



MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE.
TO THE LORD, ALL YOU LANDS.
COME INTO GOD'S PRESENCE.
WITH A SONG

PSALM
100

A SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE LIFE OF

† Sigrid Jean Johnson †

JANUARY 8, 1952 – MARCH 11, 2022

Saturday, March 19, 2022 † 3 p.m.
Boe Memorial Chapel † St. Olaf College
Northfield, Minnesota

*An asterisk * invites you to stand as you are able.*

PRELUDE MUSIC

“RHOSYMEDRE (Lovely)”

from *Three Preludes on Welsh Hymn Tunes*

Ralph Vaughan Williams

“Adagio (Nimrod)” from *Enigma Variations*, Op. 36

Edward Elgar

CHORAL OFFERING

“Lift Thine Eyes” from *Elijah*, Op. 70

Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy

Lift thine eyes,
O lift thine eyes to the mountains,
whence cometh help.

Thy help cometh from the Lord,
the Maker of heaven and earth.

He hath said, thy foot shall not be moved.
Thy Keeper will never slumber.

— Psalm 121:1–3

WELCOME

* HYMN

“Children of the Heavenly Father”

TRYGGARE KAN INGEN VARA

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, tr. Ernst W. Olson

Music: Swedish Folk Melody

1. Chil - dren of the heav'n - ly Fa - ther safe - ly
2. God his own doth tend and nour - ish, in his
3. Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the
4. Though he giv - eth or he tak - eth, God his

in his bo - som gath - er; nest - ling bird nor star in
ho - ly courts they flour - ish. From all e - vil things he
Lord his child - ren sev - er; un - to them his grace he
chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth; his the lov - ing pur - pose

heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.
spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them.
show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.
sole - ly to pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

* GREETING

☐ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

☑ And also with you.

* PRAYER OF THE DAY

☐ Let us pray.

O God of grace and glory ... through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

☑ Amen.

REMEMBRANCES BY FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Greg Nelson, brother
Steven Amundson, friend and colleague
Anton Armstrong, friend and colleague
David Bengtson, friend
Andrew Johnson, son
Peter Johnson, son

READING

“Epitaph”

Merrit Malloy

* PSALM 139

Read responsively

- L** Lord, you have searched me out;
O Lord, you have known me.
- C** You know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.
- L** You trace my journeys and my resting-places
and are acquainted with all my ways.
- C** Indeed, there is not a word on my lips,
but you, O Lord, know it altogether.
- L** You encompass me, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.
- C** Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.
- L** Where can I go then from your Spirit?
Where can I flee from your presence?
- C** If I climb up to heaven, you are there;
If make the grave my bed, you are there also.
- L** If I take the wings of the morning
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
- C** Even there your hand will lead me
and your right hand hold me fast.

ANTHEM

“For God Commanded Angels” Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy
For God commanded angels to watch over you
That they shall protect you,
In all your living keep you;
For their hands will uphold and guide you,
Lest you dash your foot against a stone, stumbling.
— Psalm 91:11–12, adapt. Kenneth Jennings

* READING: ISAIAH 40:9–11

After the reading:

- P** The word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

* READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 13

After the reading:

- P** The word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

HOMILY



* HYMN OF THE DAY

“Beautiful Savior”

SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU

Text: *Gesangbuch* Münster, tr. Joseph A. Seiss

Music: Silesian Folk Tune, arr. F. Melius Christiansen

Stanzas 1 and 2 sung by St. Olaf Choir

Stanza 3 sung by all as below

Sopranos & Altos

Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior! Lord of the na - tions!

Tenors & Basses

Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior! Lord of the na - tions!

Son ____ of God and Son of Man!

Son of ____ God and Son of Man!

Glo -

Glo - ry and hon - or, Praise, a - do - ra - tion, Now

Glo - ry and hon - or, Praise, a - do - ra - tion, Now

- ry and hon - or,

CODA

and for - ev - er - more be Thine.

and for - ev - er - more be Thine. Now and for -

Now and for - ev - er - more be Thine!

Now and for - ev - er - more be Thine!

ev - er - more be Thine!

* PRAYERS

* THE LORD'S PRAYER

- ☐ Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
- Give us today our daily bread.
- Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
- Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
- For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

* COMMENDATION

- Let us commend Sigrid to the mercy of God our maker and redeemer.

Silence is kept.

- Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Sigrid. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive her into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light.

