



Westminster Presbyterian Church  
Presents

G. F. Handel's

# Messiah

*Part One*

*Featuring the Sanctuary Choir  
and Chamber Orchestra*

December 10, 2023

6:30 p.m.

*2801 W. Riverside Avenue, Muncie, Indiana*



# Westminster Presbyterian Church

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Welcome and Invocation

Dr. Kristofer D. Holroyd

## Messiah, Part One

by G.F. Handel

Words compiled from Holy Scripture by Charles Jennens

- |     |                |  |
|-----|----------------|--|
| 1   |                | Sinfonia   |
| 2   | Recitative     | Comfort ye my people...Isaiah 40:1-3                         |
| 3   | Air            | Ev'ry valley shall be exalted...Isaiah 40:4                  |
| 4   | Chorus         | And the glory of the Lord...Isaiah 40:5                      |
| 5   | Recitative     | Thus saith the Lord...Haggai 2:6-7, Malachi 3:1              |
| 6   | Air for Alto   | But who may abide the day of his coming? ...Malachi 3:2      |
| 7   | Chorus         | And he shall purify...Malachi 3:3                            |
| 8   | Recitative     | Behold, a virgin shall conceive...Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:23  |
| 9   | Air and Chorus | O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion...Isaiah 40:9, 60:1 |
| 10  | Recitative     | For behold, darkness shall cover the earth...Isaiah 60:2-3   |
| 11  | Air            | The people that walked in darkness...Isaiah 9:2              |
| 12  | Chorus         | For unto us a child is born...Isaiah 9:6                     |
| 13  | Pifa           | ('Pastoral Symphony')  |
| 14a | Recitative     | There were shepherds abiding in the field...Luke 2:8         |
| 14b | Recitative     | And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them...Luke 2:9      |
| 15  | Recitative     | And the angel said unto them...Luke 2:10-11                  |
| 16  | Recitative     | And suddenly there was with the angel...Luke 2:13            |
| 17  | Chorus         | Glory to God...Luke 2:14                                     |
| 18  | Air            | Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion...Zechariah 9:9-10       |
| 19  | Recitative     | Then shall the eyes of the blind...Isaiah 35:5-6             |

- 20 Air He shall feed his flock...Isaiah 40:11, Matthew 11:28-29  
21 Chorus His yoke is easy, and his burthen is light...Matthew 11:30

Congregational Singing

arr. Camp Kirkland

*Angels, from the Realms of Glory*  
*Angels We Have Heard on High*  
*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

Benediction

Dr. Kristofer D. Holroyd

**Please join us in the Fellowship Hall  
for refreshments following the concert!**



## **CONDUCTOR'S NOTES**

Messiah, by G.F. Handel, is generally considered one of the finest pieces of music ever written. It is even more remarkable when considering he wrote the entire piece (nearly 3 hours long) in about three and a half weeks. It is full of beautiful melodies, carefully crafted musical ideas that always seem to perfectly suit the text, and most impressively, complex fugues throughout, with melodies seamlessly interwoven between different voice and instrumental parts. It is a monumental achievement, well worthy of its fame.

Handel has received well-deserved acclaim both during his life and perhaps even more since his death. But perhaps the under-appreciated artist behind this work is the compiler of the text (the “librettist”), Charles Jennens. He collaborated with Handel on several other masterworks, but was particularly proud of this text. And more critically, he put it together with a much higher purpose than any of his other texts. Jennens was concerned with the sacred truths of Christianity which he perceived were increasingly under attack during the scientific revolution and rapidly changing culture of the 18th century.

He was concerned that in the so-called “age of reason,” the mystery behind the Word of God was in danger of being lost in the hearts and mind of followers of Jesus. Perhaps this concept sounds familiar! Truly we are called to approach God’s Word with our whole selves, including our intellects. We are called to be transformed by the power of Holy Spirit, having “renewed minds” so that “by testing we may discern the will of God.” (Romans 12:2) But the cultural shift that we have all witnessed over the past decades and

centuries seems to leave very little room for mystery. It is as though we have adopted the idea that if we can't explain it, it must not be true.

This type of thinking, however, is pretty small. Do we honestly think we can adequately explain the endless reaches of a universe that contains innumerable stars and galaxies? Have we convinced ourselves that we can explain the miracle of birth, or the beautiful symphonic-like dance between the seasons and the cycle of life, death, and rebirth of the plants and animals around us? Can science explain the way we feel in our hearts when we experience something beautiful, whether a sight, a sound, or perhaps even in a relationship?

