



*“O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come.”*

by Pastor Bruce Benson, host

Whenever I mention fund-raising in this host letter, it makes me wince. Not because I am embarrassed to mention it, or think the subject of money is somehow tainted. Money is simply fuel, or food — necessary to keep good projects going, and I believe *Sing For Joy* is a good project that deserves your support. No, I wince because I know that this particular issue of the newsletter could be the very first one some readers receive, and I'd rather have their first exposure to the newsletter deal with matters musical and theological instead of financial. In other words, I'd like to have every reader's first newsletter be more like the program itself. But ... it is that time of year. Time to restock the pantry. If you haven't yet received a letter from Carolyn Pierson, our communications coordinator, you will soon. I hope you'll read it, and respond with generosity.

Carolyn's letter mentions a gift CD, and refers to a setting of Psalm 90 that is featured on that CD. Psalm 90 is often on my mind after I visit Jerusalem, and since I have just recently returned from the streets of the Old City, it is on my mind again this month.

Over the years, I have taken students to the Holy Land for international study programs. We usually visited the pool of Bethesda and the nearby church of St. Anne, just inside the Lions Gate of the Old City. And often we sang inside that church. Twenty-five years ago, the students I accompanied from St. Olaf College were among the few groups to sing there. Or, perhaps it was just that fewer groups were in Jerusalem during January, the usual month of my visits. In either case, today tourist groups from countries around the world all want to sing inside the Church of St. Anne because the acoustics are so remarkable. One could simply sit

in a pew and hear non-stop singing in dozens of languages all day long.

What does any of this have to do with Psalm 90? Well, the hymn “O God, Our Help in Ages Past,” a paraphrase of Psalm 90, is usually sung to a hymn tune called St. Anne, and that is the hymn our students often sang — in harmony, of course — in St. Anne's church. As the Advent season arrives, and along with it the end of one liturgical year and the beginning of the next, that hymn is fitting. “O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come.” *Sing For Joy* is pleased to have been on the air (and now on the web!) almost long enough to say it is an age, and certainly we are full of hope for years to come. We invite you to share that hope and offer your support.

Thank you from all of us who prepare the program, and thank you also from the many listeners who rely on the generous support of others.

Peace be with you,



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**DECEMBER 6, 2015****SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR C)**

- (1R) Malachi 3:1–4 or Baruch 5:1–9  
(PS) Luke 1:68–79  
(2R) Philippians 1:3–11  
(G) Luke 3:1–6

**On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry** (WINCHESTER NEW) –  
Musikalisches Handbuch, Hamburg / Charles Coffin, lyricist / Richard R.  
Webster, arranger (G)  
Advent Press Choir / Richard R. Webster  
(CD) *Fanfare! The Music of Richard Webster* / ADVENT PRESS /  
© 2000 Advent Press [advent-press.com](http://advent-press.com)

**Prepare the Way O Zion** – Dala Melody /  
Margareta (Jalkeus) Bengtson, arranger (1R, G)  
Dale Warland Singers: Minneapolis, MN / Dale Warland  
(CD) *Christmas with the Dale Warland Singers* / GOTHIC / G 49208  
© 2002 Gothic, Gothic Records, Inc. [gothicrecords.com](http://gothicrecords.com)

**Comfort, Comfort Now My People** (GENEVAN 42 or FREU DICH SEHR)  
– Genevan Psalter / Johann G. Olearius, lyricist / John L. Bell, arranger /  
Catherine Winkworth, translator (G)  
The Cathedral Singers: Chicago, IL / Dominic Trumfio, accompanist /  
John L. Bell  
(CD) *God Comes Tomorrow ...* / GIA PUBLICATIONS / GIA CD-494  
© 2001 GIA Publications [giamusic.com](http://giamusic.com)

**Prepare the Way** (BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN) – Swedish Folk Tune /  
Frans Mikael Franzén, lyricist / Elizabeth Cruciger, lyricist /  
Christopher Aspaas, arranger / Augustus Nelson, translator /  
Arthur T. Russell, translator (G)  
St. Olaf Viking Chorus: Northfield, MN / Christopher Aspaas  
(CD) *A Child, A Son, The Prince of Peace* /  
ST. OLAF RECORDS / E-3304/05  
© 2010 St. Olaf Records [stolafrecords.com](http://stolafrecords.com)

**Messiah: But Who May Abide** – George Frideric Handel (1R)  
Oregon Bach Festival Orchestra, ensemble / Ingeborg Danz, alto /  
Helmuth Rilling  
(CD) *Messiah* / HÄNSSLER CLASSIC / CD 98.198  
© 1997 Hänssler Classic [haenssler-classic.de](http://haenssler-classic.de)

**Messiah: And He Shall Purify** – George Frideric Handel (1R)  
Oregon Bach Festival Choir: Portland, OR /  
Oregon Bach Festival Orchestra, ensemble / Helmuth Rilling  
(CD) *Messiah* / HÄNSSLER CLASSIC / CD 98.198  
© 1997 Hänssler Classic [haenssler-classic.de](http://haenssler-classic.de)

