



THE HOUSE OF
HOPE
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

CHRISTMAS EVE 2023

A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS
THE SERVICE OF LIGHTS

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Prelude:

(7 p.m.) *In Terra Pax* (see insert for texts)

Timothy Bruett, Baritone; Linh Kauffman, Soprano

Gerald Finzi

Please stand when the bell rings.

+Antiphon:

The musical score for the Antiphon is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of five staves. The first two staves show the Cantor and Congregation parts for the first line of text: 'Be - hold, our Sa - vior has come, Glo - - - ri - a,'. The next two staves show the Cantor and Congregation parts for the second line: 'Be - hold, He brings us Hope, He brings us Peace, Glo - ri - a,'. The final staff shows the Congregation part for the third line: 'He brings us joy, He brings us Love, Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!'.

Cantor: Congregation:
Be - hold, our Sa - vior has come, Glo - - - ri - a,
Cantor: Cong:
Be - hold, our Sa - vior has come, Glo - - - ri - a,
Cantor: Cong:
Be - hold, He brings us Hope, He brings us Peace, Glo - ri - a,
Cantor:
He brings us joy, He brings us Love,
Cong:
Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

+Opening Hymn: *O Come, All Ye Faithful*, #41

ADESTE FIDELES

Verse 1: All
Verse 2: High Voices
Verse 3: All

Opening Prayer and Welcome

Rev. Phillip J. Romine

Anthem: *The Best of Rooms*

Gerald Near

Christ, He requires still, wheresoe'er He comes
To feed or lodge, to have the best of rooms:
Give Him the choice; grant Him the nobler part
Of all the house: the best of all's the heart.

Lesson 1: Isaiah 11:1-10

Carol: *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*, #48 (please remain seated)

ES IST EIN' ROS'

Lesson 2: Micah 5:2-5a

Linda Smith

Carol: *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*, #38, Verses 1 and 4 (please remain seated)

CAROL

Lesson 3: Luke 1:26-35, 38

Andrew Collins

+**Carol:** *What Child Is This*, #53

GREENSLEEVES

Lesson 4: Luke 2:1-7

Peggy Radio

Anthem: *In the Bleak Midwinter*

Harold Darke

In the bleak mid-winter frosty wind made moan;
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak mid-winter Long ago.

Enough for Him, whom Cherubim worship night and day,
A breastful of milk and a mangerful of hay;
Enough for him, whom Angels fall down before,
The ox and ass and camel which adore.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him nor earth sustain,
Heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign:
In the bleak mid-winter a stable-place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty — Jesus Christ.

Angels and Archangels may have gathered there,
Cherubim and Seraphim thronged the air;
But only his mother In her maiden bliss
Worshipped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise Man I would do my part,
Yet what I can I give Him, Give my heart.

Lesson 5: Luke 2:8-20

Julie Schramke

+**Carol:** *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, #31*

MENDELSSOHN

Christmas Meditation: *Walking to Bethlehem*

Rev. Dr. Scott M. Kenefake

+**Carol:** *Joy to the World!, #40*

ANTIOCH

Christmas Offering (*see back page for ways to give*)

Harp Solo: *Rouet*

Alphonse Hasselmans

Rachel Brandwein, Harp

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Rev. Dr. Julia A. Carlson

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

THE SERVICE OF LIGHTS

Lesson 6: John 1:1-14

Anthem: *Light of the World*

Karen Marroli

Light of the world, you loose the bonds of night.
Once we walked in darkness; now bursts forth your light.
Christ, in your glory, come to light the way;
teach us how to follow.

Light of our paths, you walk with us in strife.
Where conflict darkens, bring the light of life.
Christ, in your mercy, come to show us love.
Teach us how to follow!

We must be your hands, lent to heal and bless.
We must be your light, rending wide the darkness.
Christ, in your image, we'll greet the world;
this is how we follow.

Light of our days, we feel your dawning call;
send us forth to serve and bring your light to all!
Christ, you have claimed us; you have made us one.
We will always follow!

(During the orchestra introduction to the hymn, candle light is passed from the ushers to the congregation.)

Silent Night, Holy Night

**1. 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.**

**2. Silent night, Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing: "Alleluia;
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born!"**

**3. 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.**

**4. 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.**

+Benediction

Postlude

**The CHRISTMAS OFFERING supports the operation of the church for ministry in our community.
Envelopes can be found in the pews. Please give generously to this important offering.**

- **In-Person.** Offering plates will be provided.
- **Website.** On the homepage, click "Support House of Hope", then click on "Make a Gift"
- **Mail.** Mail a check to 797 Summit Ave. Saint Paul, MN 55105

-QR Code.



