

Reconciling the World through Christ



**Christmas Worship Services
Perkins Chapel
Southern Methodist University
December 1, 2016
Four and Eight O'clock**

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Chorale Prelude *Allein Gott in der Höh sei Ehr* BWV 662

To God alone on high be glory
and thanks for his mercy,
since now and forever more
no harm can touch us.
God is pleased with us,
now there is great peace without cease,
all feuds have now an end. (trans. Francis Browne)

CHIMING THE HOUR

PROCESSIONAL

Jubilate Servite

Taizé Canon

Praise God all the earth. Serve the Lord joyfully. Alleluia!

*HYMN 626

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence (Third century)

PICARDY

*BIDDING PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

Choral Response

2 Corinthians 5:19 (2016)

Isabella Ellis (b. 1978)
M.S.M. Candidate

God gave us a gift in Christ, and through this gift we were brought back in harmony and togetherness with God. Through Christ, God is not counting our sins against us; God is entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.

Paraphrase by Isabella Ellis

SCENE I

Reconciliation through Creation

Narration

Lesson

Genesis 1:1-27

A paraphrase from "The Creation," *God's Trombones* (1927)

James Weldon Johnson (1871-1938)

Choral Response

True Light (2002)

Keith Hampton (b. 1957)

*Congregational Affirmation (Hymn 184)

Of the Father's Love Begotten (Fourth century) DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

SCENE II

Reconciliation through the Fulfillment of Prophecy

Narration

Choral Preparation

Canticle of the Turning (1990) STAR OF THE COUNTRY DOWN
Irish Traditional; Arr. And text by Rory Cooney

Lesson

From I Samuel 1 and 2; Luke 1

Congregational Affirmation (Hymn 200)

Tell Out, My Soul (1961)

WOODLANDS

SCENE V

Reconciliation and Incarnation

Narration

Lesson From Genesis 1 and 2; John 1:1-14

Choral Response *Word of Words* (1987) Richard M. Walsh (b. 1954)
M.S.M. Candidate

Word of words before the worlds of old;
Light of lights of whom the prophets told;
The Word incarnate, shepherds to the fold:
Alleluia! God sent the Son to earth.
 Still beneath the star a burrow bows his head.
 Softly sings a cow to Christ in manger bed.
 A lamb kneels down in rev'rent form;
 a dove keeps watch o'er head.
Our Christ has come, O Holy One,
the prophecy is nigh.
Alleluia! Our Savior from on high.
 Crossing desert sands come mystics from afar.
 Prophecies foretold the promise of a star.
 Wise and rich men bearing treasure: incense, gold, and myrrh.
 The men ride on before the dawn to hasten to his side.
 Alleluia! For he shall be their guide.
This the story then: our God came down to earth,
gave himself to all: our glorious second birth.
Sing to God in heav'n above; sing praises, all the earth! Alleluia!

*HYMN

In Darkest Night (1988)
See the insert for this hymn.

THAXTED

*BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE *Song of Simeon (Nunc dimittis)* (1994) Jane M. Marshall (b. 1924)
B.M. '45; M.M. '68
Adjunct Professor of Choral Conducting, SMU (1979-1986)

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word;
for mine eyes have seen thy salvation
which thou hast prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to thy people Israel.
(Luke 2:29-32, RSV)

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Johann Sebastian Bach
Chorale Prelude *In dulci jubilo* BWV 729
Please remain seated for the closing voluntary.

Participants in This Evening's Services

Readers

Craig C. Hill, *Dean, Perkins School of Theology*
Evelyn L. Parker, *Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Perkins School of Theology*
Susanna Wesley Centennial Professor of Practical Theology
Marjorie Procter-Smith, *Le Van Professor Emerita of Preaching and Worship*
Narration prepared by Rev. John Thornburg, M.Div. '81

Organist

Christopher S. Anderson, *Associate Professor of Sacred Music,*
Perkins School of Theology

Choir

Seminary Singers and Seminary Singers Alumni / ae,
Directed by C. Michael Hawn,
University Distinguished Professor of Church Music,
Director, Sacred Music Program, Perkins School of Theology
Simon Hill, Ronnie Wilson, M.S.M. Candidates, Assistant Directors and
Elise Choi, M.T.S. Candidate, Accompanist
Compositions by Isabella Ellis (M.S.M. 1) and Richard Walsh (M.S.M. 2)

Guest Performers

Donté Ford, M.S.M. '15, *Piano*; Rebecca Garrett, M.S.M. '13, *Flute and Percussion*
Edward Gibson, M.S.M. '06, *Soloist*; Brian Hehn, M.S.M. '12, *Percussion*
Jackson Henry, M.S.M. '03, *Piano*; Joseph Stobaugh, M.S.M. '03, *Soprano Sax*
Stephanie Rhoades, M.S.M. '96, *Violin*; Ben Anderson Hensley, M.S.M. '15, *Guitar*
Andrew Donaldson, *Guitar*; Angela Johnson, *Dance*

