



## christmas carols with the choir

featuring: **THE EMPIRE CITY MEN'S CHORUS**

december 3 / 3pm  
church of st. francis of assisi



# Carol of the Bells

Choir

## Once in Royal David's City

*Solo:* Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for a bed.  
Mary was that mother mild; Jesus Christ, her little child.

*Choir:* He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,  
And his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall.  
With the poor and meek and lovely lived on earth our Savior holy.

*All stand and sing:*

3. And, through all his won - drous  
4. For he is our child - hood's  
5. And our eyes at last shall

child - hood, He would hon - or and o -  
pat - tern, Day by day like us he  
see him, Through his own re - deem - ing

bey, Love and watch the low - ly  
grew; He was lit - tle, weak, and  
love; For that child so dear and

maid - en In whose gen - tle arms he  
help - less, Tears and smiles like us he  
gen - tle Is our Lord in heav'n a -

lay. Chris - tian chil - dren all should be Kind, o -  
knew. And he feels for all our sad - ness, And he  
bove. And he leads his chil - dren on To the

be - dient, good as he.  
shares in all our glad - ness.  
placewhere he is gone.

**Welcome** (*be seated*)

Fr. Joseph Juracek, OFM, Pastor

**O Come, All Ye Faithful** (*sung by all, standing*)

1. 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;  
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!
  
2. God of God, Light of Light,  
Lo! He comes forth from the Virgin's womb.  
Our very God, begotten not created,  
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!
  
3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;  
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Text: John F. Wade, c.1711-1786; tr. by Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, alt.  
Tune: John F. Wade



**Comfort Ye My People/  
Every Valley Shall Be Exalted** (*be seated*)

George Frideric Handel, 1741

Evan Katsefes

**Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming**

Choir

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming  
From tender stem hath sprung!  
Of Jesse's lineage coming,  
As those of old have sung.  
It came, a flow'ret bright,  
Amid the cold of winter,  
When half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it,  
This Rose I have in mind;  
With Mary we behold it,  
The virgin mother kind.  
To show God's love aright,  
She bore to us a Savior,  
When half spent was the night.

ES IST EIN' ROS' ENTSPRUNGEN  
Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621.  
Arranged: Rosemary Corrigan Campbell

**Come, Let Us Sing Noel, Noel**

Choir

Come, let us sing Noel, Noel, Old and young sing merrily.  
Welcome the coming of the Lord, Jesus Christ, Mary's son;  
Angels appeared radiant with light: Unto you in born the holy child,  
Peace on earth, good will to men.

Shepherds on the hill keeping watch at night, suddenly heard the Angels' song:  
Went in haste to Bethlehem, found the child in a manger.  
Mary held him on her lap; Unto you is born the holy child.  
Peace on earth, good will to men.

17<sup>th</sup> Century French Carol  
Arranged by: Joseph Roff

## The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came

Liam Mulligan

Text: Basque Carol; para. By Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924  
Tune: GABRIEL'S MESSAGE

### Angels We Have Heard on High *(sung by all, standing)*

1. Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.
2. 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. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Text: *Les anges dans nos campagnes*; French carol, c. 18th C.; tr. from *Crown of Jesus Music*, London, 1862

### Away in a Manger *(sung by all, standing)*

1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus lay down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky look down where he lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
2. Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay  
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray;  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
And fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

Text: St. 1, anonymous; St. 2, John T. McFarland, 1851-1913; Tune: William J. Kirkpatrick, 1838-1921

### God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen *(sung by all, standing)*

1. God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay;  
Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas day  
To save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy;  
O tidings of comfort and joy.
2. From God our heavenly Father a blessed angel came,  
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same,  
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy;  
O tidings of comfort and joy.

Text: English carol, 18th C.

## Who Is That Small Child

Choir

But a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse  
And from his roots a bud shall blossom.  
The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him,  
The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him.

Who is that small child? The one who never cries, He has his mother's skin,  
But where did he get his eyes, And why do they praise him those men who  
seem so wise, Is he the blossom of the bud on the tree of Jesse?

Though the bud shall bloom amidst fields of thorns,  
And the winds of time shall ravage the blossom,  
The Spirit of the Lord shall not be forgotten.

Who is that man-child? The one they call the Son, We've waited for so long,  
He could not be the one, The one to bring the Light of Hope where til now  
there is none, Is he the blossom of the bud on the tree of Jesse?