Amen.

* BENEDICTION

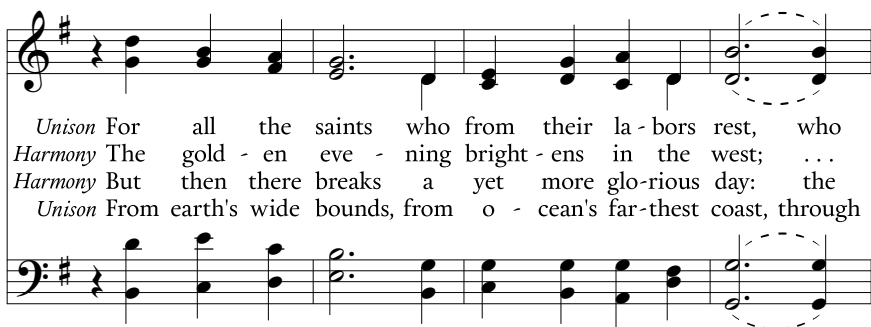
- The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

Amen.

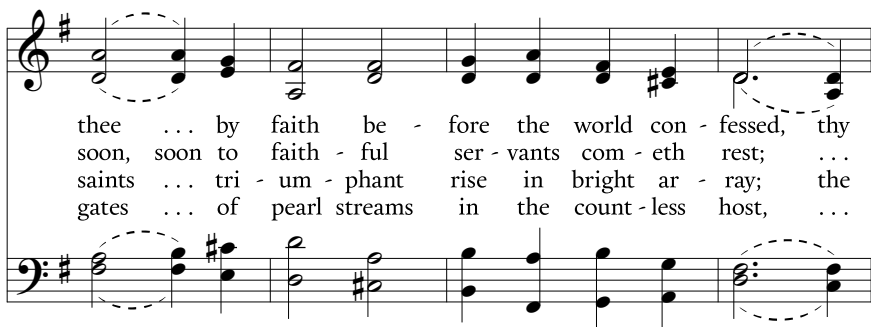
* HYMN

"For All The Saints"

SINE NOMINE
Text: William W. Howe
Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams



Unison For all the saints who from their la - bors rest, who
Harmony The gold - en eve - ning bright - ens in the west; ...
Harmony But then there breaks a yet more glo - rious day: the
Unison From earth's wide bounds, from o - cean's far - thest coast, through



thee ... by faith be - fore the world con - fessed, thy
soon, soon to faith - ful ser - vants com - eth rest; ...
saints ... tri - um - phant rise in bright ar - ray; the
gates ... of pearl streams in the count - less host, ...



name, O ... Je - sus, be for - ev - er blest.
sweet is the calm of par - a - dise the blest.
King of ... glo - ry pass - es on his way.
sing - ing to Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost:
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

CHORAL POSTLUDE

"Blessing"

Katie Moran Bart

May the road rise up to meet you;
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
and the rains fall soft upon your fields.
Until we meet again my friend,
may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

— Irish Poem

SENDING

- Let us go forth in peace.
- In the name of Christ, Amen.**

ORGAN POSTLUDES

- Improvisation on "O That I Had a Thousand Voices" Paul O. Manz
- "Chant de paix (Song of Peace)" from *Neuf Pièces* Jean Langlais
- "Lullaby Child" Ian Kellam
- Composed for Sigrid Johnson and the Manitou Singers*
- "Grand chœur dialogué (Grand Responsive Chorus)" Eugène Gigout

+++

Following the service, you are invited to a reception in the Black and Gold Ballrooms on the third floor of Buntrock Commons. All are welcome.

LEADERS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Presiding and Preaching

W. Bruce Benson

Readers

Marilyn Bengtson

Andrew Johnson

Acolyte

Samantha Slinger

Cover Art

Judith Seleen Swanson

Bulletin Design

Jeffrey O'Donnell

Arrangements

Benson & Langehough Funeral Home

Choirs

St. Olaf Choir

Manitou Singers Alumni

Anton Armstrong, conductor

Instrumentalists

St. Olaf Orchestra

Steven Amundson, conductor

Organists

Philip Brunelle

John Ferguson

Ensemble Pianist

Nathan Proctor

musical ear, she prepared symphonic choruses for Neeme Järvi, Sir Neville Marriner, David Zinman, Stanislaw Skrowaczewski, Gerard Schwarz, Edo de Waart, and Leonard Slatkin, among others. She served as conductor of the Dale Warland Symphonic Chorus, associate conductor of the Dale Warland Singers, guest conductor of the National Lutheran Choir, and Magnum Chorum, both of Minneapolis. She was also the associate conductor of VocalEssence, Minneapolis, where she worked closely with Founding Artistic Director Philip Brunelle.

