



The Night Before Christmas Dr. David D. Ireland, Lead Pastor

Executive Producer Marlinda K. Ireland

Director Jena Fisher

Assistant Director
Anne Joseph

Cameras

Cristian Castillo Kelly Kopec Tennyson Depeiza Kelly Lewis Moise LaPorte

Producers

Filipe Mora Jena Fisher Patrick Fider

Vocal Directors & Arrangements

Kezia Harley Anne Joseph Zuumah Gayemen

Production Manager Zynide Banks

Writer Karen Stefano Narrator Ryan Faison

Video Director Patrick Fider

Media Producer Patrick Fider Kelly Lewis

Social Media
Coordinator
Dominique Betts-Payne

Marketing/Design
Jerry Laguerre
Tanisha McKinnon
Laura Yumang
Sara Passafiume

Technical DirectorMoise LaPorte

Lighting Luis Tosado Computer Graphics Lovelene Glaude Nataly Mora

Animation Artist Marco Hernandez

Audio Engineers Lewis Denis Jason Worthem Filipe Mora

Makeup & Wardrobe
Anne Joseph
Alexus Frain
Kelly Deserio-Capozzi

Musical Directors
& Arrangement
Peter Powers
Donnie Atis

& Arrangements
Donnie Atis
Anne Joseph
Jena Fisher
Kezia Harley
Charisa Rouse

Zuumah Gayemen







Uniting People to God and People to People

Thanks for Visiting



Thank you for making Christ Church a part of your holiday plans. Every year, it always warms our heart to people, from all walks of life, come together in celebration of Jesus' birth.

Our church has been blessed with talented artists who are passionate and dedicated when it comes to sharing God's message of love and hope. Our prayer is that this concert will bring you a measure of this love and hope for the holidays and beyond.

We would be delighted to have you join us for our weekend services, whether in person or online. Visit ChristChurchUSA.org for service times and viewing info. Also, subscribe to us on YouTube and join us on Facebook and Instagram for life-giving conversations!

Merry Christmas to you and your family and friends! Drs. David & Marlinda Ireland



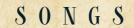












Home for Christmas

()riginal

Original Song written by Anne Joseph, Kezia Harley & Jena Fisher Arranged and Produced by Donnie Atis & Josh Lozada

SOLOIST

Anne Joseph Christ Church Ensemble Singers

Toy to the World

SOLOIST

Ron Benson
Christ Church Ensemble Singers

Nutcracker & 9 Holy Night

Christ Church Collective Arrangement

FEATURING

Charisa Rouse Romanza String Quartet

SOLOISTS

Andrew Darling

RAPPER

Dashawn 'Redeemed' Robinson

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

MUSICIANS

Donnie Atis, Piano
Darius Smith, Keys
Alex Michel, Electric Guitar
Peter Powers, Bass Guitar
Charisa Rouse, Violin
Leonard Latouche, Drums

Away in a Manger

SOLOIST

Kezia Harley

RAP ARTIST

Dashawn 'Redeemed' Robinson









Come All Ye Nations (9 Holy Night)

SOLOIST

Willie Matos
Christ Church Ensemble Singers

Silent Wight

SOLOISTS

Zuumah Gayemen Jena Fisher Shalon Jones

11 Be Home for Christmas

SOLOISTS

Janet Mendez Ruth Peña Ron Benson Jena Fisher Christ Church Ensemble Singers

Til Be Home (Worship Medley)

Christ Church Collective Original

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

FEATURING

Ron Benson

This Christmas

SOLOIST

Charisa Rouse
Christ Church Ensemble Singers

Uyganihola (He Leads Me)

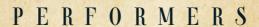
SOLOIST

Dominque Bradford Christ Church Ensemble Singers









SOLOISTS/LEAD SINGERS

Charisa Rouse Andrew Darling Anne Joseph Kezia Harley

Ron Benson Jena Fisher Zuumah Gayemen Shalon Jones Janet Mendez Ruth Peña Dominque Bradford Willie Matos

DIVERSITY IN WORSHIP AMBASSADORS

Janet Mendez AJ Ryan Johnncy Ryan Will Perez Dominque Bradford Andrew Darling

As part of Christ Church's ongoing commitment to *Unite People to God and People to People*, the Worship and Creative Arts Ministry has reached beyond the walls of Christ Church to welcome regional worshippers who are committed to diversity in worship. This cohort of singers and musicians, affectionately known as Diversity in Worship Ambassadors, have graciously lent their talents to make *The Night Before Christmas* a success! These ambassadors gather together virtually to discuss how diversity can be expressed more authentically and practically in worshipping communities.

