



December 23, 2018

616-451-8467 Office@CalvinCRC.org www.CalvinCRC.org

Calvin Christian Reformed Church

December 23, 2018

5:00 PM

The Service of Lessons and Carols was first sung at the Cathedral of Truro, England. It was later adapted for use in Kings College Chapel, Cambridge, where the service has been sung each Christmas for the past 100 years, beginning in 1918. It consists of a series of Scripture lessons which outline the story of Christmas, coupled with appropriate carols, anthems, and hymns.

The service will proceed without announcements.

Handbell Prelude

Ding Dong Merrily on High

Valerie W. Stephenson

Organ Prelude

Silent Night

Paul Rutz

Handbell Prelude

News of Great Joy

arr. Arnold Sherman

Flute Prelude

Grand Fantasia on “I Saw Three Ships”

David Overton

Handbell Prelude

O Come, Little Children

Sondra Tucker

Piano Prelude

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming and Carol of the Bells

Dennis Alexander

Choral Call to Worship: **Antiphonal Noel**

Text and Music: Greg Gilpin

O come, sing together, “Noel” to the skies,
O come, sing together, our voices shall rise.
With tidings of joy let our music resound.
O come, sing together, “Noel” all around.

* Opening Carol: **Once in Royal David's City**

Text: Cecil F. Alexander

Music: Henry J. Gauntlett

The congregation shall stand as the introduction begins.

Stanza 1: Solo Stanza 2: Choir Stanzas 3,4: All

Solo Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly
Choir He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and
All And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re -
All Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble with the ox - en

cat - tle shed, where a moth - er laid her ba - by
Lord of all; and his shel - ter was a sta - ble
deem - ing love, for that child, so dear and gen - tle,
stand - ing by we shall see him, but in heav - en,

in a man - ger for his bed: Mar - y was that
and his cra - dle was a stall: with the poor and
is our Lord in heav'n a - bove: and he leads his
set at God's right hand on high: there his chil - dren

moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
mEEK and low - ly lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
chil - dren on to the place where he has gone.
gath - er round bright like stars, with glo - ry crowned.

Bidding Prayer (concluding with **The Lord's Prayer** spoken in unison)

Beloved in Christ, at this Christmastide let it be our care and delight to hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger.

Therefore let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by this Holy Child.

But first, let us pray.

We pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace on earth and goodwill among all his people; for unity and brotherhood within the Church he came to build, and especially in this our congregation. (*Silent prayers*)

And because this would rejoice his heart, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry, and the oppressed; the sick and those that mourn, the lonely and the unloved, the aged and the little children; all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love. (*Silent prayers*)

Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore, and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom in the Lord Jesus we are one for evermore. (*Silent prayers*)

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the Throne of Heaven, in the words which Christ himself has taught us:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.
For yours is the kingdom and the power
and the glory forever. Amen.**

Bidding Carol: **Almighty Word**

Text: Sylvia Barrett

Music: Anthony Scott

Almighty Word, immortal Love, eternal source of light,
descend to us from heaven above, disperse our earthly night.
“How long, O Lord,” our spirits cry, “before thy reign of peace,
when sin before thy face shall fly, and all corruption cease?”

When comes the long-expected guest, the Father’s only Son?
When shall the pure in heart be blest and God redeem his own?
O come to us, Emmanuel, that we, from sin set free,
in thy undying light may dwell, and fitly welcome thee.

Almighty God, whose chastening power shall cleanse us at the end,
help us to face that awful hour, be thou both judge and friend.
Thy kingdom come, whatever the cost to worldly pomp and pride;
and Father, Son, and Holy Ghost be ever glorified. Amen.

The First Lesson

God announces in the Garden of Eden that the seed of woman shall bruise the serpent’s head.

Genesis 3

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: **Thanks be to God.**

Choir Carol: **Comfort, Comfort, These My People**

Text: Johann Olearius, trans. Catherine Winkworth

Music: Matthew Armstrong

“Comfort, comfort these my people; tell of peace!” so says our God.
“Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow’s load.
To God’s people now proclaim that God’s pardon waits for them!
Tell them that their war is over, God will reign in peace forever!

For the herald’s voice is crying in the desert far and near,
calling us to true repentance, since the kingdom now is here
Oh, that warning cry obey. Now prepare for God a way,
let the valleys rise to meet him, and the hills bow down to greet him!

Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain!
Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits his holy reign!
For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad,
and all flesh shall see the token that God’s word is never broken!

Handbell Carol: **Savior of the Nations, Come**

Cathy Moklebust

The Second Lesson

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.

Isaiah 9

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: **Thanks be to God.**

Choir Carol: **Unto Us**

Text and Music: Mark Patterson

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given.

Come and worship Christ the Lord, born for us in a manger stall,
born to reign as the Lord of all.

Hail, the Prince of Peace! Hail, the King of kings!
Christ, the promised Savior is born!

Angels sing to welcome him, shepherds kneel to worship him,
wise men bring their treasures from afar. Behold, the promised Son of God!

* Congregational Carol: **Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus**

Text: Charles Wesley

Music: Henry J. Gauntlett

The congregation shall stand as the introduction begins.

Come, thou long - ex - pec - ted Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art:
Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,

from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.
dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.

The Third Lesson

The prophet in exile foresees the coming of the glory of the Lord.

Isaiah 60

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: **Thanks be to God.**

Choir Carol: **O Come, O Come Immanuel**

Text: 18th-century Latin, trans. J. M. Neale

Music: John Rutter

O come, O come, Immanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save, and give them victory over the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here,
dispel the gloomy clouds of night and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
in ancient times didst give the law in cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

The Fourth Lesson

St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

Luke 2

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: **Thanks be to God.**

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Handbell Carol: **Lo, How a Rose**

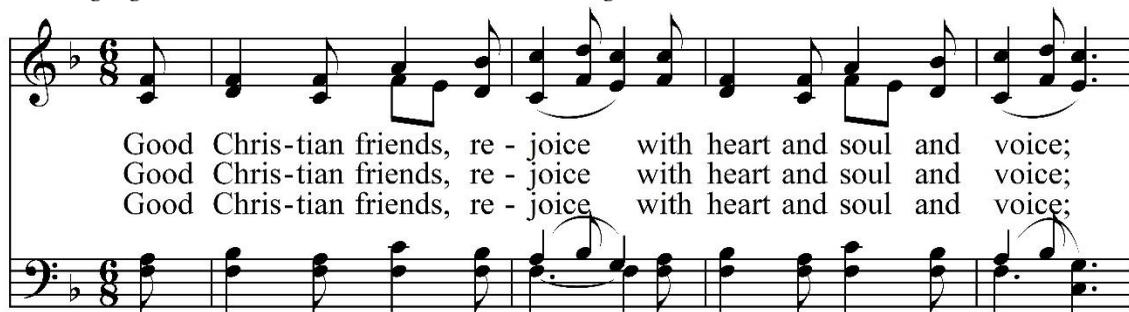
Cynthia Dobrinski

* Congregational Carol: **Good Christian Friends, Rejoice**

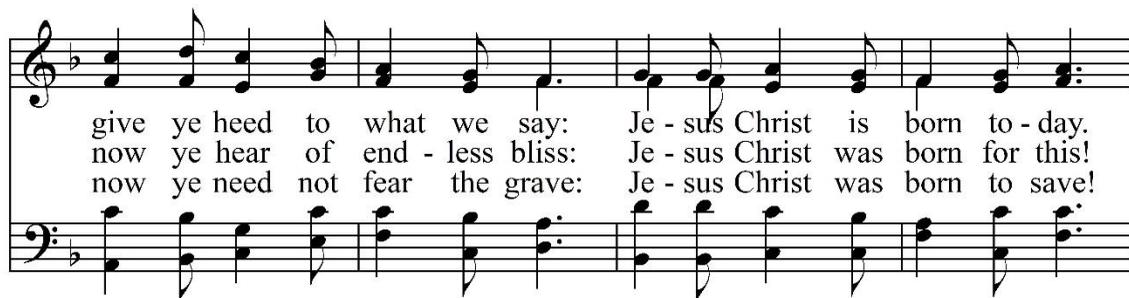
Text: trans. John M. Neale

Music: German, 14th c.