Sigrid was a featured guest lecturer at the World Symposiums on Choral Music in Minneapolis in 2002; in Copenhagen, Denmark in 2008; and in Puerto Madryn, Argentina in 2011. She was a featured lecturer and clinician at the 2004 Australian National Choral Association Conference and also a member of the esteemed jury for the Béla Bartók International Choral Competition in Debrecen, Hungary in 2006.

In 2007, she received the F. Melius Christiansen Lifetime Achievement Award, the highest honor given by the American Choral Directors Association of Minnesota, for providing outstanding contributions and distinguished service to choral music in Minnesota.

For many years, she suffered from palindromic rheumatoid arthritis. She found the strength, the will, the power in the music that enabled her to conduct a choir with such grace and beauty that no one would have known the pain she was enduring. She was a model of vitality, courage, and faith.

Sigrid was a loving nurturer, caring, and selfless. She deeply respected her fellow colleagues, who were wonderful supporters and collaborators and a great center of joy in her life. Unrelenting in pursuit of excellence, she dug deep to bring about the beauty in each musical piece her choirs presented. Because she was a stickler for meticulous intonation and attention to the text, her singers always kept their eyes fixed on her. She was known for taking liberties and never conducted a piece of music exactly the same way twice.

She is remembered for having said, “God gave me two beautiful sons, and every year I’m blessed with 100 daughters” (referring to her particular fondness for the Manitou Singers). To her students, she bequeathed life skills that reach far beyond music: the power of preparation, pride in their work, deference and respect, and the importance of listening to each other. She inspired and imprinted these values on thousands of young singers. But above all else, she fervently believed that people — all people everywhere — mattered.

Sigrid loved going to their little cabin (“Lille Hutte”) on Lake Darling in Alexandria, Minnesota. She loved taking rides around the lake in their pontoon with Bob at the wheel. She loved coffee and often had a cup in her hand and others nearby. She was a fabulous host for gatherings at their home. She knew how to set a beautiful table. She always had a smile and a hug. People loved her. She will be deeply missed, but her legacy of loving relationships and beautiful music will last forever.

Sigrid is preceded in death by her parents; sister, Mary Corene; niece, Holly Nelson; and her beloved husband, Robert Clifford Johnson. She is survived by her two sons, Andrew (Sarah), St. Paul, MN and Peter (Samy), Bloomington, MN; two grandsons, Soren and Halvor; brothers, Corliss (Donna), Smyrna, TN and Greg (Pam), Franklin, TN; nieces, Sarah (Damian), Franklin, TN and Serena (Adam), Brooklyn, NY; nephew, Ben (Emily), St. Paul, MN; four grand-nieces, Georgia, Blythe, Tessa, and Maya; and grand-nephews, Henry and Ellis.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Sigrid and Robert “BJ” Johnson Endowed Fund, the Manitou Singers, the Steven M. Amundson Fund for Orchestra (all c/o St. Olaf College, 1520 St. Olaf Ave., Northfield, MN, 55057, Att’n: Development Office) or to VocalEssence (1900 Nicollet Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55403).



Sigrid Jean Johnson was born on January 8, 1952, to Corliss and Irene Nelson in Bismarck, North Dakota. She died on March 11, 2022.

Sigrid was raised in a home filled with music. Her father was an untrained singer with a beautiful tenor voice. Her mother, a trained pianist who could also play hymns by ear, taught Sigrid and her two brothers basic music theory as children.

