



“Songs of worship will always sound best in a context of justice and shalom.”

by Pastor Bruce Benson, host

The Revised Common Lectionary that guides our choices of music you hear on *Sing For Joy*, suggests a reading for the second Sunday in November that is disturbing to lovers of church music. The prophet Amos hisses out God’s word to the people, saying, “Take away from me the noise of your songs.” You can be sure composers have not set that verse to music very often! A choral setting of those words just wouldn’t work, and if a composer did write such an anthem, who would want to sing it? What then should *Sing For Joy* do when a reading like this comes along, take a vacation? No.

The Bible has an overwhelming preference for, rather than against, music. That doesn’t mean readers of the Bible should get a scissors and cut out this section of Amos’ words. But attentive readers should remember that it is always important to pay attention to the context of words. That is true whether one is listening to a friend, a mother, the news or the Bible. Context matters.

And there is a context in which church songs — even well-rehearsed and flawlessly performed church songs — can be just noise in the ear of God. That was the situation Amos saw all around him. The lovely music of worship was just “sheep’s clothing” over a wolf of avarice and social injustice. The people somehow thought God could be fooled or distracted by their pretty songs. Or maybe they thought God was more interested in sweet songs than in justice. Amos was sent to say a clear and adamant “no” to such ideas.

One of the criticisms often made of the Roman Empire is that it willfully made use of “bread and circuses” to distract citizens from whatever corruption, injustice and violence might also have been going on. Free food and entertainment can be very effective distractions from more serious issues of life. Amos put songs on his list of things that were being used to cover up injustice and corruption. When used that way, even songs meant for worship can become a sour noise.

But let’s be clear: the issue isn’t the presence of music, it is the absence of justice. Neither the Church nor society can address their deepest problems simply by not singing! The point is to do justice.

We at *Sing For Joy* can share lots of great music with you. What we cannot do is control the context in which you hear it. That context is your own life, your own community, your own nation and world. If Amos is right — and all the evidence of history, psychology and faith suggests that he is — songs of worship will always sound best in a context of justice and shalom. Considered that way, the message of Amos isn’t disturbing at all; he is in favor of creating a context where music can be heard at its wonderful best! May it be so in your life.

Peace be with you,



NOVEMBER 2, 2014

TIME AFTER PENTECOST – LECTIONARY 31 (YEAR A)

- (1R) Micah 3:5–12
(PS) Psalm 43
(2R) 1 Thessalonians 2:9–13
(G) Matthew 23:1–12
(AS) All Saints Sunday

For All The Saints (SINE NOMINE) – Ralph Vaughan Williams / William How, lyricist / Richard R. Webster, arranger (AS)
Advent Press Choir / Richard R. Webster
(CD) *Fanfare! The Music of Richard Webster* / ADVENT PRESS / © 2000 Advent Press advent-press.com

Justice, O God (Psalm 43), Op. 78, No. 2 – Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy / Kenneth Jennings, translator (PS)
The St. Olaf Choir: Northfield, MN / Anton Armstrong
(CD) *Awaken Our Souls, O God of Hope* / ST. OLAF RECORDS / E-2659/60
© 2004 St. Olaf Records stolafrecords.com

Canticle of the Turning (STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN) – Rory Cooney / Rory Cooney, lyricist / John Ferguson, arranger (1R)
The St. Olaf Choir: Northfield, MN / John Ferguson, organ / Anton Armstrong
(CD) *Great Hymns of Faith: Volume III* / ST. OLAF RECORDS / E-3386
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All My Hope on God is Founded (MICHAEL) – Herbert Howells / Robert Bridges, lyricist / Christopher Palmer, arranger (1R, G)
The Choir of King's College / The Wallace Collection, ensemble / Benjamin Bayl, accompanist / Stephen Cleobury
(CD) *Best Loved Hymns* / EMI
(ANGEL, EMI CLASSICS, EMI RECORDS, LTD) / 7243 5 57026 2 3
© 2001 EMI (Angel, EMI Classics, EMI Records, Ltd) emiclassics.com

Holy is the True Light – Sir William H. Harris / G.H. Palmer, lyricist (AS)
The King's Singers
(CD) *Pater Noster: A Choral Reflection on the Lord's Prayer* / NAXOS / 8.572987
© 2012 Naxos, Naxos of America, Inc. naxos.com

NOVEMBER 9, 2014

TIME AFTER PENTECOST – LECTIONARY 32 (YEAR A)

- (1R) Amos 5:18–24 or Wisdom of Solomon 6:12–26
(PS) Psalm 70 or Wisdom of Solomon 6:17–20
(2R) 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18
(G) Matthew 25:1–13

