Emmanuel Episcopal Church has been serving the urban community of greater Boston as a dynamic center for spiritual discovery and renewal since 1860. We explore Christian tradition and foster inquiry through the celebration of liturgy, music, and the arts. We strive for justice and peace. Emmanuel Church welcomes all people without exception to our Eucharistic table. We honor individuals of every age, gender, ethnic heritage, sexual orientation, and religious background, and we respect the dignity of every living being.

December 24, 2021
Presiding & Preaching: The Rev. Pamela L. Werntz
Deacon: The Rev. Robert Greiner
Conductor: Ryan Turner
Interim Organist: Nathan Peace
Subdeacon: Mary Blocher
Crucifer: Rebekah Rodrigues
Torches: Joy Howard, Jamie Shore
Hymn Sing Lectors: Edgar Brenninkmeyer, Susan Entin
First Reading: Margaret Johnson
Second Reading: Mary Blocher
Prayer Intercessor: Frank Bunn
Altar Guild: Paul Curtis, Ed Mavers, Glenn Seberg
Livestream provided by Emmanuel Music
Sexton: Joel Schenk

Special thanks to our greeters: Jennifer Coplon and Bob Frank, Dr. BK Hipsher and Devon Lerner, David and Jill Silverstein, all from Central Reform Temple and our Vestry greeters: Edgar Brenninkmeyer and Peter Johnson
Welcome to Emmanuel Church! Whether we are gathering in the sanctuary or virtually, we are strong and united in the body of Christ in worship and community. Some of us may choose to be at the church, and most will remain at home. Wherever we are, we are Emmanuel. Here is what to expect if you decide to join us for worship in the sanctuary:

General Notes:
- All persons who are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 should not enter the building. If you are feeling ill, regardless of COVID-19 symptoms, please remain at home.
- **Masks/Face Coverings are required for all persons**, regardless of vaccination status.
- If you attend worship in-person and display symptoms within two weeks and test positive for COVID-19, please notify the Parish Office at info@emmanuelboston.org immediately.

Entering the Sanctuary
- Hand sanitizer and disposable masks will be available on the table before entering the Sanctuary.
- The Usher/Greeters, designated with a name tag and a red lanyard, will be available in the lobby and in the Sanctuary to provide hospitality and answer specific questions.

During Worship:
- Communion may be received by bread alone. Please follow instructions detailed in the service bulletin. If you do not wish to receive, the Prayer of Spiritual Communion is included for you to pray.
- Congregational singing is permitted.
- The most hygienic way to submit an offering is by using CashApp. Our CashApp cashtag is $EmmanuelChurchBoston. CashApp is a secure platform designed to allow you to quickly and easily make donations or payments. Please be sure to indicate if your gift should go towards your annual pledge, plate collection, or another special designation.

After Worship:
- If you do not use online giving, monetary offerings and newcomer cards may be placed in the offering box near the bottom of the chancel steps on your way out of the building.
Welcome to Emmanuel Church! You honor us with your presence. We are a faith community with a long history of challenging assumptions, of outreach, lively preaching, and mission. We also have a long history of attracting deeply thoughtful people to engage in faith, doubt, music and art, conversation, and fine liturgy. If you are new to Emmanuel Church and would like to learn more, please fill out a pew card so we can connect.

Welcome Children! Children are welcome to participate fully in the service. Gift bags by the Baptismal Font in the front of the sanctuary contain drawing materials. Parents with children, please sit in the front rows so your children can see more than the backs of the heads of other people!

Communion Invitation: Whoever you are, where ever you’ve been, whatever you’ve done, you are welcome to participate in communion here. If you are unable to come forward to receive communion, please speak to an usher before the service begins. The ministers will bring the bread and wine to your seat.

The shape of our worship service with Emmanuel Music, our Ensemble-in-Residence, has been compared to a labyrinth, where communion, or Eucharist (which means thanksgiving) is at the center. The path into the center and the path back out is guided by scripture, prayers and meditations, through speech, music, and silence. We encourage you to participate fully, knowing that you are welcome wherever you are on your spiritual journey.

Is your cell phone turned off? Thanks for checking.

Christmas Flowers & Greens are given to the Glory of God
In loving memory of Scott Corey Dunbar and Jimmy Tirrell by Meg Anderson & Karen Thompson, in thanksgiving for our family and the Emmanuel Community by Margaret & Peter Johnson, in memory of The Reverend Al and Doris Kershaw from their family, in memory of Eleanor and Richard Konecy, and in honor of the friendship and shared life throughout the year between Central Reform Temple and Emmanuel Church.