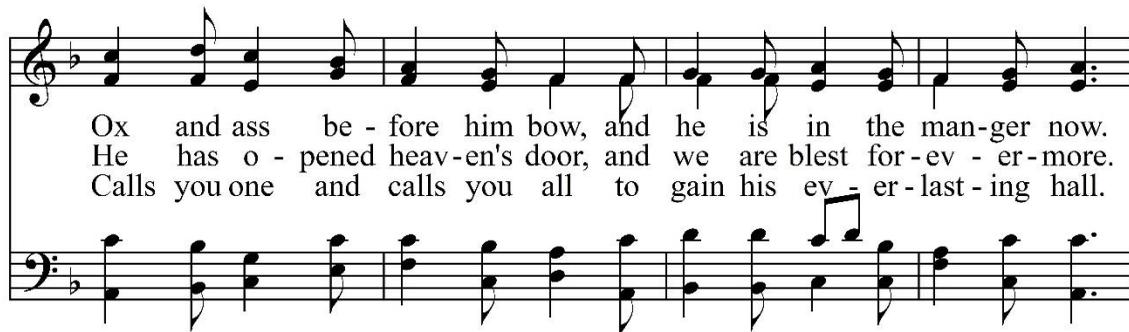
The congregation shall stand as the introduction begins.



Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day.
now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!



Ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man-ger now.
He has o - pened heav-en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

The Fifth Lesson
The shepherds go to the manger.
Luke 2

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: **Thanks be to God.**

Choir Carol: While the Shepherds Were Watching

Text: Benedict Ellis

Music: C. Armstrong Gibbs

While the shepherds were watching, were watching their sheep,
an angel came to them and woke them from sleep;
his message was simple, as simple as they,
but oh, what good tidings he gave them that day.
Now sing, “Glory to God, goodwill towards men,
and peace to you all on the earth. Amen.”

Not to rulers and princes was God’s word revealed,
but to rough-and-tumble shepherds who were out in the field,
who huddled in sheepskins over fires of bleak thorn,
until they were told God’s Son had been born.
Now sing, “Glory to God, goodwill towards men,
and peace to you all on the earth. Amen.”

Not in a bright palace was young Jesus found,
but in a dim stable with straw on the ground,
his cradle a manger, and Mary’s soft breast
was the gentle warm pillow where he took his rest.
Now sing, “Glory to God, goodwill towards men,
and peace to you all on the earth. Amen.”

To these simple shepherds, to the thief on the tree
God spoke in his mercy and he set us all free;
and his was the carol, the day Christ was born,
that rang from a night-sky as bright as the dawn.
Now sing, “Glory to God, goodwill towards men,
and peace to you all on the earth. Amen.”

The Sixth Lesson
The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.
Matthew 2

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: **Thanks be to God.**

Congregational Carol: **As with Gladness Men of Old**

Text: William C. Dix

Music: Conrad Kocher

Stanza 1: All

Stanza 2: Women

Stanza 3: Men

Stanza 4: All

Stanza 5: All, Unison

An offering will be collected for Calvin Church's Community Care goals during the singing of this carol.

As with glad-ness men of old did the guid-ing star be-hold,
Women As with joy-ful steps they sped to that low-ly man-ger bed,
Men As they of-fered gifts most rare at that man-ger plain and bare,
Unison Ho-ly Je-sus, ev-ery day keep us in the nar-row way,
Unison In that glo-rious ci-tiy bright none shall need cre-a-ted light;

as with joy they hailed its light, lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright;
there to bend the knee be-fore Christ, whom heaven and earth a-dore;
so may we with ho-ly joy, pure and free from sin's al-loy,
and when mor-tal things are past, bring our ran-somed lives at last
you its light, its joy, its crown, you its sun which goes not down;

so, most gra-cious Lord, may we ev-er-more your splen-dor see.
so may we with will-ing feet ev-er seek your mer-cy seat.
all our cost-liest trea-sures bring, Christ, to you, our heav-en-ly king.
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds your glo-ry hide.
there for-ev-er may we sing al-le-lu-ias to our King!

The Seventh Lesson

St. John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

John 1

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: **Thanks be to God.**

Choir Carol: **No Small Wonder**

Text: Paul Wigmore

Music: Paul Edwards

Small wonder the star, small wonder the light,
the angels in chorus, the shepherds in fright;
but stable and manger for God—no small wonder!

Small wonder the kings, small wonder they bore
the gold and the incense, the myrrh to adore;
but God gives his life on a cross—no small wonder!

Small wonder the love, small wonder the grace,
the power, the glory, the light of his face;
but all to redeem my poor heart—no small wonder!

Candle Lighting

The congregation shall rise to light their candles and to sing the closing carols.

