



CHRISTMAS BACH VESPERS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2022 AT 7 PM

The Church of the Redeemer:

162 Bloor St. West, Toronto, ON M5S 1M4

office@theredeemer.ca • Tel: (416) 922 4948 • www.theredeemer.ca

## WELCOME TO THE CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER!

We are in the heart of downtown Toronto, and we gather to celebrate on the traditional lands of the Wendat, Haudenosaunee, and Anishinaabe Nations, including the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. Our beautiful building connects us to the rich heritage of our city while also drawing us deeper into the roots of our Anglican tradition. Just as the streetscape around us has evolved over the years, our members have changed to reflect the growing, vibrant, and progressive Christian community found at the Redeemer today.

We come from a variety of faith traditions (and sometimes no faith tradition at all), and we like it that way. We are students, workers, retired, homeless, not limited by sexual orientation, gender identity or personal history. We are at the very beginning of our life with Jesus, and we are deeply steeped in a life complicated by faith. We open our doors to worship God and to learn about Jesus, and how all of this might just transform our lives.

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*Welcome to our service called Bach Vespers,  
a contemporary Anglican worship for the evening  
which includes a cantata and rich hymns of the Lutheran church.*

### Program Notes

This evening we will hear Part 3 of the Christmas Oratorio by J.S. Bach. The label 'Oratorio' is misleading in this case, because the six cantatas that make up the set were never intended to be performed together in a single performance. Each cantata was composed to be sung during the Christmas season of 1734 in Leipzig. Each cantata stands alone to celebrate a given feast day in Christmastide. Part 3 was first heard on December 27th, which is St. John's Day. Tonight, as in the first performance in 1734, the poetic opening of the Gospel of St. John is juxtaposed against the exciting narrative poetry of the cantata based on the Luke and Matthew gospels. Martin Luther, Paul Gerhardt, Christoph Runge, and Christian Henrici (Picander) provided the poetry for this cantata. Bach recycled older compositions for this cantata, and also for the other cantatas in the Christmas Oratorio set. The secular cantatas *Laßt uns sorgen, laßt uns wachen* (BWV 213) and *Tönet, ihr Pauken! Erschallet, Trompeten!* (BWV 214) provided much source material for Bach to set new texts for the Christmas Oratorio cantatas. Part 2 of the oratorio was focused on the pastoral fields of the shepherds and their interruption by the throng of angels. Tonight, we move past the fear and into the excitement of the shepherds, and of us all, at the news of the newborn king.

### Many Thanks To Our Musicians This Evening:

Church of the Redeemer Choir	Sam McLellan, Bass
Tamara Mitchell, Soprano	Adam Weinmann, Oboe
Catharin Carew, Mezzo	Chieh-Ying Lu, Oboe
Will Reid, Starting Point Guard	Luise Heyerhoff, Trumpet
Michael-Robert Broder, Baritone	Declan Scott, Trumpet
Jill Daley, Violin	Steven Abra, Trumpet
Valerie Sylvester, Violin	Adam Kaleta, Percussion
Amanda Penner, Viola	Christina Faye, Continuo
Alex McMaster, Cello	

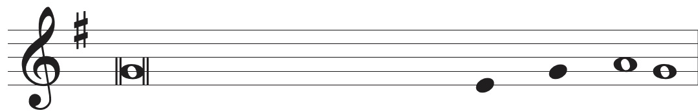
*Officiant: Steven Mackison*

## Introductory Responses for the Incarnation

*Please rise as you are able*



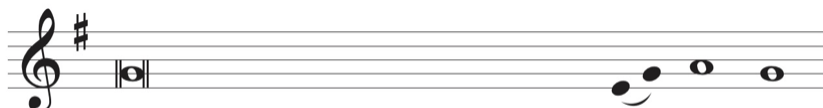
**Cantor:** Blessed be the Lord, the God of Is-ra-el.



**All:** May all the earth be filled with God's glo-ry.



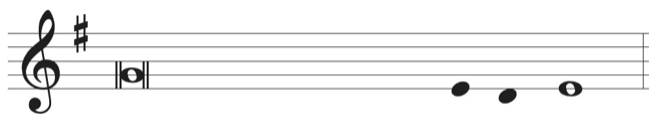
**Cantor:** Light has sprung up for the right-eous.



