

From the Director

Songs Unknown

It is generally the words of a new hymn that will grab my attention. In only a few instances is this effective introduction tied specifically to a melody. So, many of the hymns we have been looking at this year first reached me as texts, as poetry.

For that reason, in my dreams every hymnal compilation would be also available as a book of texts only.

The extent of my hymnody is fairly limited, really. It is a bonus in my vocation that I have the leisure and the responsibility to look for and evaluate lots of music for use in worship. I have no idea how often my ignorance either benefits me or hinders us as a congregation. But in this special week of the church year, I want to tell you the story of my favorite ignorance.

I first read the text in *The Worshipping Church* (Hope Publishing, 1990). I was literally left breathless when I encountered them for the first time. How could I have been in the church for over 40 years and never have sung them? Or even read them? There they were, without music, a powerful devotional poem, presented without music, on a page in a hymnal.

The proposed tune was familiar to me, but it requires the repetition of the final line of each stanza. That didn't work for me. I was too uninformed to know that there was another tune, written for this text, in wide use among some worship traditions, and almost exclusively so in England. I just didn't know.

So, I asked our friend Ed Childs if he knew of or had a setting of this hymn. And to my very great pleasure, on Good Friday 1999 our congregation was the first to sing the tune GUNNAR, with the words of a 17th century poem that speaks as clearly today as it did when first written.

"My Song Is Love Unknown" (GUNNAR) was published that year, and is now sung in many churches across our country. For many of those churches, as for College Church, *this* is the tune of "My Song Is Love Unknown." Thankfully, in this matter, ignorance truly was bliss.

Calendar Corner:

April 10—Good Friday communion services, 6 & 8pm; Chancel Choir

April 12—Easter services: Sunrise service at 6:30am, Additional services at 8, 9:30 and 11am

April 19—evening service: Family Gathering, 6pm in the sanctuary

My Song Is Love Unknown

(Samuel Crossman, 1664;

rev. in *Hymns for Today's Church*, 1982)

My song is love unknown, my Savior's love for me;
love to the loveless shown that they might lovely be:
But who am I, that for my sake
my Lord should take frail flesh and die?

He came from heaven's throne salvation to bestow;
but they refused,

and none the longed-for Christ would know:
This is my friend, my friend indeed,
who at my need his life did spend.

Sometimes the crowd his way
and his sweet praises sing,
resounding all the day hosannas to their king:
Then "crucify" is all their breath,
and for his death they thirst and cry.

Why, what has my Lord done
to cause this rage and spite?
He made the lame to run,
and gave the blind their sight:
What injuries! Yet these are why
the Lord most high so cruelly dies.

With angry shouts they have
my dear Lord done away;
a murderer they save, the Prince of Life they slay!
Yet willingly he bears the shame
that through his name all might be free.

Here might I stay and sing of him my soul adores;
never was love, dear King,
never was grief like yours!
This is my friend in whose sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend.

In this is love, not that we have loved God, but that he first loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. (1 John 4:10)

With gratitude, awe and wonder this weekend, let us

Sing on!



THE PRAYER COLUMN
Praying our Anchor memory verses

Hebrews 2:17

Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

The high priest had a job that only he could do - once a year to enter the holiest place of the tabernacle or temple, and there to make an atoning sacrifice for God's people. We fail to understand Good Friday, and Jesus' death on the cross, and the significance of the torn temple curtain, if we do not bear this in mind. Further, we must not lose sight of this: that without this service by the Merciful and Faithful High Priest, we are still subject to the wrath of God. That difficult, technical word, "propitiation" should be very dear to us: it means the removal of God's wrath by the offering of a gift. "Jesus our Lord was delivered up for our sins and raised for our justification." (Romans 4:25) Let us worship him with reverence and joy!

To include your new prayer requests, contact Chuck King (668-0878 x122; cdking@college-church.org)

Chancel Choir Rehearsal Music:

Voice Building

We will sing and walk our way through the Good Friday service, and touch briefly on some Easter music.

Good Friday hymns:
(pick up a packet of hymns)

Good Friday choral items:

Thy Will Be Done
Lamb of God
Just As I Am
My Song Is Love Unknown

Easter music:

"Christ the Lord is risen today" (descant)
Since by man came death (*Messiah*)
Hallelujah (*Messiah*)

Jubilation Bells Rehearsal

Wednesday 6:45 PM in the Choir Room

Sunday, May 17, morning services

Brass Ensemble Rehearsal

Easter services

Concert Series

College Church Sanctuary

There is a ticket charge for this event.

April 19, 3:00 pm

Bach Week

**Program of J. S. Bach for orchestra,
organ and chorus**

Evanston's annual Bach Week festival chorus and orchestra in their first west suburban concert venue. Program: Orchestra Suite, Brandenburg Concerto, Prelude and Fugue in D minor (organ), and motet "Der Geist hilft". Our organ and harpsichord are in use for the program, with Bill Billingham at the harpsichord.

There is a ticket charge for this event.