



The Pipes of Christmas

23rd Annual Production

*Proudly presented by
The Learned Kindred of Currie*

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Saturday, December 18, 2021
Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church
New York City

Sunday, December 19, 2021
Central Presbyterian Church
Summit, NJ

There will be one fifteen-minute intermission. Please turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices. The taking of photographs, videos and the use of recording equipment is forbidden.

Due to the Covid pandemic, the wearing of face masks and proof of an approved vaccination or negative Covid test will be strictly enforced.

The 2021 edition of *The Pipes of Christmas* is lovingly dedicated to the memory of

Chap Ostrander
Warren Westura

The Learned Kindred of Currie gratefully acknowledge the generous support of

Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church
Central Presbyterian Church
Summit High School
HomeTowne Television
The Piper's Cove
The Shot of Scotch Highland Dancers
Stephen McErlain

Welcome Home to The Pipes of Christmas

On behalf of our Honorary Chairman, our incredibly talented cast and crew, and all our wonderful sponsors and friends, we welcome you to the 23rd edition of our program.

It is especially delightful to be returning to live performances this year after the Covid pandemic forced the cancellation of our 2020 worship service and concerts. The concerts did go on, albeit virtually last year, with incredible musical performances in English and Scots Gaelic accompanied by breathtaking scenes of Scotland.

At a time when the pandemic shut down performance spaces and public gatherings, we assembled a company of brilliant performers and media professionals to take our audiences over the sea to Scotland for a special on location event. The result was a magical trip across the Highlands and Islands featuring some of Scotland's most-loved classical and traditional performers.

Today, while an uncertain future remains ahead of us, we are slowly returning to live performances. May the bleakest days be behind us!

During this interim, we sadly lost two of our Pipes family.

Warren Westura served as our official photographer for over a decade. He masterfully captured the essences of our program and all the joy and magic of our beloved program.

Percussionist Chap Ostrander had been with us all the way back to our very first program in 1999. We will remember his gifts every time the chimes ring out or a cymbal crashes to accentuate a special musical moment.

Both gentlemen leave behind a rich legacy of audio and visual memories for us to cherish.

Finally, I want to express my deepest thanks to our two venues. Through their generous trust and commitment to our mission, they have reopened their doors for us to bring our worship service and concert back home.

Thank you for your presence today, and thank you for your support of the Learned Kindred of Currie.

From all of us to all of you, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a safe, healthy and prosperous New Year.

***Nollaig Chridheil agus Bliadhna Mhath Ùr!
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!***

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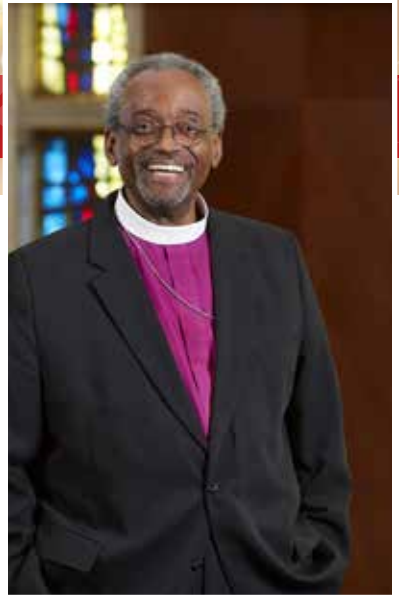


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Rev. Michael B. Curry



It is an honor to serve as Honorary Chair of the 23rd annual Pipes of Christmas worship service and concert. While I know that everyone was deeply impressed with 2020's virtual concert complete with beautiful scenes filmed across Scotland, there is something quite wonderful about being able to enjoy this year's event in person. My only regret is not being able to be there with you. As you no doubt know, the proceeds from this event support scholarships, public events, and historical research. It is your generosity that makes all these things possible, and for that I thank you.

