



*“My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.”*

by Pastor Bruce Benson, host

This past month I accepted an enjoyable assignment to serve as narrator with an all-volunteer community orchestra performing a composition for orchestra and spoken word. Needless to say, it took us more than one rehearsal to achieve a good balance between orchestra and narration. Orchestra, voice and sound system all needed tweaking and fine-tuning to make music together. And each has limits. At the final rehearsal the conductor said, “We aren’t a large enough orchestra to play as softly as I would like.”

At first that sounds strange. It is certainly counter-intuitive. Shouldn’t it be more, not less, difficult for a large ensemble to play sensitive *pianissimo* sections? One would think so; but conductors — and you too, when you think about what you hear on *Sing For Joy* — know that the most delicate, lovely, gentle music is often performed by a full ensemble, and the stronger, more robust the ensemble, the more able it is to sing or play the *pianissimo* phrases.

I’m going to leap now to a Bible reading churchgoers will hear in July, but when we get there I think you’ll agree that the leap is just a short step from this matter of strength and gentleness in music. In II Corinthians 12, Paul tells his readers that “a thorn in the flesh” has been given to him to keep him from being too elated over his role as an apostle of Christ. He is understandably not happy about the thorn, and has prayed three times to have it taken away. The response he gets to his prayer is this: “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.”

I won’t ask you to pretend that this Bible verse is about music; it is not. And yet the relationship

between strength — let’s call it power — and gentleness in the performance of music can help us understand Paul’s point. We all, of course, enjoy hearing a large choir or orchestra cranking up the volume and sending music like a wave of sound washing over us. It is exhilarating. And yet ... when that same powerful ensemble hushes to a barely audible *pianissimo*, it is enough to make us hold our breath. It is, to paraphrase Paul, almost as if strength (or power) is made perfect in that softness.

To be sure, there is a difference between gentleness and weakness, at least in the way we normally use those words. But perhaps just as often, “weakness” is a label given inappropriately to gentleness. The tender, *pp* singing of a strong choir is not weakness even though it has no more volume than a weak voice. In a similar way, it is strangely empowering to recognize and accept one’s limits, one’s “weakness,” like Paul, and even more empowering to resist the urge to overwhelm, and instead cooperate or even serve. Jesus didn’t encourage a life of service because he sought to demean his followers, but because that “weakness” is the fulfillment, the perfection of power. A well-executed *pianissimo* is powerful, in music and in life.

Peace be with you,



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JULY 5, 2015

TIME AFTER PENTECOST — LECTIONARY 14 (YEAR B)

(1R) Ezekiel 2:1–5  
(PS) Psalm 123  
(2R) 2 Corinthians 12:2–10  
(G) Mark 6:1–13

**The Apostles: Prologue, Op. 49** – Edward Elgar (1R)  
Massed Choirs of St. Olaf College: Northfield, MN /  
The St. Olaf Orchestra, ensemble / Robert Scholz  
(CD) *Ris'n With Healing in His Wings* / ST. OLAF RECORDS / E-2564  
© 2002 St. Olaf Records [stolafrecords.com](http://stolafrecords.com)

**Elijah: Is Not His Word Like a Fire?, Op. 70** –  
Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1R, G)  
London Symphony Orchestra, ensemble /  
Willard White, baritone / Richard Hickox  
(CD) *Mendelssohn: Elijah* / CHANDOS / CHAN 8774/5  
© 1989 Chandos, Chandos House [chandos.net](http://chandos.net)

**Three Antiphonal Psalms: Psalm 123** – Virgil Thomson (PS)  
Gloria Dei Cantores: Cape Cod, MA / Elizabeth C. Patterson  
(CD) *By the Rivers of Babylon* / GLORIA DEI CANTORES / GDCD 027  
© 1999 Gloria Dei Cantores [paracletepress.com/cds-gdc.html](http://paracletepress.com/cds-gdc.html)

