

**Even-song.**

**After the i. lesson, one of  
these that folow.**

**Magnificat.**



**My soule doth magnifie the lord.**



**And my spirit hath rejoyced in god my sauour.**

*For the Time Being ...*

*The Perkins Advent Service 2020*

*Thursday, December 3, 2020*

***For the Time Being ...***  
***The Perkins Advent Service 2020***

December 3, 2020

Perkins Online

6 o'clock PM

**VOLUNTARY** *Fantasy on "Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland"* Bryan Page (b. 1975, D.P.M. 2020 cohort)  
Julia Boudreaux (M.S.M. 1), organ

*"Savior of the nations, come; recognized as the Virgin's child.  
The whole world marvels that God appointed for him such a birth."  
Martin Luther 1523 (?), after Veni redemptor gentium*

**WORDS OF WELCOME**

Craig C. Hill  
Dean and Professor of New Testament

**OPENING SENTENCES**

Craig C. Hill  
Mark W. Stamm  
Chapel Elder and Professor of Christian Worship

O Wisdom, coming forth from the mouth of the Most High:  
**Come now and teach us the way to salvation.**

O Adonai, ruler of the house of Israel:  
**Come with outstretched arms to save us.**

O Root of Jesse, rising as a sign for all the peoples:  
**Come quickly to deliver us.**

O Key of David, scepter over the house of Israel:  
**Come to set free the prisoners who live in darkness and the shadow of death.**

O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light:  
**Come, shine on those who live in darkness and in the shadow of death.**

O Ruler of the nations, monarch for whom the people long:  
**Come, save us all, whom you formed out of clay.**

O Immanuel, our Sovereign and Lawgiver:  
**Come and save us, O Lord our God.**

*(adapted from the Great "O" Antiphons)*

***I. "We who must die ..."***

**READING**

from *For the Time Being: A Christmas Oratorio* (W. H. Auden, 1944)  
Hilary Seraph Donaldson (M.S.M. '10)

**COLLECT**

Brad Kisner (M.S.M. '80)

God of our salvation,  
you straighten the winding ways of our hearts  
and smooth the paths made rough by sin.  
Keep our conduct blameless,  
keep our hearts watchful in holiness,  
and bring to perfection the good you have begun in us.  
We ask this through him whose coming is certain,  
whose day draws near;  
your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

*(Prayer of the Day for Advent 2, Book of Common Worship, 174)*

**RESPONSE**

*Variations on VENI EMMANUEL (2020)*

1. Veni ...

Marcell Silva Steuernagel (b. 1979)

Assistant Professor of Church Music

Director, Sacred Music Programs

**ANTHEM**

*"O Love"*

Elaine Hagenberg (b. 1979)

Zach Light-Wells (M.S.M. '19)

The Chancel Choir of First Presbyterian Church, Dallas

***II. "Will God indeed reside with mortals on earth?"***

**READING**

2 Chronicles 6:1–2; 12–21; 28–33; 40–42

Garth Baker-Fletcher (M.S.M. 2)

**COLLECT**

Teresa Rosado

Administrative Assistant, Sacred Music Programs

Faithful God,  
your promises stand unshaken through all generations.  
Renew us in hope,  
that we may be awake and alert,  
watching for the glorious return of Jesus Christ,  
our judge and savior,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

*(Prayer of the Day for Advent 1, Book of Common Worship, 172)*

**RESPONSE**

*Variations on VENI EMMANUEL (2020)*

2. Qui gemit in exsilio ...

Marcell Silva Steuernagel

**ANTHEM**

*"Trust Me"*

Richard Smallwood (b. 1948)  
Ronnie Wilson (M.S.M. '17) and  
The Choir of New Hope Baptist Church, Hampton VA

**III. "... we wait for the coming prize ..."**

**READING**

*Two Poems: "Pretend Belief – Advent"* (Harold J. Recinos, 2020)  
Harold J. Recinos  
Professor of Church and Society

**COLLECT**

David Furniss (M.S.M. '84)

Almighty God,  
you have made us and all things to serve you,  
now prepare the world for your rule.  
Come quickly to save us,  
so that wars and violence shall end,  
and your children may live in peace,  
honoring one another with justice and love;  
through Jesus Christ,  
who lives in power with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*(Prayer of the Day for Advent 3, Book of Common Worship, 175)*

**RESPONSE**

*Variations on VENI EMMANUEL* (2020)  
3. Fac iter tutum superum ...

