

# *Lovefeast*

## *In the Moravian Tradition*



*Long Memorial United Methodist Church*

*December 7, 2025*

*Five O'clock in the Evening*

**Prelude**

**Harp Anita Burroughs-Price**

**Chiming of the Hour**

**Keyboard Peggy Wade**

**\*Call to Worship**

Leader:

Who shall come in the fullness of time to gladden the hearts of men?  
Who shall bring new joy to the world and the poor and lonely defend?  
Who shall come on a cold winter's night, when the world is hushed and still?

Congregation:

**Only the silent stars keep watch as a promise is fulfilled.  
Just as a child newly born he shall come to a stable rough with sod.  
'Tis gentle Jesus, Prince of Peace, the blessed Son of God!  
We await Him with reverent hearts, O come Lord Jesus, come!**

**\*Hymn of Expectation**

**O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.

O come, thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things far and nigh;  
To us the path of knowledge show, and cause us in her ways to go.

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;  
Bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace.

**Prayer**

**Special Music**

**"Angels Carol"  
Chancel Choir, Harp**

**John Rutter**

**Holy Scripture**

**Isaiah 9:1-7**

**\*Hymn of Peace**

**It Came Upon The Midnight Clear**

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all gracious King."  
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

And ye, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,  
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,  
look now! for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing.  
O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing!

For lo! the days are hastening on, by prophet seen of old,  
when with the ever circling years shall come the time fore-told  
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,  
and the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.

**The Christmas Story, Luke 2:1-20**

**Reverend Ed Priestaf**

**\*Congregation please stand as able.**

**Moravian Blessing****Congregation**

Come, Lord Jesus, our guest to be, and bless these gifts bestowed by Thee.  
Bless our loved ones everywhere, and keep them in Thy tender care. Amen.

**The Serving of the Fellowship Meal**

**Moravian Hymns**      **“Sing Hallelujah Praise The Lord”**      **Keyboard, Chancel Choir**  
**“Christ The Lord”**

**Musical Reflection****Harp****Collection of Mugs****\*Hymn of Wonder****The First Noel**

The first Noel the angel did say, was to certain poor shepherds in fields where they lay;  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

*Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.*

For all to see there was a star shining in the east, beyond them far;  
And to the earth it gave great light, and so continued both day and night.

And by the light of that same star three wise men came from country far;  
To seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went.

Then let us all with one accord, sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
Who hath made heav'n and earth of naught, and with His blood mankind hath bought.

**Offering****“Jesu, Joy Of Man's Desiring”****Harp****Symbolism of the Light****Rev. Priestaf****Distribution of the Light****Hymn****Silent Night**

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light;  
Radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light;  
With the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King;  
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.

**\*Congregation please stand as able.**

## Hymn of Jubilation

## Morning Star Soloist Gracelyn Gentry

*Morning Star, O cheering sight! Ere thou cam'st how dark earth's night!*

**Morning Star, O cheering sight! Ere Thou cam'st how dark earth's night!**

*Jesus mine, in me shine, in me shine, Jesus mine, fill my heart with light divine.*

*Morning Star, thy glory bright, far excels the sun's clear light;*

**Morning Star, thy glory bright, far excels the sun's clear light;**

*Jesus be, constantly, constantly, Jesus be, more than a thousand suns to me.*

*Thy glad beams, Thou Morning Star, cheer the nations near and far;*

**Thy glad beams, Thou Morning Star, cheer the nations near and far;**

*Thee we own, Lord alone, Lord alone, Thee we own, our great Savior, God's dear son.*

*Morning Star, my soul's true light, tarry not, dispel my night;*

**Morning Star, my soul's true light, tarry not, dispel my night;**

*Jesus mine, in me shine, in me shine, Jesus mine, fill my heart with light divine.*

## Congregational Prayer for Christmas

Leader: O God, your light has come to our world

**Congregation: We accept it for ourselves**

Leader: O God, your light has come to our world

**Congregation: We will walk in its radiance each day of our lives**

Leader: O God, your light has come to our world

**Congregation: We will let its influence touch our thoughts and actions**

Leader: O God, your light has come to our world

**Congregation: We will let its spirit shine upon others through us.**

## \*Hymn of Commission

## Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;

Let every heart prepare him room. And heaven and nature sing...

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ;

While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, 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...

## \*Benediction – Extinguishing of the Candles

Too often we walk in our own light,

So symbolically we extinguish that light in order to once again see

On the altar the source of our light;

Christ, We dedicate our lives to Him, going forth in peace and joy. Amen.

**(Please extinguish your candle before leaving the pew)**

## Postlude “Glory To God And Peace On Earth” (Luke 2:14) from Handel’s Messiah

***WE WELCOME AND APPRECIATE THE MUSICAL GIFTS OF HARPIST ANITA BURROUGHS-PRICE, AND ACCOMPANIST PEGGY WADE, TO OUR CHURCH THIS EVENING***

\*Congregation please stand as able.