

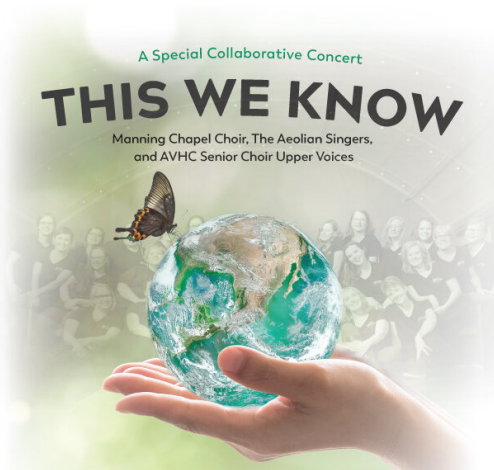
From the Choir Loft

Thursday January 9 & 16

MANNING CHAPEL CHOIR open rehearsal

excellent music
welcoming soprs and altos
exceptional community
with choral experience

 /manningchapelchoir



A Special Collaborative Concert

THIS WE KNOW

Manning Chapel Choir, The Aeolian Singers,
and AVHC Senior Choir Upper Voices

Wolfville Baptist Church

Saturday, March 7, 7:30pm

Conductors, Heather Fraser, John Scott

Manning Memorial Chapel

Friday April 10, 7:30pm

Tavener
Whitacre
Gyöngyösi
Donkin
McKennitt

the dawn is not distant

APRIL 10

The Chapel Times

5 January 2020

TWELVE DRUMMERS DRUMMING

This is the Twelfth Day of Christmas and according to the song known to us all, we should see twelve Drummers drumming about the place. Hopefully you will not be disappointed if they should not appear amongst us tonight.

Christmas does not begin until the 25 December. There is no recorded date for the birth of Jesus, of course, but this one was chosen out of convenience: many other local religions in Roman Empire days had festivals this time of year around the darkest day. The light of Jesus, it is believed, lightens up this wintery scene.

Tomorrow is the third part of this triptych: it is named 'Epiphany', which means 'revelation', and it is the revelation to the world, symbolized by the Magi, of the Son of God. Tomorrow morning we will sing two Epiphany hymns, 'O Worship the Lord in the Beauty of Holiness' and 'Brightest and Best of the Sons of the Morning'. They were Gentiles (other than Jewish) and is the first record of Christ being worshipped by those who were considered 'outsiders' at that time.

Hopefully you have enjoyed and celebrated the Incarnation of God in Jesus these past twelve days and will rejoice in the message that Jesus is meant for us all.



CHORAL THANKS

Part of our preparation for Christmastide was the magnificent and successful presentation by the Manning Memorial Chapel Choir. They presented three concerts, one in Bridgetown, down the Valley, which was filled, a 'sold out' (within a week of selling tickets) concert at this chapel the following afternoon. Demand required that a third concert be given that evening, and that was almost sold out, too.

We treasure the work and the presence of the chapel choir. They rehearse Thursday evenings and before the Service on Sunday evenings. The Director is the much-admired John Scott, who is also the University Organist and the Chapel Organist. He is also the Minister of Music at the United Church in Lunenburg, N. S.

Perhaps the 'crown' of worship at this chapel, we are immensely grateful for the choir's dedication to good church music and faithfulness to this very sacred space.

BOOKS GALORE

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There will be found in the chapel narthex a table laden with religious books which are there free for the taking. They make up the library of a retired minister and he wishes that they be of use to following scholars and those interested in the Christian faith. Many are of great value in terms that they are often sought but are out of print. Take as many as you wish.

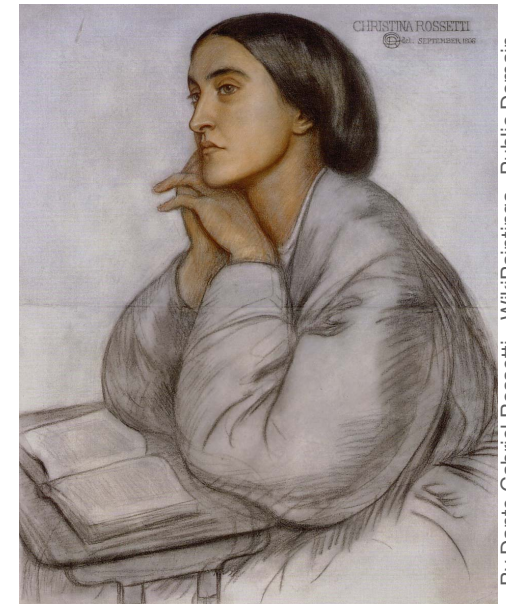
IN THE BLEAK MID-WINTER

Our third hymn this evening is one that has gone through difficult times but has remained a favourite for many. During the 1960's and 70's the fastidious used to complain that the Nativity, as scholars would have it, happened probably in the late Spring. They missed the symbolism Christina Rossetti (1830-94) unfolded in her carol. It was first published in her Poems of 1892, although she added a note, 'before 1872'. It obviously was on her poetic 'backburner' for some time.

Some have compared it to a medieval carol. J. R. Watson, in An Annotated Anthology of Hymns, comments, '... in fact, such verses are only possible with the highest art.' The hymn is about the Incarnation, hence its position in this service. Her winter theme seems to have come from John Milton's ode, 'On the Morning of Christ's Nativity.'

Winter symbolizes the bleakness of creation at that time, perhaps not unlike today, of spiritual awareness. The Roman Empire was taking its toll. This imagery gives way at the second stanza to the vision of God whom heaven cannot retain so appears in the Child in the simplest of places. It is the Incarnation.

The final verse reverses the order: people can come and worship him, bringing symbols of who they are: a shepherd brings a lamb (recalling sacrifice at the Temple) and a 'wise man' would 'do his part', but can all of us offer? Our hearts.



By Dante Gabriel Rossetti - WikiPaintings - Public Domain,