It is significant that this year's program, which follows a traditional Lessons & Carols approach, salutes all those healthcare workers whose tireless, selfless responses to others' needs during this seemingly interminable pandemic have reflected that Way of Love which we see expressed in Jesus of Nazareth, whose birth we celebrate this holy season.

Having begun, like many of you, to travel once more, I've been deeply impressed with all those I have seen giving of themselves, often sacrificially, for the sake of their neighbors, both friends and strangers alike. For truly we are all neighbors, all beloved children of God, a reality that sadly is all too easy to forget, as we often see around us. As a fellow Curry (though, yes, probably with less Celtic roots), my prayer is that the music you hear in this concert, produced as the signature event of the Learned Kindred of Currie, will inspire you to show the world that still more excellent way—the Way of Love—that is sorely needed now more than ever. I remain

Your brother in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael B. Curry".

The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry
Presiding Bishop and Primate
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May the peace and joy of the holiday season be with you throughout the coming year.



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..... The Company

Our Narrator

Susan Porterfield Currie

Our Readers

James Robinson

Andrew Weir

Our Musicians

Rachel Clemente – harp

Steve Gibb – guitar

Sarah Hewitt-Roth – cello

Dan Houghton – pipes and whistle

Margaret Kelly – vocalist

William Peek – organ

Susie Petrov – piano

Mark Verdino – bass

Caitlin Warbelow – fiddle

The Solid Brass Ensemble

Doug Haislip – director

..... And

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Martha Hall – Pipe Major

Musical Director

Steve Gibb

Stage Manager

Pam McCaddin

Executive Producer

Robert Currie

Commander of the Learned

Kindred of Currie

Musical Director Emeritus

Jeff Rickard

Graphic & Web Designer

Melana Currie

..... *Act One*

Act One

Highland Cathedral
Joy to the World
O Come, O Come Emmanuel
Angels We Have Heard On High
What Child Is This
It Came Upon A Midnight Clear
Amazing Grace

Reflection and Remembrance

..... *Act Two*

Act Two

Pipe Band Medley
Hymn to the Saviour
St. Columba
In the Bleak Midwinter
Silent Night
O Come All Ye Faithful

Remembering

HRH Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh
Paddy Maloney, The Chieftains
Drum Major Art McDonald
Captain Sir Tom Moore
Robin Morton
Chap Ostrander
Stephen Sondheim
Warren Westura

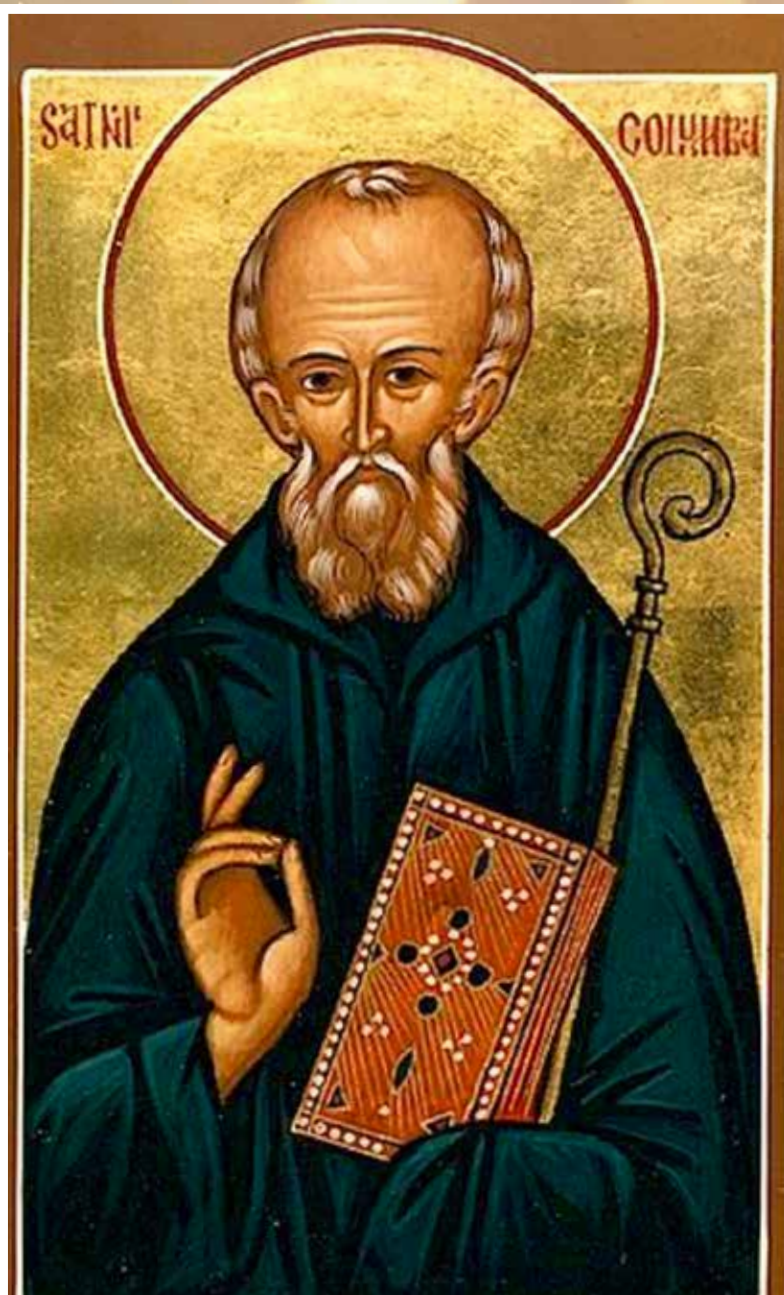
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Anniversary of Saint Columba

The 1500th Anniversary of the Birth of Saint Columba

Our 2021 edition of the Pipes of Christmas marks the birthday of Saint Columba with a traditional hymn composed in his memory.

Columba lived from 7 December 521 to 9 June 597. The name he is known by today is the Latin version of his given name Colum, though he came to be known as Columcille, or "dove of the church" by most people in his own day.

Columba was born at Garten, County Donegal, Ireland. He was a member of the Clan O'Donnell, and was of royal descent. On his father's side he was great-great-grandson of Niall of the Nine Hostages, an Irish king of the fifth century.

In 563 Columba and 12 companions left Ireland, arriving first at what is today, the southern tip of Kintyre, Scotland. This, though, was still within sight of Ireland, so they travelled further north, landing on Iona on 12 May 563. The island was granted to Columba for the establishment of a monastery by King Conall of a distant relative. His contemporary, Saint Moluag, had established a church on the Isle of Lismore the previous year.

At this point Columba was 42 years old. He started his evangelizing amongst the Scots of Dalriada, but then turned to the more testing task of converting the northern Picts of Caledonia. The corner was turned when, together with St Comgall and St Kenneth, Columba called on Pictish King Brude at his fortress overlooking what is now Inverness.

A longstanding story relates how on one of his journeys, Columba encountered several Picts who were burying the body of a man who had been killed by a sea monster which lived in the River Nesa: a story that has often since been interpreted as the first written reference to the Loch Ness Monster. It goes on to say that Columba then saved another man from the monster by ordering the beast to retreat, which it did.

Columba died in the monastery he has built on Iona, in 597. The island became a place of pilgrimage and has remained so ever since despite Columba's own remains being removed in 849.

Columba's feast day is celebrated on June 9. Despite his obvious candidacy for the role, Columba was supplanted by Saint Andrew as the patron saint of Scotland.

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS



Learned Kindred of Currie

..... *Silent Night*

Silent Night

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

Silent night, holy night!

Shepherds quake at the sight

Glories stream from heaven afar

Heavenly hosts sing 'Alleluia!

Christ the Savior is born

Christ the Savior is born

Silent night, holy night!

Son of God, love's pure light

Radiant beams from Thy holy face

With the dawn of redeeming grace

Jesus Lord, at Thy birth

Jesus Lord, at Thy birth