

Montgomery County Chorale and Orchestra Festival of Carols Video Presentation

Welcome

Welcome from David J. Fitzpatrick, Artistic Director and Conductor

O Come all Ye Faithful arr. Dan Forrest
Performance by Concordia College Christmas Festival

Sonata in C Domenico Scarlatti, arr. Francis Osentowski
Ding Dong Merrily arr. Kenneth Abeling

MCCO Woodwind Quintet

Reading 1: Human Family Maya Angelou
Shelley Smith, Reader

We note the obvious differences in the human family. Some of us are serious, some thrive on comedy. Some declare their lives are lived as true profundity, and others claim they really live the real reality. The variety of our skin tones can confuse, bemuse, delight, brown and pink and beige and purple, tan and blue and white. We've sailed upon the seven seas and stopped in every land, we've seen the wonders of the world not yet one common man. We know ten thousand women called Jane and Mary Jane, but we've not seen any two who really were the same.

Mirror twins are different although their features jibe, and lovers think quite different thoughts while lying side by side. We love and lose in China, we weep on England's moors, and laugh and moan in Guinea, and thrive on Spanish shores. We seek success in Finland, are born and die in Maine. In minor ways we differ, in major we're the same. We note the obvious differences between each sort and type, but we are more alike, my friends, than we are unlike. We are more alike, my friends, than we are unlike.

Ose Shalom "The one who makes peace" arr. John Leavitt
MCCO String Quintet and Piano

Vom Himmel Hoch "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come" J.S. Bach arr. Wagner
O Holy Night arr. Stephen DeCesare
MCCO Woodwind Quintet

Sing We Now of Christmas Matthew Naughtin
MCCO String Quintet

Reading 2: Be gentle with one another Rev. Richard Gilbert
David J. Fitzpatrick, Reader

Be gentle with one another—It is a cry from the lives of people battered by thoughtless words and brutal deeds. Who of us can look inside another and know what is there of hope and hurt, or promise and pain? Who can know from what far places each has come. Our lives are like fragile eggs. They crack and the substance escapes. Handle with care! Handle with exceedingly tender care. For there are human being within, Human beings as vulnerable as we are. Who feel as we feel. Who hurt as we hurt. Life is too transient to be cruel with one another; It is too short for thoughtlessness, too brief for hurting. Be gentle with one another.

Wexford Carol arr. Elaine Hagenberg

S'vivon (Dreidel) arr. David Bussick
MCCO Woodwind Quintet

Concerto Grosso Op. 6, No. 8 (Christmas Concerto) Arcangelo Corelli arr. Todd Parrish
MCCO String Quintet

Reading 3: All That We Share is Sacred, Adapted from the writing of Andre Mol
Maggi Boyer, Reader

As we gather together in whatever way we can this season, may we remember when we share with one another what is most important to us, when we say to each other, "you matter to me," that is where listening begins. When we show each other that we hear what is being said, that is where compassion begins. When someone opens a door of any kind – and there are many - to greet another, that is where hospitality begins. When a person ventures out to bring another to shelter that is where love begins. When someone risks their own comfort and safety to ease another's suffering, when people act against hatred, violence and injustice, that is where courage begins. When we experience the full presence of one another, because of our shared humanity, because we respect our differences, that is where holy gratitude begins. Especially in this season, may this space be a table, that is not complete until all are welcome. May this table be a place for peace, for love, where together we create deep and real connection and where all that we share is sacred. May it be so.

I Saw Three Ships arr. Mack Wilberg
Performance by The Tabernacle Choir and Orchestra Christmas Concert