**On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry** (PUER NOBIS) – Michael Prætorius /  
Charles Coffin, lyricist / John Ferguson, arranger /  
Composite, translator (G)  
Massed Choirs of St. Olaf College: Northfield, MN /  
The St. Olaf Orchestra, ensemble / John Ferguson  
(CD) *2001 St. Olaf Christmas Festival* ARCHIVE / WCAL /  
© 2001 WCAL [wcal.org](http://wcal.org)

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*“On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  
announces that the Lord is nigh.  
Awake and harken, for he brings  
glad tidings of the King of kings!”*  
–Charles Coffin

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**DECEMBER 13, 2015****THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR C)**

- (1R) Zephaniah 3:14–20  
(PS) Isaiah 12:2–6  
(2R) Philippians 4:4–7  
(G) Luke 3:7–18

**Rejoice in the Lord Alway** – Anonymous (2R)  
Voices of Ascension: New York, NY / Dennis Keene  
(CD) *From Chant to Renaissance* / DELOS / DE 3174  
© 1995 Delos, Delos Productions, Inc. [delosmusic.com](http://delosmusic.com)

**Behold, God is my Salvation** – Leo Sowerby (PS)  
Girls' Choir of St. Paul's Cathedral: Buffalo, NY /  
Daniel Fortune, accompanist / Dale Adelman  
(CD) *Ex Ore Innocentium* / PRO ORGANO / CD 7076  
© 1995 Pro Organo [proorgano.com](http://proorgano.com)

**Rejoice in the Lord Alway, “Bell Anthem”** – Henry Purcell (2R)  
The Choir of Salisbury Cathedral: Salisbury, United Kingdom /  
Richard Seal  
(CD) *Anthems from Salisbury* / MERIDIAN / CDE84025  
© 1986 Meridian [meridian-records.co.uk](http://meridian-records.co.uk)

**Lift Up Your Heads** (TRURO) – Thomas, Psalmodia Evangelica Williams /  
Psalmodia Evangelica / Georg Weisell, lyricist /  
Olaf C. Christiansen, arranger (2R)  
The St. Olaf Choir: Northfield, MN / Anton Armstrong  
(CD) *Great Hymns of Faith: Volume II* / ST. OLAF RECORDS / E-2651  
© 2004 St. Olaf Records [stolafrecords.com](http://stolafrecords.com)

**Surely it is God Who Saves Me, Op. 839B** – Carson Cooman (PS)  
The Cambridge Consonance: Cambridge, MA / Jeffrey Grossman  
(CD) *The Welcome News* / GOTHIC / G-49280  
© 2012 Gothic, Gothic Records, Inc. [gothicrecords.com](http://gothicrecords.com)

**Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding** (MERTON) – William Henry Monk /  
Michael Weisse, lyricist / Richard R. Webster, arranger (1R)  
Choirs of the Parish Church of St. Luke: Evanston, IL /  
Asbury Brass, ensemble / Charles H. Snider, accompanist /  
Richard R. Webster  
(CD) *Blow Ye the Trumpet in Zion* / PARISH CHURCH OF ST. LUKE /  
© Parish Church of St. Luke [stlukesevanston.org](http://stlukesevanston.org)

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*“Advent is like a fresh hopeful dawn to a  
new day – even when you know it is coming,  
even when it comes again and again over the  
years – each year it invites us to stretch our  
souls, take hope, and wake-up.”*

–Pastor Bruce Benson

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**DECEMBER 20, 2015****FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR C)**

- (1R) Micah 5:2–5a  
(PS) Luke 1:46b–55 or Psalm 80:1–7  
(2R) Hebrews 10:5–10  
(G) Luke 1:39–45, (46–55)

**Magnificat in D Major: Magnificat anima mea, BWV 243** –  
Johann Sebastian Bach (PS, G)  
The Monteverdi Choir / English Baroque Soloists, ensemble /  
John Eliot Gardiner

(CD) J.S. Bach – *Magnificat, Jauchzet Gott* / PHILIPS / 411 458-2  
© 1985 Philips *deccaclassics.com*

**A Mother's Carol** – Scott Ethier / Clay Zambo, lyricist (PS, G)  
VocalEssence Ensemble Singers: Minneapolis, MN / Philip Brunelle  
(CD) *Behold this Heavenly Night* / CLARION / CLCD-939  
© 2010 Clarion, Loft Recordings, LLC *gothic-catalog.com*

**Unexpeted and Mysterious (ST. HELENA)** – Calvin Hampton /  
Jeannette M. Lindholm, lyricist (PS, G)  
Plymouth Choir, First-Plymouth Congregational Church: Lincoln, NE /  
Tom Trenney  
(CD) *Carols from First Plymouth* /  
FIRST PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH /  
© 2014 First Plymouth Congregational Church *firstplymouth.org*

**Canticle of the Turning (STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN)** – Rory Cooney /  
Rory Cooney, lyricist / John Ferguson, arranger (PS, G)  
The St. Olaf Choir: Northfield, MN / John Ferguson, organ /  
Anton Armstrong  
(CD) *Great Hymns of Faith: Volume III* / ST. OLAF RECORDS / E-3386  
© 2011 St. Olaf Records *stolafrecords.com*

