ALL EARTH IS Hopeful
As fall turns to winter in a most memorable and terrible year, even the word *hope* might sound naïve. Audacious. It might sound out of step with the reality of a pandemic and with racism and with a world deeply divided. What does it mean to proclaim that we are grounded in hope?

When we think about hope, we typically imagine a desired future in an uncertain world. Some hope is deeply personal: we hope to gather with friends for our birthday next year; we hope that we will be able to hold the hand of a grandparent while getting lost in shared memories. Some hope is communal: we hope that all people would be heard and seen and treated with dignity and respect.

The process of our hoping often begins with the identification of a future for which we long: a gathering with family that ends with the intimacy of a hug. But what happens next is fraught with problems. We either imagine that it is up to us to realize our hoped-for future and we carry the burden, or we imagine that we have no control. We might hope for favorable weather, but we can't make it happen. This is why the very word may elicit such a strong reaction. Some push back: *hope? Don't just hope — you have to act. Hope won't get you anywhere. You have to move.*

Others push back: *hope? All of the hoping in the world won't change anything. There is calm and there are storms and there are forces over which we have no power.*

But there is another way to imagine hope. If someone that you trust makes a promise, the future is no longer a complete mystery. You can count on their pledge. There is certainty in their word. “I will pick you up at eight.” There is nothing that we have to do. They have made a commitment. There is much that we do not know. It might rain. We might be tired or lonely or sad or anxious or happy or filled with gratitude. No matter what the context, we live with a level of confidence in the future. We are getting picked up at eight.

The experience of having confidence in a promise is the experience of living with hope. When we say that we live with hope, we are claiming that we are the recipients of a promise. We are on the receiving end of a gift. We don't hope — we have hope.

Hope. We live with hope. We have received the promise that God is with us. Emmanuel. We have received that promise of grace. The promise is a gift and grace is a gift. We are loved beyond measure. It is true that there is much we do not know. It is true that we will experience the full complexity of the joys and pains of life. That we continue to live with a pandemic and with racism and with a world divided is true. But we live with hope. Because we are the recipients of a promise from one that we can trust, we have hope.

*Hope. We live with hope.*
For countless people over several generations, the celebration of the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany season begins with the annual St. Olaf Christmas Festival, a century-old tradition of the college. The first festival was a musical program for the college community, planned and directed by F. Melius Christiansen, founder of the St. Olaf Music Department. The festival continues as an outgrowth of Christian conviction and an expression of the rich musical heritage at St. Olaf, a college of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Although there is no in-person Christmas Festival this year, All Earth is Hopeful aims to reflect the ethos of this beloved tradition, featuring various iterations of the St. Olaf Orchestra, St. Olaf Choir, St. Olaf Cantorei, St. Olaf Chapel Choir, Manitou Singers, and Viking Chorus from a variety of years, performing as both individual groups and as a massed ensemble.
Rejoice!
Steven Amundson
(Performed in 2018)

All Earth Is Hopeful (Toda la tierra)
Alberto Taulé
arr. James E. Bobb
(Performed in 2019)

Sung in Spanish and English

¡Toda la tierra espera al Salvador!
All earth is hopeful, the Savior comes at last!
Y el surco abierto, la obra del Señor:
Furrows lie open for God’s creative task:
Es el mundo que lucha por la libertad
This, the labor of people who struggle to see
Reclama justicia y busca la verdad.
How God’s truth and justice set ev’rybody free.

All earth is hopeful, the Savior comes at last!
Furrows lie open for God’s creative task:
This, the labor of people who struggle to see
How God’s truth and justice set ev’rybody free.

Dice el profeta al pueblo de Israel:
People of Israel, you heard the prophet tell:
“De madre virgin ya viene Emmanuel,”
“A virgin mother will bear the name Emmanuel,”
Será “Dios con nosotros,” semilla será
She conceived him, “God with us,” our brother
Con él la esperanza al mundo volverá.
Whose birth restores hope and courage to children of this earth.

Mountains and valleys will have to be prepared;
New highways opened, new protocols declared.
Almost here! God is nearing, in beauty and grace!
All clear ev’ry gateway, in haste, come out in haste!

We first saw Jesus a baby in a crib.
This same Lord Jesus today has come to live in our world;
He is present, in neighbors we see,
Our Jesus is with us and ever sets us free.

— Alberto Taulé;
trans. Madeleine Forell Marshall

Light Dawns on a Weary World
Mack Wilberg
(Performed in 2016)

Light dawns on a weary world
When eyes begin to see all people’s dignity.
Light dawns on a weary world:
The promised day of justice comes.