The flowers in the Narthex are given to the glory of God and in celebration of the lives of Eleanor and Richard Konecy.

At the holiday season, we remember with thanksgiving Emmanuel Musicians who have died: Susan Bailey, Ed Candidus, Tom Coleman, Mark D’Apolito, Gerald Gray, John Grimes, David Hartwell, Christopher Hogwood, Robert Honeysucker, Lorraine Hunt Lieberson, Gian Lyman, Robert Manero, Jeanne McCrorie, Richard Menaul, Richard Morrison, Hazel O’Donnell, Elinor Preble, Mary Ruth Ray, James Ryder, Craig Smith, Sanford Sylvan, Carole Taynton, Donald Teeters, Mary Ann Valaitis Whaley, and Donald Wilkinson
Christmas Eve Carol Sing
7:00 pm

Prelude  “Interlude on the Coventry Carol”  William S. Lloyd Webber (1914-1982)

Welcome  Mr. Brenninkmeyer and Ms. Entin

Collect  *(Please rise in body or spirit)*
Leader:  God be with you.
People:  And also with you.
Leader:  Loving Word of God, you have shown us the fullness of your glory in taking human flesh. Fill us, in our bodily life, with your grace and truth; that our pleasure may be boundless, and our integrity complete, in your name. Amen.

*(Please be seated)*

Reading  Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Hymn  O little town of Bethlehem

*(Please rise in body or spirit)*

O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary,
and, gathered all above
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wond’ring love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King
and peace to all the earth.

How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is giv’n!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heav’n.
No ear may hear his coming,
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray,
cast out our sin and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Immanuel!

Reading  Luke 2:8-12
In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.”

Hymn  While shepherds watched their flocks by night
(please remain seated)
While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
an angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.

"Fear not," said he for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind
"glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and all mankind.

"To you, in David's town, this day
is born of David's line
a Savior, who is Christ the Lord;
and this shall be the sign:

"The heavenly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all simply wrapped in swaddling clothes
and in a manger laid."

Thus spoke the angel. Suddenly
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song:

"All glory be to God on high,
and to the earth be peace;
to those on whom his favor rests
goodwill shall never cease."

Reading  Luke 2:13-14
And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

Hymn  Angels from the realms of glory
(Please rise in body or spirit)
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:
Refrain: Come and worship, come and worship, 
worship Christ, the newborn king.

Shepherds, in the field abiding, 
watching o'er your flocks by night, 
God with us is now residing; 
yonder shines the infant light: [Refrain]

Sages, leave your contemplations, 
brighter visions beam afar; 
seek the great Desire of nations; 
ye have seen his natal star: [Refrain]

Reading Luke 2:15-20

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Hymn What child is this?

(Please remain seated)

What child is this, who, laid to rest, 
on Mary's lap is sleeping? 
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, 
while shepherds watch are keeping?

Refrain: This, this is Christ the King, 
whom shepherds guard and angels sing; 
haste, haste to bring him laud, 
the babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate 
where ox and ass are feeding? 
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here 
the silent Word is pleading. [Refrain]

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, 
come, peasant, king, to own him; 
the King of kings salvation brings, 
let loving hearts enthrone him. [Refrain]

Reading from Cloth for the Cradle, Iona community

When the world was dark 
and the city was quiet, 
you came. 
You crept in beside us. 
And no one knew. 
Only the few 
who dared to believe
that God might do something different.
Will you do the same this Christmas, Lord?
Will you come into the darkness of tonight’s world;
not the friendly darkness
as when sleep rescues us from tiredness,
but the fearful darkness,
in which people have stopped believing
that war will end
or that food will come
or that a government will change
or that the Church cares?
Will you come into that darkness
and do something different
to save your people from death and despair?
Will you come into the quietness of this town,
not the friendly quietness
as when lovers hold hands,
but the fearful silence when
the phone has not rung
the letter has not come,
the friendly voice no longer speaks,
the doctor’s face says it all?
Will you come into that darkness,
and do something different,
not to distract, but to embrace your people?
And will you come into the dark corners
and the quiet places of our lives?
We ask this not because we are guilt-
ridden
or want to be,
but because the fullness our lives long for
depends upon us being as open and vulnerable to you
as you were to us,
when you came,
wearigno more than diapers,
and trusting human hands
to hold their maker.

