

Zechariah's Song

Words by Rev Todd Farnsworth

Music by Dr. Hui Mei Linn-Frost and BCC Choir

I tread two paths in a snowy wood,
the one I took, the one I would.

The path my footsteps did alight
was filled with hope and joy and right.

Each step seemed sure along the way,
the trail was clear, my heart was gay.

"I know how this will end," I said,
with visions of victory filling my head,
forgetting the other path's silvery thread.

That path's crystal way wound on,
with lazy coos and burps and yawns.

It brought me to a different place,
An unexpected, holy, grace.

--Rev. Todd Farnsworth

57 When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son. 58 Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they shared her joy. 59 On the eighth day they came to

circumcise the child, and they were going to name him after his father Zechariah, 60 but his mother spoke up and said, “No! He is to be called John.” Everyone who heard this wondered about it, asking, “What then is this child going to be?” For the Lord’s hand was with him.

I SAW A STABLE

Choir: I saw a Stable (Poem by Mary Coleridge) Peter Frost

The Senior Choir

Guest pianist, Tomoko Uchino

I saw a stable, low and very bare,
A little child in a manger.
The oxen knew Him, had Him in their care,
To men He was a stranger.
The safety of the world was lying there.
And the world's danger.

*67 (John’s) father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied:
68 “Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come to his
people and redeemed them. 69 He has raised up a horn of salvation for
us in the house of his servant David 70 (as he said through his holy
prophets of long ago), 71 salvation from our enemies and from the hand of
all who hate us—*

PANIS ANGELICUS

Solo: “Panis Angelicus” (O Lord Most Holy) C. Franck

The angel's bread becomes the bread of men
The heavenly bread ends all symbols
Oh, miraculous thing! The body of the Lord will nourish
The poor, poor, and humble servant

The poor, poor, and humble servant
Alan Pike, soloist

72 to show mercy to our ancestors and to remember his holy covenant, 73 the oath he swore to our father Abraham: 74 to rescue us from the hand of our enemies, and to enable us to serve him without fear 75 in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

CHRISTMAS DAY

Good Christian men, rejoice with heart, and soul, and voice;

Give ye heed to what we say:

News! News! Jesus Christ is born today:

Ox and ass before him bow,

And he is in the manger now.

Christ is born today! *[repeat]*

God rest you merry, gentlemen, etc....

76 And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him, 77 to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins, 78 because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven 79 to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace.”

REJOICE GREATLY

Solo: “Rejoice Greatly” from the *Messiah*

G. F. Handel

Charlotte Luttkus, soloist

Rejoice greatly,
O daughter of Zion Shout,
O daughter of Jerusalem!
behold, thy King cometh unto thee!
He is the righteous Saviour,
and He shall speak peace unto the heathen.

GESU BAMBINO

Choir : Gesu Bambino

L. Spevacek

The Senior Choir

Elyse Knobloch, flute

When blossoms flowered 'mid the snows
Upon a winter night
Was born the Child, the Christmas Rose
The King of Love and Light.

The angels sang, the shepherds sang
The grateful earth rejoiced
And at His blessed birth the stars
Their exultation voiced.

(Chorus)

O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
Christ the Lord.

Again the heart with rapture glows
To greet the holy night
That gave the world its Christmas Rose
Its King of Love and Light.

Let ev'ry voice acclaim His name
The grateful chorus swell
From paradise to earth He came
That we with Him might dwell.

(Chorus)

O come let us adore Him

O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
Christ the Lord.

80 And the child grew and became strong in spirit; and he lived in the wilderness until he appeared publicly to Israel.

I tread two paths in a snowy wood,
the one I took, the one I would.

