



THE ROAD TO BETHLEHEM

A Journey to the Newborn King

ATAWBA VALLEY COMMUNITY
CHORUS

WELCOME THANK YOU

Greetings Fellow Music Lovers,

Welcome to our holiday concert. For weeks now, the Chorus has worked diligently to prepare for this evening's program – our gift to you. In sharing this gift, it is our hope that this musical expression will bring joy and delight to your holiday season.

As we begin our 36th season, I would like to thank you for making this evening possible. It is evident that the arts in this community are important, and that our mission, “to offer quality music that both stir the spirit and satisfy the soul”, is welcomed and received.

The Catawba Valley Community Chorus, or CVCChorus, after pausing during the pandemic, returns with all joy at the opportunity to make music once again with this holiday performance entitled ‘The Road to Bethlehem,’ a cantata composed by Lloyd Larson, and with special narration written by the Rev. Dr. Steven Mowery.

If you have enjoyed the music we have shared, consider supporting the Chorus, either through loose plate offering at the conclusion of our program, or more formally, by completing the form provided on the back cover of your program booklet. By filling out and submitting the required information, you will be listed in our program booklets for a year – thanking you for your generosity.

-Spence Robertson,
Director



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CONTRIBUTORS

The Chorus appreciates the generosity of the following donors:

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This project is also supported by the United Arts Council of Catawba County through the North Carolina Arts Council, a division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, with funding from the State of North Carolina from the National Endowment for the Arts.

United Arts Council

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www.artscatawba.org



CHORUS MEMBERS

Judy Carsey
Donna Davis
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Cathy Gregg
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Carolyn McDonald

Pat Moss
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Buddy Rader
Carol Schaefer
Emily Schuttenberg
Barbara Sigmon
Brent Talley
Laura West
Elaine Vaughn

INSTRUMENTALISTS

Will Freeman, Violin
Nan Freeman, Violin
Andrea Barklage, Viola
Daniel Lail, Cello

NARRATOR

Steven Mowery

PROGRAM

Hark the Herald Angels Sing
Arr. Joel Raney

The Wexford Carol
Arr. Mark Hayes

Fantasia on 'In Dulci Jubilo'
By J. S. Bach

All stanzas sung by congregation.

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:

Refrain

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

God of God,
light of light,
Lo! He abhors not the virgin's womb;
Very God, begotten,
not created: *Refrain*

Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God
in the highest: *Refrain*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing: *Refrain*

THE ROAD TO BETHLEHEM
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Please hold applause between movements.

The Road to Bethlehem

Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Take the road to Bethlehem. Christ is born in Bethlehem.
In a manger stall is the Lord of all. Take the road to Bethlehem.
Take the road to Bethlehem.

Take the road to Bethlehem; Christ is born in Bethlehem.
"Jesus is the King" earth and heaven sing.
Take the road to Bethlehem.

Come to Bethlehem, and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Christ is born in Bethlehem.

Narration

A Highway for our God

Prepare the way of the Lord.
Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Prepare the way of the Lord.
Make straight a highway for the coming King.

Every valley shall be lifted up.
Every mountain and hill made low.
And the crooked paths shall be made straight,
and the rough places plain.

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed.
And all people shall see it together.
For the mouth of the Lord has spoken it.
Prepare the way of the Lord.

Narration



Come, Messiah!

O come, Divine Messiah,
the world in silence waits the day
when hope shall sing its triumph,
and sorrows flee away.

O come, Desire of nations,
whom priest and prophet long foretold,
and break the chains that bind us,
redeem your long-lost fold.

Come, Messiah!
Dispel our night with the dawn of grace.
Come, Messiah! We long to see your face.
Come, Messiah, come!

O come, dear Child of promise,
for lowly shall your cradle be;
though clothed in human like-ness,
we shall the Godhead see!

Narration

Holy Child of Bethlehem

How long the road to Bethlehem
for Mary, the mother mild;
and Joseph, righteous man of God,
earthly father of this Child.
So faithfully they made their way
for God had chosen them
to be the parents of the King,
the Child of Bethlehem.

Bethlehem!
The Child of Bethlehem.
Bethlehem!
Holy Child of Bethlehem.

How long the road to Bethlehem
for all who seek God's will;
for those who long to find the Christ,
for all who journey still.
So faithfully they travel on
for God has promised them
that heaven's gift, this holy Child
is found in Bethlehem.

Bethlehem!
The Child of Bethlehem.
Bethlehem!
Holy Child of Bethlehem.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in the be born in us today.
Holy Child of Bethlehem.

Narration

Shepherds in the Field

There were shepherds in the field one night near Bethlehem,
when suddenly the sky shone bright near Bethlehem of Judea.

An angel of the Lord appeared near Bethlehem,
and said, to them “ You need not fear,” near Bethlehem of Judea.

For unto you is born this night in Bethlehem,
a Savior; He is Christ, the Lord, in Bethlehem of Judea.

Then suddenly the sky was bright as angels glowed with heavenly light.
Gloria! Sing gloria! For Christ is born this holy night!