CHOIR

Kim Curtis
Wodline Hippolyte
Joy Charles Kay
Deborah Marquez
Elizabeth Bennett
Yolanda Johnson
India Lindo
Danielle Kinney
Christina Chen
Deborah Cox
Gretchen Favor
Sharonda Scroggins
Trina Kelly
Kim Fuller

Joyce Williams Andrew Darling

ENSEMBLE

Patrick Fider
Damaris Richardson
AJ Ryan
Johnncy Ryan
Will Perez
Shalon Jones
Kezia Harley
Janet Mendez
Anne Joseph
Willie Matos

MUSICIANS

Alex Michel Acoustic Guitar

Peter Powers Bass Guitar

Leonard Latouche Drums

Darius Smith Kevs

Charisa Rouse Violin

Jason Worthem

Donnie Atis

DANCERS

Olivia Fisher Westys Gymnastics

Chelsea Smith Westys Gymnastics

Raven Dos Santos Movement Makers (Christ Church Collective)

Shanai Henderson Soul Xpression School of Arts Charla Saunders Soul Xpression School of Arts

Isabella Caprigilone Dance Expressions

Gianna Casselano Dance Expressions

Alexandra Portante Dance Expressions





FROM CHRIST CHURCH COLLECTIVE

Get ready to sing along to your favorite Christmas classics— while enjoying this warm and soulful unique blend of jazz, R&B and contemporary urban flair. This new album also features *Home for Christmas*, a Christ Church Collective original song.



Download the album into your music library via the link below and get your holiday on!

ChristChurchUSA.org/Holidays















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RENEW YOUR MIND, LOVE, FAITH AND STRENGTH IN THE NEW YEAR

Beginning the weekend of January 1-2, join us as we begin looking at how to renew and strengthen every facet of your life. Our Lead Pastor, Dr. David Ireland, will use biblical insights, practical tips and proven strategies to empower you to receive the blessings and peace that God has in store for you in 2022 and beyond!

To join us either in person or online, simply visit ChristChurchUSA.org and click "JOIN US IN PERSON" for our service schedule and locations, or click "WATCH ONLINE" to participate in our virtual experience.









Jena Fisher DIRECTOR/PRODUCER, SOLOIST

Jena Fisher has appeared in several Christ Church Christmas productions over the last decade and has been featured in major theatrical and musical productions such as *The Mile-Long Opera* and August Wilson's acclaimed stage play, *The Piano Lesson*. Jena's

passion for music and for worship is shown in her work as a published songwriter (SEASAC)—most notably with collaborations featuring global recording artists Uche Agu and Nathan Curtis. Jena, a graduate of Calvin College in Michigan (B.A. in History and Secondary Education), also spent 10 years as a high school advanced-placement history teacher.

In addition, Jena is the Worship Director and principal worship leader at Christ Church. Her work as a songwriter, production manager and vocalist can be experienced on the Christ Church Worship Team's EP Release, As We Wait and Christ Church Collective's Christmas Album Vol. 1.



Anne Joseph assistant director, soloist

Anne Joseph is a singer, songwriter and guitarist from New Jersey with a debut single, *Peace*, available on all streaming platforms. Her ability to write songs allowed her to collaborate with other artists such as Uche Agu on *Soldiers of the Cross*, New City Kids on *Legacy* and with

her Christ Church family on the Christ Church Collective's EPs & singles: As We Wait EP (Heaven Is Here, Ready For You and Be Acceptable), You Won the Victory single & the Christmas EP (Home for Christmas). You may have seen her on stage as she is a worship leader at Christ Church in Montclair and Rockaway, NJ. She has also appeared in past Christmas Productions: Pass It On, Follow the Star, Christmas Unwrapped, Ticket to Hope and Home for Christmas to name a few. She is the Assistant Director for this year's musical concert, The Night Before Christmas.

