



MONDAY, DECEMBER 13

ALL MY HEART AGAIN REJOICES - STANZA 1

All my heart again rejoices
As I hear
Far and near
Sweetest angel voices.
“Christ is born!” their choirs are singing
Till the air
Ev’rywhere
Now with joy is ringing.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-1676; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

This hymn text, by Lutheran theologian and pastor Paul Gerhardt (1607-1667), has echoed throughout sanctuaries for centuries as churchgoers have joined the angel chorus. The song depicts the Christmas narrative in Luke 2 and the shepherds’ encounter with the angel and “multitude of heavenly hosts” praising God and proclaiming Christ’s birth. And now, this hymn sings again! This year’s Advent Vespers theme, inspired from Gerhardt’s words, is carried by choristers, musicians, and liturgists from the Augsburg community revealing that indeed, “Angel Voices, Again Now Sing.” Our communal singing and music-making have been muted these twenty months as the pandemic has sought to steal our songs. And yet, we find a way. The angels are still stiling; the Christmas song still bursts the midnight sky; the air everywhere hums with joy; and hearts thrill and rejoice! Again and again and again the angel voices sing, even now – especially now. But don’t look to the skies.

Behold: the angels are among us.
Believe: the song is on our lips.
Sweet voices, far and near.
They sing again...we sing again:
“Christ is born!”

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