Songs of great joy, songs of great mirth,
song of our merciful King’s birth

There were shepherds in the field one night near Bethlehem of Judea
and this shall be a sign to you in Bethlehem:

You will find the Child in a manger bed in Bethlehem of Judea.

The shepherds journeyed to the town of Bethlehem, to Bethlehem,
and there they found the newborn King in Bethlehem of Judea.

So let us all rejoice and sing for Christ is born in Bethlehem!
Rejoice and sing for Christ is born in Bethlehem of Judea!

There were shepherds in the field one night near Bethlehem of Judea!

Narration



Shepherds' Cradle Song

Sleep well, dear lovely heavenly Babe;
sleep well, thou holy Child,
while angels keep their watch by night
in stable, meek and mild.

We humble shepherds sing to Thee
a lullaby so tenderly;
“Sleep, holy Child of heaven, sleep.”

Sleep well, O gift of God's own heart;
sleep well as night turns to morn
let all creation join in praise,
for Christ, the Savior is born!

With grateful hearts we sing to Thee
a lullaby on bended knee:
“Sleep, holy Child of heaven, sleep.”

Noel, born is the King of Israel.
“Sleep, holy Child of heaven, sleep.”

Narration

The Journey

Where is He, O where is He?
His star blazes in the night;
as we trace the changing skies,
he is hiding from our sight.

Can you tell us where He lies?
We would worship Him tonight,
and will journey 'til we find,
and our search is turned to sight.

Your guiding light shows us the way;
we see your morning star ascend!
To you, dear Christ, all searchers come,
in you our journey finds its end.

The star beams its golden ray
over sleepy Bethlehem,
where with joy we find the Child,
and with gifts we worship Him.

While we thought we came to You
in a little starlit place,
it was you who came to us
Christ, the glory of God's face.

Narration



Christ is Born in Bethlehem

He is born, the divine Christ Child,
play the oboe and bagpipe merrily!

He is born, the holy Child,
sing we all of the Savoir mild.

Through long ages of the past
prophets have foretold his coming;
thought long ages of the past,
now the time has come at last.

Jesus, Lord of all the world,
coming as a Child among us;
Jesus, Lord of all the world,
grant to us Thy heavenly peace.

Take the road to Bethlehem; Christ is born in Bethlehem.
Hear the angel sing, earth and heaven ring:
“Christ is born in Bethlehem.” Take the road to Bethlehem.

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

Gloria in excelsis Deo
Christ is born in Bethlehem!

*Here concludes The Road to Bethlehem
A Journey to the Newborn King*

A WORD FROM THE CHORUS PRESIDENT

Congregation 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.

Congregation 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.

Choir 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.

Congregation 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.



DIRECTOR & ACCOMPANIST

SPENCE ROBERTSON / Director

He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Music from Pfeiffer University and a Master of Music in Church Music from Samford University. Spence is Director of Music at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hickory, staff accompanist at Caldwell Community College, teaches private piano lessons, and is a member of the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians. Spence is also a senior seminarian at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary of Lenoir-Rhyne University in Columbia, South Carolina, earning his Master of Divinity and has recently been approved to become a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the North Carolina Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America.

TIMOTHY WARREN / Accompanist

A native of Hickory, North Carolina, Timothy Warren was appointed organist at Mt. Zion Lutheran Church in Conover, North Carolina in July, 1978 and has remained in that position since then. He served as organist for The First Baptist Church in Hickory for three years prior to his appointment at Mt. Zion. Mr. Warren studied organ at Lenoir-Rhyne University. He was on staff at Lenoir-Rhyne for fifteen years and served as rehearsal accompanist and organist for the University Choir. He has also been accompanist for the Catawba Valley Community Chorus for a number of years. Tim served as Office Administrator at Mt. Zion Church for about 23 years. Mr. Warren has had the opportunity to play many fine organs in the eastern part of the United States, including one of his favorites, our nation's "Washington Cathedral" organ.

CATAWBA VALLEY COMMUNITY CHORUS / Founded in 1987

The CVCChorus is an ecumenical choir that sings with all joy in music making and sharing that musical expression with its audiences. The chorus, in the process of rebuilding itself after the pandemic, returns to offer three cyclical performances this Winter and coming Spring, and invite new members to join in on the fun. Auditions are not required, although some level of singing and reading music is encouraged. Want to join in on the fun? Check us out at www.zionhickory.org/cvcchorus.

CONTRIBUTION FORM

Thank you for considering supporting the CVCChorus. Contributions, along with this form, can be mailed to our address below OR given to a CVCChorus member. For questions, email us at catawbavalleycommunitychorus@gmail.com.

Contributor Name or Business will be listed in our programs for one year. Memorials and Honors name will be printed in the program below the contributor's name, if provided.

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Or **In Honor of** (as you want it listed in the program):

*ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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**Additional Information will not be published.*

*Contributions can only be made by check to:
Catawba Valley Community Chorus
P.O. Box 1005, Conover, NC 28613*