Frontispiece: *When a Child Is Born*, oil painting, by He Qi (pronounced *huh chee*). He Qi, born during China's tumultuous Cultural Revolution (1966-1976) has gained worldwide recognition for paintings of biblical events. His art offers Chinese Christians and beyond a peaceful identity for the Chinese Church, one of the fastest growing churches in the world. He Qi was first among Mainland Chinese to earn a Ph.D. in Religious Art (1992) after the Cultural Revolution. He studied at the Nanjing Normal University, the Nanjing Art Institute, and the Hamburg Art Institute in Germany. He is a member of the China Art Association and a council member of the Asian Christian Art Association. He won the 20th Century Award for Achievement in the field of Religious Art Theory and Christian Art Creation by the International Biographical Centre Cambridge, England. He is currently a resident of Minnesota. His work has been displayed in museums, galleries, and churches around the world. For more information on He Qi's art and how to order it, see <http://www.heqiart.com/>.

Background of this Service

For nearly six decades choirs from Perkins School of Theology and Meadows School of the Arts have led Christmas Worship Services. The Christmas Worship Service sponsored by Perkins was instituted by Professors Grady Hardin and Lloyd Pfautsch in 1959. The service is a tradition closely tied to the development of the Master of Sacred Music Program that began in 1960. A forerunner to this tradition was established in 1948 when Perkins Professor Fred Gealy led the Seminary Singers, a non-auditioned ensemble of theology and sacred music students, and the seminary community in a program of Christmas music during the last chapel service of the fall semester.

During the tenure of Professor Lloyd Pfautsch (1921-2003), one of Martin Luther's Christmas sermons became a staple of this service, as well as the pattern of including a choral group from Meadows School of the Arts along with the Seminary Singers, a tradition maintained to the present day. Professor Carlton Young (b. 1926) collaborated with Dr. Pfautsch between 1964 and 1975. Between 1976 and 1990, the collaboration continued with the late Professor Roger Deschner (1927-1991) from Perkins and Dr. Pfautsch who retired in 1992.

Robert Anderson (1934-2009) joined Pfautsch in 1960 and was a primary influence on the development of the M.S.M. program. He was the service organist at the annual Seminary Christmas Worship Services until 1995. Anderson, University Distinguished Professor of Organ and Sacred Music, was known for his many exceptional organ students, one of which is Dr. Christopher Anderson.

Following the appointment of C. Michael Hawn to Perkins in 1992, the service structure became a variation of the well known Nine Lessons and Carols from King's College-Cambridge. Upon his appointment to the faculty of Perkins School of Theology in 2006, Professor Christopher Anderson (M.S.M., M.M., '91) became the service organist and has added a liturgical sensitivity to this service through his organ improvisations, choice of literature, and sensitive service playing.

While the annual tradition of the service continues, the structure since 2010 reflects the development of a specific theological theme within the context of the biblical narrative, in this case, through five scenes. This service features current students who participate in the Seminary Singers and Seminary Singers alumni/ae who have returned for Michael Hawn's final service before his retirement in May 2017 after twenty-five years as a professor at Perkins School of Theology, and twelve years as director of the Sacred Music Program. In addition to incorporating a variety of anthems from the classical repertoire, Dr. Hawn usually includes music from the world Christian church and student compositions. This year current students Isabella Ellis (M.S.M. 1) and Richard Walsh (M.S.M. 2) have contributed compositions.

Returning as a reader is Marjorie Procter-Smith, *Le Van Professor Emerita of Preaching and Worship*, who retired in 2011. Marjorie served as chair of the Perkins Chapel renovation from 1998-1999, the only academic year in which the annual Christmas Services were not held because the chapel was closed. Rev. John Thornburg, hymnwriter, pastor, enlivener of congregational song, and the Texas Methodist Foundation Area Representative for the North Texas Annual Conference, has composed narration developing the theme for this service from within the context of the biblical story.

Joining Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Evelyn Parker as a reader is Craig Hill who became the eleventh dean of Perkins School of Theology on July 1, 2016. A New Testament scholar, Dean Hill previously served on the faculty of Duke Divinity School, where he was executive director of the Doctor of Ministry and Master of Christian Practice programs. He also was a research professor of theological pedagogy. Prior to his tenure at Duke, he held numerous positions over the course of fifteen years at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C. They included professor of New Testament, executive director of academic outreach, director of the Wesley Ministry Network, co-director of the dual degree program with The American University and director of the Master of Theological Studies degree program.