Refrain:
The trees shall clap their hands;
The dry lands, gush with springs;
The hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!
We shall go out with joy,
And be led forth in peace,
As all the world in wonder echoes shalom.

Love grows in a weary world
When hungry hearts find bread
And children’s dreams are fed.
Love grows in a weary world:
The promised feast of plenty comes.

Refrain

Hope blooms in a weary world
When creatures, once forlorn, find wilderness reborn.
Hope blooms in a weary world:
The promised green of Eden comes.

Refrain

— Mary Louise Bringle
O Magnum Mysterium (Oh Great Mystery)
Morten Lauridsen
orch. Sandra Dackow
(Performed in 2019)

SUNG IN LATIN
O magnum mysterium
Oh great mystery
et admirabile sacramentum,
And wondrous sacrament,
ut animalia viderent Dominum natum,
That animals should see the newborn Lord,
jacentem in praesepio!
Lying in a manger!
Beata Virgo, cujus viscera
Blessed is the Virgin whose womb
meruerunt portare
Was worthy to bear
Dominum Christum.
Christ the Lord.
Alleluia.
Alleluia.

— Responsorial chant from the Matins of Christmas Day; trans. Ron Jeffers

Comfort, Comfort Now My People
Trente quatre pseaumes de David
arr. Michael Culloton
(Performed in 2017)

“Comfort, comfort now my people; tell of peace!” So says our God. Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow’s load. To God’s people now proclaim that God’s pardon waits for them! Tell them that their war is over; God will reign in peace forever.

For the herald’s voice is crying in the desert far and near, Calling us to true repentance, since the reign of God is here. Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way. Valleys, rise to greet the Savior; hills, bow down in humble favor.

Straight shall be what once was crooked, and the rougher places plain. Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits God’s holy reign. For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad, And all flesh shall see the token that God’s word is never broken.

— Johann G. Olearius; trans. Catherine Winkworth, alt. Michael Culloton


DURING THE GOSPEL:

In Terra Pax (excerpt)
Gerald Finzi
(Performed in 2019)

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will towards all.”

— Luke 2:13–14
O Come, All Ye Faithful

attr. John F. Wade
arr. John Ferguson
descant Sir David Willcocks
(Performèd in 2011)

ALL SING
O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him,
Born the king of angels:

Refrain:
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God
In the highest:

Refrain
Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory giv’n!
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing:

Refrain

— Attr. John F. Wade;
trans. composite

The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy

West Indian carol
arr. Mack Wilberg
(Performèd in 2019)

The Virgin Mary had a baby boy
And they said that his name was Jesus.
He come from the glory
He come from the glorious kingdom.
Oh yes, believer!
Born in Bethlehem!

The Wise Men saw where the baby was born
And they said that his name was Jesus.
He come from the glory
He come from the glorious kingdom.
Oh yes, believer!
Born in Bethlehem!

The angels sang when the baby was born
And they said that his name was Jesus.
He come from the glory
He come from the glorious kingdom.
Oh yes, believer!
Born in Bethlehem!

— West Indian carol

6
Lunar Lullaby
Jacob Narverud
(Performed in 2018)

The moon settles in the dusky sky.
The gentle eyes of the north star
rest upon your sleeping face
and the heavens gaze upon you.
In this moment, I know;
You are not from the ground on which you tread,
but of the stars.
You are my radiant, my celestial child.
As night is drown’d by morning
you remain at my side,
accompanying the sunrise
until night swells again across the sky.
Then, dreaming, you return to the stars.
— Kathleen Nicely

Gloria (Misa Criolla)
Ariel Ramirez
arr. Padre Jesus Gabriel Segade
(Performed in 2017)

SUNG IN SPANISH

Gloria a Dios en las alturas
Glorify God in the highest
Y en la tierra paz a los hombres que ama el Señor.
And on earth peace to his people loved by God.

Te alabamos. Te bendecimos. Te adoramos.
We praise you. We bless you. We adore you.

Glorificamos. Te damos gracias
We glorify you. We give you thanks
Por tu inmensa gloria.
For your great glory.

Señor Dios, Rey celestial.
Lord God, Heavenly King.
Dios Padre Todopoderoso.
God the Almighty Father.

Señor, hijo único Jesucristo,
Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten son,
Señor Dios, cordero de Dios, Hijo del Padre,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
Tú que quitas los pecados del mundo,
You who take away the sins of the world,
Ten piedad de nosotros.
Have mercy on us.

Tú que reinas con el Padre,
You reign with the Father,
Ten piedad de nosotros.
Have mercy on us.

