

Christ Lutheran Church

Christmas Recital

Saturday

✠ January 2, 2021 ✠

2:30 p.m.

Prelude on O Come, O Come, Emmanuel	Kristen Shavlik, organ	Hal Hopson
Silent Night	Emma Agent, voice Emily Held, piano	Traditional
Angels We Have Heard on High	Miles Agent, piano	arr. Snell & Hidy
The Marines' Hymn	Nathan Burkhalter, piano	arr. Snell & Hidy
The Entertainer	Miles Agent, piano	Scott Joplin, arr. James Bastien
O Holy Night	Emily Held, piano	arr. Adolf Adam
Silent Night	Silvia Ma, piano	arr. John Thompson
Candlelight Prelude	Emily Held, piano	Carol Klose
Christmas Medley	Sister Sara, organ	Sister Sara

Program Notes:

***Prelude on O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* by Hal H. Hopson**

Music has the capacity to tell a story, even without text. This prelude on the tune *Veni, Veni Emmanuel* is a fitting example in its four different sections. In Advent, we look forward to celebrating the first coming of Christ, and as you listen to this piece, think back on our journey through this season of preparation.

The piece begins rather softly with a repeated pattern in the bass, known as an *ostinato*. The hurried nature of this ostinato recalls to us the anxious anticipation with which we, alongside the wise men of old, journey toward Bethlehem. They have seen the star and want to see the King whose birth it signals, just as we have heard of His death for our salvation and wait for His second coming.

In the second section, perhaps we can reflect on how the wise men might have felt as they drew closer to their destination. We approach Christmas day with the same awe as they did, knowing we will soon see the long-expected Messiah. This feeling of reverent longing is conveyed in slurred, eight-note motifs. See if you can pick a few of them out.

The third section is a dialogue: one side speaks with angry dissonance and the other replies softly with a reflective melody. Here we imagine the war that takes place within us. Our sinful Adam is angry that Christ has taken on our flesh. And yet amidst the turmoil residing within us, we hear the hymn melody. The new Adam holds firm to the Hope we have not yet seen.

Finally, we arrive at the manger. While we have not gold or frankincense or myrrh to offer Him, we prayerfully come to His humble throne and quietly rejoice at seeing the One who was foretold.

*Special thanks to the Cookstons
for making this recital possible.*

Soli Deo Gloria!



Rev. George Fields, Pastor
Sr. Sara Fields, Deaconess

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