Marcell Silva Steuernagel

**ANTHEM**

*"Da Pacem, Domine"*

Melchior Franck (1580–1639, arr.)  
Edward C. Gibson IV (M.S.M. '06) and  
The Jean E. Stewart Elementary School Choir, Montgomery TX

**IV. "... for nothing will be impossible with God."**

**READING**

Luke 1:26–37  
Seth Luna (M.S.M. 1)

**COLLECT**

Leanne Seabright  
Director of Music and Worship Ministries, Northway Christian Church, Dallas

God of grace,  
Your eternal Word took flesh among us  
when Mary placed her life



For just being your children, none of whom have done a global pandemic before, love us ...

For the days ahead, accompany us ...

God unbound by time, help us to know that you are already present in the future we are fearing ...

(Nadia Bolz-Weber, <https://nadiabolzweber.substack.com/p/sunday-prayers-ec9>)

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lucas Eaton (M.S.M. 2)

And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray:

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and forever. Amen.**

## ANTHEM

*"All Is Well"*

arr. John Leavitt (b. 1956)  
M.S.M. alumni ensemble and friends

***V. "I am coming to you."***

## READING

John 14:1–18  
Mark Stamm

## COLLECT

Claire Ward (M.S.M. 1)

Who are we, Lord God,  
that you should come to us?  
Yet you have visited your people  
and redeemed us in your Son.  
As we prepare to celebrate his birth,  
make our hearts leap for joy at the sound of your word,  
and move us by your Spirit to bless your wonderful works.  
We ask this through him whose coming is certain,  
whose day draws near,  
your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,



## Virtual choirs

First Presbyterian Church, Dallas, directed by Zach Light-Wells

New Hope Baptist Church, Hampton VA, directed by Ronnie Wilson

Jean E. Stewart Elementary School, Conroe ISD, Montgomery TX, directed by Edward Gibson IV

Eastminster United Church, Toronto CA, directed by Hilary Seraph Donaldson

M.S.M. alumni choir, assembled by Laurie Hanson Roberts (Jan Call, Debbie Chapman, Carrie Chavarria, Tracy DePue, Rebecca Garrett Pace, Stephanie Rhoades, Laurie Hanson Roberts, Phyllis Wilson)

D.P.M. cohort choir, assembled by C. Michael Hawn (David Anderson, Bryan Black, Dirk Damonte, Dylan Damonte, Hillary Doerries, Nicole Gray, Bill Hare, Michael Jordan, Yvette Lau, Hyun Min Lee, Megan Mash, Cristen Mitchell, Alan Moser, Stanton Nelson, Bryan Page, Dollie Howell Pankey, Tommy Shapard, Darnell St. Romain, Darrell St. Romain, Joshua Taylor, Kevin Turner, Lily Wong)

## Additional credits and thanks

Bryan Page and Northridge Presbyterian Church, Dallas (Nichols & Simpson organ, 2001, Voluntary)

Mark Unkenholz and the Episcopal Church of the Ascension, Dallas (Pasi organ op. 16, 2005, Steuernagel Variations)

All music used by permission, with thanks to those who secured it.