Gloria a Dios en las alturas y en la tierra
Glory to God in the highest and on earth
Paz a los hombres que ama el Señor.
Peace to his people that love the Lord.

Porque Tú sólo eres Santo,
For you alone are Holy,
Sólo Tú Señor Tú sólo,
You alone are the Lord,
Tú solo altísimo Jesucristo,
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
Con el Espíritu Santo,
With the Holy Spirit,
En la gloria de Dios Padre. Amén.
In the glory of God the Father. Amen.

— Ordinary of the Mass; trans. Louise Dobbs
This Christmastide (Jessye’s Carol)
Donald Fraser
(Performed in 2007)

Green and silver, red and gold,
And a story born of old.
Truth and love and hope abide,
This Christmastide.

Holly, ivy, mistletoe,
And the gently falling snow.
Truth and love and hope abide,
This Christmastide.

From a simple ox’s stall
Came the greatest gift of all.
Truth and love and hope abide,
This Christmastide.

Children sing of hope and joy
At the birth of one small boy.
Truth and love and hope abide,
This Christmastide.

Let the bells ring loud and clear,
Ring out now for all to hear.
Truth and love and hope abide,
This Christmastide.

Trumpets sound and voices raise
In an endless stream of praise.
Truth and love and hope abide,
This Christmastide.

Green and silver, red and gold,
And a story born of old.
Peace and love and hope abide,
This Christmastide.

— Jane McCulloch

Brightest and Best
Southern Harmony
arr. Shawn Kirchner
(Performed in 2017)

Hail the bless’d morn, see the great Mediator
down from the regions of glory descend!
Shepherds go worship the babe in the manger,
lo, for His guard the bright angels attend.

Refrain:
  Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid.
  Star in the East, the horizon adorning,
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Cold on His cradle the dewdrops are shining,
Low lies His bed with the beasts of the stall.
Angels adore Him in slumber reclining,
Maker, and Monarch, and Savior of all.

Refrain

Shall we not yield Him, in costly devotion,
odours of Edom and off’rings divine,
Gems of the mountains and pearls of the ocean,
myrrh from the forest and gold from the mine?

Refrain

— Reginald Heber
Hacia Belén va un Borrico  
*(Toward Bethlehem Goes a Donkey)*

*Arranged by Alice Parker and Robert Shaw*  
*(Performed in 1989)*

**SUNG IN SPANISH**

Hacia Belén va un borrico, rin, rin,  
*Toward Bethlehem goes a donkey,*  
(Yo me remendaba, yo me remendé.)  
*(I was getting settled in, I got settled in.)*

cargado de chocolate.  
*loaded up with chocolate.*

Lleva su chocolatera, rin, rin.  
*It carries its chocolate-pot.*

(Yo me remendaba, yo me remendé,  
*I was getting settled in, I got settled in,*  
Yo me heché un remiendo, yo me lo quité.)  
*I had a snack, I took it (some chocolate).*

Su molinillo y su anafre.  
*It carries its chocolate mill and its cooking stove.*

¡María, María, ven acá corriendo,  
*Maria, Maria, come here running,*  
que los pañalillos los están cogiendo!  
*for they're taking his swaddling clothes!*

¡María, María, ven acá volando,  
*Maria, Maria, come here flying,*  
que los pañalitos los están llevando!  
*for they're taking away his swaddling clothes!*

Con un sombrero de paja, rin, rin,  
*With a straw hat,*  
(Yo me remendaba, yo me remendé.)  
*(I was getting settled in, I got settled in.)*

al Portal llega un gallego.  
*at the gate a Galician arrives.*

Mientras adoraba al Niño, rin, rin,  
*While he was adoring the child,*  
el buey se comió el sombrero.  
*the ox ate his hat.*

¡María, María, ven acá corriendo,  
*Maria, Maria, come here running,*  
que el sombrero el buey se lo está comiendo!  
*because the ox is eating his hat!*

¡María, María, ven acá volando,  
*Maria, Maria, come here flying,*  
consuela al gallego que está aquí llorando!  
*Console the Galician who here is crying!*

— Trad. Spanish;  
*trans. Glen Varns and León Narváez*
Eit barn er født i Betlehem
(A Child Is Born in Bethlehem)
arr. Ørjan Matre
(Performed in 2018)

SUNG IN NORWEGIAN

Eit barn er født i Betlehem.
A child is born in Bethlehem.
No frydar seg Jerusalem.
And so rejoice, Jerusalem.
Halleluja.

Her ligg han i eit krubberom,
Here he lies in a manger,
men rår med evig herredom.
but rules with eternal dominion.
Halleluja.