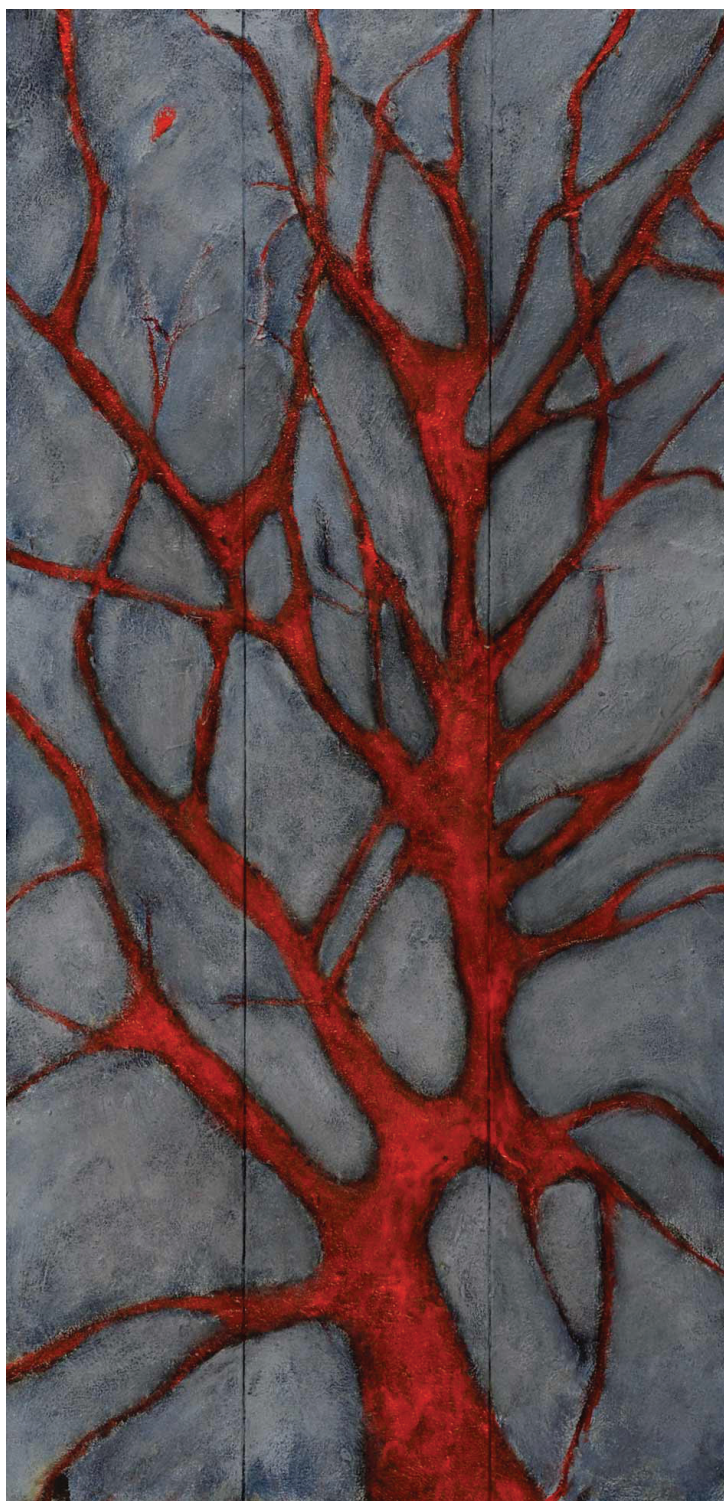
Sigrid began formal piano training with Belle Mehus at age four and gave her own solo piano recital at age five. She enjoyed playing concerts and private events in a trio with her brothers on violin and cello. Throughout junior and senior high school, she performed and accompanied in church, high school choir, orchestra, band, the community, and local college operas and musicals. Sigrid served a local church as organist and also played flute and bassoon.

After graduating from Bismarck High School in 1969, she was offered a full scholarship to Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota, where she sang under conductor Paul J. Christiansen. She completed her undergraduate degree in vocal performance at St. Cloud State University and received a master of music in vocal performance from the University of Michigan. She was an adjunct professor of voice at the University of Minnesota-Minneapolis and Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota.

While at Concordia, she met the love of her life, Robert “BJ” Johnson. They had two children, Andrew and Peter. Music was important to Sigrid, but not her only focus. She was devoted to her family; they were at the center of her life.

In 1983, Sigrid accepted a position as artist-in-residence and a member of the voice faculty at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota, where she conducted the Manitou Singers, the 100-voice first-year women’s chorus. She taught at St. Olaf for 32 years until her retirement in 2015.

Sigrid was a highly sought-after guest conductor and clinician. She was invited to all-state music festivals in over 30 states. Known particularly for her outstanding



Carolyn Brunelle
Red Tree, 2014
Acrylic on canvas

Proudly displayed by Sigrid and Bf Johnson in the entry to their home.