



*“We like to sing hymns in which the melody of the first line returns in the last line ... It gives us a feeling of completion, or wholeness, or the satisfaction of coming home.”*

by Pastor Bruce Benson, host

When I look around at the Advent and Christmas seasons — perhaps I should say: when I *listen* around to the Advent and Christmas seasons — I hear music, dearly loved music, vitally important music. I think I’ve said before that all arts are welcome and important at Christmastime, and surely music must be the most crucial of them all for any celebration of the Bethlehem story. In quite a different sense, when I look ahead to Epiphany, I notice that it too carries a sense of music about it, especially a certain sort of music that you hear quite often on *Sing For Joy*.

All musicians will tell you that the structure of music is part of its emotional or spiritual appeal. One simple example of structure can explain why the Epiphany season has a sense of music about it. Emotionally, we humans appreciate and respond positively to the return of a familiar phrase or tune. We like to sing hymns in which the melody of the first line returns in the last line, like the often-used A-B-B-A structure. It gives us a feeling of completion, or wholeness, or the satisfaction of coming home.

The gospel readings for the Epiphany season are something like a hymn-based choral anthem of several stanzas involving several arrangements or variations on one theme: Epiphany or revelation. And the gospel message for the first Sunday — let’s call it the first variation, or better yet, the simple “tune” on which the variations are based — returns on the last Sunday. No, we don’t have the same story over again, but close. The first Sunday tells the story of Jesus’ baptism, this year from the Gospel of Mark. It includes this verse: “*And a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.’*” The

last Sunday of the season tells the story of the Transfiguration, again this year from Mark. And it includes this verse: “*from the cloud there came a voice, ‘This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!’*” The two verses aren’t identical; in one, the voice speaks to Jesus and in the other, to the disciples. But you can’t hear the Transfiguration story without thinking, “I’ve heard that ‘tune’ somewhere before.” Ah yes, in the story of Jesus’ baptism, back there in stanza one of the Epiphany season.

In between those two stories, like five additional stanzas of one hymn, are more stories of how Jesus, little by little, is revealed in various ways to the people of Galilee; to Nathaniel, Simon, Andrew, people in the synagogue in Capernaum, and so on. Taken all together it is one song, the song of Epiphany, a song about the great “being-made-known” of Jesus. But each stanza, each week’s gospel story, is also its own little gem.

*Sing for Joy* will be singing this great Epiphany season anthem soon. I hope you find plenty there to keep your heart and mind singing along.

Peace be with you,



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## JANUARY 4, 2015

### SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS (YEAR B)

- (1R) Jeremiah 31:7–14 or Sirach 24:1–12  
(PS) Psalm 147:12–20 or  
Wisdom of Solomon 10:15–21  
(2R) Ephesians 1:3–14  
(G) John 1:(1–9), 10–18  
(E) Epiphany of Our Lord

**We Three Kings of Orient Are** (THREE KINGS OF ORIENT) –  
John Henry Jr. Hopkins / John Henry Jr. Hopkins, lyricist (E)  
Theatre of Voices / Paul Hillier  
(CD) *The Christmas Story* / HARMONIA MUNDI / HMU807556  
© 2011 Harmonia Mundi [harmoniamundi.com](http://harmoniamundi.com)

**O Magnum Mysterium** – Tomás Luis de Victoria (E)  
Voices of Ascension: New York, NY / Dennis Keene  
(CD) *Beyond Chant: Mysteries of the Renaissance* /  
DELOS / DE 3165  
© 1994 Delos, Delos Productions, Inc. [delosmusic.com](http://delosmusic.com)

**Star in the East (Hail the Blest Morn!)** (STAR IN THE EAST) –  
American Shape-note Hymn / Reginald Heber, lyricist (E)  
The Waverly Consort, ensemble / Michael Jaffe  
(CD) *A Waverly Cosort Christmas* / VIRGIN VERITAS /  
CDC 7243 5 55193 2 0  
© 1994 Virgin Veritas, Capitol EMI, Inc. [virginclassics.com](http://virginclassics.com)

**O Jesus King of Glory, BWV 415** (VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN)  
– Melchior Teschner / Martin Behm, lyricist / Johann Sebastian  
Bach, arranger / Catherine Winkworth, translator (E)  
The Cathedral Singers: Chicago, IL / Samuel J. Soria, accompanist  
/ Richard Proulx  
(CD) *Let All Together Praise: Ars Antiqua Choralis Volume V* /  
GIA PUBLICATIONS / GIA CD-335  
© 1997 GIA Publications [giamusic.com](http://giamusic.com)

**Lord, When the Wise Men Came from Far** – Philip Moore /  
Sidney Godolphin, lyricist (E)  
The Choir of York Minster: York, United Kingdom /  
Robert Sharpe  
(CD) *An Ebor Epiphany* / REGENT RECORDS / REGCD391  
© 2012 Regent Records [regentrecords.com](http://regentrecords.com)

