

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

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