Anne studied International Management and French at Moravian College, graduating with a bachelor's degree. By day, she works as the Director of Music at New City Kids in Jersey City, developing young people into musicians and leaders. Among many accolades, she is the co-writer of *A Better Future*, the National Census 2020 song for outreach, and writer on the New City Kids *Legacy* EP. She enjoys traveling, spending time with friends, crafting custom jewelry and all things sweet. Her passion is to spread the Gospel through music and bring people to encounter the love of God.





Donnie Atis Musical director/songwriter

Donnie Atis has appeared in several concert, television and theatre productions. You may have seen him on BET Soul Sessions or at various performances throughout New York City. Donnie's musical abilities have been recognized through collaborations with many chart-

topping artists such as Wyclef Jean and producers such as Jerry "Wonda" (Shakira, Wyclef, Justin Bieber) and Shea Taylor (Beyonce, Rihanna, Ariana Grande). Donnie studied at Bloomfield College, graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management, and he now enjoys a successful career in Finance.

A native of Newark, NJ, Donnie now lives in Warren, NJ with his wife and three children. His favorite Christmas movie is *Trading Places*.



Filipe Mora Music director/guitar

A graduate of Berklee College of Music, Filipe majored in Electronic Production & Design and served as a Guitar Principle. The multifaceted artist is the founder and CEO of Dream Foot Experience, a revolutionary music app company. He also serves as the Music Director for Christ Church.

Aside from leading teams and his production company, Filipe is also an experienced guitar player and music producer who has been able to perform live with well-known artists including Ricardo Sanchez, Anthony Evans, Paul Baloche, Lucia Parker, William McDowell, En Espiritu y En Verdad, Danilo Montero and more.



Karen Stefano SCREENWRITER

Karen Stefano is an actress, writer, director and producer who makes her home in Bloomfield, NJ. She is a mom of two awesome adult children. She recently graduated from Regent University with a master's degree in Scriptwriting for Film and Television. She has

written several scripts, both short and feature lengths, and one full-length play. Her short titled, *Why Wait*, which she wrote, directed and starred in, has been making the film festival circuit, winning two awards: Best Short Film and Best Actress. Her feature-length film, *Deceived*, has been selected into a screenwriting competition.

Karen has been acting since the age of 6. Her first acting "job" was playing Mary the Mother of Jesus for her first-grade school concert. She has been using her gift of acting ever since. She has studied at some of New York City's finer schools: Lee Strasberg Institute and The Acting Studio. Karen has worked in such venues as Lincoln Center playing Sondra in *Lulabelle and Sydney on the Lower East Side*, as well as Carnegie Hall and Yale's University Theater, playing the lead role of Fannie Lou Hamer in *Scenes*



and Songs from Fannie Lou. Her work in television includes Murphy Brown, Blue Bloods, Law & Order: SVU and Law & Order: Organized Crime. Other films include Car Chase, Footsteps in the Rough and most recently, Black Enough.

Karen is set to produce the sequel to her short film, Why Wait, titled, After The Wait, set to be released in the fall of 2022.



Charisa Rouse FEATURED ARTIST/SOLOIST

Violinist and Vocalist, "Charisa the ViolinDiva," has devoted her career to challenging every preconception of what the violin (and violinist!) can accomplish in contemporary music. Classically trained, her versatility has taken her across the world, recording and performing

alongside such artists as Valerie Simpson (of Ashford and Simpson), Vivian Green, Kim Burrell, Cyndi Lauper, William McDowell and Demi Lovato, to name a few. You may have seen her as she rocked her hot pink electric violin while winning Apollo's legendary Amateur Night, or as a featured performer on *Black Girls Rock* next to ballerina Misty Copeland and Patti LaBelle, or performing for senators and dignitaries at a 2012 inaugural ball.

This Christmas season, she'll release her first new music in many years—a jazz version of *O Little Town of Bethlehem*, with even more new music to come from her new worship project in 2022.