**Ain'-a That Good News!** – William L. Dawson /  
William L. Dawson, lyricist (1R, G)  
Cathedral Choir of St. John's Cathedral: Denver, CO / Donald Pearson  
(CD) *America: The Golden Dream* / DELOS / DE 3203  
© 1996 Delos, Delos Productions, Inc. [delosmusic.com](http://delosmusic.com)

**Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus** (CROSS OF JESUS) – Sir John Stainer /  
Charles Wesley, lyricist (G)  
The Choir of Wells Cathedral / Rupert Gough, accompanist /  
Malcolm Archer  
(CD) *Favourite Hymns from Wells Cathedral* / GRIFFIN / GCCD 4010  
© 1997 Griffin [griffinrecords.co.uk](http://griffinrecords.co.uk)

**Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ** (LINSTEAD) – Jamaican Folk Tune /  
Fred Kaan, lyricist / Bradley Ellingboe, arranger (G)  
The St. Olaf Choir: Northfield, MN / John Ferguson, accompanist /  
Anton Armstrong  
(CD) *Great Hymns of Faith: Volume 1* / ST. OLAF RECORDS / E-2294  
© 1999 St. Olaf Records [stolafrecords.com](http://stolafrecords.com)

**By and By** – African American Spiritual / Carol Barnett, arranger (2R)  
Dale Warland Singers: Minneapolis, MN / Dale Warland  
(CD) *Harvest Home* / GOTHIC / G 49243  
© 2005 Gothic, Gothic Records, Inc. [gothicrecords.com](http://gothicrecords.com)

**Saint Teresa's Bookmark** – Edward Tyler /  
St. Teresa (Of Avila), lyricist (2R)  
St. Olaf Cantorei: Northfield, MN / John Ferguson  
(CD) *A Thousand Ages: A Celebration of Hope* / GIA PUBLICATIONS /  
GIA CD-474  
© 2000 GIA Publications [giamusic.com](http://giamusic.com)

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*“Jesus calls us in, sends us out  
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,  
gives us love to tell, bread to share.  
God (Immanuel) everywhere!”*

–Fred Kaan

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JULY 12, 2015

TIME AFTER PENTECOST — LECTIONARY 15 (YEAR B)

(1R) Amos 7:7–15  
(PS) Psalm 85:8–13  
(2R) Ephesians 1:3–14  
(G) Mark 6:14–29

**O God Beyond All Praising** (THAXTED) – Gustav Holst /  
Michael Perry, lyricist / Richard Proulx, arranger (2R)  
The Cathedral Singers: Chicago, IL / Richard Proulx  
(CD) *Rare Beasts & Unique Adventures: Volume 2* / GIA PUBLICATIONS  
/ GIA CD-468  
© 2000 GIA Publications [giamusic.com](http://giamusic.com)

**Thy Holy Wings** (BRED DINA VIDA VINGAR) – Swedish Folk Tune /  
Gracia Grindal, lyricist / Carolina V. Sandell-Berg, lyricist /  
Karle Erickson, arranger / Gracia Grindal, translator (2R)  
The Gustavus Choir: St. Peter, MN / David Fienen, accompanist /  
Karle Erickson  
(CD) *Favorite Swedish Hymns* / DELTA RECORDINGS / DRCD91-131  
© Delta Recordings

**How Beauteous Are Their Feet** (WORCESTER) – Abraham Wood /  
Isaac Watts, lyricist (1R, G)  
Bella Voce: Chicago, IL / Paul Hillier  
(CD) *Goostly Psalmes* / HARMONIA MUNDI / HMU 907128  
© 1996 Harmonia Mundi [harmoniamundi.com](http://harmoniamundi.com)

**Glorify the Lord with Me** – Jean Berger (2R)  
Massed Choirs of St. Olaf College: Northfield, MN /  
The St. Olaf Handbell Choir, ensemble / Sigrid Johnson  
(CD) *Out of Darkness, Let Light Shine* / ST. OLAF RECORDS / E-1840  
© 1991 St. Olaf Records [stolafrecords.com](http://stolafrecords.com)