War Requiem: Dies irae (Excerpt), Op. 66 – Benjamin Britten (1R)
Wroclaw Philharmonic Choir: Wroclaw, Poland / Gabrieli Consort and Players: London, United Kingdom / Paul McCreech
(CD) *Britten: War Requiem* / SIGNUM CLASSICS / SIGCD340
© 2013 Signum Classics signumrecords.com

Child of our Time: Steal Away – African American Spiritual / Michael Tippett (2R)
Conspirare: Austin, Texas / Craig Hella Johnson
(CD) *Sing Freedom!* / HARMONIA MUNDI / HMU 807525
© 2011 Harmonia Mundi harmoniamundi.com

Keep Your Lamps – African American Spiritual / André Thomas, arranger (G)
Massed Choirs of St. Olaf College: Northfield, MN / Christopher Aspaas
(CD) *My Spirit Sings of Wondrous Things* / ST. OLAF RECORDS / E-3316/7
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Be Thou a Smooth Way – Ralph M. Johnson / Alexander Carmichael, translator (1R, PS)
The St. Olaf Choir: Northfield, MN / Anton Armstrong
(CD) *Repertoire for Mixed Voices: Volume 1* / ST. OLAF RECORDS / E-2967-8
© 2007 St. Olaf Records stolafrecords.com

Shall We Gather at the River (HANSON PLACE) – Robert Lowry / Robert Lowry, lyricist / John Ferguson, arranger (2R)
Hymn Festival Congregation: Northfield, MN / John Ferguson, organ
(CD) *Celebration! Boe Memorial Chapel* / ST. OLAF RECORDS / E-2939/70
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NOVEMBER 16, 2014

TIME AFTER PENTECOST – LECTIONARY 33 (YEAR A)

- (1R) Zephaniah 1:7, 12–18
(PS) Psalm 90:1–8, (9–11), 12
(2R) 1 Thessalonians 5:1–11
(G) Matthew 25:14–30

O God, Our Help in Ages Past (ST. ANNE) – William Croft / Issac Watts, lyricist / Jeremy J. Bankson, arranger (PS)
Plymouth Choir, First-Plymouth Congregational Church: Lincoln, NE / Tom Trenney
(CD) *Hymns from First-Plymouth* / PRO ORGANO / CD 7260
© 2013 Pro Organo proorgano.com

Great Day – African American Spiritual / Thomas H. Kerr, arranger (1R)
Jessye Norman, soprano
(CD) *Spirituals* / PHILIPS / 416 462-2
© Philips, PolyGram Records, Inc. deccaclassics.com

A Song of Thanksgiving – John Ferguson / Issac Watts, lyricist / Martin Rinkhart, lyricist (PS)
The St. Olaf Cantorei: Northfield, MN / John Ferguson
(CD) *The Green Season: A Sing For Joy Hymn Festival* / PACIFIC RIM SOUND / PRS 08005
© 2007 Pacific Rim Sound pacificrimsound.com

Lord, Thou Hast Been Our Refuge – Ralph Vaughan Williams (PS)
Elora Festival Singers: Elora, Ontario, Canada / Noel Edison
(CD) *Vaughan Williams: Mass in G Minor* / NAXOS / 8.554826
© 2001 Naxos, Naxos of America, Inc. naxos.com

“People like to sing; people like to sing songs that are meaningful, songs that reach their souls, that touch them in more than a superficial way, and there just doesn’t seem to be a musical style or genre that fits the bill quite like a good old fashioned hymn.”

–Pastor Bruce Benson

NOVEMBER 23, 2014

TIME AFTER PENTECOST – LECTIONARY 34 (YEAR A)

- (1R) Ezekiel 34:11–16, 20–24
(PS) Psalm 95:1–7a
(2R) Ephesians 1:15–23
(G) Matthew 25:31–46

Jesus Shall Reign (DUKE STREET) – John Hatton / Issac Watts, lyricist / John Ferguson, arranger (G)
The St. Olaf Cantorei: Northfield, MN / John Ferguson
(CD) *Sing For Joy Archives* / ST. OLAF COLLEGE / Not For Resale
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Christ, Victorious, Christ, Now Reigning – Stephen Caracciolo / Stephen Caracciolo, lyricist (G)
Cathedra: Washington, D.C. / Michael McCarthy
(CD) *New American Choral Music Series: Stephen Caracciolo* / GOTHIC / G-49287
© 2014 Gothic, Gothic Records, Inc. gothicrecords.com

