

We gratefully acknowledge and thank those who made this service possible: Soloists, musicians, organist, the Chancel Choir, Pastors, Dieners, ushers, coffee makers, bun bakers, Megan Quattlebaum, Kevin and Katie Handell.

**Dieners**

Men and boys:

Calvin Cammann, Russell Cammann, Heath Cullop, Henry Cullop, Mac Dunbar, Jackson Handell, Justin Merrell, Sam Merrell, Liam Miller, Trip Miller, Mike Morrison, Cameron Register, Chris Register, Jackson Register

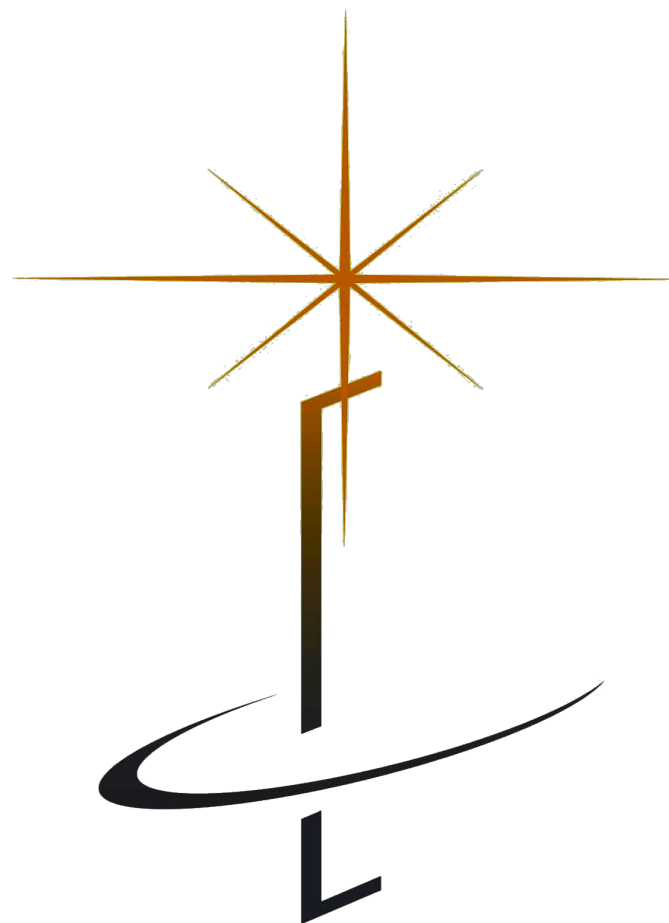
Girls:

Wells Carter, Evie Cullop, Zara Dabbs, Mary Scott Handell, Mary Dawkins Merrell, Clarie Oswald, Ella Kate Oswald, Raegan Oswald, Hannah Vitters

**Acolyte:** Mac Dunbar

The hot chocolate was prepared by Kevin Handell.

The buns were baked by Julie Robinson.



# Moravian Love Feast

Lexington United Methodist Church

December 18, 2022

6:30 pm

## Order of Worship

**Prelude** *Savior of the Nations, Come* J. Bender

### Invocation

**\*Hymn #234** *O Come, All Ye Faithful* Wade

**Scripture and Comments** John 1:1-5

### Hymns During the Serving of the Love Feast

(Please join in the singing of Christmas hymns as the buns and coffee are served. The words are in the bulletin)

**Blessing** (spoken by all)

*Come, Lord Jesus, our Guest to be,  
and bless these gifts bestowed by thee. Amen*

### Anthems During the Partaking of the Love Feast Meal

*Noel Peace Canon*

*Fantasia On Greensleeves Pam Hayes, violin*

*Away in a Manger*

### Collecting of the Remnants

(Please join in the singing of Christmas hymns as the cups are collected. The words are in the bulletin)

### The Candle Service

**Anthem** *Morning Star* Hagen  
Amelia Miller, Soloist

**\*Hymn** *Christ the Lord, the Lord Most Glorious*

(Music and words in bulletin. During the singing of the 4th stanza, please raise your candle high as an act of rededication. Extinguish your candle as the pastors extinguish their candles.)