Will you come into our lives,
if we open them to you
and do something different?
When the world was dark
and the city was quiet
you came.
You crept in beside us.
Do the same this Christmas, Lord.
Do the same this Christmas.

**Hymn** Silent Night
*(Please rise in body or spirit)*

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.
Silent night, holy night,
shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born!

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.

**Prayer**
Leader: Let us pray.
All: **O thou sudden God,**
generous in mercy
quickener of new life
giver of new love
irreverent, subversive,
deep source of yearning
startling comforter
bearer of darkness
unmaker of old paths
bringer of strange joy
abundant, disturbing,
healing unlooked for
tender and piercing:
late have I loved thee
O beauty so ancient and new. Amen.

(Please be seated)

**Organ Interlude**

**The Holy Eucharist**
The Feast of the Nativity

**Introit** "Lo How a Rose E’er Blooming"
sung by the choir

Lo how a rose e’er blooming,
From tender stem hath sprung.
Of Jesse’s lineage coming,
As those of old have sung.
It came, a flow’ret bright;
Amid the cold of winter,
When half-spent was the night.
Isaiah ‘twas foretold it,
The rose I have in mind,
With Mary we behold it,
The Virgin Mother kind.
To show God’s love aright;
She bore to us a Savior,
When half-spent was the night.

German folk carol,
harmonized by Michael Praetorius
Presider: Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.
People: Glory to God for ever and ever.

Processional Hymn O Come, all ye faithful

Hymn 83
ADESTE FIDELES

The Collect for Purity
Presider: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.
The Collect of the Day
Presider: God be with you.
People: And also with you.
Presider: Let us pray.

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All: Amen.

(Please be seated)

The Lessons

First Reading Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.
You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
    as with joy at the harvest,
    as people exult when dividing plunder.
For the yoke of their burden,
    and the bar across their shoulders,
    the rod of their oppressor,
    you have broken as on the day of Midian.
For all the boots of the tramping warriors
    and all the garments rolled in blood
    shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
For a child has been born for us,
    a son given to us;
    authority rests upon his shoulders;
    and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
    Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
His authority shall grow continually,
    and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
    He will establish and uphold it
    with justice and with righteousness
    from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Reader:      Hear what the spirit is saying to God’s people.
People:      Thanks be to God.

Motet “Once as I remember”

Once, as I remember,
at the time of Yule,
after mid-December,
when it bloweth cool,
I overheard a Mother
was a-singing 'Sweet Jesu,
Lalulaylu, lalulaylu, lullay lalu.'

Near as man was able,
on my knee fell I,
in the Bethlehem stable
where the babe did lie,
and the Virgin mother,
was a-singing 'Sweet Jesu,
Lalulaylu, lalulaylu, lullay lalu.'

Ox and ass around him,
Courtier-like, did stand;
Fair white linen bound him,
spun by Mary’s hand,
while the Virgin mother
was a-singing 'Sweet Jesu,
Lalulaylu, lalulaylu, lullay lalu.'
Ev’r among and o’er us
angel quire ’gan sang,
antiphons in chorus
to the newborn King.
Then the Virgin mother
fell a-singing ‘Sweet Jesu,
Lalulaylu, lalulaylu, lullay lalu.’

Second Reading  Titus 2:11-14
For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Reader:  The word of the Lord.
People:  Thanks be to God.

Gospel Hymn  It came upon a midnight clear (stanzas 1-2)
(Please rise in body or spirit)
The Gospel Reading  John 1:1-14

Deacon:

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People:

Glo-ry to you, Lord Christ.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.
Gospel Hymn  It came upon a midnight clear (stanzas 3-4)  
(See p.12-13)  

The Sermon  

The Creed  
(Please rise in body or spirit)  
The congregation rises in body or spirit and says these ancient and mysterious words:

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People  (Please add your intercessions and thanksgivings in the silence)  

Beloved of God, as we gather in this Christmas season, let it be our great joy to let God's Word take us back to Bethlehem and our Lord's birth. Let us hear in story and song the joyful proclamation of God's limitless and unfailing love born in the baby Jesus. And let us pray for the needs of the world: for peace on the earth; for goodwill; for unity within the church and among all peoples.

Silence

Let us remember in Jesus' name the many blessings of our lives. Let us pause to give thanks and praise to God for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love. Let us give thanks for tasks that demand our best efforts, and for accomplishments that satisfy and delight us. Let us give thanks, also, for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on God alone.

Silence

Let us remember in Jesus' name those of all ages who are poor and without help, those who are hungry and oppressed, sick and sorrowing, captive or in prison, those who are lonely and those who are difficult to love; and let us pray especially for those who do not know God or who have turned away from God's love.

