marquee of snow  
The white snow on snow in a halo of stars.  
The cold demands a silence  
Dark on dark  
The winter dances  
White on white on white.

## ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

arr. Jackson Berkey

traditional French carol

Angels we have heard on high,  
sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply  
echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo,  
gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?

What the gladsome tidings be  
which inspire your heav'nly song?

Refrain

Come to Bethlehem and see  
him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee  
Christ, the Lord, the newborn king.

Refrain

## UNDIVIDED

Karen Marroli

text by Karen Marroli

When darkness drops an anchor in the fearful oceans of our minds,  
And when the world is full of rancor, I can choose to be kind.  
And maybe more will find the quiet rivers, where we'll lift a peaceful melody,  
And undivided we will stand, stand together, hand in hand.

And when hatred shatters silence, and each one clings to each one's will,  
And when the world bows down to violence, I can refuse to kill.  
And maybe more will join in sweet resistance, singing chords in gentle harmony.  
And undivided we will stand, stand together, hand in hand.

And when anger breeds division, we can choose to stand side by side.  
And when the world exalts derision, we can choose to lift each other high.  
And maybe then we'll join in one big chorus, singing songs of peace and unity.  
And undivided we will stand, stand together, hand in hand.

## LIGHT BEYOND SHADOW

Dan Forrest

(alt.) text by Paul Wigmore

Light beyond shadow, Joy beyond tears,  
Love that is greater when darkest our fears;  
deeper the Peace when the storm is around,  
nearer the Hope to the lost who is found.

Light of the world, ever shining, shining!  
Hope in our pain and our dying.  
in our darkness, there is Light,  
in our crying, there is Love,  
in the noise of life imparting  
Peace that passes understanding.

Light beyond shadow, Joy beyond tears,  
Love that is greater when darkest our fears;  
deeper the Peace when the storm is around,  
nearer the Hope to the lost who is found.

### *Instrumentalists*

violin: Diana Pepelea and Callista Koh  
viola: Alexandra Vago  
cello: Linda Atherton