### Benediction

### Trinity Chimes

**Postlude** *The King Shall Come* American Folksong

**\*The people standing**

## Christ the Lord, the Lord Most Glorious 91

John Miller, 1756-1790 (1789)

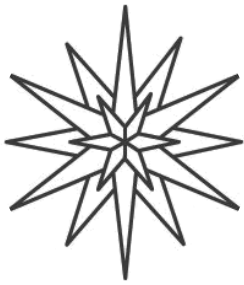
CHRIST THE LORD 8,7,8.  
Edward W. Leinbach, 1823-1901 (1874)

1. Christ the Lord, the Lord most glo-rious, Now is born; O  
2. Praise the Lord, for on us shin-eth Christ, the Sun of  
3. Praise the Lord, Whose sav-ing splen-dor Shines in - to the

shout a - loud! Man by Him is made vic - to - rious;  
Right - eous - ness; He to us in love in - clin - eth,  
dark - est night; O what prais - es shall we ren - der

Praise your Sav - iour, hail your God!  
Cheers our souls with par - doning grace.  
For this nev - er - ceas - ing Light. A - MEN.

4 Praise the Lord, God our Salvation,  
Praise Him Who retrieved our loss;  
Sing, with awe and love's sensation,  
Hallelujah, God with us.



The Star has a three-fold message:

It testifies to the greatness of the Creator who made the stars on the fourth day, numberless, differing in glory and praising the might that laid the foundations of the world.

It is a reminder of the star that once led the Wise Men from their distant home until "it came and stood over the house where the young child was, and they fell down before Him and worshipped Him."

It points to the Divine Star, foretold by the prophet who said "A star shall come out of Jacob" and fulfilled in Him who said of Himself, "I am the root and offspring of David, and the bright and morning star."

*Light of the world, into our hearts, Let thy full glory shine.  
That we may follow now Thy star, until we reach thy shrine.*

This is our 37th Moravian Love Feast Candlelight Service, which has become a tradition at Lexington United Methodist Church. It was started by Dick and Carole Farrington in 1981.

The Christmas Love Feast at LUMC includes a candle service with the anthem *Morning Star* and the congregational hymn *Christ the Lord, the Lord Most Glorious*.

### *The Origins of the Love Feast*

The first love feast was served in Germany on August 13, 1727, following the renewal of the Moravian Church. The love feast is not to be confused with the sacrament of Holy Communion—it does not take the place of the sacrament of Communion, but is styled after the common meal partaken in love and fellowship by the early church as described in the book of Acts. The name of the service is a literal translation of the New Testament word "agape."

It is interesting that John Wesley, the cofounder of the Methodist Church with his brother Charles, sailed to the U S with the Moravians and was influenced by their faith, joy, and practice of love feasts. This pilgrim group celebrated their journey with a love feast when they safely arrived in Savannah, Georgia. His diary notes: "After evening prayers, we joined with the Germans in one of their lovefeasts. It was begun and ended with thanksgiving and prayer, and celebrated in so decent and solemn a manner as a Christian of the apostolic age would have allowed to be worthy of Christ."

The Christmas Love Feast celebrates the birth of Christ through scripture, prayer, the singing of hymns, the lighting of candles, and the serving of Moravian buns and sweet, creamy coffee.

There is a special group of servers called "dieners" (German for *serve*), who distribute the buns and cups of coffee. Buns are passed along the pews in baskets, each person taking a bun and passing the basket on. The cups of coffee are carried on a tray and passed hand-to-hand by the occupants of the pews. All of the serving activity, and the collecting of the cups after the partaking, take place while the Christmas hymns are being sung.

It is understood that no one in the congregation should partake in the meal until all are served and the Blessing is recited.

### What Child is This?

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?

**Chorus: This, this is Christ the King, Whom shepherds guard and  
angels sing; Haste, haste, to bring Him laud, The Babe, the Son of  
Mary!**

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,  
Come one and all, to own Him.  
The King of kings salvation brings;  
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.

**Chorus**

### O Little Town of Bethlehem

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 men on earth.

### Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains  
**Gloria, in excelsis Deo!, Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song?  
**Gloria, in excelsis Deo!, Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

### Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King!  
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room,  
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
the glories of His righteousness  
and wonders of His love, and wonders of His love,  
and wonders, wonders of His love.

### The First Noel

The first Noel the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
**Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.**

They looked up and saw a star  
shining in the east, beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night.  
**Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.**

### Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King:  
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;  
with th'angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
**Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King"**

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.  
**Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King"**