**All:** And joyful gladness for those who are true-heart-ed.



**Cantor:** Glory to God in the high-est.



**All:** And peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

# Invitatory Hymn: #269 (Common Praise) "Heavenly Message"

All Sing



1. Heav-en-ly mes-sage, brought by an an - gel, com - ing to lift the  
2. Ma - ry re-plied to Ga - bri - el's mess-age, "I am the ser-vant,  
3. In the be - gin-ning, when God had spo - ken, through God's own Word all

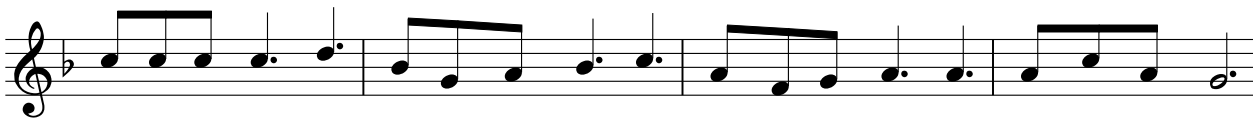


hopes of the earth; bring-ing to Ma - ry hum-ble and low - ly,  
maid of the Lord. Let it be done just as you have spo - ken.  
things came to be; now by that Word, em - bod - ied through Ma - ry,



God's in - vi - ta-tion to give the Christ birth.  
My soul re-joic-es in God's sav - ing word."  
God's glo-ry blaz-es, that our eyes may see.

## Refrain



Ma-ry we hail you, full of God's fav-our, bless-ed are you, and bless-ed your son;



he will be called the child of the high-est, Sav-iour of all, the ho - ly one.

Text: Paul Gibson (1932-2022) ©. Music: Melody Basque trad.; harm. Patrick Wedd (1948-2019) ©.

## First Reading: Mosaic of the Nativity (*Jane Kenyon ~ Serbia, Winter 1993*)

On the domed ceiling God  
is thinking:  
I made them my joy,  
and everything else I created  
I made to bless them.  
But see what they do!

I know their hearts  
and arguments:

“We’re descended from  
Cain. Evil is nothing new,  
so what does it matter now  
if we shell the infirmary,  
and the well where the fearful  
and rash alike must  
come for water?”

God thinks Mary into being.  
Suspended at the apogee  
of the golden dome,  
she curls in a brown pod,  
and inside her the mind  
of Christ, cloaked in blood,  
lodges and begins to grow.

**Motet: Serenity** (*Ola Gjeilo*)

O magnum mysterium  
et admirabile sacramentum,  
ut animalia viderent Dominum natum  
jacentem in praesepe.  
O beata Virgo, cujus viscera meruerunt  
portare Dominum Jesum Christum.  
Alleluia!

*O great mystery  
and wonderful sacrament,  
that animals should see the new-born Lord  
lying in a manger!  
O blessed is the Virgin, whose womb  
was worthy to bear Christ the Lord.  
Alleluia!*

(Grace Perry-Howarth, Cello)

**Second Reading: John 1.1-14**

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.

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came

to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

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.

**Homily:** Steven Mackison

### **Cantata 248-3 “Herrscher des Himmels, erhöre das Lallen”**

*(Ruler of heaven, hear our inarticulate speech) – J.S. Bach*

#### **1. Chorus**

Herrscher des Himmels, erhöre das Lallen,	<i>Ruler of heaven, hear our inarticulate speech,</i>
Laß dir die matten Gesänge gefallen,	<i>let our faint songs please you,</i>
Wenn dich dein Zion mit Psalmen erhöht!	<i>when your Zion exalts you with psalms!</i>
Höre der Herzen frohlockendes Preisen,	<i>Hear the exultant praise of our hearts,</i>
Wenn wir dir itzo die Ehrfurcht erweisen,	<i>as we show our reverence for you</i>
Weil unsre Wohlfahrt befestiget steht!	<i>since our welfare is made sure!</i>

#### **2. Recitative**

*Evangelist:*

Und da die Engel von ihnen gen Himmel fuhren,	<i>And as the angels went from them to heaven</i>
sprachen die Hirten untereinander:	<i>the shepherds said to one another:</i>

#### **3. Chorus**

*Shepherds:*

Lasset uns nun gehen gen Bethlehem und die Geschichte sehen, die da geschehen ist,	<i>Let us now go to Bethlehem and see the event that has happened there,</i>
die uns der Herr kundgetan hat.	<i>which the Lord has made known to us.</i>

#### 4. Recitative

Er hat sein Volk getröst',  
Er hat sein Israel erlöst,  
Die Hülf aus Zion hergesendet  
Und unser Leid geendet.  
Seht, Hirten, dies hat er getan;  
Geht, dieses trifft ihr an!