*Candlelight will be passed from the end of each pew to every person in the congregation,
representing the way that the Light, which is Jesus, has come into the world.*

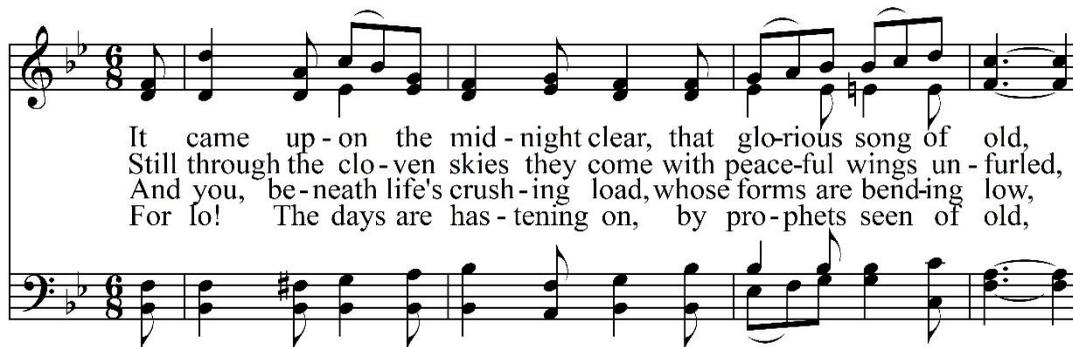
Please take care to tip only the unlit candles to avoid dripping wax.

* Congregational Carol: **It Came upon the Midnight Clear**

Text: Edward H. Sears

Music: Richard S. Willis

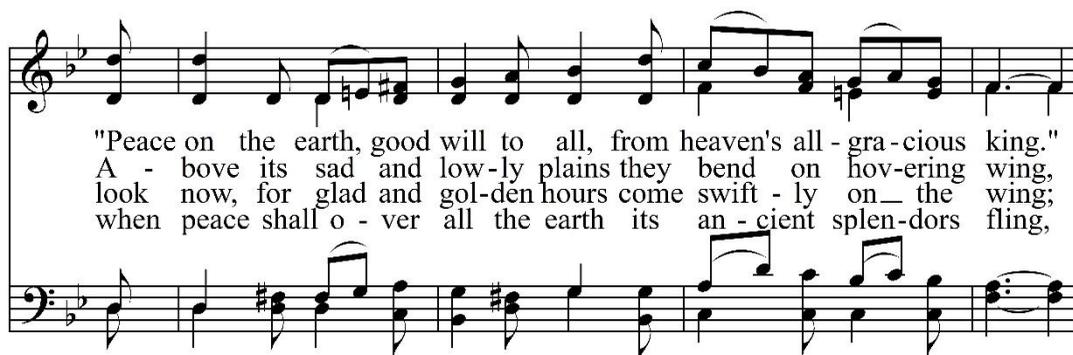
The congregation shall stand as the introduction begins.



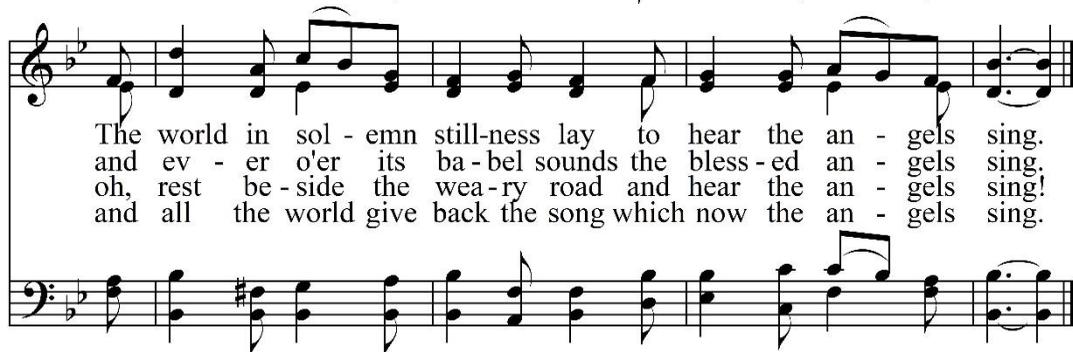
It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,
And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,
For lo! The days are has - tening on, by pro - phets seen of old,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
and still their heaven - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.
who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow;
when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,



