The Story Told: Mr. Gruber's Silent Night

An original Play by William R. Brett

Produced and Directed by William R. Brett and Rev. Jennifer Gingras

Scene One: At Home with the Grubers

Scene Two: The Christmas Eve Disaster

Scene Three: A Collaboration for All Time

Finale: *Please join the cast as they sing Silent Night (lyrics on other side of this insert)*

Narrators

James Hisey, Michelle Correll, Kayleigh Healey, Thea Rice

Cast of Characters

(in order of appearance)

Franz Gruber – Bill Stadler

Maria Gruber – Amy Matejek

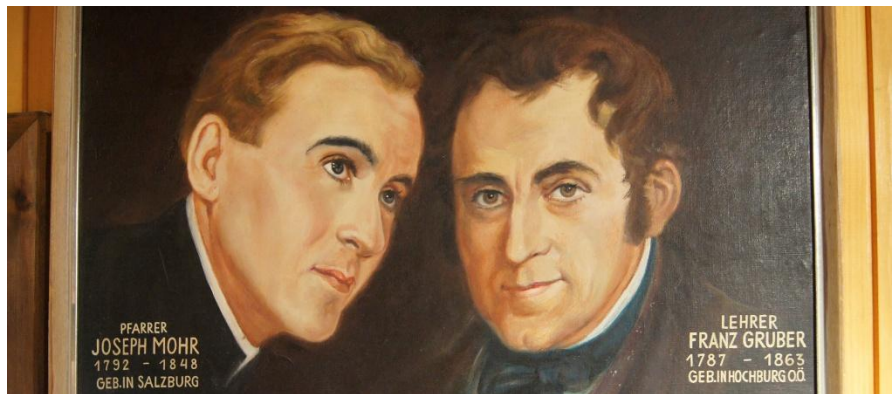**Father Mohr – David Walker**

Guitarist – Glenn Brigham

MCC Sunday School Choristers

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

Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863) was born into a linen weaver's family and studied violin and organ even though his father wanted him to work in the family business. In addition to serving as parish organist for St. Nicholas Church in Obendorf, he taught school in nearby Arnsdorf (1807-1829) and Berndorf (1829-1833). He spent the balance of his career as organist and choir director in Hallein, where he founded the famous Hallein Choral Society.

Joseph Mohr (1792-1848) was born at Salzburg, Austria, on Dec. 11, 1792. After being ordained a priest on Aug. 21, 1815, by the Roman Catholic Bishop of Salzburg. The lyrics to the pretty little carol *Stille Nacht! heilige Nacht!* were written for Christmas, 1818, while Mohr was assistant clergyman at St. Nicholas Church in Obendorf. It was set to music by Franz Gruber, who was the schoolmaster at the neighboring village of Arnsdorf and parish organist.