**Love's Redeeming Work is Done** (SAVANNAH) – Harmonia Sacra /  
Charles Wesley, lyricist / Dent Davidson, arranger (2R)  
Cathedral Choristers of St. Mark's Cathedral: Seattle, WA /  
Dent Davidson, accompanist / J. Melvin Butler  
(CD) *Great Music of Holy Week & Easter* /  
CHURCH PUBLISHING COMPANY / ISBN: 0-89869-282-2  
© 1997 Church Publishing Company [churchpublishing.org](http://churchpublishing.org)

**Dona Nobis Pacem: O Man, Greatly Beloved (Final Chorus)** –  
Ralph Vaughan Williams (PS)  
Atlanta Symphony Chorus: Atlanta, GA /  
Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, ensemble / Robert Shaw  
(CD) *Barber, Bartók, Vaughan Williams* / TELARC / CD-80479  
© 1998 Telarc, Concord Music Group [telarc.com](http://telarc.com)

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JULY 19, 2015

TIME AFTER PENTECOST — LECTIONARY 16 (YEAR B)

(1R) Jeremiah 23:1–6  
(PS) Psalm 23  
(2R) Ephesians 2:11–22  
(G) Mark 6:30–34, 53–56

**Requiem: The Lord is My Shepherd** – John Rutter (PS)  
The Choir of King's College / The City of London Sinfonia, ensemble /  
Stephen Cleobury  
(CD) *Rutter: Requiem* / EMI (ANGEL, EMI CLASSICS, EMI RECORDS,  
LTD) / CDC 7243 5 56605 2 7  
© 1998 EMI (Angel, EMI Classics, EMI Records, Ltd) [emiclassics.com](http://emiclassics.com)

**Shepherd Me, O God** – Marty Haugen / Marty Haugen, lyricist (PS)  
Calvin College Alumni Choir: Grand Rapids, MI /  
Kenneth Bos, accompanist / Pearl Shangkuan  
(CD) *Hymnale* / CALVIN COLLEGE / CD 22  
© 2002 Calvin College, Calvin College Music Department [calvin.edu](http://calvin.edu)

**Psalm 23** – Jeffrey Smith (PS)  
Parish Choirs of St. Paul's Parish, K Street: Washington, DC /  
Scott Dettra, accompanist / Jeffrey Smith  
(CD) *Show Yourself Joyful* / PRO ORGANO / CD 7068  
© 1997 Pro Organo [proorgano.com](http://proorgano.com)

**Psalm 23** – Imant Raminsh (PS)  
Elora Festival Singers: Elora, Ontario, Canada / Noel Edison  
(CD) *I Saw Eternity* / NAXOS / 8.572812  
© 2012 Naxos, Naxos of America, Inc. [naxos.com](http://naxos.com)

**The Church's One Foundation** (AURELIA) – Samuel Sebastian Wesley /  
Samuel J. Stone, lyricist / William Baerg, arranger (2R)  
The Riverton Singers / Reg Kliewer, accompanist / William Baerg  
(CD) *These Our Hymns* / RIVERTON PRODUCTIONS / RP1200CD  
© Riverton Productions

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*“Whether the heart longs for home, or hope,  
or peace, music helps the heart to pray.”*  
-Pastor Bruce Benson

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**JULY 26, 2015**

TIME AFTER PENTECOST — LECTIONARY 17 (YEAR B)

(1R)	2 Kings 4:42–44
(PS)	Psalm 145:10–18
(2R)	Ephesians 3:14–21
(G)	John 6:1–21

**All Creatures of Our God and King** (LASST UNS ERFREUEN) –  
Geistliche Kirchengesänge / St. Francis Assisi, lyricist /  
John Rutter, arranger / William H. Draper, translator (PS)  
The Cambridge Singers / The City of London Sinfonia, ensemble /  
John Scott, accompanist / John Rutter  
(CD) *Te Deum and Other Church Music* / COLLEGIUM RECORDS /  
COLCD 112  
© 1990 Collegium Records, Naxos of America, Inc. [collegium.co.uk](http://collegium.co.uk)