"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all - gra - cious king."
A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - ering wing,
look now, for glad and gol - den hours come swift - ly on - the wing;
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing!
and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

* Congregational Carol: **Silent Night! Holy Night**

Text: Joseph Mohr

Music: Franz Gruber

Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! All is calm,
Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Son of God,
Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Won - drous star,

all is bright 'round yon vir - gin moth - er and child!
love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,
lend thy light; with the an - gels let us sing

Ho - ly in - fant so ten - der and mild, sleep in
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus,
Al - le - lu - ia to our King: "Christ the

heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
Lord, at your birth! Je - sus, Lord, at your birth!
Sav - ior is born! Christ the Sav - ior is born."

* Closing Prayer

* Benediction

* Congregational Carol: **O Come, All Ye Faithful**

Text: John F. Wade, trans. Frederick Oakeley

Music: John F. Wade

O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger,
Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem!
fain we em - brace thee, with awe and love.
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove:

Come and be - hold him born the King of An - gels.
Who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?
"Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est!"

O come, let us a - dore him, o come, let us a - dore him,

o come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Please return candles and holders to the candle carts in the narthex or the atrium as you exit.

Participants

Liturgist: Rev. Rebecca Jordan Heys

Readers (in order of appearance): Cherie Kuizema, Tyler Koeman, Bruce Klanderman, Louisa Houskamp, Jay Lindquist, Gwen Overbeek, Rev. Brad Zwiers

Organist: Kenneth Bos

Pianists: Lisa Meyer, Nancy Triezenberg, and Kenneth Bos

Flutist: Amy Netz

Violinist: Julie Bowden

Handbell Accompaniment: Jacqueline Lanning and Clara Tolsma

Child soloist: Allory Netz

Adult soloist: Jan Postma

The Allegro Ringers, under the direction of Stephanie Wiltse

Joanna Allerhand, Tammy Baker, Kim Fredricks, Donna Houskamp, Penny Kindraka, Cherie Kuizema, Lynn McBroom, Elly Nyhof, Jan Postma, Jane Reardon, Arianna Tolsma, Melanie Tolsma, Tabitha Tolsma

The Cherub Choir, under the direction of Amy Netz

and The Covenant Choir, under the direction of Maria VandenBosch

Emma Baker, Ethan Baker, Ella Jansen, Abi Lizewski, Joshua Meyer, Nate Meyer, Charles Molenbeek, Lane Molenbeek, Lucy Molenbeek, Allory Netz, Jacob Netz, Molly Netz, Kate Rayburn, Luke Spoelma, Hannah Triezenberg, Kate Triezenberg, Aubrey Visker, Lydia Visker

The Festival Choir, under the direction of Kenneth Bos

Sopranos: Becky Baker, Fay Bos, Morgan Burghgraef, Marcia Huizinga, Penny Kindraka, Evonne Kok, Cherie Kuizema, Jeannine Lanning, Lynn Bardolph McBroom, Amy Netz, Rebecca Padgett, Jan Postma, Joanne Rozema, Jan Wilkins, Kim Wierenga, Melanie Yff

Altos: Karen Bordewyk, Julie Bowden, Marjorie Brink, Kathy DeMey, Jan Dykgraaf, Dorothy Frisch, Ruth Haverkamp, Louisa Houskamp, Trudi Huizenga, Kris Ippel, Anjean Stegink, Suzi Steketee, Kathy VanOss, Jane VanZytveld, Rachel VanZytveld, Barbara Vis

Tenors: Bert Bowden, Jack DeBoer, Bob DeVries, Dave Dykgraaf, Cornie Huizinga, Corrin Meyer, Graham Rayburn, Robert Schoone-Jongen, Steve Triezenberg, Gordon VandenBerg, Bill Vis

Basses: John Beernink, Gord Bordewyk, Gary Burghgraef, Walter DeBoer, Kurt Frisch, Bobby Houskamp, Art Jongsma, Jim Kindraka, Jay Lindquist, Ron Rozema, John Tiemstra

The Joyringers, under the direction of Melanie Tolsma

Annika Baker, Nathan Baker, Eleanor Hazenberg, Bobby Houskamp, Louisa Houskamp, Erin Hubka, Isaac Hubka, Jacqueline Lanning, Clara Tolsma, Lydia Tolsma