

From the Director

Advent Hymns

As we enter a season of the church year that College Church observes and celebrates really well, we'll look at a few Advent hymns. Keeping with our autumn theme for this column, the selections are new or unfamiliar old hymns bound for collection in a College Church hymnal.

The short story on Advent: it is the preparation time for Christmas, the four Sundays prior to Christmas Day. Our focus during Advent is to remember the need for, and promises of, a coming Savior; we regain perspective on the birth of Jesus, and we also look forward to his second coming. (Advent basically means "coming" - and in this season we look at both: one in retrospect, the other in hope!)

Today's hymn is commonly sung during Advent. Technically there is nothing distinctly Advent about it. It might just as properly be sung at Christmas (from Christmas Day into early January) or at Epiphany (begins January 6: the revelation of Christ to the Gentiles). But it serves well during Advent as it causes us to reflect on the coming celebration of the birth of Jesus. I like it here because it gives us a global perspective on Jesus' birth, and of course it ends with our eternal song of praise.

I Cannot Tell Why He Whom Angels Worship

I cannot tell why he whom angels worship
Should set his love upon the sons of men,
Or why, as Shepherd, he should seek the wanderers,
To bring them back they know not how or when.
But this I know, that he was born of Mary
When Beth'lem's manger was his only home,
And that he lived at Nazareth and labored,
And so the Savior, Savior of the world, is come.

I cannot tell how silently he suffered,
As with his peace he graced this place of tears,
Or how his heart upon the cross was broken,
The crown of pain to three and thirty years.
But this I know, he heals the broken-hearted
And stays our sin and calms our lurking fear,
And lifts the burden from the heavy laden;
For still the Savior, Savior of the world is here.

I cannot tell how he will win the nations,
How he will claim his earthly heritage,
How satisfy the needs and aspirations
Of east and west, of sinner and of sage.
But this I know, all flesh shall see his glory,
And he shall reap the harvest he has sown,
And some glad day his sun will shine in splendor
When he the Savior, Savior of the world, is known.

I cannot tell how all the lands shall worship,
When at his bidding every storm is stilled,
Or who can say how great the jubilation
When every heart with love and joy is filled.
But this I know, the skies will thrill with rapture,
And myriad myriad human voices sing,
And earth to heav'n, and heav'n to earth will answer
"At last the Savior, Savior of the world, is King!"

William Young Fullerton (1929)

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William Fullerton was born in Belfast, Northern Ireland*, and converted under the preaching of Charles Spurgeon. He became a Baptist minister and leader in the Baptist Union and Baptist Missionary Society in England. The structure of this hymn is simple and engaging: "I don't know how it was, or how it will be ... But based on God's Word, I have confidence in Jesus Christ!" As we enter the Advent season, may it be with that same Word-based confidence.

Sing on!

Chuck

*So it probably is not coincidental that this hymn is commonly sung to "Air from County Derry" - also known as "Danny Boy"!

Calendar Corner:

Sunday, Dec. 3—Advent 1. Morning services: String Ensemble, Chancel Choir

Sunday, Dec. 3— 6pm Christmas Festival, "Hodie" presented by the Children's Choirs

Sunday, Dec. 10—Advent 2. Morning services: Brass Ensemble, Alleluia Choir

Sunday, Dec. 10 - 6pm Service of Nine Lessons and Carols, Chancel Choir and Jubilation Bells

THE PRAYER COLUMN
LEE HOFFNER, CHOIR CHAPLAIN

This past Sunday, we studied chapter 8 of Acts in our class. One of the things we read about was the coming of Peter and John to Samaria to visit the ministry Philip was running there. We saw that Peter and John's coming to Samaria served not to correct a shortcoming of Philip's ministry, but to *validate* and approve it. Philip was a Hellenist Christian, who came to the Samaritans preaching Jesus as "the Christ". Peter and John came to Samaria that these people would understand that the Christ is *the Messiah*. Samaritans were a Jewish offshoot, who had the Pentateuch and who, as the Samaritan woman indicated to Jesus in the gospel of John, looked for the coming of the prophet "like Moses", described in Deuteronomy, and quoted by Stephen to the Sanhedrin. The Samaritans would accordingly understand the gospel of Jesus as Messiah. So, it was important that Jewish Christians receive Samaritan Christians into the church, with the coming of the Holy Spirit indicating that the Samaritans were welcomed into the *whole* church, and not just the Hellenist section of it.

Likewise, our study showed an example of the *encouragement of younger leaders*. When experienced church leaders, like Peter and John, are willing to examine a new work and offer the younger leader assistance, the younger leader receives the benefit of wisdom, the avoidance of error, and strength for difficulties they may face along the way.

If you are young in the faith, look to older leaders to help you grow in witnessing ability and be encouraged by the help they offer you. Similarly, if you have maturity in Christ, seek the Lord's leading for how you might direct someone younger than yourself in love, toward a joyful, fruitful ministry of the gospel.

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

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Chancel Choir Rehearsal Music:

Voice Building

Some morning service music:

The Listening Carol	Dec. 24
Gabriel, You Brought to Mary	Dec. 17
Creator of the Stars of Night	Dec. 3

Lessons and Carols music, order TBA

Dress Rehearsal for Lessons and Carols

Thursday, Dec. 7, 7—9pm

Choir Calendar:

Lessons and Carols—Sunday, December 10, 6 pm;

NB—we do not sing in the morning on Dec. 10

Post-Lessons & Carols rehearsals will prepare music for Sunday AM, Dec. 17 and 24, and music for the 11pm Christmas Eve service. Details to follow.

Jubilation Bells Rehearsal

Wednesday 6:45 PM in the Choir Room

Brass Ensemble Rehearsal

Wednesday 8:15 PM in the Old Balcony

String Ensemble Rehearsal

*1st and 3rd Thursdays at 7:30 PM
in the Sanctuary, September through May*

The Strings play this Sunday, Dec. 3

Concert Series

College Church Sanctuary

January 21, 2007, 4:00pm

Pressenda Trio

Members of the Chicago Symphony

David Taylor, violin

Gary Stucka, cello

with Andrea Swan, piano

In a program of works by

Beethoven, Ravel and Brahms