Men okse der og asen stod,
There the ox and ass stood,
og såg den Gud og Herre god.
And saw that he was God.
Halleluja.

Tre kongar kom frå Austerland,
Three kings came from Austerland,
gull røykjels', myrra gav dei han.
And gave him gold and myrrh.
Halleluja.

Ein gong vi vert Vår Herre lik,
One day we will meet our Lord,
Han leier oss til himmelrik.
And he will lead us to Heaven.
Halleluja.

Lov takk og pris i æva all
Endless thanks and praise
Treeinig Gud det vera skal!
to the God of all!
Halleluja!
Hallelujah!

— N. F. S. Grundtvig, after "Puer natus in Bethlehem";
trans. Bernt Støylen

Wana Baraka
Traditional Kenyan
arr. Shawn L. Kirchner
(Performed in 2019)

SUNG IN SWAHILI

Wana baraka wale waombao;
They have blessings, those who pray;
Yesu mwenyewe alisema. Alleluya!
Jesus himself said so. Alleluia!
Wanna amani.
They have peace.
Wale furaha.
They have joy.
Wana Uzima.
They have well-being.

— Trad. Kenyan religious song;
trans. Shawn L. Kirchner
I Will Light Candles This Christmas
Kim André Arnesen
(Performed in 2018)

I will light Candles this Christmas;
Candles of joy despite all sadness;
Candles of hope where despair keeps watch,
Candles of courage for fears ever present;
Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days,
Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens,
Candles of love to inspire all my living,
Candles that will burn all year long.

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among others,
To make music in the heart.

— Howard Thurman

And Suddenly
Michael Engelhardt
(Performed in 2019)

And suddenly appeared with the angel
A multitude of the heavenly hosts
Praising God, and saying,
“Glory to God in the highest!”

Prophets had been talkin’ for so many years,
Tellin’ people ‘bout the comin’ of the Lord.
Then God’s favor fell on Mary
And don’t you know the baby was born
Up in a manger in Bethlehem,
Jesus would be His name.
Then a heavenly host appeared unto them
Praising God and saying,
“Glory to God in the highest!”

— Albert J. Lange;
trans. Oscar R. Overby

This day the world would change.
Down to earth, our God came.
So make a path straight, prepare the way
For this Christmas day
This day is a wondrous day.
Even time would rearrange!
‘Cause on this day the angels sang,
“Glory to God in the highest!
Peace on earth and goodwill to all!”

— Michael Engelhardt;
adapted from Luke 2:13-14

Lullaby on Christmas Eve
F. Melius Christiansen
(Performed in 2011)

Mother her vigil is keeping,
Hush, little babe to her song;
Rest thee secure in thy sleeping,
Grow thee more stately and strong.
Slumber, slumber,
Gently thine eyelids close;
Slumber, slumber,
Cradled in sweet repose.

Babe of my bosom, be winging
Softly where dreamlands begin;
Christmas Eve bells are a-ringing,
Festively calling thee in.
Kling-klang, kling-klang,
Dream of the Child divine;
Kling-klang, kling-klang,
Dear little babe of mine.

— Albert J. Lange;
trans. Oscar R. Overby
Night of Silence

Daniel Kantor, Franz Gruber
arr. John Ferguson
(Performed in 2018)

Cold are the people, winter of life,
We tremble in shadows this cold endless night.
Frozen in the snow lie roses sleeping,
Flowers that will echo the sunrise.
Fire of hope is our only warmth;
Weary, its flame will be dying soon.

Voice in the distance, call in the night,
On wind you enfold us, you speak of the light.
Gentle on the ear you whisper softly,
Rumors of a dawn so embracing.
Breathless love awaits darkened souls;
Soon will we know of the morning.

Spirit among us, shine like the star,
Your light that guides shepherds and kings from afar.
Shimmer in the sky so empty, lonely,
Rising in the warmth of your Son's love,
Star unknowing of night and day;
Spirit, we wait for your loving Son.

ALL SING (second time only):
Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright.
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

On Christmas Day

Steven Amundson
(Performed in 2017)

Gloria

André J. Thomas
orch. Robert Elhai
(Performed in 2017)

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to all those of good will.
We praise Thee, we bless Thee,
We adore Thee, we glorify Thee,
We give thanks to Thee for Thy great glory.
Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to all those of good will.

Lord God, King of heav’n, Father, Almighty One.
Glory be to Jesus Christ, Lamb of God, the
Father’s only Son,
Oh Thou who takes away all the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.

Receive our prayers.
Thou who sits at the right hand
of God the Father Almighty in heaven,
have mercy on us!
For only Thou art holy, only Thou art the Lord.
Only Thou art holy, only Thou art most high.