**The Word Was God** – Rosephanye Powell (G)  
The St. Olaf Choir: Northfield, MN / Anton Armstrong  
(CD) *Christmas in Norway with the St. Olaf Choir* /  
ST. OLAF RECORDS / E-3501  
© 2013 St. Olaf Records [stolafrecords.com](http://stolafrecords.com)

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## JANUARY 11, 2015

### BAPTISM OF OUR LORD – LECTIONARY 1 (YEAR B)

- (1R) Genesis 1:1–5  
(PS) Psalm 29  
(2R) Acts 19:1–7  
(G) Mark 1:4–11

**Light Everlasting** – Olaf C. Christiansen (1R)  
The St. Olaf Choir: Northfield, MN / Anton Armstrong  
(CD) *A St. Olaf Christmas in Norway* / ST. OLAF RECORDS /  
E-2836

© 2005 St. Olaf Records [stolafrecords.com](http://stolafrecords.com)

**Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling** (SALISBURY) – Herbert Howells /  
Timothy Rees, lyricist (1R, 2R)  
Saint Clement's Choir: Philadelphia, PA / Matthew Glandorf,  
accompanist / Peter Richard Conte  
(CD) *Hymns of Heaven and Earth* / SONO LUMUS (FORMERLY  
DORIAN RECORDS) / DOR-90259  
© 1998 Sono Lumus (Formerly Dorian Records) [sonoluminus.com](http://sonoluminus.com)

**Baptism** – R. Nathaniel Dett / Harriet Washington, lyricist (G)  
The Nathaniel Dett Chorale / Brainerd Blyden-Taylor  
(CD) *Listen to the Lambs* / MARQUIS CLASSICS /  
7 74718 12932 1  
© 2002 Marquis Classics [marquisclassics.com](http://marquisclassics.com)

**Baptismal Anthem** – American Shape-note Hymn (G)  
Boston Camerata: Boston, MA / Joel Cohen  
(CD) *An American Christmas* / ERATO / 4509-92874-2  
© 1993 Erato, Paris, France

**Responsory: “In Columbae specie” (In the Form of a Dove)** –  
Gregorian Chant (G)  
Gloriæ Dei Cantores: Cape Cod, MA / Mary Berry  
(CD) *The Beloved Son* / GLORIÆ DEI CANTORES / GDCD 032  
© 2002 Gloriæ Dei Cantores [paracletepress.com/cds-gdc.html](http://paracletepress.com/cds-gdc.html)

**Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters** (BEACH SPRING) –  
The Sacred Harp / Ruth Duck, lyricist (G)  
St. Olaf Conference on Worship, Theology and The Arts /  
John Ferguson, organ  
(CD) *2004 St. Olaf Conference on Worship, Theology, and the  
Arts: Feast of the Epiphany* / ST. OLAF COLLEGE /  
Not For Resale  
© 2004 St. Olaf College [stolaf.edu](http://stolaf.edu)

**Take Me to the Water** – African American Spiritual /  
Alice Parker, arranger (G)  
Musicians of Melodious Accord / Alice Parker  
(CD) *Take Me to the Water* / GIA PUBLICATIONS / GIA CD-329  
© 1994 GIA Publications [giamusic.com](http://giamusic.com)

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*Winter, in cold climates can feel long and dark. Hope,  
music, and light all help. A radio program can't do  
much about the light – except spiritual light – but you  
will find plenty of music and hope on Sing For Joy.*  
– Pastor Bruce Benson

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## JANUARY 18, 2015

### SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY – LECTIONARY 2 (YEAR B)

- (1R) 1 Samuel 3:1–10, (11–20)  
(PS) Psalm 139:1–6, 13–18  
(2R) 1 Corinthians 6:12–20  
(G) John 1:43–51

**I Believe This is Jesus** – Undine Smith Moore (G)  
The Wartburg Choir: Waverly, IA / Paul Torkelson



(CD) *The Wartburg Choir: 2001 Concert Tour* /  
WARTBURG COLLEGE / E-2454  
© 2001 Wartburg College

**Send Me, Lord** (THUMA MINA) –  
South African Traditional (1R, G)  
The St. Olaf Choir: Northfield, MN / Anton Armstrong  
(CD) *Great Hymns of Faith: Volume III* /  
ST. OLAF RECORDS / E-3386  
© 2011 St. Olaf Records [stolafrecords.com](http://stolafrecords.com)