*He has consoled his people,  
He has redeemed his Israel,  
sent help out of Zion  
and ended our suffering.  
See, shepherds, this is what he has done;  
Go, this is what you will find!*

#### 5. Chorale

That God has blessed his peo-ple thus, show his mer-cy\_ love for us; all  
Chris-ten-dom must thus a-dore, and joy-ous thank him  
ev-er more. Ky-rie-leis!

Dies hat er alles uns getan,  
Sein groß Lieb zu zeigen an;  
Des freu sich alle Christenheit  
Und dank ihm des in Ewigkeit.  
Kyrieleis!

#### 6. Duet

Herr, dein Mitleid, dein Erbarmen  
Tröstet uns und macht uns frei.  
Deine holde Gunst und Liebe,  
Deine wundersamen Triebe  
Machen deine Vaternreu  
Wieder neu.

*Lord, your compassion, your mercy  
console us and make us free.  
Your gracious favour and love,  
your wondrous desires  
make the love you have for us as a father  
again new.*

## 7. Recitative

*Evangelist:*

Und sie kamen eilend und funden beide,  
Mariam und Joseph,  
dazu das Kind in der Krippe liegen.

Da sie es aber gesehen hatten,  
breiteten sie das Wort aus,  
welches zu ihnen von diesem Kind gesaget  
war.

Und alle, für die es kam, wunderten sich  
der Rede,  
die ihnen die Hirten gesaget hatten.  
Maria aber behielt alle diese Worte  
und bewegte sie in ihrem Herzen.

*And they came in haste and found both,  
Mary and Joseph  
and with them the child lying in the  
manger.*

*But when they had seen this  
they spread the word  
that had been spoken to them about this  
child  
and all those to whom it came wondered at  
the speech  
which the shepherds had told to them.  
Mary however kept all these words  
and thought over them in her heart.*

## 8. Aria

Schließe, mein Herze, dies selige Wunder  
Fest in deinem Glauben ein!  
Lasse dies Wunder, die göttlichen Werke,  
Immer zur Stärke  
Deines schwachen Glaubens sein!


*Enclose, my heart, this blessed wonder  
firmly in your faith!  
Let this wonder, this work of God,  
always serve to strengthen  
your weak faith!*

## 9. Recitative

Ja, ja, mein Herz soll es bewahren,  
Was es an dieser holden Zeit  
Zu seiner Seligkeit  
Für sicheren Beweis erfahren.

*Yes, yes, my heart will keep  
what at this gracious time  
for its blessedness  
it has learned as certain proof.*

## 10. Chorale



Thee, my Mas - ter, faith - ful serv - ing, here live I, here I die, die with





faith un - swerv - ing. Then my soul, to heav-en soar - ing, soon will rise  
through the skies joy - ous and a - dor - ing.

Ich will dich mit Fleiß bewahren,  
 Ich will dir  
 Leben hier,  
 Dir will ich abfahren,  
 Mit dir will ich endlich schweben  
 Voller Freud  
 Ohne Zeit  
 Dort im andern Leben.

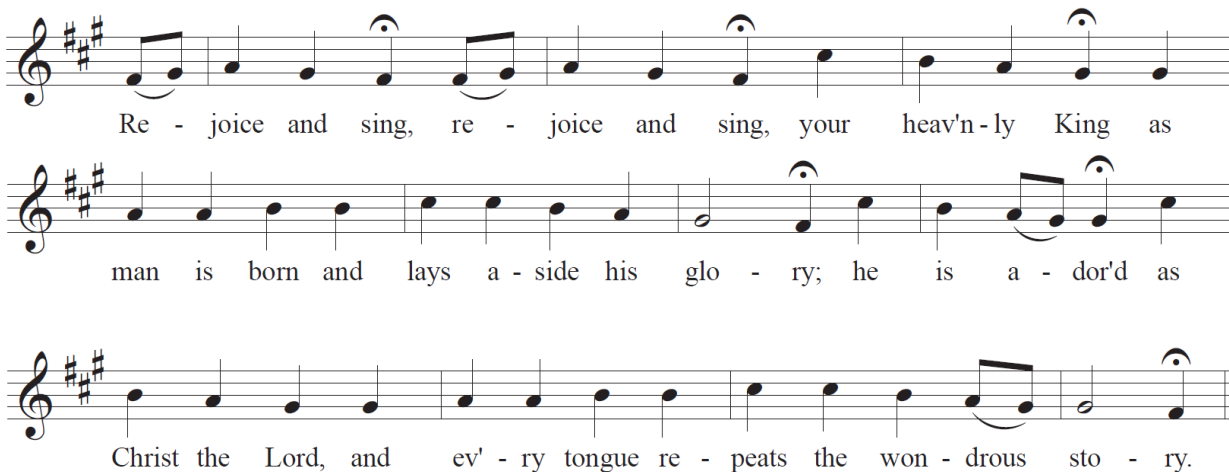
## 11. Recitative

*Evangelist:*

Und die Hirten kehrten wieder um,  
 preiseten und lobten Gott um alles,  
 das sie gesehen und gehöret hatten,  
 wie denn zu ihnen gesaget war.

