

Raise the Christmas Hallelujah

Down from heaven a Savior came, for He left His high and heavenly throne. Down from heaven to earth He came; as the Savior, great Messiah, He is First and Last, as the King of kings. Raise the Christmas hallelujah. Raise the celebration song. From the throne of heaven's glory, Christ came down that we may rise. So come, come, join the holy chorus. Come, come, join the heaven song. Unto us a Son is given. Unto us a Child is born. Call him Wonderful Counselor and the Mighty God, Eternal Father. Come welcome the Child so holy. Come welcome the Prince of peace. People who are walking in darkness, shadow of night, rise and see the prophet's promise. Rise and see the wondrous sight and come live in the light of Christ. Raise the Christmas hallelujah. Raise the celebration song. From the throne of heaven's glory, Christ came down that we may rise. So come join the holy chorus. Come join the heaven song. Hallelujah!

First Parish Choir

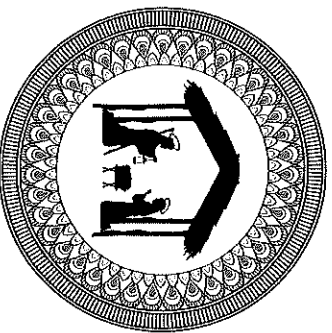
Sopranos	Altos
Mary Ellen Cook	Lauren Gudonis
Marty Farmer	Penny Lapham
Diane Houghton	Lelly Smith
Maggie Michael	Pamela Spencer
Rebecca Shrimpton	

Tenors
Jim Brennan
Simone Argento

Basses
Adrian Argento
Paul Knox
John Round

Peace on Earth

Good Will to Everyone



Once Upon A Night

Words and music by Pepper Choplin

First Parish Choir

Herman Weiss, director

Luke - Rev. Richard Spalding

Mary - Rebecca Shrimpton

Zechariah - Paul Knox

Elizabeth - Lauren Gudonis

Angel - Simone Argento



Once Upon a Night

(Angel) "Once upon a night", begins the story told for two thousand years. But still it fills the soul and brings new wonder to everyone who hears. (chorus) Once upon a night there came a baby like so many ones before. But angels of the heavens came to crown Him Messiah, Christ, the Lord. For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given. The promise comes alive through the birth of this child, this holy one from heaven. So we come to tell the blessed story, how the holy Savior came; for once upon a night was born a baby, and the world would never be the same.

Zechariah

(chorus) O come, o come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel.

(Zechariah) Here again to lift my prayer: are you listening? Are you really there? Lord, I've served You since I was young. Could you not bless us with a single son? And after praying so many years, You've sent no children, our hope disappears. Our faith is fading, our dreams have died, O Lord, where are You, why do you hide? (chorus) "Do not be afraid, the Lord has heard you". (Zechariah) We prayed for children all our lives. Now I am old and so is my wife. We prayed in faith, and now I know it's just too late. (chorus) "Zechariah, I am Gabriel, sent to you from the throne of heaven to offer you this news. But you refused! Since you won't believe the news you've heard, 'til this comes true you'll speak not a word". Rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Mary and Gabriel

(Angel) Greetings, blessed one, the Lord is with you. Do not be afraid, the Lord is with you, (chorus) for you will conceive and give birth to a child, and shall give Him the name of Jesus; for He shall be great and shall be called the Son of the Highest, and He shall reign o'er His mighty kingdom forever. (Mary) How will this happen unto me, for I'm a virgin, how will this be? (chorus) Do not be afraid, the Lord is with you. The Spirit will come upon you with the power of the Most High, and the holy one will be called the Son of God. And even your cousin, Elizabeth, will have a child in her old age, for nothing is impossible with God. (Mary) I am a servant of the Lord, a humble servant of the Lord. If all these wonders are to be, may they happen unto me. (chorus) Do not be afraid the Lord is with you.

Mary and Elizabeth

(Mary) Elizabeth are you there? (Elizabeth) Mary, is that you? Blessed are you among all women now. Blessed is the child you will bear. And when I heard your voice as you greeted me, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.

(Mary) My soul magnifies the Lord, I magnify the Lord, my God, my Savior. My soul magnifies the Lord, I magnify the Lord, my God, Redeemer. The Mighty One has done great things for me. Holy is His name. And when I think of how He blesses me, it leads my heart to say: Praise the Lord. (Mary and chorus) My soul magnifies the Lord, I magnify the Lord, my God, my Savior. My soul magnifies the Lord, I magnify the Lord, my God, my Redeemer. Blessed are you among all women now. Blessed is the child you will bear. And when I think of all this child will be, it fills my heart full of joy

Birth Song

Many years the world has waited. God has prepared the way. Now the mother's signs are telling this child will come today. The signs of labor now are stirring: the pangs are growing strong. Soon, before the night is over, this child will surely come. Joy to the world, the Lord is coming. He comes in human form. Unto us a son is given: to us a child is born. O come, O come Emmanuel. Mary hears the baby crying. Her pain turns into joy. Now the room is testifying she has a baby boy! O praise the Lord, a baby boy! Now the mother holds her baby. She looks into his eyes. Now the long night's work is over. Her pain was worth the prize, and her heart overflows with wonder. She holds him warm and near and whispers, "I thank you, Lord, for my precious child is here."

Heaven Remembered Us Today

Life is hard, the struggle never ending, and we work through all the day and night. We survive but we are so weary from the fight. We were shepherds when we were children. We'll be shepherds on the day we die: so we tend our flocks by the roadside and watch the world go by. When it seemed that God had forgotten and we wondered if God could hear us pray, the angels came to show for certain that heaven remembered us today. They said "Fear not, we bring you good tidings, for a Savior is born to you this day. Now go and see this holy wonder, for heaven remembered you today." And they said "Gloria in Excelsis Deo". So let us rise and go into the city. Do not let this blessing slip away. We received a holy invitation, for heaven remembered us today. Now we quietly come to the manger and we fall down on our knees, still amazed that God would call shepherds to see the Prince of Peace.

Listen to the Silence of the Night

See the mother now with her tiny child, softly singing while the moon starts to rise. When her lullabies calm the baby's cries, come and listen to the silence of night. Now she holds her child with a warm embrace, gazing at his face by the soft candlelight and her heart is full of this miracle as she listens to the silence of the night. Come hear the silence of the night. All the world for a moment seems peaceful and bright as we listen to the silence of the night. Silent Night.... (the congregation is invited to sing "Silent Night"). Trust God's promises; they are coming true. Come and listen to the silence of the night.

