



SMU PERKINS
SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 10, 2008

For more information contact: Roberta Cox, 214-768-2335, rcox@smu.edu

A Service of Nine Lessons and Carols, Perkins Chapel at SMU on December 4, 2008

Dallas, Texas – Perkins School of Theology will present an inspiring celebration with readings and music in the tradition of *A Service of Nine Lessons and Carols* on Thursday, December 4, 2008 at 4:00 and 8:00 p.m. in Perkins Chapel, 6001 Bishop Boulevard on the SMU campus. Parking for the two services will be available on Bishop Boulevard.

A Service of Nine Lessons and Carols, originating at the cathedral of Truro in Cornwall, England on Christmas Eve, 1880, is the retelling in scripture and song of the story of our redemption in Jesus Christ. Nearly four decades after its conception, the service was modified and introduced to King's College at Cambridge in 1918 by Dean Eric Milner-White and Organist Arthur H. Mann. Since that time the King's College tradition has been adopted by many other communities around the world.

While this year's service at Perkins Chapel retains much of the drama and historical appeal of the original, it also reflects more fully the liturgical context of the Advent season, the musical traditions of Perkins School of Theology and Meadows School of the Arts, and the multicultural environment of SMU. This year's service music comes from a wide variety of Western and global cultures ranging from South Africa and Kenya to France and Germany, and will celebrate the centennial of the birth of two European church musicians, Hugo Distler (1908-1941) and Olivier Messiaen (1908-1992). Three compositions within the service were written by Suzanne Byrd, a Perkins Master of Sacred Music student; and Perkins alumni, John Thornburg and Paul Caldwell.

Professor Michael Hawn has prepared this service in collaboration with Meadows School of the Arts since 1992. Upon his appointment to the faculty of Perkins School of Theology in 2006 as associate professor of Sacred Music, Dr. Christopher Anderson became organist for the service. This year Dr. Pamela Elrod, director of Choral Activities at Meadows School of the Arts, will direct the Meadows Chorale, while Dr. Hawn will lead the Seminary Singers of Perkins in this rich weaving of Scripture and choral music.

Perkins School of Theology, founded in 1911, is one of five official University-related schools of theology of The United Methodist Church. Degree programs include the Master of Divinity, Master of Sacred Music, Master of Theological Studies, Master of Church Ministries, and Doctor of Ministry, as well as the Ph.D., in cooperation with SMU's Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences.

- # -

- # -

- # -