From the bud that grows on the tree of Jesse,  
Shall spring the Kingdom of all souls united,  
The Spirit of the Lord shall live on forever,  
The Spirit of the Lord shall live on forever.

He could not be that child, The one they prophesy, He seems such a plain child,  
But I've never seen him cry, Still kings and shepherds all praise him I wonder  
why, Is he the blossom of the bud on the tree of Jesse?

Text: Tray Christopher  
Music: John David Earnest

## Shalom

Text: John 14: 27  
Music: Dan Forrest

Meredith Augustin/Liam Mulligan

## **Ding, Dong, Merrily on High**

Choir

Ding dong, merrily on high!  
In heav'n the bells are ringing;  
ding dong, verily the sky  
is riv'n with angel singing.  
Gloria, hosanna in the highest!  
Gloria, hosanna the highest!

E'en so here below,  
let steeple bells be swungen,  
And io, io, io,  
by priest and people sungen.  
Gloria, hosanna the highest!  
Gloria, hosanna the highest!

Pray you dutifully prime  
your matin chime, ye ringers;  
may ye beautifully rhyme  
your evetime song, ye singers.  
Gloria, hosanna the highest!

Text: George Ratcliffe Woodward (1848-1934)  
Tune: Jehan Tabourot (1519-1593)  
Arranged by: Mark Burrows

## **We Shall Light A Thousand Candles**

Choir

We shall light a thousand candles, dispelling the night with a glorious morn;  
We shall sing a thousand carols proclaiming our wonderful Savior is born!

Tell it far and tell it near, Speak of the love He gave us;  
Every nation needs to hear: "Jesus was born to save us!"

Go into the blinding night, sing of this great salvation.  
Take the glorious Gospel light to every tongue and nation.

Text/Tune: David Rasbach



**Go Tell It On The Mountain** (*sung by all, please stand*)

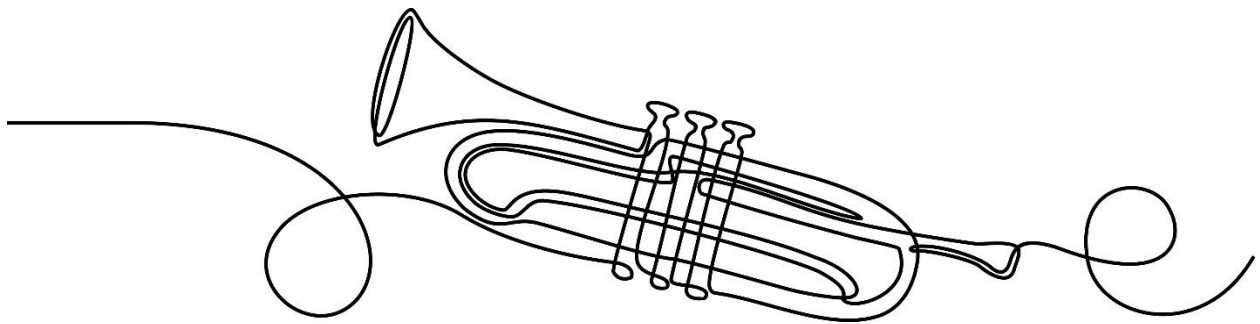
Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and every where;  
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,  
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

Text: African American Spiritual, adapt. By John W Work. Jr. (1871-1925)  
Tune: GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN



# **The Empire City Men's Chorus**

*Under the direction of: Vince Peterson*

Craig Goodwin-Ortiz de Leon	Steve Ostrow	Ronald Languedoc
Jeremy Ritz	Aaron Hock	Su-Jan Miguel Sang Rodriguez
Jimmy Johnson	Bill Powell	Brent Capron
Brian Dashew	Daniel Weinberg	David Ward
Bruce Bergquist	David Murray	John Wellmann
Casey Koh	Jacques Pavlenyi	Kent Walker
Daniel Greller	Jonathan Berg	Marshall Taylor
Edward Angelo Enrique	Marshall Gunter	Rodrigo Bolaños
Jack Kirk	Matthew Kenney	Stephen Milne