**O Lord, Thou Hast Searched Me** – Ronald A. Nelson (PS)  
Gloriæ Dei Cantores: Cape Cod, MA / Elizabeth C. Patterson  
(CD) *Make His Praise Glorious: American Psalmody – Volume 1* /  
GLORIÆ DEI CANTORES / GDCD 025  
© 1998 Gloriæ Dei Cantores [paracletepress.com/cds-gdc.html](http://paracletepress.com/cds-gdc.html)

**Dear Lord and Father of Mankind** (REPTON) –  
C. Hubert H. Parry / John Greenleaf Whittier, lyricist /  
Sir David Willcocks, arranger (G)  
The Memphis Boychoir: Memphis, TN / The Memphis Pro Arte  
Chamber Orchestra, ensemble / John Ayer  
(CD) *In Every Corner Sing!* / PRO ORGANO / CD 7034  
© 1998 Pro Organo [proorgano.com](http://proorgano.com)

**I, The Lord of Sea and Sky (Here I Am, Lord)**  
(HERE I AM, LORD) – Daniel Schutte / Daniel Schutte, lyricist /  
Ovid Young, arranger (1R)  
Susquehanna University Choir: Selinsgrove, PA / Cyril Stretansky  
(CD) *The Promise of Living* / AMP RECORDINGS / AMP 21227  
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*“Music doesn’t just befriend epiphanies, music  
elicits them, it stirs them into being.”*

- Pastor Bruce Benson

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## JANUARY 25, 2015

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY –  
LECTIONARY 3 (YEAR B)

(1R) Jonah 3:1–5, 10  
(PS) Psalm 62:5–12  
(2R) 1 Corinthians 7:29–31  
(G) Mark 1:14–20

**Jesus Shall Reign** (DUKE STREET) – John Hatton /  
Issac Watts, lyricist / Larry Nickel, arranger (1R, G)  
West Coast Mennonite Chamber Choir / Tony Funk  
(CD) *Come, Heart’s Delight: Songs of the British Isles* /  
MCC SCS / IKR005CD  
© MCC SCS

**Heavenly Light** – Alexander Koplov /  
Peter J. Wilhousky, arranger (1R, G)  
Robert Shaw Festival Singers / Robert Shaw

(CD) *A Robert Shaw Christmas* / TELARC / CD-80461  
© 1997 Telarc, Concord Music Group [telarc.com](http://telarc.com)

**The Gift to be Simple** (SIMPLE GIFTS) – American Shaker Tune /  
Bob Chilcott, arranger (1R)  
Soli Deo Gloria Cantorum: Omaha, NE / Almeda Berkey  
(CD) *Arvo: The Magnificat* / SDG RECORDS / SDG 941  
© 1994 SDG Records

**Melismata: Remember, O Thou Man** – Thomas Ravenscroft /  
Thomas Hardy, lyricist (1R, G)  
The Sixteen / Harry Christophers  
(CD) *Christus natus est: An Early English Christmas Collection* /  
CORO / COR16027  
© 1996 Coro [the-sixteen.org.uk/page/3149/CORO](http://the-sixteen.org.uk/page/3149/CORO)

**There’s A Wideness in God’s Mercy** (ST. HELENA) –  
Calvin Hampton / Frederick William Faber, lyricist (1R)  
The Choirs of the Cathedral of St. Philip: Atlanta, GA /  
Robert L. Simpson  
(CD) *Great Hymns of the Church* /  
CHURCH PUBLISHING COMPANY / ISBN: 0-89869-286-5  
© 1996 Church Publishing Company [churchpublishing.org](http://churchpublishing.org)

**Lord, for thy Tender Mercy’s Sake** – Richard Farrant /  
John Bull, lyricist (G)  
The Cambridge Singers / John Rutter  
(CD) *Faire is the Heaven: Music of the English Church* /  
COLLEGIUM RECORDS / COLCD 107  
© 1988 Collegium Records, Naxos of America, Inc.  
[collegium.co.uk](http://collegium.co.uk)

**This Little Light of Mine** – African American Spiritual /  
Moses Hogan, arranger (G)  
The St. Olaf Choir: Northfield, MN / Coraine Tate, soprano /  
Anton Armstrong  
(CD) *Christmas in Norway with the St. Olaf Choir* /  
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*“You have probably used this saying attributed to Kurt  
Vonnegut: The only proof he needed of the existence of  
God was music. Thank you for your music and words.”*  
- Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

*“We treasure the spiritual wake-up call given us every Sun-  
day morning by your Sing For Joy broadcasts. The music is  
always beautiful, and Pastor Benson’s introductory com-  
ments are sensitive and enriching. You send us on our way  
to church with uplifted hearts. Thank you!”*  
- Middletown, Connecticut

*“I enjoy your program so much!”*  
- Mitchell, South Dakota

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*Henry Pierson*

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*Neal Canon, my father*

*Pastor Ivan B. Fagre, pastor and alumni*

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JANUARY 2015 / YEAR B

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