**A New Magnificat** – Carolyn Jennings (PS, G)  
Massed Choirs of St. Olaf College: Northfield, MN /  
The St. Olaf Orchestra / Sigrid Johnson  
(CD) *My Spirit Sings of Wondrous Things* /  
ST. OLAF RECORDS / E-3316/7  
© 2008 St. Olaf Records *stolafrecords.com*

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*The story and music of Christmas  
invite any and all to come  
to Bethlehem and see him  
whose birth the angels sing.*  
-Pastor Bruce Benson

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**DECEMBER 27, 2015**  
FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS (YEAR C)

(1R) 1 Samuel 2:18–20, 26  
(PS) Psalm 148  
(2R) Colossians 3:12–17  
(G) Luke 2:41–52

**Alleluia, A New Work is Come on Hand** – Peter Wishart (G)  
Polyphony / Stephen Layton  
(CD) *O Magnum Misterium: Twentieth Century Carols* /  
HYPERION / CDA66925  
© 1996 Hyperion, Hyperion Records Limited *hyperion-records.co.uk*

**Torches** – John Joubert (G)  
The Washington Chorus: Washington, DC / Robert Shafer  
(CD) *Glorious Splendor* / GOTHIC / G 49220  
© 2003 Gothic, Gothic Records, Inc. *gothicrecords.com*

**Lit'l Boy (Christ in the Temple)** – African American Spiritual (G)  
Thomas Young, tenor / Dinard Smith, piano  
(CD) *Black Christmas* / MUSICAL HERITAGE SOCIETY / MHS 513205K  
© 1992 Musical Heritage Society

**In the Bleak Midwinter (CRANHAM)** – Gustav Holst / Christina Rossetti,  
lyricist / John Andrew Storey, lyricist / Abbie Betinis, arranger (1R)  
Sounding Light: Plymouth, MI / Tom Trenney  
(CD) *Glories Stream from Heaven Afar* /  
MANY VOICES...ONE SONG / 84501 92134

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**Gesu Bambino** – Pietro Yon / Fredrick H. Martens, lyricist (1R)  
Massed Choirs of St. Olaf College: Northfield, MN /  
The St. Olaf Orchestra / Sigrid Johnson  
(CD) *The World Renewed With Love Divine* /  
ST. OLAF RECORDS / E-3549/50  
© 2014 St. Olaf Records *stolafrecords.com*

**Il est né divin enfant (He is Born)** – French Carol /  
Donna Gartman Schultz, arranger (G)  
Dale Warland Singers: Minneapolis, MN / Dale Warland  
(CD) *Christmas with the Dale Warland Singers* / GOTHIC / G 49208  
© 2002 Gothic, Gothic Records, Inc. *gothicrecords.com*

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## NEWS

We are in the midst of our fall fund drive. Please consider a gift and help us make our goal of \$10,000! It is easy to give online at [singforjoy.org/donate](http://singforjoy.org/donate) or you can use the envelope enclosed with the fundraiser letter.

We just passed the 1,000 “likes” mark on Facebook. Thank you to everyone who rallied and shared our page with friends. It is exciting watching our community of listeners grow!

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## LISTENERS' CORNER

Thanks to our generous listeners who fuel us with gifts and praise. Your contributions and kind words are a blessing.

*“Thanks for the message of the Word presented in beautiful music. We’ve been listening for nearly 30 years.”*  
-Vero Beach, Florida

*“I never tire of hearing the great music in the context of the week’s pericope. Thank you for this ministry.”*  
-Rileyville, VA

We asked on Facebook what are your  
*Sing For Joy* rituals, and you said:

*“Sunday (afternoon) crossword puzzle accompaniment.”*

*“We wake up to the program every Sunday AM.”*

*“We listen before church, as we get ready.”*

Write to us at [singforjoy@stolaf.edu](mailto:singforjoy@stolaf.edu) to share your  
*Sing For Joy* ritual!

Join in the *Sing For Joy* conversation on Facebook, Twitter  
and Instagram (@SingForJoyRadio) and stream the show  
online at [singforjoy.org](http://singforjoy.org).

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and faithful listeners  
like you.

Thank you for your gifts!

In Memory Of:

*Melvin Abel, my husband*  
*my husband, Harold G. Deal*

*Bette Jean Granes*

*Dr. Kenneth Jennings*

*Pastor Jere Martin*

*Linda Roberts*

*The Reverend Doctor Alvin Charles Rueter*  
*(1921-2008), Founder of Sing For Joy*

*John Scott*

*Lois M. Strother*

In Honor Of:

*Mr. David Williams*

DECEMBER 2015 / YEAR C

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Sing For Joy® is a  
production of  
St. Olaf College.

**Sing For Joy staff:**  
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Host  
John Ferguson  
Music Adviser  
Jeffrey O'Donnell  
Producer and Music Director  
Joshua Wyatt  
Associate Producer  
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