

Gift of Heaven



10:00 am, December 11, 2016

**Brecksville United Church of Christ
23 Public Square
Brecksville, OH 44141**

Gift of Heaven

A Christmas Musical
Created by Chris and Diane Machen
with Camp Kirkland

Overture

Arranged by Camp Kirkland

Includes:

The First Nowell

Joy to the World!

Gift of Heaven (Opening)

All Words and Music by

Chris & Diane Machen

unless otherwise indicated;

Arrangements by Camp Kirkland

Includes:

Gift of Heaven

For a Child Will Be Born

For the people who walk in darkness,

They shall see a great light.

In the land of shadows of death and night,

The Light will shine.

House of Bread

From the House of Bread

Will come the Bread of Life,

And whoever believes in Him

Will live forever and ever,

And never hunger or thirst again.

The Ways of God

Anne Melfo, soprano; Jon Thompson, bass

I know my life is in God's hand

Even if I do not understand.

When Hope Was Born

With:

O Holy Night!

Words by John S. Dwight, Music by Adolphe Adam

When Hope was born on a silent night,

In the stillness lay the Child of Light.

In a manger low, in a stable bare

Came the Prince of Peace to a world of care.

Repeat the Sounding Joy
with:
Joy to the World!

Words and Music by Chris and Diane Machen and Mike Harland
Words by Isaac Watts, Music by George Frederick Handel

*The shepherds were watching their flocks through the night
When an angel appeared in the sky.
"Don't be afraid, I have news of great joy,"
Was the message he brought from on high.*

They Came to Worship
with:
Angels, from the Realms of Glory

Words by James Montgomery, Music by Henry T. Stewart

*All of heaven stood in awe
At the miracle of God
As angels came to praise Messiah's birth.
Salvation's message rang
As the host of heaven sang,
The Son of God would save the souls of earth.*

Worthy of My Lord
with:
More Precious than Silver
O Come, All Ye Faithful
Sue Maier, tenor

Words and Music by Lynn DeShazo
Latin hymn ascribed to John Francis Wade, Music by J.F. Wade

*I give You my heart, may it be as pure as gold.
I give You my praise as incense of old.
I give you my life as You gave me Yours,
May all that I bring be worthy of my Lord.*

Gift of Heaven (Finale)
Includes:
Gift of Heaven
For a Child Will Be Born
Repeat the Sounding Joy

*To a troubled life He is peace,
To a captive heart, liberty.
To a world in sin He is forgiveness
Jesus, Jesus. Jesus, gift of heaven,
Jesus, precious gift of love
From the heart of God to the hearts of all, Jesus, gift of heaven.*

Participants

Choir Director, pianist – Dave Debick

Soprano

Diane Gressley
Anne Melfo
Kathy Smith

Alto

Pat Bailey
Diane Lightbody
Bettina Ortiz
Jan Renovetz
Bridget Sproul

Tenor

Jill Black
Sue Maier
Jill Zedan

Bass

Cliff Cribbs
Jon Thompson
Doug Wrights

Instrumentalists

Becky Anderson, flute
Erin Tomlinson, flute
Betsey Wilson, flute
Pastor Dave Shackle, trumpet
Zach Novak, trumpet
Steve Ostrow, trombone and violin

Percussion

Bob Chandler, percussion
Jim Demko, percussion
Donn Whyte, percussion
Carrie Coyer-Westerberg, percussion
Michelina Fawcett, percussion
Benjamin Rehling, percussion
Ryan Stewart, percussion

Narrators

David & Kathy Pastor

Program

Jeannette Kroeger

Funding for this year's Christmas Cantata was provided
by the Ellenberger Fund and the Kathaleen R. Lube Fund.

A reception will follow today's Service downstairs in Pilgrim Hall. Please join us!

Gift of Heaven was performed once before at Brecksville UCC (2007.) Written largely in a contemporary style, the piece features modern rhythms, striking melodies, and dramatic shifts in mood. It demands a high energy level from the choir and instrumentalists, and, as usual, everyone has risen admirably to the challenge. I would like to thank all of this year's participants for the hard work and stamina they have poured into *Gift of Heaven*. It's far too easy to lose sight of the simple fact that our yearly Christmas programs would not be possible without the involvement of so many enthusiastic members of Brecksville UCC.

May the peace, joy and promise of the Christmas miracle -- Love Incarnate -- fill us all with hope and wonder this holiday season and throughout the coming new year. God bless us, everyone! -Dave Debick