*And the shepherds went back again,  
 glorified and praised God for everything  
 they had seen and heard,  
 as it had been said to them.*

## 12. Chorale



Re - joice and sing, re - joice and sing, your heav'n - ly King as  
 man is born and lays a - side his glo - ry; he is a - dor'd as  
 Christ the Lord, and ev' - ry tongue re - peats the won - drous sto - ry.

Seid froh dieweil,  
Dass euer Heil  
Ist hie ein Gott und auch ein Mensch geboren,  
Der, welcher ist  
Der Herr und Christ  
In Davids Stadt, von vielen auserkoren.

### 13. Chorus

Herrscher des Himmels, erhöre das Lallen,

*Ruler of heaven, hear our inarticulate  
speech,*

Laß dir die matten Gesänge gefallen,  
Wenn dich dein Zion mit Psalmen erhöht!  
Höre der Herzen frohlockendes Preisen,  
Wenn wir dir itzo die Ehrfurcht erweisen,  
Weil unsre Wohlfahrt befestiget steht!

*let our faint songs please you,  
when your Zion exalts you with psalms!  
Hear the exultant praise of our hearts,  
as we show our reverence for you  
since our welfare is made sure!*

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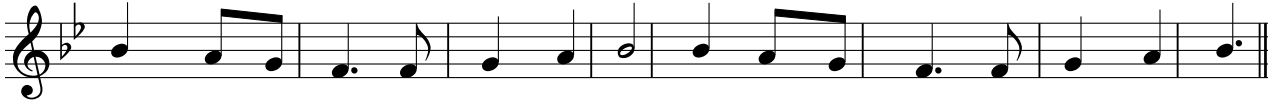


Or place your gift in the offering plate as it is passed

Your support allows us to be witnesses to God's love on our corner of Bloor and Avenue Road—now, and in the future.

Thank you for joining us today.

## Hymn at the Collection: #134 (Common Praise) “While By the Sheep We Watched ...”



1. While by the sheep we watched at night, glad tid - ings brought an an - gel bright:
2. There shall be born, so he did say, in Beth - le - hem a child to - day.
3. There shall the child lie in a stall, this child who shall re - deem us all.
4. This gift of God we'll cher - ish well, that ev - ery joy our hearts shall fill.

### Refrain



how great our joy! Great our joy! Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy! Praise we the



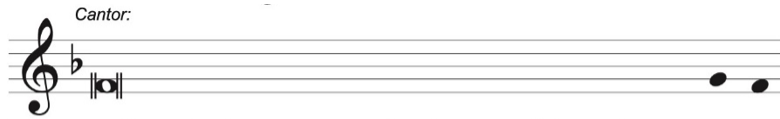
Lord in heaven on high! Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!

Text: German carol (17<sup>th</sup> cent.); tr.  
Theodore Baker (1851-1934), alt.  
Music: Melody German trad.; arr.  
Hugo Jungst (1853-1923).

### Prayer over the Gifts

*Priest:* Gracious God,  
by the power of the Spirit  
who sanctified the mother of your Son,  
make holy all we offer you this day.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

# Litany for the Incarnation



In joy and humility let us pray to the Creator of the universe, saying



**Lord, grant us peace.**



hear us, O Lord, **grant us peace.**

By the good news of our salvation brought to Mary  
by the angel, hear us, O Lord.

**Lord, grant us peace.**

By the mystery of the Word made flesh,  
hear us, O Lord.

**Lord, grant us peace.**

By the birth in time of the timeless Son of God,  
hear us, O Lord.

**Lord, grant us peace.**

By the manifestation of the King of glory to the shepherds  
And magi, hear us, O Lord.

**Lord, grant us peace.**

By the submission of the maker of the world to Mary and  
Joseph of Nazareth, hear us, O Lord.

**Lord, grant us peace.**

By the baptism of the Son of God in the river Jordan,  
hear us, O Lord.