Silence

Finally, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us but upon another shore, and in a greater light—that great cloud of witnesses, that multitude that no one can number, with whom in the Lord Jesus we are one forevermore.

Silence

Presider:  Grant these our prayers, O Holy God, for Jesus Christ's sake, our Wonderful Counselor, Mighty Savior, Prince of Peace. Amen.

The Peace

Presider:  The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People:  And also with you.
Announcements

The Holy Communion

Offertory Sentence

I beseech you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and
genleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love. (Eph. 4:1-2)

During the Offertory, we invite you to donate online using our CashApp cashtag $EmmanuelChurchBoston.
If you are visiting or new to Emmanuel, we also invite you to take this moment to complete the Welcome Card online,
linked on the inside cover of the bulletin. Paper Welcome Cards and gifts may be brought to the box at the chancel steps at the end of the service.

Offertory Hymn  Joy to the world! the Lord is come

(Please rise in body or spirit)  

Hymn 100  

Antioch
Presider: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, God Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever say this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus
Presider: We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

O God, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, “Drink this, all of you. This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”
O God, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ’s death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

All: We praise you, we bless you, we give thanks to you, and we pray to you, Lord our God.

Presider: Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the love of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace. And grant that we may find our inheritance with all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

The Lord’s Prayer

Presider: As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

All: 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Presider: We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

People: We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

Fraction Anthem
Presider:  The gifts of God for the people of God.

Communion
If you wish to receive communion, please proceed down the center aisle, taking care to maintain physical distancing. At the foot of the chancel steps, cup your hands to receive the bread from the minister and turn right or left to return to your seat via a side aisle.

Communion Motet  "O Magnum Mysterium"

O magnum mysterium et admirabile sacramentum
ut animalia viderent Dominum natum jacentem in praesepio.

O great mystery and wonderful sacrament that even the animals saw the new-born Lord lying in a manger.

Prayer of Spiritual Communion for those who are unable to receive
In union, O God, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. And since I cannot receive you today in the sacrament of bread and wine, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

St. Alphonsus Liguori (1696-1787), from Enchiridion of Indulgences, 1969, Catholic Book Publishing Inc., altered

Communion Hymn  Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light

(Please rise in body or spirit)
Cantata BWV 133 “Ich freue mich in dir” J.S. Bach
Soloists: Carley DeFranco, soprano; Margaret Lias, alto; Eric Christopher Perry, tenor; Dana Whitted, bass; Peggy Pearson & Jennifer Slowik, oboe d’amore; Gabriela Díaz, violin
Instrumentation: Oboe d’amore I & II, Bassoon, Organ, Violin I & II, Viola, Cello, Bass

Cantata for the Third Day of Christmas

1. Chor
Ich freue mich in dir
Und heiße dich willkommen,
Mein liebes Jesulein!
Du hast dir vorgenommen,
Mein Brüderlein zu sein.
Ach, wie ein süßer Ton!
Wie freundlich sieht er aus,
Der große Gottessohn!
("Ich freue mich in dir," verse 1)

2. Aria A
Getrost! es faßt ein heil’ger Leib
Des Höchsten unbegreiflichs Wesen.
Ich habe Gott – wie wohl ist mir geschehen! –
Von Angesicht zu Angesicht gesehen.
Ach! meine Seele muß genesen.
("Ich freue mich in dir," verse 2)

3. Rezitativ T
Ein Adam mag sich voller Schrecken
Vor Gottes Angesicht
Im Paradies versteeken!
Der allerhöchste Gotte kehrt selber bei uns ein:
Und so entsetzet sich mein Herz nicht:
Es kennet sein erbarmendes Gemüte.
Aus unermessner Güte
Wird er ein kleines Kind
Und heißt mein Jesulein.
("Ich freue mich in dir," verse 2)
4. Arie S
Wie lieblich klingt es in den Ohren,
Dies Wort: mein Jesus ist geboren,
Wie dringt es in das Herz hinein!
Wer Jesu Namen nicht versteht
Und wem es nicht durchs Herze geht,
Der muß ein harter Felsen sein.