**The Eyes of All Wait Upon Thee** – Jean Berger (G)  
Gloriæ Dei Cantores: Cape Cod, MA / Elizabeth C. Patterson  
(CD) *By the Rivers of Babylon* / GLORIÆ DEI CANTORES / GDCD 027  
© 1999 Gloriæ Dei Cantores [paracletepress.com/cds-gdc.html](http://paracletepress.com/cds-gdc.html)

**Motet III: Jesu, meine Freude: Jesu, meine Freude (Jesus, My Sweet  
Pleasure), BWV 227** – Johann Crüger / Johann Franck, lyricist / Johann  
Sebastian Bach, arranger / Madeleine Forell Marshall, translator (G)  
The Holy Trinity Bach Choir: New York, NY / Richard Erickson  
(CD) *Bach For All Seasons* / AUGSBURG FORTRESS / 3-5855  
© 1999 Augsburg Fortress [augsbuurgfortress.com](http://augsbuurgfortress.com)

**Praise and Thanksgiving** (BUNESSAN) – Gaelic Traditional /  
Albert F. Bayly, lyricist (G)  
John Ferguson, accompanist  
(CD) *Home, Harvest, & Healing: A Sing For Joy Hymn Festival* /  
ST. OLAF RECORDS / E-2648  
© 2003 St. Olaf Records [stolafrecords.com](http://stolafrecords.com)

**The Lord's Prayer** – Robert Stone (G)  
The Concordia Choir: Moorhead, MN / René Clausen  
(CD) *Sing Joyfully Unto God* / CONCORDIA RECORDINGS / E-1938  
© Concordia Recordings [concordiarecordings.com](http://concordiarecordings.com)

**The Eyes of All Hope in Thee, O Lord** – Richard Felciano (PS)  
Chamber Choir of Christ Church Cranbrook: Bloomfield Hills, MI /  
Charles Raines  
(CD) *My Spirit Sang All Day* / CHRIST CHURCH CRANBROOK /  
919D9  
© Christ Church Cranbrook [christchurchcranbrook.org](http://christchurchcranbrook.org)

**Let Us With a Gladsome Mind** (MONKLAND) – John Antes /  
John Milton, lyricist / Alan Ridout, arranger (G)  
The Chancel Choir of Shadyside Presbyterian Church: Pittsburgh, PA /  
John Walker, accompanist / John Walker  
(CD) *A Choral Harvest* / PRO ORGANO / CD 7072  
© 1995 Pro Organo [proorgano.com](http://proorgano.com)

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## NEWS

**Thank you to everyone who participated in the spring  
fund drive. Now, for those interested in the nitty gritty,  
let's do the numbers!**

\$8,048 raised

114 gifts received

Gifts ranged from \$1 to \$300, with \$50 being the most  
common gift amount

28 *Rachmaninoff: All-Night Vigil* CDs distributed  
(to those who gave \$100 or more)

Gifts came from 25 states

Top giving states: Minnesota, Virginia and North Carolina

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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.**

*“I appreciate your ministry very much. It has been a bless-  
ing during many seasons of my life ... I have always valued  
the richness of old and new melodies in church worship.”*  
Dothan, Alabama

*“I especially enjoy reading the comments in Listeners'  
Corner, and notice others share my love of the music.”*  
Waupun, Wisconsin

*“@SingForJoyRadio is always lovely music to wake to  
on a Sunday.”*  
Twitter Follower

*“I enjoy listening to Sing for Joy on Sunday mornings  
on WCNP. It is such a good preparation for the  
worship of the day.”*  
Online Listener

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like you.*

Thank you for your gifts!

In Memory Of:

*Jean Jacobson Benson*

*Rev. Arvid E. Bidne*

*Clarence & Esther Hauck*

*My Mother*

*Darryl Patten*

*Helen Pootoogooluk, faithful servant of  
Seward Peninsula Lutheran congregations*

*Talitha Stark*

*Janet Sullivan*

In Honor Of:

*Kathy*

*Dr. and Mrs. David Lewis*

JULY 2015 / YEAR B



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