

# Emmanuel, Hope of Our Hearts

A Musical for Christmas

Created by Nancy Gordon

Musical Adaptations by Stan Pethel

## I. Sing for Joy

Words and Music by Dennis and Nan Allen

Arranged by Dennis Allen

*Listen, listen with your heart to the music of Christmas,  
for the music of Christmas is love!*

## II. O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Plainsong

Arranged by Tom Fettke

*O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
our spirits by Thine advent here;  
and drive away the shades of night,  
and pierce the clouds and bring us light!*

## III. The Journey of Joy

Gary Rhodes

*Highborn and lowly, humbly and holy;  
worship Him only, Jesus the King!*

## IV. Gonna See a Baby

Robert Brown

Arranged by Tom Fettke

*Sue Maier, tenor*

*Come to help our pain and grief,  
sent to us a Baby in-a Bethalehem.  
Bring the sin-sick soul relief,  
Little Baby Jesus in-a Bethalehem.*

## V. Grace in a Cradle

Words and Music by

John Chisum and Nancy Gordon

Arranged by John Chisum

*Diane Gressley, soprano*

*The waiting earth responds  
to the miracle that dawns  
upon the earth,  
joy is born today.*

VI. Let Heaven and Nature Sing

Arranged by Dennis Allen

*Joyful, all ye nations rise,  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with th'angelic host proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"*

VII. Come, Emmanuel

Words and Music by  
John Chisum and Nancy Gordon  
Arranged by John Chisum

*Don Seager, bass; Jan Renovetz, alto; Evelyn Seager, soprano*

*Jesus, You are Redeemer,  
Counselor and our true Friend.  
Jesus, You are the Answer.  
We invite You in.*

VIII. A Christmas Blessing

Words and Music by  
John Chisum, Nancy Gordon, and George Searcy  
Arranged by David Winkler

*May the faith that filled the shepherds' fields  
be the faith of Jesus Christ revealed.  
May the love that graced the universe,  
Emmanuel, be yours.*

IX. Our God Is with Us

Words and Music by  
Steven Curtis Chapman and Michael W. Smith  
Arranged by Dennis Allen

*The Maker of each heart that breaks,  
the Giver of each breath we take  
has come to earth giving hope its birth.*

A reception will follow today's Service downstairs in Pilgrim Hall. Please join us!

Cover image: Giovanni Battista Tiepolo (Venice 1696 - 1770 Madrid), The Holy Family with angels. Pen and brown ink and two shades of brown wash, over black chalk.

## Participants

Choir Director, pianist – Dave Debick

### Soprano

Diane Gressley  
Anne Melfo  
Kathy Smith  
Evelyn Seager  
Lindsey Maier

### Alto

Pat Bailey  
Valerie Tyler  
Jan Renovetz  
Bridget Sproul

### Instrumentalists

Becky Anderson, flute  
Erin Tomlinson, flute  
Betsey Wilson, flute  
Steve Ostrow, trumpet and violin  
Pastor Dave Shackle, trumpet

### Tenor

Jill Black  
Sue Maier  
Jill Zedan

### Bass

Cliff Cribbs  
Jon Thompson  
Doug Wrights  
Don Seager

### Percussion

Bob Chandler, percussion  
Donn Whyte, percussion  
Benjamin Rehling, percussion

### Narrators

Ed Lusk  
Robin Coyer-Westerberg

### Program

Jeannette Kroeger

Nancy Gordon's "Foreword" to *Emmanuel, Hope of Our Hearts* (published in 2002) reads as follows: "When I began working on this musical, September 11 was still circling in my thoughts daily. This national crisis had touched us all in so many ways. As I prayed about the direction for this work, it became clear to me that the Christmas word for this musical was 'hope.' I knew all of our hearts were in great need of renewed hope. I felt God's heart was to minister hope to [God's] people during these times. Thus came the title: *Emmanuel, Hope of Our Hearts*. This wonderful collection of songs seemed to flow together presenting this central theme of hope. My prayer is that every person who sings this music will experience the fresh wind of hope through God's Holy Spirit, and that, in renewed hope, God's people would go and share the hope of Christ with others.

"Christmas blessings of hope to all, Nancy Gordon"

Fifteen years later, many of us are again praying for renewed hope in a world where "truth" has become a highly subjective and absurdly contentious notion. May God's blessing of hope lighten our path, guiding us to deeper faith, peace and love this Christmastime and throughout the coming New Year. -Dave Debick

# **Emmanuel, Hope of Our Hearts**

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**December 10, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.**  
**Brecksville UCC**  
**23 Public Square**  
**Brecksville, OH 44141**