## **Song Selections**

Carson Cooman: *Verbum Supernum Prodiens*

Elizabeth Alexander: *Where There is Light in the Soul*

Hans Leo Hassler: *Verbum Caro Factum Est*

Daniel Brewbaker: *Listening*

Jason Robert Brown: *Christmas Lullaby*

We are so very grateful the ECMC for joining us today! ECMC is thrilled to announce the album launch of their world premiere performance of ALL IS MERE BREATH (Hakol Hevel) by Nicholas Weininger with Grammy award winning Navona Records. Available on December 8<sup>th</sup>. Check out their holiday concerts – a gender-defying program of seasonal music re-imagined for Tenor/Bass voices, including Vince Peterson's re-voicing of Navidad Nuestra by the legendary Argentinian composer, Ariel Ramirez, performed with a guitar-driven South American consort. Also included will be several holiday works by queer-identifying composers.

Go to their website for more information: [www.empirecitymenschorus.org](http://www.empirecitymenschorus.org)

**Silent Night** (*sung by all, please remain seated*)

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!  
Shepherds quake at the sight.  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
heav'nly hosts sing: "Alleluia!  
Christ the Savior is born!  
Christ the Savior is born!"

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!

Text: *Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht*; Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849; Tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885  
Tune: Franz X. Gruber, 1787-1863

**Hark The Herald** (*sung by all, standing*)

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;  
With th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail the heav'nly Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings, ris'n with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by, born that we no more may die;  
Born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth.  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788  
Tune: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847





## **St. Francis and the Nativity** *800 Years of Tradition*

This year, when festive lights twinkle in homes worldwide, we will find ourselves at a significant milestone. It is the 800th anniversary of a tradition that has, for centuries, symbolized the true essence of Christmas — the crèche.

The word “crèche” originates from the Old French term for a crib or manger. This iconic scene, which reenacts the birth of Jesus Christ, finds its roots in the 13th century with St. Francis of Assisi. But who would have thought that a simple representation in a cave in Greccio, Italy, would leave such a lasting legacy?

In 1223, desiring to make the experience of the Christmas story more tangible and accessible, St. Francis sought permission from Pope Honorius III to set up a live nativity. His intention? To eschew the rising materialism of the time and bring focus back to the simple and divine nature of the Christmas story.

By using real animals and a manger in a cave setting, he created a physical representation of the events of that holy night.

From its Italian origins, the crèche rapidly gained traction across Europe. Artisans in different countries began to depict the nativity using materials and styles that reflected their own cultures. The Polish “szopka,” Spanish “Belénes” and French “santons” are just a few regional iterations.

In Latin America, entire towns partake in live reenactments. In the Philippines, the “Panunuluyan” pageant is performed: actors go from house to house, seeking shelter, culminating in a display of the manger scene.

### Deep Spiritual Resonance

The crèche, in all its forms, is more than just an ornamental display. It stands as a visual sermon reflecting the core of Christian belief that God became man to walk among us. This simple scene — one of a child born in humble circumstances surrounded by adoring shepherds and wise men — speaks to the universal themes of love, humility and hope.

It serves as a poignant reminder of a god who chose a simple manger in which to make entrance into the world. To many, this underscores the idea that divinity can be found in simplicity and that every individual holds intrinsic value, no matter their circumstances.

Celebrating the 800th anniversary of the crèche is about recognizing the enduring appeal and significance of a tradition that transcends cultural and geographical boundaries. The crèche’s ability to continue inspiring and uniting people across generations is truly remarkable.

The octocentenary is a testament to the enduring power of the story it represents. Despite rapidly changing times, the story of a child in a manger continues to captivate and inspire. It presents an opportunity to reflect on the shared human experience. In a world that sometimes feels more divided than united, the crèche remains a symbol of universal compassion and faith. Whether displayed in a cathedral in Europe or a home in Africa, its essence remains unchanged. It is a call back to simplicity, love and hope.

- By Annette Mikat, Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration



# Christmas Schedule at The Church of St. Francis of Assisi



## DECEMBER 24

4th Sunday of Advent

4pm (vigil) • 8am • 11am • 12:30pm

## CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

4:00pm • 5:30pm • Midnight

## CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

8am • 11am • 12:30pm

There are no confessions, and the church will close after the 12:30pm mass.

## DECEMBER 31

Feast of the Holy Family

5pm (vigil) • 8am • 11am • 12:30pm • 5pm

## NEW YEAR'S DAY

12pm

There are no confessions, and the church will close after mass.