## About this liturgy

We hope you experience this liturgy as an extraordinary, unorthodox order for extraordinary, unorthodox times. In it we have tried to speak to the disjointedness, rancor, and upheaval issuing from the unholy alchemy of Covid-19, our divisive politics, and the world's breathtaking injustices. These uncomfortable realities of the human condition are placed here in counterpoint with the familiar themes of Advent — expectancy, hope, watchfulness — and thereby we hope that the relevance of the season will emerge with particular urgency. New music and poetry composed by members of the community further illumine the message. There are several unique features here. First, we come together online rather than in person, a fact that only underscores the loneliness and separation we look to overcome one day. Second, this is the only instance in the history of these services (and, we hope, the last) to include no congregational singing. The privilege of lifting our voices together liturgically is central to the Perkins culture but proves (like so much) difficult to live out in an online experience. We ask that you regard this feature as a discipline perhaps appropriate to the penitential season of Advent, linked as it is in this respect with Lent. Third and more happily, the nature of the virtual medium has allowed us to involve alumni and others over long distances, and for them we are grateful. In all this, we seize upon the promise of John 14:18: *"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you."*

## About this service

For nearly six decades, ensembles from the Perkins School of Theology and the Meadows School of the Arts have led services for Advent and Christmas. The Perkins-sponsored service 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, and it celebrates its sixtieth anniversary this year. A forerunner to this tradition was established in 1948 when Perkins Prof. Fred Gealy led the Seminary Singers, a non-auditioned ensemble of theology and sacred music students, and the Perkins community in a program of Christmas music during the last chapel service of the fall semester.

During the tenure of Prof. Lloyd Pfautsch (1921–2003), one of Martin Luther's Christmas sermons became a staple of this service, as well as the practice of including a choral group from the Meadows School along with the Seminary Singers. Prof. Carlton Young (b. 1926) collaborated with Prof. Pfautsch between 1964 and 1975. Between 1976 and 1990, the collaboration continued with Prof. Roger Deschner (1927–1991) from Perkins and Prof. Pfautsch, who retired in 1992. Prof. 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 Advent/Christmas worship services until 1995. Prof. Kenneth Hart furthered the tradition of these services during his tenure as director of the program between 1987 and 2005.

Following the appointment of Prof. C. Michael Hawn to Perkins in 1992, the service structure became a variation on the well-known Nine Lessons and Carols from King's College/Cambridge University. Upon his appointment to the faculty in 2006, Prof. Christopher Anderson (M.S.M., M.M. '91) became the service organist. Since 2010, the service



structure has reflected the development of a particular theological theme within the context of the biblical narrative. Prof. Hawn retired in 2017 as University Distinguished Professor of Sacred Music and continues to direct the Doctor of Pastoral Music Program, which he established. In 2018 Marcell Silva Steuernagel was appointed as Assistant Professor of Church Music and Director of the Sacred Music Program. A composer of note, he brings a fresh emphasis on the ways new music can enliven liturgy.

### About the *Variations on VENI EMMANUEL*

*Variations on Veni Emmanuel* is a reflection on the characteristic discipline of Advent: waiting. The tune VENI EMMANUEL, frequently sung to the well-known Advent hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," reflects the expectation particular to the season. Over the course of five variations, the tune is deconstructed and reconstructed using a series of compositional techniques. It is dithered, fragmented, retrograded in bits and pieces, folded over itself. Each variation focuses on particular fragments of the tune and its characteristic gestures and resonances, and the overall architecture of the Variations is, in itself, a reflection on waiting. Accordingly, it is only in the last variation that the listener receives a glimpse of the content of the tune in its original form, albeit even here these are glossed upon with materials from the previous variations. The Variations focus, overall, more on the restlessness of waiting as a necessary, but not always welcome, spiritual discipline. As such, they dovetail with the theme for this year's Perkins Advent Service: "For The Time Being..." — Marcell Silva Steuernagel

This year's **frontispiece** is from the Magnificat, *The booke of common praier noted*. [London]: Richard Grafton, 1550. Bridwell Library Special Collections, Southern Methodist University.