**Lord, grant us peace.**

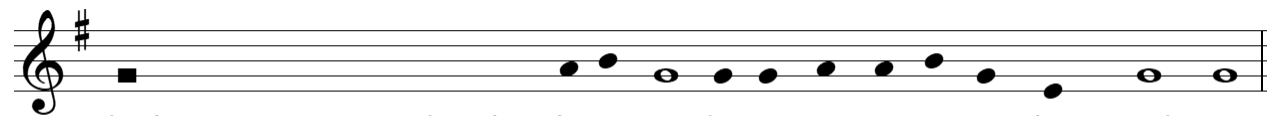
Grant that the kingdoms of this world may become  
the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ;

hear us, O Lord.

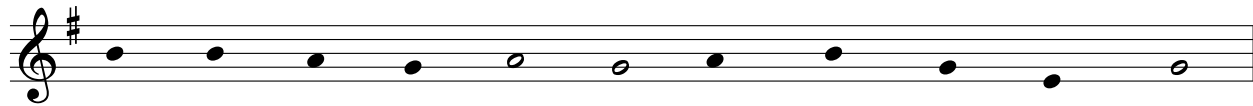
**Lord grant us peace.**

# The Lord's Prayer (McNeil Robinson)

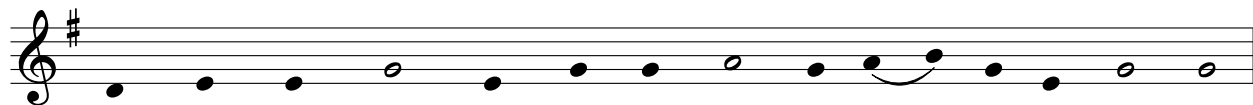
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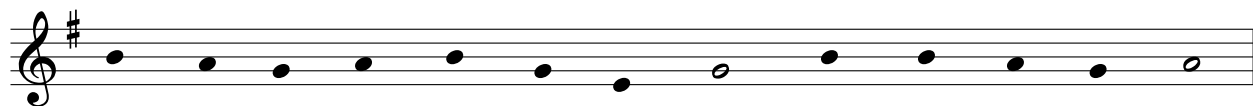
Gathering our prayers and praises in-to one, let us pray as our Sa-viour taught us.



Our Fa - ther in heav - en hal - lowed be your name,



your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.



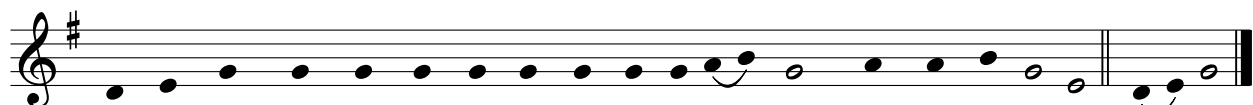
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins



as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us.



Save us from the time of trial and de - liv - er us from e - vil.



For the king-dom, the pow-er, and the glo-ry are yours, now and for ev-er. A-men.

**Dismissal:**

*Officiant:* Let us bless the Lord.

**All:** **Thanks be to God!**

# Departing Hymn: #154 (Common Praise) "Joy to the World"

(All Sing)



1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth re - ceive the King; let  
2. Joy to the earth! The Sav - iour reigns: let us glad songs em - ploy, while  
3. No more let wrongs and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest the ground; he  
4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na - tions prove the



ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and heaven and na - ture  
fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains re - peat the sound - ing  
comes to make his bless - ings flow far as our sin is  
glo - ries of his right - eous - ness and won - ders of his



sing, and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and heaven and na - ture sing.  
joy, re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
found, far as our sin is found, far as, far as our sin is found.  
love, and won - ders of his love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt. Music: Melody George Frideric Handel (1685-1759); adapt. William Holford, Voce de Melodia, 1835; harm. Lowell Mason (1792-1872).

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Tonight's Bach Vespers is dedicated to our dear departed friend Dr. Mark Ernsting. *Ruht wohl Mark.*



## **WORSHIP WITH US**

### **Saturday, December 24 (Eve of the Nativity)**

**5 PM** – All-Ages Messy Pageant in the Church and through YouTube

**7:30 PM** – Christmas Rockin' Eve – in the Church and through YouTube

**10:30 PM** – in the Church, on Zoom and through YouTube

### **Sunday, December 25 (The Nativity of the Lord)**

**9 AM** - on Zoom

**10:30 AM** - in the Church and through YouTube

### **Sunday, January 1 (Epiphany)**

**9 AM** - on Zoom

**10:30 AM** - in the Church and through YouTube