So how can we expect to explain the mystery of God redeeming the world by sending His Son to be born as a baby, that He might live the perfect life we can't; that He might die the death we deserve, taking our sin on the cross; that He might rise again to defeat sin and death once and for all; that He might return at the proper time to finally and forever free His children and this good world from the stain and pain of darkness, sin, and death?

Charles Jennens understood that Christians must accept a great deal of mystery, because God's Word, His world, and His plan for saving it are too much for us to fully grasp. If we claim to fully understand it all then we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

When Jennens put together this text – which is a compilation of some of the most critical passages from the Bible, especially with regards to the all-important topic of our Messiah, Jesus Christ – he expressed his hope that Handel would “lay out his whole genius and Skill upon it, that the Composition may excel all his former Compositions, as the Subject excels every other Subject. The Subject is Messiah.”

And that is why we are presenting this concert tonight. It is in praise of our Savior, the Messiah, Jesus Christ, the subject that excels every other subject, the Name above every other name. It is to honor the mystery of God's plan for saving the world through Jesus. As we celebrate the most beautiful season of the year, we seek to embrace and celebrate the mystery of the incarnation of Christ.

We must learn to accept things we cannot explain. Yes, we are made in the image of God, but no, we are not equal to Him. As Paul writes in Romans, “Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him by glory forever. Amen.” (Romans 11:33, 36)

~Nate Shockey, Worship Director

# ***SANCTUARY CHOIR***

## ***Sopranos***

Melissa Bolderson  
Connie Fullhart  
Susan Harris  
Jone Holroyd  
Eva Kwan  
Gwen Lattimer  
Laura Morales  
Hayden Shockey  
Penelope Scott  
Priscilla Scott  
Morgan Thomas  
Ainsley Vaughn

## ***Altos***

Linda Bicksler  
Lois Garringer  
Karen Gilliam  
Kathy Kirklin  
Becky McDonald  
Jane McDowell  
Karen Meredith  
Fran Nelson  
Alexa Stanley  
Gen Watson  
Vickie Williamson

## ***Basses***

John Branies  
Steve Brown  
Jerry Case  
Craig Farnsworth  
Phil Goshert  
Ken Haller  
Tom Harris  
Roger Nelson  
Aryon Russell  
Sean Scott  
Len Sterrett  
Larry Williamson  
Zach Wittman

## ***Tenors***

Wayne Grile  
Tom Schroeder  
Mark Scranton  
Colton Shockey  
Gabriel Shockey  
Kevin Smith  
David Wilson

# ***SOLOISTS and ORCHESTRA***

## ***Soprano***

Sydney Brown

## ***Tenor***

Spencer Domer

## ***Alto***

Connie Walker

## ***Bass***

Nathan Anton

## ***Violins***

Matthew Spieker  
Laurel Meitrodt  
Korn Roongruangchai  
Yi-Ju Shih

## ***Violas***

Zoran Jakovcic  
Mary Jacobson

## ***Contrabass***

Gregory Robbins

## ***Cello***

Heather Scott  
Jessica Arrowood

## ***Harpsichord***

Rebecca Bukhart

## ***Rehearsal Accompanist***

Teresa Case

# This Week at Westminster

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## **Monday, December 11**

- 8:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study (Larry Williamson)
- 7:00 p.m. Session Meeting
- 7:00 p.m. Deacons' Meeting

## **Wednesday, December 13**

- 6:45 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (Nate Shockey)

## **Thursday, December 14**

- 6:00 p.m. Worship Team Rehearsal (Nate Shockey)
- 6:00 p.m. Reformed Youth Midweek Meeting at Andrew Brown's Home

## **Friday, December 15**

- 5:30 a.m. Men's Fellowship (Jim Wegener)

## **Upcoming Events**

- December 17 Small Groups Meet ~ No Evening Service
- December 24 Morning Worship at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.; No Sunday School  
Candlelight Christmas Eve Service at 5:00 p.m.
- December 31 Morning Worship at 10:00 a.m. with Sunday School at 9:00 a.m.  
Jr. High New Year's Eve Overnighter at 6:00 p.m. at Westminster
- January 20 Congregational Dinner
- January 22 Congregational Meeting

## **Regular Sunday Schedule**

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- 8:30 a.m. First Worship Service
- 9:45 – 10:00 a.m. Coffee in the Fellowship Hall
- 10:00–10:45 a.m. Discipleship Hour
- 11:00 a.m. Second Worship Service
- 6:30 – 7:15 p.m. Evening Service or Small Groups\*

\*We hold a Sunday Evening Service on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month. Small groups meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday evenings.

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## **Contact Us**

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# WESTMINSTER

PRESBYTERIAN

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