5. Recitativ B
Wohlan, des Todes Furcht und Schmerz
Erwägt nicht mein getröstet Herz.
Will er vom Himmel sich
Bis zu der Erde lenken,
So wird er auch an mich
In meiner Gruft gedenken.
Wer Jesum recht erkennt,
Der stirbt nicht, wenn er stirbt,
Sobald er Jesum nennt.
("Ich freue mich in dir," verse 3)

6. Choral
Wohlan, so will ich mich
An dich, o Jesu, halten,
Und sollte gleich die Welt
In tausend Stücken spalten.
O Jesu, dir, nur dir,
Dir leb ich ganz allein;
Auf dich, allein auf dich,
Mein Jesu, schlaf ich ein.
("Ich freue mich in dir," verse 4)

"Ich freue mich in dir," Kaspar Ziegler 1697 (mov'ts. 1,3,5,6, source for the other movements)

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Post-Communion Prayer  (Please rise in body or spirit) 
BCP, p. 365

Subdeacon: Let us pray.
All: Eternal God, heavenly Author,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing
BOS Advent
Presider: When the song of the angel is still, when the star in the sky is gone, when kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their sheep, the work of Christmas begins: to find the lost, to heal
the broken, to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner, to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among
people, to make music in the heart.

(Howard Thurman)
May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God almighty, Creator, Redeemer and Giver of Life be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

Closing Hymn  Hark! the herald angels sing

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Dismissal
Deacon:  Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.
All:    Thanks be to God.

Postlude  “Final” from Symphony No. 1

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Music Notes

This evening’s cantata is made possible by a generous gift from Edgar Brenninkmeyer and John Golenski.

BWV 133

J.S. Bach

BWV 133 was last presented on December 24, 2016, with Ryan Turner conducting. The vocal soloists were Kristen Watson, soprano; Emily Marvosh, alto; Jonas Budris, tenor; and Dana Whiteside, bass. The instrumental soloists were Rose Drucker, violin, and Jane Harrison and Jennifer Slowik, oboe d’amore.

The number of different characters that Bach finds for cantatas in the Christmas season is remarkable. The day after Christmas in the second Jahrgang, Bach presented the grand and granite-like masterpiece “Christum wir sollen loben schon.” Our piece BWV 133, “Ich freue mich in dir,” performed the next day, couldn’t be more different from Cantata BWV 121. Here Bach uses the same wonderful faux folk style as the great magic realist painters like Hand Baldung (Grien) and Altdorfer. All of the earthy and realistic touches are bathed in an otherworldly heavenly glow. The opening chorus, with its sturdy oboe d’amore melismas and predictable sequences, nevertheless has a heavenly magical quality that befits the story. The bell-tones that keep reappearing in all of the orchestra play an important role throughout the cantata. The orchestration is interesting for several reasons. The two oboes d’amore double the second violins and violas instead of the usual doubling of the two violin parts. The first violin part sings out quite high in its range against the solidity of the middle voices, which gives the movement a richness that it otherwise would not have. All of the chorale phrases are plain and simple except for the sixth phrase, “Ah, what a sweet tone!,” which suddenly becomes hushed and imbued with echo effects.

The alto aria uses the oboes d’amore in an uncharacteristic trumpet-like fashion. The little military motives clearly indicate that Bach reads this text as a call to arms. A little motive appears in the introduction, and will reappear only under the words “wie wohl ist mir geschehen.” It functions like a personal weapon against the cruelties of the world. This motive reappears in the soprano aria with even more prominence.

The hushed lines at the end of the tenor recitative take the cantata inward, and bring us to the extraordinary soprano aria. Although the introduction is only eight bars long, it is so full of material and variety that it seems like a world of its own. A beautiful singing melody in played against a slithering bass part that sounds almost like a sympathetic vibration. The violin then goes into a swinging arpeggio figure that carries us into the cadence. The motive from the alto aria is taken from the orchestra’s accompaniment of the first theme of the soprano aria. This quiet little motive has a kind of ghostly presence that reminds us of “wie wohl ist mir geschehen.” The bells referred to in the text are illustrated by both the violin arpeggios and a repeated note figure that is played on both a fingered and an open string. In the B section, the continuo drops out and the time signature changes to a 12/8 Largo, making this section even quieter. There is also a full da capo. This lullaby floats by like angels in a Grien painting. It is interesting that this formula is reversed in another aria written for this day in Cantata BWV 151. There the 12/8 lullaby is the A-section and the 4/4 time is reserved for the B-section.

The bass recitative quotes, at the end, more lines of the chorale text but not the melody. It is surprising that the final chorale harmonization has not become famous as a Christmas carol, for it is a wonderful melody, beautifully harmonized and in a singable range. brings back not only the trumpet, but also the marvelous energy of the opening chorus.

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