Jubilate Deo – William Walton (PS)
Polyphony / Stephen Layton
(CD) *Walton: Coronation Te Deum and Other Choral Music* / HYPERION / CDA67330
© 2002 Hyperion, Hyperion Records Limited hyperion-records.co.uk

O Come, Let us Sing unto the Lord – Anthony Piccolo (PS)
The Choir of St. Patrick's Cathedral: New York, NY / Donald Dumler, accompanist / John Michael Caprio
(CD) *O Come Let Us Sing* / GOTHIC / G 49091
© 1997 Gothic, Gothic Records, Inc. gothicrecords.com

The Kingdom – André Thomas / André Thomas, lyricist (G)
Florida State University Summer Choir: Tallahassee, FL / André Thomas
(CD) *Songs from My Heart: The Music of André Thomas* / COLLEGIUM RECORDS / CT0029
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All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name (CORONATION) – Oliver Holden / Edward Perronet, lyricist / James Mulholland, arranger (G)
The Kansas City Chorale: Kansas City, MO / Charles Bruffy
(CD) *Alleluia: An American Hymnal* / NIMBUS RECORDS / NI 5568
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“Music is like good bread: it can be plentiful, but still wonderful. That is, full of wonder. It is ordinary without ever being merely ordinary.”
-Pastor Bruce Benson

NOVEMBER 30, 2014
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR B)

(1R) Isaiah 64:1-9
(PS) Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
(2R) 1 Corinthians 1:3-9
(G) Mark 13:24-37
(A) Season of Advent

O Come, O Come Emmanuel (VENI EMMANUEL) – French Processional / Robert Shaw, arranger / Alice Parker, arranger (1R)
Robert Shaw Chamber Singers / Robert Shaw
(CD) *Songs of Angels: Christmas Hymns & Carols* / TELARC / CD-80377
© 1994 Telarc, Concord Music Group telarc.com

The Advent Candle – Bob Chilcott / Charles Bennett, lyricist (A)
Commotio: Oxford, United Kingdom / Matthew Berry
(CD) *The Rose in the Middle of Winter* / NAXOS / 8.573159
© 2013 Naxos, Naxos of America, Inc. naxos.com

Elijah: O That Thou Wouldst Rend the Heavens – Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1R)
Atlanta Symphony Chorus: Atlanta, GA / Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, ensemble / Robert Shaw
(CD) *Mendelssohn: Elijah* / TELARC / 2CD-803889
© 1995 Telarc, Concord Music Group telarc.com

My Lord, What a Mornin' (BURLEIGH) – Harry T. Burleigh (G)
VocalEssence Chorus: Minneapolis, MN / VocalEssence Ensemble Singers: Minneapolis, MN / Philip Brunelle
(CD) *What a Mighty God: Spirituals and Gospels for Chorus* / CLARION / CLR904CD
© 2004 Clarion, Loft Recordings, LLC gothic-catalog.com

Nun Komm, der heiden Heiland: Chorus I – Johann Sebastian Bach / Martin Luther, lyricist (1R)
Lutheran Summer Music Academy Bach Cantata Orchestra and Choir / Sandra Peter
(CD) *Sing For Joy Archives* / ST. OLAF COLLEGE / Not For Resale
© St. Olaf College stolaf.edu

Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending (HELMSLEY) – Thomas Olivers / Charles Wesley, lyricist (G)
The Choir of St. John's College / David Hill
(CD) *Christmas at St. John's College, Cambridge* / HYPERION / CDA67576
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-Reidsville, North Carolina

“I listen to Sing For Joy on my computer. Brings me joy and peace.”
-Bismarck, Missouri

“I had the great joy of hearing last Sundays' program and will now be a faithful internet listener. Thanks for your kindness in linking me to the program. Greetings from a 1945 St. Olaf grad.”
-Louisville, Kentucky

“All the ends of the earth revere, praise God and Sing For Joy!!!”
Pasadena, California

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Brian Bullard, our choir director

*Pr. Joan A. Mau, on retirement as pastor of
Good Shepherd Lutheran*

Carolyn Pierson

In Memory Of:

Cliff Berggren

Mr. Carson O. Brown, my father

Hellestrae

my sister, Kathy

my parents, Pastor and Mrs. D.E. Littler

Mary Ellen Strickland

Herb & Kathryn (Mattill) Strom

NOVEMBER 2014 / YEAR B



Sing For Joy staff:
W. Bruce Benson
Host
John Ferguson
Music Adviser
Jeffrey O'Donnell
Producer and Music Director
Joshua Wyatt
Associate Producer
Carolyn Pierson
Communications Coordinator

Website: singforjoy.org
Email: singforjoy@stolaf.edu
Phone: 507-786-8596



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