In the name of the Father, in the name of the Son,
in the name of the Holy Ghost,
in the glory of the Father,
Amen.

— Ordinary of the Mass
Go Tell It On the Mountain
African American spiritual
arr. Michael Huff
(Performed in 2018)

CHOIRS:
Refrain:
  Go tell it on the mountain,
  Over the hills and ev'rywhere;
  Go tell it on the mountain
  That Jesus Christ is born!

ALL SING:
While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light.

Refrain

The shepherds feared and trembled
When, lo, above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Savior's birth.

Refrain

Down in a lonely manger
The humble Christ was born;
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn.

Refrain

— African American spiritual;
  alt. John W. Work, Jr.

Nunc dimittis
Robert Scholz
(Performed in 1997)

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace,
According to thy word;
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,
Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people:
A light to lighten the Gentiles
And to be the glory of thy people Israel.

— Luke 2:29-32

Beautiful Savior
Silesian folk tune
arr. F. Melius Christiansen
(Performed in 2019)

Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor,
Praise, adoration,
Now and forevermore be thine!

— Gesangbuch, Münster, 1677;
  trans. Joseph H. Seiss
Special Notes

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Broadcast Information

All radio, television, and internet broadcast times are listed in Central Standard Time. Check local listings for broadcast times in other areas.

Radio

Minnesota Public Radio (MPR) will present a condensed version of this special St. Olaf Christmas Festival presentation on Tuesday, December 15 at 7 p.m. on most regional classical music stations, including 99.5 KSJN in the Twin Cities. An encore broadcast will air Sunday, December 20 at 3 p.m. National broadcasts of All Earth is Hopeful are distributed by American Public Media. If you are outside the MPR listening area, check local radio listings to see if it will be carried in your region. The December 15 and December 20 broadcasts of All Earth is Hopeful can be streamed online from classicalmpr.org.

Television

Twin Cities Public Television (TPT), in cooperation with St. Olaf College and PBS+ Distribution, will air a 60-minute presentation of A New Song of Grace and Truth from 2019 on public television stations nationwide, premiering December 17. In the Twin Cities, the program will be broadcast on TPT 2 on Friday, December 18 at 8 p.m., Saturday, December 19 at 2 a.m., Thursday, December 24 at 7 p.m., and Friday, December 25 at 1 a.m. Additional broadcasts across the country can be found by searching your local public television station’s schedule.

Audio and Video Recordings

Downloadable audio and video files of the 2019 St. Olaf Christmas Festival are available at christmas.stolaf.edu. CD recordings of the 2019 Christmas Festival and previous years may be purchased at the St. Olaf Bookstore, through stolafrecords.com, or by calling 888-232-6525. Although downloads and a CD won’t be produced from the All Earth is Hopeful program, the concert stream will remain archived for our audiences to enjoy in the future.

Special Sing For Joy Radio Program

St. Olaf College’s Sing For Joy produces a half-hour program of music for the Advent and Christmas season, featuring highlights from the 2019 St. Olaf Christmas Festival. Many stations across the country will carry this broadcast. Visit singforjoy.org or check your local listings for details.

Music Organizations and College Relations

Michael Kyle ’85, vice president for enrollment & college relations
Jean Parish ’88, director of college relations for music organizations
Terra Widdifield ’95, associate director of music organizations for audience development
Connor Smith, assistant director of music organizations
Sarah Gingerich ’11, coordinator of music organizations
Courtney Klefis, associate librarian for ensembles and performing rights
Greta Ramsey ’19, arts management intern for production and concert management

Christmas Festival Artistic Committee

Anton Armstrong ’78, artistic director
Steven Amundson
James E. Bobb
Christie Hawkins, visual designer
Therees Tkach Hibbard
Matthew Marohl
Tesfa Wondemagegnehu

St. Olaf Music Department

Kathryn Ananda-Owens, department chair
David Carter, department vice chair
Barb Barth, academic administrative assistant – music
Cheryl Bristol, academic administrative assistant – music
Holly King, instrument repair technician

Fine Arts Admissions

Molly Boes Ganza ’08, associate dean of fine arts recruitment

St. Olaf Broadcast/Media Services

Jeffrey O’Donnell ’02, director of broadcast/media services
Joshua Wyatt ’05, associate director of broadcast/media services
Sean Tonko, technical media specialist
Rebecca Beam ’18, production specialist

Program Credits

Visual concept by Christie Hawkins
Cover photo by Anna Hawkins-Saurer
Program design and layout by Don Bratland ’87