Ron Benson soloist

Worship school director, singer and songwriter, Ron Benson has a passion to worship God authentically, and lead others to do the same. With energy and a gritty voice, Ron leads people into the presence of Jesus from a position of adoration, declaration and boldness.

His heart wasn't originally drawn to leading musically, but serving the local church in family ministries. Ron attended North Central University in downtown Minneapolis, MN, where he received a Bachelor of Arts in Youth Ministry and a minor in Biblical Studies. After graduating from college in 2010, Ron accepted a pastoral position in student ministry. Over the next few years, he and others around him began to see where his potential of effectiveness truly lay—in the form of music and leading people into worship. In 2014, Ron took the step from doing music as a hobby and part time, to serving in a full-time capacity. God has given him a platform to lead thousands of people in worship on a consistent basis. Ron's experiences in teaching and discipleship have shaped his ministry of authenticity and shepherding others in their God-given purpose.

Ron currently serves on staff as a worship leader and spearheading the launch of a School of Worship at Christ Church. He and his wife, Leanne, reside in the Pocono Mountains in Pennsylvania. They have four beautiful children: Adam, Grace, Nathan and Leah.





Deshawn 'Redeemed' Robinson

Songwriter, rapper and producer, Dashawn "Redeemed" Robinson is a native of Brooklyn, New York. Realizing at a young age that he was gifted with words, he has utilized his gift to serve God, uplift his community and discuss social ills within our nation. Redeemed now raps

and gives speeches across the country, and is the founder of REDEEMED NATION ENTERTAINMENT LLC.

Having amassed over 200,000 streams across digital music platforms, Redeemed is constantly reminded of the favor of the Lord. His face was featured on billboards in Times Square, Los Angeles and Atlanta. Captivating hit songs such as *Brooklyn Fever*, *Never Fails* and *Shipwrecked* continue to tug on the heartstrings of music lovers throughout the world.



Kezia Harley songwriter/soloist

Kezia Harley is a singer/songwriter and has appeared in several of Christ Church's Christmas productions. She was a featured artist and songwriter for the Christ Church Worship Team's EP Release, *As We Wait*. Kezia is a principal worship leader and vocal director at

Christ Church. She studied Music in Worship at Nyack College, graduating with a Bachelor's of Science. A native of Jersey City, New Jersey, Kezia has been faithfully serving her community through worship.

Alex Michel ACOUSTIC GUITAR

Alex Michel has been playing music for over 25 years. He started learning the guitar when he was 10. At the age of 12, he started playing guitar in church and missionary trips. He continued his musical passion when he migrated to the United States. On many occasions, Alex has played the guitar in New York Church of God events and conferences. He has also been a member of the Worship and Creative Arts Ministry at Christ Church for two years. Alex's ability to learn quickly and on the spot, to be melodic and to naturally play from the heart, does not go unnoticed.

Alex studied Computer Science at Pace University, graduating with a bachelor's degree and a minor in Mathematics. A native of Haiti, Alex now lives in New Jersey with his wife and daughter. He is passionate about ministering to people through music and he aspires to record his own original compositions.

Peter L. Powers BASS GUITAR, MUSIC DIRECTOR

Peter Powers has performed in several Broadway and off-Broadway theatrical productions, on Billboard charting albums, and has performed live for worldwide tours and television appearances on shows such as The Today Show, Good Morning America and Good Day New York with

artists such as Flo Rida, Peter Cincotti, David Foster and Condola Rashad. Peter's Bass playing and music direction has been recognized by some of the top music makers in the country. He studied Jazz and Contemporary Music performance at The New School in New York City, graduating with a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree. A native of New York, Peter now resides in Hunterdon County, New Jersey with his wife and two sons. Check out Peter's YouTube page at www.YouTube.com/PRodBass for more!

Darius Smith

Darius grew up in East Orange, New Jersey. As a kid, his big dream was to go to the NFL. However, as time went on and life presented itself, ministering to people became the ultimate desire of his heart. Some of his hobbies are reading, going to the gym, photography, eating really good food and riding roller coasters. If you really know Darius, you know that one of his biggest values is relationships. He genuinely believes that life is not solely about what you do, but who you do it with. If he were to be remembered for anything, it would be that people were made better not by the things he said, but by the way he lived.



