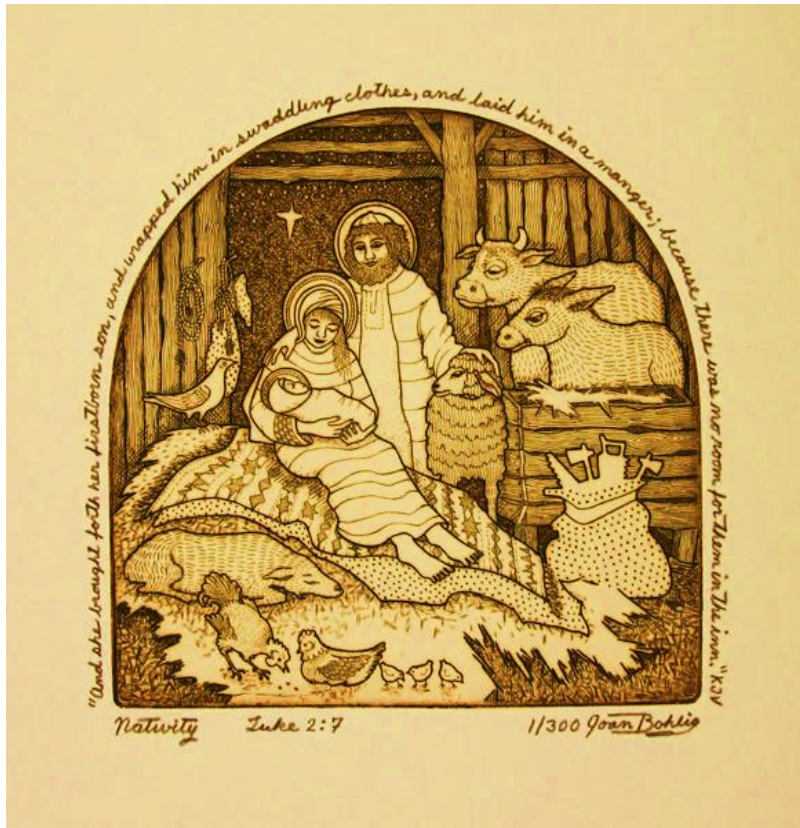


# Welcome to Our World

## A Musical for Christmas



Brecksville United Church of Christ  
23 Public Square  
Brecksville, Ohio 44141

**Welcome to Our World**  
**Created by Claire Cloninger and Robert Sterling**

Cover Etching: Nativity with Luke 2:7, Joan Bohlig, (b. 1936), 1987.

I. Emmanuel's Light Arranged by Robert Sterling  
"Waiting in the hope of beholding the Savior who will ransom His own,  
Thirsting for the love that's unfolding, the dawning of His kingdom alone."

II. Welcome to Our World Words and Music by Chris Rice  
Arranged by Robert Sterling  
*Soloists: Sue Maier, Jon Thompson, Evelyn Seager, Matt Wolbert, Lenore Harris*

"Fragile finger sent to heal us,  
tender brow prepared for thorn,  
tiny heart whose blood will save us,  
unto us is born, unto us is born."

III. Welcome, Jesus, Our Redeemer Robert Sterling  
"Shepherds unsuspecting heard a glorious sound.  
Angels sang glad tidings of God's love sent down."

IV. Behold, He Has Come Robert Sterling  
*Soloist: Diane Gressley*  
"Behold, He has come, God's only Son.  
He is the One sent to save us...  
He is the One we adore."

V. Come, Now Is the Time to Worship Words and Music by Brian Doerksen  
Arranged by Robert Sterling  
*Soloists: Sue Maier, Jon Thompson*  
"Come, now is the time to worship.  
Come, now is the time to give your heart.  
Come, just as you are to worship.  
Come, just as you are before your God, come."

VI. Once Again Lowell Alexander, arr. by Robert Sterling  
*Soloists: Jon Thompson, Evelyn Seager, Sue Maier*  
"Some days, in the hurry, this heart of mine can sometimes lose its place.  
Jesus, show me Christmas and let me gaze with wonder at your face."

VII. The Open Arms of Christmas

Robert Sterling

"As we come into His presence, we can feel His love descend  
as it wraps us in the open arms of Christmas!"

VIII. A Carol at the Heart of Every Christmas

Robert Sterling

"There's a symphony of music deep within us,  
a hymn of hope that only love can bring."

IX. Finale

Arranged by Robert Sterling

**Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

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'n-born 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 the souls of earth,  
Born to give us second birth.  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"

**Angels, from the Realms of Glory**

Angels, from the realms of glory,  
Wing your flight o'er all the earth.  
Ye who sang creation's story  
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:  
Come and worship, come and worship;  
Worship Christ, the newborn King!

Shepherds, in the fields abiding,  
Watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing,  
Yonder shines the infant light:  
Come and worship, come and worship;  
Worship Christ, the newborn King!

**Angels We Have Heard on High**

Angels we have heard on high,  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains;  
And the mountains in reply,  
Echo back their joyous strains.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo,  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

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!

## **Participants**

Director and Pianist - David Debick

### **Sopranos**

Diane Gressley  
Lenore Harris  
Dassie Matsuoka  
Anne Melfo  
Jan Renovetz  
Evelyn Seager  
Kathy Smith

### **Tenors**

Jill Black  
Sue Maier  
Matt Wolbert  
Jill Zedan

### **Instrumentalists**

Becky Anderson, flute  
Betsey Wilson, flute  
Pastor Dave Shackle, trumpet  
Zach Novak, trumpet  
Steve Ostrow, violin and trombone  
Nick Zura, double bass  
Bob Chandler, Donn Whyte, Victor Fawcett,  
Benjamin Rehling, percussion

### **Altos**

Pat Bailey  
Bettina Ortiz  
Janet Renovetz  
Bridget Sproul

### **Basses**

Jon Thompson  
Doug Wrights

### **Narrators**

Sue Stenzel  
David Ritchey

### **Sound Technician**

David Pastor

### **Program Design**

Jeannette Kroeger

Many thanks to all who participated in this year's Cantata. Chris Rice's lyrics are disturbingly relevant in light of recent developments here and abroad: "Bring Your peace into our violence, bid our hungry souls be filled." God, help us to be merciful with each other, and with ourselves. Guide us. Protect us. Renew us. Fill our hungry souls with your Spirit. Bless us this Christmas and throughout the New Year. Amen.