PARTICIPANTS:

Rev. Dr. Scott M. Kenefake, Transitional Pastor; Rev. Dr. Julia A. Carlson, Senior Associate Pastor;
Rev. Phillip J. Romine, Transitional Associate Pastor; Dr. Aaron David Miller, Organist; Dr. Matthew Culloton,
Conductor; The Motet Choir and Chamber Orchestra; Carillon Prelude: Dr. David W. Johnson and Timothy Short

THE HOUSE OF HOPE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

VIOLIN 1: Stephanie Arado, Conor O'Brien, Elizabeth Bell VIOLIN 2: Erika Hoogeveen, David Block, Stephanie Skor
VIOLAS: Valerie Little, Chris Chelgren CELLOS: Sharon Mautner-Rodgers, Ruth Marshall DOUBLE BASS:
Irving Steinberg FLUTES: Barb Leibundguth, Hannah Peterson OBOES: Merilee Klemp, Robert McManus
CLARINETS: Jennifer Gerth, Simon Plum BASSOONS: Norbert Nielubowski, Coreen Nordling HORNS: Caroline Lemen,
Melissa Morey TRUMPETS: Graham Taylor, Nathan Stoerzinger TROMBONES: Richard Gaynor, Mark Springer
TIMPANI: Erich Rieppel PERCUSSION: Matt Barber HARP: Rachel Brandwein

+Stand in body or spirit

In Terra Pax – A Christmas Scene

Gerald Finzi (1901-56)
Words by Robert Bridges (1844-1930)
and from the Gospel of St. Luke

Timothy Bruett, Baritone
Linh Kauffman, Soprano
The Motet Choir and Chamber Orchestra,
Matthew Culloton, Conductor;
Aaron David Miller, Organist

A frosty Christmas Eve when the stars were shining
Fared I forth alone where westward falls the hill,
And from many a village in the water'd valley
Distant music reach'd me peals of bells a-ringing:
The constellated sounds ran sprinkling on earth's floor
As the dark vault above with stars was spangled o'er.

Then sped my thoughts to keep that first Christmas of all
When the shepherds watching by their folds ere the dawn
Heard music in the fields and marvelling could not tell
Whether it were angels or the bright stars singing.

*And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.
And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them, and they
were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them:*

*Fear not; for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born
this day, in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; ye shall find
the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.*

*And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to
God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.*

But to me heard afar it was starry music
Angels' song, comforting as the comfort of Christ
When he spake tenderly to his sorrowful flock:
The old words came to me by the riches of time
Mellow'd and transfigured as I stood on the hill
Heark'ning in the aspect of th'eternal silence.

~ Program Note ~

In Terra Pax

A Christmas Scene

Gerald Finzi (1901 - 1956)

A series of tragedies profoundly affected Finzi in his early years. By the time he was eighteen he had lost his father, three elder brothers and his much-loved music teacher, killed in action. This dreadful sequence of events, and the appalling losses of the First World War that formed the backdrop to his adolescence, gave Finzi an acute awareness of the impermanence of life, confirmed with grim finality when at the age of fifty he discovered that he was dying of leukemia. These experiences to a large extent account for the hint of melancholy underlying much of his music.

Finzi's musical inspiration sprang primarily from his love of literature and the English countryside - the same sources that inspired Elgar and Vaughan Williams. *In Terra Pax* was composed in 1954 and was almost the last piece that Finzi wrote, though its genesis can be traced to an event some thirty years previously, when one Christmas Eve he had climbed up to the church at the top of his beloved Chosen Hill, between Gloucester and Cheltenham. The sound of the midnight bells ringing out across the frosty Gloucestershire valleys evidently made a lasting impression on him, retrospectively providing the idea for *In Terra Pax*, as he told Vaughan Williams.

The work is a setting of two verses from Robert Bridges' fine poem, 'Noel: Christmas Eve, 1913', subtitled *Pax hominibus bonae voluntatis* (Peace and goodwill to all men), which Finzi imaginatively and skilfully uses to frame St. Luke's account of the angels' appearance to the shepherds. *In Terra Pax* is subtitled 'Christmas Scene', and Finzi explained that "the Nativity becomes a vision seen by a wanderer on a dark and frosty Christmas Eve in our own familiar landscape." This placing of the Biblical story into an English pastoral context is entirely consistent with Finzi's close affinity with the English Romantic tradition, and his lifelong dedication to the creation of his own rural paradise at his home in Ashmansworth, near Newbury.

The two soloists and the chorus have clearly defined musical roles; the baritone soloist takes the voice of the poet, the soprano is cast as the angel, whilst the chorus narrates the familiar biblical text. In the opening section the poet is standing on a hill contemplating the events of the very first Christmas, the sound of the distant church bells becoming for him the sound of an angel choir. This image is expressed in a pealing-bells motif which, together with the refrain from 'The First Nowell', provides the musical fabric of the piece.

Finzi, perhaps more than most, must have been aware of the terrible irony of Bridges' reassuring *Pax hominibus* being swiftly followed by the outbreak of World War I, yet despite this, and despite his own terminal decline, *In Terra Pax* is a radiant, optimistic work of great beauty and sincerity; a miniature masterpiece that unites emotions, images and the familiar events of the Christmas story into a compelling musical narrative that is at once personal yet universal.

Program note by John Bawden - used by kind permission