Janet Mendez SOLOIST/DIVERSITY IN WORSHIP AMBASSADOR

Janet is a worship leader/musician and has been leading worship for over 10 years in numerous churches, ranging from small church plants to large established churches. Born in New York and raised in New Jersey, Janet has always had a love for singing since she was a little girl.

It was not until she got saved that she began to follow the call to lead worship. Janet currently serves as a worship leader at Evangel Church in Scotch Plains. Her love for music has inspired her to pursue songwriting.

Janet also holds a bachelor's degree in Music and Music Business from Monmouth University. Her favorite food is vanilla ice cream with chocolate syrup and strawberries.



Marie Kerline Charles

Marie Kerline Charles started singing at the age of 8. Her father, Pastor Celiter Charles, a self-taught pianist and worship leader, was who she gleaned from. He taught her how to play the piano and how to lead devotionals. Marie Kerline started leading praise and

worship at the age of 15 at her father's church. Moving to New Jersey, Marie Kerline expanded in her gift, touring with Phyliss McKoy Joubert's The Glory Gospel Singers throughout Belgium and competing on stages in Japan for the Nodojiman The World: Song for Japan, Sekai ga Utau Nippon no Meikyoku Senshuken; where contestants from all over the world are given the opportunity to perform the most famous Japanese pop songs on TV. She sang behind the independent artist, Ali Caldwell, on season 11 of *The Voice*.

A talented vocalist and worship leader, she continues to be intentional about her artistry. She is influenced by various genres of music, and her sound is beautifully colored with jazz and soothing neo soul tones. She describes her style of music as contemporary and refreshing. In October 2021, she released her first single, *Great Are You Lord (All the Glory)*. This rendition of the Sons and Daughters' *Great Are You Lord* is a compilation of CCM and Gospel sounds that was birthed at her home church, Abundant Life Family Worship Church, where she has been leading worship for six years, under the astounding leadership of Bishop George and Pastor Mary Searight. Marie Kerline holds a bachelor's in Public Health and Biological Science from Rutgers University and a master's in Health Policy and Management from New York Medical College.



Ruth Peña soloist

Ruth Peña is an all-around worshipper and servantleader of Dominican descent, stemming from the Bronx, New York. Her musical talent ranges from serving her congregation at her local church, to being privileged to grace many stages such as Carnegie Hall, Lincoln

Center, City Hall in New York City and internationally. Throughout her years of service, she was blessed to develop an authentic love for God and music. Studying vocal performance at Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of the Performing Arts (Lincoln Center in New York) in conjunction with pursuing her undergraduate degree in Psychology/Sociology at Hunter College (City University of New York) and a Masters of Arts degree in Executive Leadership (subdivision of the MBA Program from Liberty University), have equipped her with invaluable tools that she still uses today. She uses her education and training to better understand people, and lead them from a posture of servant-leadership, with the awareness of how the power of God and music can serve as a tremendous tool to connect us with our Creator.



Zuumah Gayemen vocal coach, soloist

Zuumah Gayemen has been singing since the age of 3. With a hairbrush in her hand, singing in the mirror, she knew she was destined for the world of performing arts. Zuumah is a proud alumnus of the Cicely Tyson Community School of Performing and Fine Arts

(New Jersey). She holds a bachelor's degree in Music Education from Saint Augustine's University (North Carolina) and is currently pursuing a master's degree in Music Education. Zuumah has performed with and for the late Whitney Houston, Emily "Cissy" Houston, Dionne Warwick, Donnie McClurkin, Hezekiah Walker, Jill Scott, Tweet and so much more.

One of her most memorable and honorable moments was to sing in the presence of the late Rosa Parks. She is grateful for her Liberian roots, which laid the foundations of her love for music, and she loves all things purple. Her desire is to make God proud in everything that she does.



