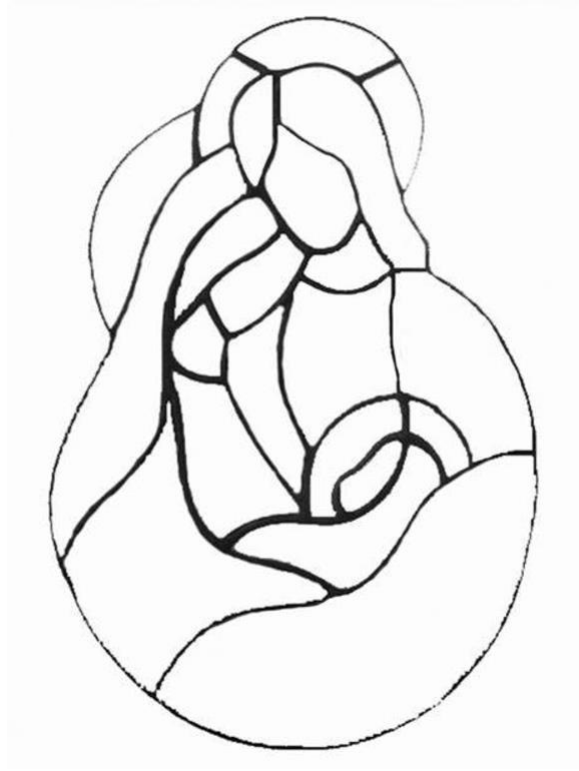


Together for Christmas

by Pepper Choplin



December 15, 2024

Brecksville United Church of Christ

23 Public Square

Brecksville, OH 44141

Together for Christmas

Words and Music by Pepper Choplin
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I. December Welcome

Based on "Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow"
(Traditional spiritual melody)

"Lay aside your pain and fear, and follow the Spirit who led you here."

II. Together for Christmas

Includes "Angels, from the Realms of Glory"
(Henry T. Smart, 1867)

"Love came down at Christmas in the form of a child.
Through the power of this love, we are reconciled."

III. Glory Is A-Coming Our Way

"We wait for the day when peace will reign,
when the lion lies down with the lamb,
and all will live in the kingdom of our God, the great I Am.
Now hate is strong and the wars drag on but peace will have its day.
When I read the Word, I believe the Word that peace is coming our way."

IV. Lord of Christmas

Based on the tune "Shenandoah" (Traditional American)
Includes "Il Est Né" (Traditional French)
"O Come, All You Faithful" (Attrib. John F. Wade, c. 1743)

"Lord, make us open now as You fill us with the power of the story, the glory,
when You came down to touch the earth."

V. Night of the Maker's Love

Based on "Divinum Mysterium"
(Sanctus trope, 11th century)
Includes "Silent Night" (Franz X. Gruber, 1818)
"Night of Silence" (Daniel Kantor, b. 1960)

"Spirit among us, shine like the star,
Your light that guides shepherds and kings from afar,
shimmer in the sky so empty, lonely, rising in the warmth of Your Son's love,
star unknowing of night and day, Spirit we wait for Your loving Son."

VI. Come, Let Us Adore Him

"As God has sent this blessing from above, so now let us return this holy love.
O come, let us adore Him, He is Christ, the Lord."

VII. 'Til Christmas Day

Based in part on the tune "I Saw Three Ships"
(Traditional English)

"So come along and sing with me, we have a song of joy to share.
So let us rise to thank the Lord for Christmas Day in the morning."

VIII. Rejoice with Joy to the World

Includes "Joy to the World"
(G. F. Handel, 1685-1759; adapt. by Lowell Mason, 1792-1872)
"Good Christians, Now Rejoice" (14th century German)

"Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today!
Ox and ass before Him bow, and He is in the manger now;
Christ is born today, Christ is born today!"

IX. Together for Christmas (Reprise)

Includes "Angels We Have Heard" (French carol melody)

"We have come together for Christmas, we have come to worship the Lord...
to pray, to sing of the glory of the newborn King."

X. We Say "Amen"

"God's presence is not a time or space, the Spirit knows no bounds.
So even though we may leave this place, we know God's presence will be
found."

**Please join us downstairs in Pilgrim Hall after the service to celebrate the season
with a light reception!**

Together for Christmas -- Participants

Dave Debick, director and pianist

Soprano

Diane Gressley
Rose Kaval
Jan Renovetz
Evelyn Seager
Kathy Smith

Alto

Karen King
Sue Maier
Tina Ortiz
Barb Petro
Bridget Sproul

Tenor

Armand Eusanio
Doug Wrights
Jill Zedan

Bass

Cliff Cribbs
David Pastor
Jeff Thompson

Instrumentalists

Erin Tomlinson & Betsey Wilson, flute
Steve Ostrow, trumpet, trombone &
violin
Craig Ramsey, percussion

Narrators

Linda Kriynovich
Robert Petrus



The presentation of this Christmas musical would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of the people listed above. Many thanks to all of them! As we look toward a New Year filled with uncertainties and challenges, let us remember the birth of our Brother Jesus in a humble stable long ago, surrounded by his devoted parents and lowly barn animals. We can only imagine what Mary and Joseph were feeling at the time. But their deep faith in God's will saw them through their journey's inauspicious start. Now we too gather Together for Christmas, not knowing precisely what awaits us in 2025, but praying that the Spirit of hope, peace, love, and joy will see us through whatever comes our way. Merry Christmas, everyone, and a happy, healthy New Year!

-David Debick