Zynide Banks PRODUCTION MANAGER

Zynide served as the Production Manager for Home for Christmas and Ticket to Hope. She actively volunteers at Christ Church in event-support roles. In this capacity, she has participated in Elevate (Family Conference), Tri-County Fair, Prayerfest, the church's 25th & 30th

anniversaries, 4RStudents and several other initiatives. Zynide is a registered nurse and a retired nurse educator. She holds a bachelor's degree in Health Sciences and a Master of Arts in Educational Leadership from New Jersey City University. She is the mother of two adult daughters and grandmother to four adult grandchildren. She currently resides in northern New Jersey.



Dominque Bradford

From the age of 6, Dominque always had a love for the things of God and a passion for music. Over the years he began to develop his ear for piano music and choral conducting. In 2007, he graduated from the Music Educators of Tomorrow (MET) program at

James J. Ferris High School in Jersey City, NJ. At the same time, he also served as the Choir Director for the New Hope Missionary Baptist Church in Jersey City all throughout high school and beyond. In 2009, he became a part of the world-renowned Harlem Gospel Choir, where for five years he served as one of their featured soloist as well as the music director for several tours all around the world. In September of the same year (2009). he started his first group called "The Assignment." In 2011, Dominque Bradford & The Assignment won first place in the group category at the McDonald's Gospelfest with their rendition of the classic song "Total Praise." For years they have been blessed to share the stage with some of Gospel music greatest artists like Bishop Hezekiah Walker, Pastor Donnie McClurkin, Richard Smallwood, JJ Hairston & Youthful Praise, Myron Butler, Vashawn Mitchell, Crystal Akin and Beverly Crawford. In 2017, he released his first single that is available on all digital platforms, We Overcome. With that song he continues to share the message that with God you can overcome any issues that come your way. On July 14, 2018, he married his high school sweetheart, the beautiful Lateafa Draughn-Bradford. He now serves as Associate Minister and Minister of Music at the Ark City Church in Newark, NJ.

Andrew Darling

Andrew Darling, countertenor, is in frequent demand for his vocal artistry in a variety of styles including classical, musical theater, Gospel and jazz. He received his B.A. in Music from New Jersey City University and completed the Graduate Performance Certificate Program at Montclair State University. In June 2017, Andrew received the honor of performing in the Si parla si canta Italian Opera mentoring program in Urbania, Italy. He was featured as one of the soloists with Kathleen Battle in her

Underground Railroad concert at the Metropolitan Opera. Andrew is the 2012 winner of the Emerging Artists Vocal Competition in Reno, Nevada. As guest soloist, he has performed Handel's *Messiah* with the Vermont Philharmonic in 2014 and 2019. Darling is truly a God-fearing young man whose artistry is in tune with the divine.

Damaris Richardson CHRIST CHURCH ENSEMBLE

A native New Yorker, Damaris has dedicated her talents to singing for the Lord from a young age. She has led and participated in worship groups, where she enjoys singing melodies, harmonies and making new friends. She has performed as a soloist and lead character for various festival events and college-level productions, to which she recorded on several albums. At 14, her talent has even brought her to perform on stage at Carnegie Hall. She currently works as a director for a music program in Jersey City for a nonprofit organization known as New City Kids. She enjoys interacting and performing with children and seeing them excel in their academics and musicality. Damaris graduated with a bachelor's degree in Professional Writing from CUNY Lehman College, with a minor in Music. In her spare time, Damaris enjoys painting, practicing her guitar (still a beginner), writing, cooking a new dish, critiquing delicious foods (not picky at all, so long as it's reasonable) and watching the tube. Damaris aims to fulfill two goals in life: becoming a voiceover actress and a writer of children's books.



Willie Matos

Willie Matos has appeared in several Christ Church productions over the last seven years. As a featured soloist, recording artist and worship leader, Willie's musical ability has been evident from as early as age 7.

A native of Puerto Rico, Willie now resides in New Jersey with his wife, Lynn, and their two children (Marilynn and Caleb).

The Night Before Christmas Choir





December 24

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

Rockaway Campus Friday at 6:00PM

Montclair Campus Friday at 6:00PM

December 31

New Year's Eve Holiday Services

Rockaway Campus Friday at 6:00PM

Montclair Friday at 8:00PM & 10:30PM*

*Livestreaming on:

