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What's Inside?

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Need ideas?
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Looking back and forward...

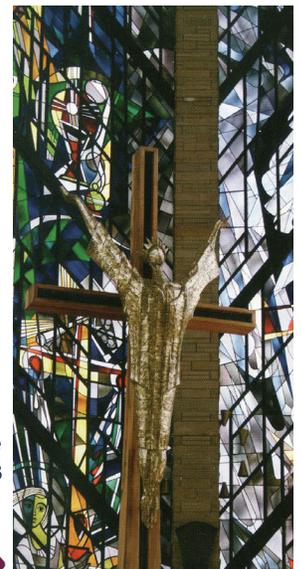


Carlos Messerli, ALCM National President; Carole Lea Arenson, Region 4 President; Marshall Bowen, Region 4 Vice-President, David Stein, Hayward, CA and Jerry Evenrud, Minneapolis, MN



Looking back to 1991...
ALCM at ACDA National
More on pg. 12

Looking forward to 2013...
ALCM National Conference
More on pg. 3



Chapel of the Resurrection,
Valparaiso University





From the Editor

Carole Arenson

We continue to celebrate our 25th Anniversary of the Region 4 Newsletter. We look back to 1991 when the ALCM had a booth at the American Choral Directors Association national meeting in Phoenix. Marshall Bowen was featured with his most up to date computer and what it had to offer people who stopped by the booth. This was the first time STUFF THAT WORKS was used as a title of sharing in region 4. Hope you enjoy the “look back”.

We are also “looking forward” in this issue to the Advent and Christmas Seasons. There are four articles which we hope can be helpful to you all are under the heading STUFF THAT WORKS. Randy Knutson begins with an overview of Advent, Kathy and Carl Crosier share information on an Advent service based on the “O” Antiphons, I write about creating your own service on the fourth Sunday of Advent moving into Christmas, and Kim Cramer shares how children were made an integral part of their Christmas Eve Service. Please feel free to contact any of us if you have questions. Most of us will be at the national conference in Valparaiso.

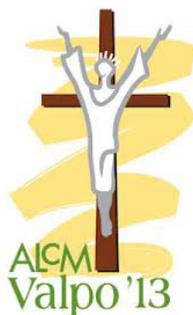
Next issue will again feature “Ask a Pro”. Your questions are needed now for both Brad Ellingboe and Gregory Peterson.

Email, call, mail or tell me your stellar questions. I will be at Valpo and happy to talk with you.

We have a goodly amount of New Members. Please welcome them when you see them.

God’s Blessing on You and Your Work,

Carole



2013 Biennial Conference
“God is Here: Worship in a Wireless World”
June 30 – July 3, 2013
Valparaiso, Indiana

**Think you missed an article in one of the earlier
Region 4 Newsletters?**

They are archived on the ALCM National website
www.alcm.org

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January 15	Spring
April 15	Summer
October 15	Winter

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From the Prez

Kim Cramer

Easter at the end of March made for quite a busy winter/spring. It seemed as if there was no time to catch our breath as preparation immediately kicked in for Lent and Easter. For Region 4, it has been a time of looking forward to 2014 and beginning plans for our Regional Conference. We are in the process of putting together a steering committee, dates and location for

this event. Once we have the dates, theme and location we will send an email blast so you can start making plans to be a part of this special event.

I look forward to connecting with you at Valparaiso for the National Conference, June 30 – July 3rd. **Please join us on Monday for a gathering of Region 4 members during lunch.** Specific details will be a part of your conference schedule.

I am often drawn to the text of the Keith & Kristyn Getty and Stuart Townend's hymn "Still My Soul Be Still" which helps me keep things in perspective as ministry and life in general becomes overwhelming.

*God You are my God
and I will trust in You and not be shaken.
Lord of peace renew
a steadfast spirit within me to rest in You alone.*

May you continue to find His peace and be renewed through your time at a summer conference, spending time with family or having some peaceful time in your work place. I know I will be discovering what has been hiding in those special piles!

Blessings, Kim

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Nat'l. Conference Welcome

Julie Grindle, National Conference Chair

Hello Region 4 ALCM members!

The ALCM biennial conference is coming soon and we want to see you there! "God Is Here: Worship in a Wireless World" will be held June 30-July 3, 2013, at Valparaiso University in Valparaiso, IN.

Registration is open.

Go to: <http://www.alcm.org/news-events/2013-biennial-conference/>.

We heartily invite all pastors, musicians and church workers to attend this exciting event.

The theme is centered on what it means to be a physical community in a world of increasing virtual communities. We will explore what this means for clergy and lay leaders alike both in worship and vocation.

Highlights of the conference include our plenary speakers: Elizabeth Drescher, Ben Stewart and Craig Mueller; organist Martin Jean as worship leader, recitalist, and master class teacher; a Hymn Festival by the National Lutheran Choir under the direction of David Cherwien with commentary by Susan Cherwien; and Bach Vespers with the Bach Institute at Valparaiso University under the direction of Christopher Cock.



Please see the above ALCM website for details and to answer any questions you have. I'll see you in Valpo in a few short months!

Julie Grindle, Conference Chair

"God Is Here: Worship in a Wireless World"

ADVENT: Overview

Randy Knutson • Region 4 Secretary/Treasurer



As I am writing this, it seems miles away from the time of Advent. We have completed our celebration of Easter and now the sun is not diminishing, like it will at Advent, but is flourishing. If I am not as aware of this in my personal life; I am running rehearsals at my church, where there are certain times in the Spring and Fall when the sun comes streaming through the western side of our building, in a Stonehenge like way, and making one corner of the church, where we have some choir and bells rehearsals, unusable. Soon, the sun will move, heading north and upward, and the problem will be gone for another five months, only to repeat itself, shining forth again when there are no clouds in the evening sky.



So what of Advent and the sense of mystery, of prophecy that surrounds it?

I would urge you to celebrate it and hold on to it; hold on to the themes celebrated, the scripture assigned to Advent and revel in the possibilities it gives forth. We need Advent, we need what it can be to our people and to the church. We need the extra depth and breadth it brings to our celebrations on Sundays, so I would encourage you, as musicians, to tap into this stream as much as you can. There are those who, truthfully or not, decry the ‘war on Christmas’ in recent years. I don’t know about you, but I have often felt that the ‘war on Advent’ was already underway when I was starting music ministry thirty years ago and has not let up at all. Instead, we live in an even more service and consumer driven society which has no time for a season of reflection, preparation, mystery or silence.

Advent can offer all these in our planning and even more in scripture. Advent is truly a time when the words from the prophets point so clearly to the coming of Jesus Christ, in the past, in the present and in the future. It is a time when we can pair up hymns, anthems and other rich musical gifts with the texts from Isaiah (Cycle A, 2013, uses only Isaiah). It is a time to focus on John the Baptist and his role in foretelling Jesus coming and place in God’s plan. It is also a time for some wonderful psalms.

Advent also has at its center the themes of waiting and hope. Both of these are themes sometimes missing in our culture and muscles we do not always exercise in our daily lives. They are themes we need to strengthen and enrich our faith. The word hope is so prevalent in Advent and it needs to be. We need to dwell not only in the hope that people had in Christ’s coming as a child, but the hope Jesus opened up in others; the hope and expectation was also at the heart of John the Baptist’s message. I look forward so much to Advent’s message of hope. Waiting, too, is something that we have trouble with in our society. We have created wonderful devices that (we hope) cut down on our waiting time or fill it with entertainment. Yet we know in our hearts that waiting is a very human thing, a people-centric thing and it is something we need to expect and even savor when we deal with each other. Certainly December hastens our activities, our heart rate, so it is really a blessing only the church through Advent can give us, to slow us down and learn to live into expansive waiting.

Finally, I have to mention that in the next cycle of Advent we encounter, December 2013, Year A with the Gospel according to Matthew at the center is dear to me. On the Fourth Sunday of Advent in this cycle the Gospel tells of the Angels visitation to Joseph (Matthew 1:18-25), not Mary (Mary is visited in the Gospel according to Luke, Cycle C). So this is an opening to honor Joseph’s role in Jesus’ young life, and the role of fathers, also in the lives of their children and of newborns. As a father, as parent, this is a very touching subject, including themes of honor and love. Notice this difference and treasure the role Joseph has in this narrative of Christ’s birth.

“To prepare the way of the Lord means to prepare ourselves for the Lord’s activity in us, so that God may help us and our life may be the life of Christ.”

Martin Luther
(Lectures on Isaiah, 1527-30; LW, 17, 8)

Randy A. Knutson

2013

June 29 – July 3
ALCM National Conference
Valparaiso, Indiana

October 15
Final Deadline for Newsletter Submissions



Stuff that Works: ADVENT

Katherine Crosier • Carl Crosier

First Sunday of Advent

Service Based on the “O” Antiphons



It’s May, and church musicians are already thinking about what they will be singing for Advent and Christmas — right? Here is an idea for your Advent.

For almost forty years, there has been a special evening service on the *First Sunday of Advent* at the Lutheran Church of Honolulu. The much beloved service follows the model of Kings College, Cambridge,

with readings from scripture followed by choral offerings of psalms, carols, anthems or congregational hymns — all based on Advent texts and music.

Because of our association with composer Peter Hallock and his long-time tenure at St. Mark’s Cathedral, Seattle, we became acquainted with their Advent Service based on the “O” Antiphons.

The origin of the “O” Antiphons is not known. They have been found in manuscripts from the ninth century and are frequently attributed to St. Gregory the Great. The Antiphons were chanted before and after the Magnificat at Vespers on the days immediately preceding Christmas. Each one presents a name given to Christ in the Old Testament and a petition asking for the fulfillment of a Scriptural promise or prophesy. The antiphons are: *O Wisdom*, *O Adonai*, *O Root of Jesse*, *O Key of David*, *O Rising Dawn*, *O King of Nations*, and *O Emmanuel*.

The liturgy at St. Mark’s became the model for the “O” Antiphon service at the Lutheran Church of Honolulu. Thanks to creative dialogue with Dr. William Bertolis, Dr. Hallock explored the potential of using vivid images to bring the “O” antiphons to life. Banners displaying the symbols of each antiphon were brought from the rear of the church, and displayed in procession as the Gregorian antiphon chant was sung. Following the posting of the banner in the chancel came a reading from scripture, a musical response (hymn, carol or motet) and a prayer. As a final musical response, the beloved Advent hymn *Veni veni Emmanuel* is sung with all of the banners carried out in a grand exit procession.

At that first “O” Antiphon service at St. Mark’s, the number of people involved were the following: officiant, thurifer, seven readers, the choir, the organist, seven acolytes to carry banners, and seven torchbearers to carry candles. The Altar Guild was responsible for sewing the banners and others constructed the banner stands. From Peter Hallock’s program notes to the CD, *Advent Procession Based on the Great “O” Antiphons* (Loft Recordings, LRCD-1020) he writes, “Few liturgies offer the opportunity for such wide and diverse participation of the laity, both in preparation and execution. It is from this standpoint that I feel those who prepare and offer this liturgy will find their greatest rewards and satisfaction.

There are a number of ways to carry out this beautiful liturgy. The most simple would be to use a verse of *O come*,

o come Emmanuel (See ELW #257 for all seven verses) to introduce each of the seven readings. But if you have a choir of moderate or accomplished ability, you can explore more possibilities through the repertoire listed below.

Following is a compilation of readings, hymns, carols and motets, which have been sung at the Lutheran Church of Honolulu since 1987. *The Bidding Prayer* and *Collects* were written by The Reverend Fritz Fritschel, as well as Advent hymn texts written specifically for the O Antiphon service. Those are available, as well as patterns for the banners and bulletin graphics, from Ionian Arts (www.ionianarts.com). This list is by no means complete, but is provided to give you inspiration!

Processionals:

Carl Crosier, *Processional for Lucernarium* (Ionian Arts)
Peter Hallock, *I saw a new heaven and a new earth*

(Ionian Arts)

Peter Hallock, *Behold a mighty prophet* (Walton)

Peter Hallock, *From lands that see the sun arise*
(GIA Publ.)

Settings of The “O” Antiphons

Peter Hallock, *The “O” Antiphons* (with organ, for choirs of moderate ability) (Ionian Arts)

Peter Hallock, *The Great “O” Antiphons*

(unaccompanied, for choirs of accomplished ability)
(Ionian Arts)

O Wisdom

Reading: Ecclesiasticus 24:1-8, Proverbs 8:1-2, 22-31 or Wisdom 7:24—8:1

Hymns:

O Wisdom, spotless mirror of God (MOZART)

O Christ, the Word incarnate (MUNICH)

Immortal, invisible, God only wise (ST. DENIO)

God of grace and God of glory (CWM RHONDDA)

The works of God are created in wisdom (KREMSER)

I sing the mighty power of God (ELLACOMBE)

Choral:

William Boyce, *O where shall wisdom be found* (Novello)

Anton Bruckner, *Os justi meditabitur sapientiam* (Peters)

Hildegard of Bingen, *O virtus Sapientia*

Peter Hallock, *Psalm 104:25-37* (Ionian Arts)

Peter Hallock, *Psalm 111* (Ionian Arts)

William Mathias, *All wisdom is from the Lord*
(Oxford University Press)

Robert Ramsay, *O Sapientia* (Chester Music)

O Adonai

Reading: Exodus 3:1-12, Exodus 19:16-20 or Isaiah 43:1-7

(con’t. on pg 6)



“O Antiphons” Con’t.

Hymns:

The God of Abraham praise (YIGDAL)
Comfort, comfort ye my people (FREU DICH SEHR)
Sing praise to God who reigns above (MIT FREUDEN ZART)
 O day of God draw nigh (BELLWOODS)

Choral:

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina, *Deus qui dedisti legem* (Complete Works)

O Root of Jesse

Reading: Isaiah 11:1-9 or Hosea 14:6-9

Hymns:

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming (Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen)
 O day of peace (JERUSALEM)
 The Lord will come and not be slow (YORK)

Choral:

Anton Bruckner, *Virga Jesse floruit* (Peters)
 Hugo Distler, *Lo, how a rose e'er blooming* (Concordia)
 Peter Hallock, *Peace* (Ionian Arts)
 Herbert Howells, *A spotless Rose* (Novello)
 Jacob Handl, *Egredietur virga* (Arista)
 George Oldroyd, *The flower of Jesse* (Oxford Univ. Press)
 Stanley Vann, *There is a flower sprung of a tree* (Oxford University Press)
 Melchior Vulpius, *Lo, how a rose* (Concordia)
 Peter Wishart, *There is no rose* (Oxford University Press)

O Key of David

Reading: Isaiah 22:20-24, Isaiah 42:1, 5-7, Revelation 3:7a-8a, 11-13

Hymns:

Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes (RICHMOND or BRISTOL)
All thanks to you, O faithful one (MACHT HOCH DIE TUR)
O Savior rend the heavens (O HEILAND, REISS DIE HIMMEL AUF)
Fling wide the door (MACHT HOCH DIE TÜR)
Come, o precious ransom, come (MEINEM JESUM LASS ICH NICHT)

Choral:

Johannes Brahms, *O Heiland Reiss* (Peters)

O Rising Dawn

Reading: Isaiah 41:25-56, Isaiah 42:1, 5-7, Luke 1:59-79

Hymns:

O day full of grace (DEN SIGNEDE DAG)
Christ is the world's true light (ST. JOAN)
How bright appears the morning star (WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET)
O gladsome light (ELIZABETH)
O Christ our light (O JESU CHRISTE, WAHRES LICHT)
Christ whose glory fills the skies (RATISBON)

Choral:

Peter Maxwell Davies, *One star at last* (Novello)
 Glenn Rudolph, *Veiled in darkness* (Oxford)
 English trad. carol, *Infinite light* (Oxford Book of Carols)
 William Byrd, *Surge illuminare* (Arista, Oxford)
 Jacob Handl, *Obescro Domine* (Arista)

O King of Nations

Reading: Isaiah 44: 6-8, Isaiah 45:8-13, Isaiah 62:2-4, or Isaiah 33:20-22

Hymns:

O God of every nation (LLANGLOFFEN or TUOLUMME)
Prepare the royal highway (BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN)
Savior of the nations, (NUN KOMM DER HEIDEN HEILAND)
Father eternal, ruler of creation (LANGHAM)
When the king shall come again (GAUDEAMUS PARITER)
Lift up your heads, O mighty gates (MACHT HOCH DIE TÜR)
Come, thou long expected Jesus (JEFFERSON or STUTTGART)
The king shall come and not be slow (CONSOLATION)

Choral:

William Byrd, *Attolite portas* (Arista)
 Aaron Copland, *Sing ye praises to our King* (Boosey & Hawkes)
 Richard Dering, *Veni Jesu, Rex optime* (Oxford Univ. Press)
 George Guest, *Zion, at thy shining gates* (Oxford Univ. Press)
 Andreas Hammerschmidt, *Machet die Tore weit* (Süddeutscher Musikverlag)
 Kenneth Leighton, *Let all the world in every corner* (Novello)
 William Mathias, *Lift up your heads* (Oxford Univ. Press)
 Seven Seasonal Carols, *Christ is ascended* (Ionian Arts)
 Judith Weir, *Illuminare Jerusalem* (Novello)
 Healey Willan, *Lo, in the time appointed* (Oxford Univ. Press)

O Emmanuel

Reading: Luke 1:26-38, Isaiah 7:13-14, 17, Isaiah 33:20-22, Isaiah 62:2-4 or Matthew 1:16-23

Hymns:

O little town of Bethlehem (FOREST GREEN or ST. LOUIS)
A mystery, wondrous life of grace (ST. MAGNUS)
Our Christ will come, Emmanuel (ST. MAGNUS)
Come, thou long expected Jesus (STUTTGART)
The Advent of our God (FRANCONIA)
God himself is with us, v. 1 & 4 only (WUNDERBARER KÖNIG)

Choral:

Jacob Handl, *Ecce concipies* (Chester Music)
 Henry Walford Davies, *O little town of Bethlehem* (Oxford Book of Carols)
 William Mathias, *Lift up your heads* (Oxford Univ. Press)
 Arvo Pärt, *Bogoroditsye Dyevo* (Universal)
 Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck, *Ecce virgo concipiet* (Broude)
 Heironymous Praetorius, *Gaudete omnes* (Chester Music)

Gospel of the Annunciation

Reading: Luke 1:26-38

Choral:

Johannes Brahms, *Der Jäger, op. 22, no. 4* (Peters)
 Franz Biebl, *Ave Maria* (Hinshaw)
 Herbert Howells, *Magnificat* (St. Paul's Service) – (Novello)
 Kenneth Leighton, *Magnificat* (Second Service) – (Novello)
 William Mathias, *Magnificat* (Jesus College Service) – (Oxford)
 Charles V. Stanford, *Magnificat in G major* (Novello)
 David Willcocks, arr., *Angelus ad virginem* (Oxford)

Gospel of the Advent

Reading: Matthew 1:16-23

Choral:

Malcolm Archer, *The Linden Tree Carol* (Oxford book of Carols)
 Stephen Cleobury, arr., *Joy's seven* (Oxford University Press)
 Stephen Cleobury, arr., *The cherry tree carol* (Oxford)
 John Jacob Niles, *I wonder as I wander* (Hal Leonard)
 John Rutter, *Tomorrow shall be my dancing day* (Oxford)
 R. Vaughan Williams, arr., *All in the morning* (Oxford Book of Carols)
 R. Vaughan Williams, arr., *Down in yon forest* (Stainer & Bell)

Processional:

Carl Crosier, arr., *Veni, veni Emmanuel* (Ionian Arts)

Stuff that Works: ADVENT

Carole Lea Arenson

Last Sunday in Advent Adult Choir Worship Sunday

The assignment to write an article about Advent/Christmas was very much on my mind as I prepared for this week's bible study. As I began preparing, I was reminded again of the awesome opportunity offered to those of us who serve congregations through music ministry. Our study (Matthew 4 – 5) focused on Jesus teaching, all who would listen to him, about the Kingdom. There was much material covered, but two words captured my attention.

One was **COMMUNITY**. In Matthew 4 Jesus calls his first 4 disciples: brothers Peter and Andrew who ran a small fishing business plus another set of brothers, James and John. Historians tell us this was quite a mix. James and John had the nickname “the Sons of Thunder” since they had some issues with anger and volatility, while Peter was known to be impulsive and controlling. This is the beginning of a **COMMUNITY** Jesus is building? Then Jesus adds Matthew who is a tax collector plus Mary and Martha. Jesus is “forging” a community for the sake of Kingdom living! Sometimes don't you feel you are “forging” a community with a choir of disparate members for the sake of spreading the gospel through music? Sometimes this can be quite a task. However, it is easier if you share the same goal.

The other word is **SALT**. In Matthew 5 Jesus tells his disciples, “You are the SALT of the earth”. There are many interpretations to be made, but consider the most obvious. You only need a pinch of **SALT** to make a difference in any recipe. When YOU are the **SALT** of the world, even though you are only one person and probably come with some issues, you are expected to MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

What is shared in this article is what has worked for me over the years of building many worship services with singers, instrumentalists, lay readers, congregational participation and whatever else is available. The goal is simple: offer a worship service with the community while expecting the Holy Spirit to work among those gathered.

Summer is an excellent time to focus on the last Sunday in Advent.

Suggest you begin planning early and take the time to step back to see the big picture. Share your vision with others, since the “community building” needs to happen first. Enlist your core choir members to be looking for additional singers for the fall by seating in different locations in worship every Sunday and listening for singers. Ask for a 4 month commitment from your new singers. Talk with the college students, who are home for the summer, about your plan and invite them to commit to the December Sunday with the last full rehearsals. Don't forget the high school instrumentalist you know and invite them to commit. Some of your best instrumentalist

can be added this way. You may have music teacher friends who are excellent instrumentalists willing to be part of this one Sunday if asked. Also remember to count some of your singers who play instruments to be included in the opening and closing hymns. Who are the excellent soloists, either choral or instrumental, in your midst? Put it in your mix before you choose the music.

As this is progressing, begin thinking about a theme. For this article we will use the theme: “Rise Up and Follow”. The last Sunday before Christmas includes both Advent themes while quickly moving toward Christmas. In our congregation the next worship service would be Christmas Eve with four services and the Adult Choir singing only at the late one.

The overall structure usually looks something like this:

- Opening and Closing Congregational Hymns with full orchestra (*include all the good instrumentalists you can find*)
- Three sections under a theme with congregational responsive parts, scripture, short narrations, choral pieces, etc.
- Include one modern day parable as a reflective piece tying into the theme.
- Do time everything, including movement from place to place, and do NOT go over the hour. (Busy people have busy schedules and you do NOT want anxious members in the pew. This tension can very easily erase what could happen.)

The theme is broken down into sections to help the congregation follow the message.

The three parts under the theme “Rise Up and Follow”:

1. Rise Up and Follow the Prophets
2. Rise Up and Follow the Angels' Song
3. Rise Up and Follow the Star

Music and scripture selection happen simultaneously. However, even before beginning the selection process, check your list of exceptional soloists available and try to use as many as possible. This particular year's potential instrumental soloists included: cello, electric bass, congas, flute, violin, handbells plus a husband and wife team playing trumpet and oboe. Possible solo voices: tenor/baritone, mezzo and soprano.

When choosing music try to include: something the congregation either finds familiar or you know they will totally relate to, some pieces the choir has sung before, a variety of choral sounding pieces and make sure every choral piece fits within the theme.

(con't. on pg 8)



“Last Sunday of Advent” Con’t.



This is the “Rise Up and Follow” graphic used for the front of the bulletin.

The “Basic Outline” below contains much information NOT included in the bulletin, but very much needed to facilitate planning the worship service. The bulletin did include all the song texts for the congregation. Erik Whitehill created the graphics for the bulletin cover and the three sections. They are inserted in this outline for your benefit.

The Basic Outline with timing plus spacing (-) for narrators

Prelude: *Once in Royal David’s City* – arr. **Robert Hobby** (Organ)

Welcome/Invocation/Parish Opportunities

1 minute (m)



1. *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* – arr. **Arenson** (Manuscript)

1 m

(Choir sings from the back with sparse handbell accompaniment. Men begin in plainsong and full 4-part choir joins at “rejoice”. The 4th Advent Candle is lit during the song)

Narration (which is inferred throughout the rest of the outline):

45 seconds (s)

The theme for our morning worship is – RISE UP and FOLLOW. We will focus on how CHANGE comes into the lives of every individual when they encounter God. We begin in the Old Testament with the prophets. The Prophets tell God’s people – change is coming – God will provide – hear the Word – RISE UP and FOLLOW God’s teachings.

The second stanza of our opening hymn reaffirms this point with these words:

*The watchers on the mountain proclaim the bridegrooms near;
 Go forth as he approaches with alleluias clear.
 The marriage feast is waiting – the gates wide open stand.
 Arise, O heirs of glory – the bridegroom is at hand.*

Please rise and join in singing REJOICE, REJOICE, BELIEVERS - # 244 in your ELW.

Note we all sing stanzas 1 & 4 while only men sing stanza 2 and – women & children only on stanza 3.

2. *Processional Hymn: Rejoice, Rejoice Believers* – **Swedish** arranged for full orchestra by John Ferguson

4 m

(Orchestral scores rented from the St. Olaf College Music Library)

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 40: 3-5, 9-11

1 m

3. *Prepare Ye!* – **Marc A. Robinson** (Kjos Ed. 8830)

4 m

SATB, tenor/baritone solo, congas, claves & shaker

CONFESSION/ABSOLUTION

45 s

We join in the confession found in your bulletin. Let us pray...

(Time of silent reflection and self-examination)

God of grace...

We confess before you that we wandered from your presence – to seek the false security of other gods around us. We often search for you in strongholds of power – and of wealth – and do not see your presence among us in the ordinary places of our everyday world. Forgive us, O Lord – and redirect us to “Rise Up and Follow” your direction for our lives.

Out of God’s great mercy – Jesus Christ took on our humanity, and from that same love made flesh – we have the forgiveness of all our sins. Amen

(con’t. on pg 9)

“Last Sunday of Advent” Con’t.

From the prophet Isaiah – the 9th chapter - these words by the prophet Isaiah. They are a prediction proclaimed to the people of Old Testament times – a foretelling of what is to come. People are to look ahead – to what God has in store for them. They are given the promise that they will be coming out of a “dark time” – into a new era of peace and hope. It reads... *(scripture read)* 1 m 15 s

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 9: 2-7

4. **Arise, Shine – Mark Shepperd** (Kjos Ed. 9023) 4 m
 SATB divsi, soprano solo, & cello



The second portion of our service – “Rise Up and Follow” – focuses on hearing God’s Word through the Angels – and noticing how people were changed by what they heard. An angel proclaim God’s announcement to Mary when Gabriel visits her – and the angels fill the sky with song the night of Jesus’ birth. Even though the prophets had spoken of a Messiah – people were surprised when it did happen. It seems the angels come when least expected. Mary certainly wasn’t expecting an angel to visit her. Yet when Gabriel appears – she does not seem overwhelmed by fear – she does listen and focus on the angel’s message. She initially questions how a virgin can give birth – but she quickly realizes it is God’s message – she then assumes an attitude of “trust” – and “wonder” – and she accepts the news as fact. 2 m 15 s

Please rise for the Gospel reading. *(Scripture read)*

SCRIPTURE: Luke 1: 26-35, 38

You may be seated.

5. **Away in a Manger – arr. Howard Helvey** (Beckenhorst BP1550) 3 m 30 s
 SATB, keyboard, handbells (3 octaves) & cello
6. **Wind Through the Olive Trees – George W. Wilmot arr. Carolyn Jennings** (Kjos Ed 8994) 2 m 30 s
 SATB, piano & flute

Our Christmas Gospel reading from Luke’s Gospel – the 2nd chapter – verses 1 – 7. 1 m
 Please stand. *(Scripture read)*

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2: 1-7

You may be seated.

7. **Silent Night – arr. Norman Luboff** (Walton HL08500890 W2757) 3 m
 SATB divsi, piano

8. **Offertory: Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming – German arr. Mark Albrecht** 3 m
 Trumpet and Oboe

OFFERTORY PRAYER 45 s

We join in the prayer printed in your bulletin.

Good and loving God...

We rejoice – in the birth of Jesus proclaimed to us today with the same freshness and newness as first experienced by shepherds in the field – keeping watch over their flocks by night.

We rejoice – knowing Jesus came among the poor – to bring the riches of God grace to everyone dwelling on this earth.

We rejoice – in the promise that you will help us “Rise Up and Follow” you. You will make the way visible to us through your Holy Spirit – which serves as a guide for our daily living.

Bless these gifts we offer this day – and help them be a blessing for others. Amen

(con’t. on pg 10)

“Last Sunday of Advent” Con’t.



We now come to the third part of our worship service – and it is where WE enter the story. Many years ago the Shepherds – and the Wise Men – followed a star which pointed to the Christ Child. Today we recognize the baby Jesus as our Lord and Savior – the ONE whom we look to for our life’s direction. In other words – Jesus is our STAR – the light we count on to give us direction to find our way in life. 1 m 45 s

Our Christmas Gospel continues – from Luke’s Gospel – the 2nd chapter – verses 8-16. Please rise. *(Scripture read)*

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2: 8-16

You may be seated.

9. I Am So Glad – Norwegian Introduction arranged by Erik Whitehill, choir by Paul Christiansen 3 m
 Augsburg (11-9004) SATB Intro for violin and mezzo sung in Norwegian (Manuscript)

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 2: 1-11 *(Scripture read)* 1 m 10 s

10. Out of the Orient Crystal Skies – Richard Zgodava (Augsburg 0-8006-5271-1) 3 m
 SATB with light percussion: sleigh bells, finger cymbals, tambourine

11. Rise Up, Shepherd and Follow! – Spiritual arranged Mark Hayes (Alfred 4756) 3 m 30 s
 SATB, piano (we added bass guitar)

SCRIPTURE: Colossians 3: 15-17 *(Scripture read as printed in the bulletin)* 4 m

We too are asked to – “Rise Up and Follow the Star” – our star is Jesus. However – it sometime easier to respond – “But – I really cannot do very much – or - I do not think it applies to me”. The truth is – how you and I live our life – DOES make a difference. A good example is found in the perennial Christmas movie – “It’s a Wonderful Life” - shown on television every year.

Jimmy Stewart plays the role of George Bailey – the bank president of Bailey Building & Loan. It is a business inherited from his father – who had a legacy of deeply caring for people. We find George in despair over the mismanagement of a huge financial deposit. With a hefty life insurance policy in his pocket – George decides he is worth more dead than alive. God decides to help George – and sends him a guardian angel - (2nd class) – named “Clarence”. To help George change his mind and want to live – Clarence decides to show George what the small town of Bedford Falls would have been like without him there. Every time George brings up a topic – or a person - Clarence brings him an imaginary scene.

- He takes him to the cemetery – where we see the gravestone of George’s famous brother – who would have drown – except George was there to save him.
- We learn of the pharmacist who made a mistake in a prescription – but George, as the high school delivery boy, - notices the error – saving the pharmacist from making the horrific mistake which would have ruined not only a child’s life – but also his own.
- There is his mother – who has turned bitter – since she didn’t have George around to help her.
- We meet his wife – who never married.
- And without George and the helpful Bailey Building & Loan – the town has been taken over by the greedy “Mr. Potter” who has a black heart – always finding a way for financial profit – at the expense of others.

George lived his life – day – by day – in his own ordinary way of caring for others – and by doing so – was “building” a caring and sharing community. He is a great example of an ordinary Christian who has heeded God’s voice to – “Rise Up and Follow”. George’s faith was woven into his living. And the simple truth is – He made a DIFFERENCE with his life.

And so it is with each of us – when we listen for God’s voice – and translate it into our living – we too can make a difference for good in this world. Christ came to Bethlehem so long ago – to CHANGE the world. All of us – who read the words of the Old Testament prophets – understand the message of the angels’ song – and validate the words of the shepherds – all of us are called “disciples”. We have BEEN CHANGED by what we have heard – CHANGED to the point of living our life day – by day – joyfully serving God. Perhaps you could say – we have learned how to live an “Alleluia Life”!

(con’t. on pg 11)

Please join in the scripture passage found in your bulletin. It is Paul's admonition to us on "How to live as a changed person in this world."

SCRIPTURE: Colossians 3: 15-17 (Scripture read as printed in the bulletin)

BLESSING

SENDING

Go in Peace. Serve the Lord. **THANKS BE TO GOD!**



12. Hymn: Joy to the World – English arr. for full orchestra by John Ferguson 3 m
(Orchestral scores rented from the St. Olaf College Music Library) ELW 267 Stanzas 1, 2 & 4

POSTLUDE: From Heaven Above – arranged Walther Pelz (Organ)

Timing: Music – 38 Narration – 14 Announcement/etc – 3 Moving – 5 TOTAL = 60 minutes

Hopefully this article has sparked creatively within you and spurred you on to begin thinking about Advent and Christmas this summer. If you have questions, please feel free to contact me. In the meantime remember,

“You are the SALT of the earth!”

Note: Thanks to Erik Whitehill for the graphics used in the Worship Service Bulletin and in this article. Both Erik and I are happy to share whatever you would like to use from this provided you credit us.

Stuff That Works: Christmas

Kim Cramer

Christmas, Children and Technology

The largest outreach event for our congregation, St Luke's Lutheran, is the Night in Bethlehem as we turn our parking lot into the town of Bethlehem. This happens on the Friday evening before Christmas. Every year our challenge is to take the event and weave it into our Christmas worship so visitors can see a continuation of the story. This year I decided to have the children tell the Christmas story for worship, but the challenges of having them at two worship services would be extremely difficult so I decided to use the media. The Sunday prior to Christmas we staged half the photo shoot during our Sunday School time. The remainder we shot during our Night in Bethlehem complete with the town shops and towns people.

I had five children read the Christmas story, scripted from the children's Bible, and recorded. We took the photos with audio and put them together into video. We divided the video into three segments to be used throughout the Christmas Eve worship service. It was great. We did not have to worry about microphones, sound, and children being there. The children thoroughly enjoyed seeing and hearing themselves during worship and the congregation had a new perspective from which to hear the Christmas story. This had a particular powerful impact on the families who had participated in the photo shoots. The simplicity of the video story helped keep the flow of worship very smooth.

I have posted the videos at:

<http://stlukemesa.com/#/media/videos>.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at kim.cramer@stlukemesa.com. If you want to share any ideas you have done, we would love to hear them and share them through our newsletter.



1991 ALCM Booth at ACDA National in Phoenix

Carole Lea Arenson



The ALCM had a presence at the 1991 National Conference of the American Choral Directors Association meeting in Phoenix, AZ. Those of us in the Phoenix area did much of local work with Marshall Bowen being our key player with his computer. This was the first use of "Stuff That Works" when Marshall Bowen programmed his computer with a data base of

SATB choral music which could be searched by season, difficulty, title, etc. The choral selections had been submitted by members of our region with help from Carolyn Jennings at St. Olaf College.

There were many visitors to the booth who all became acquainted with what the Lutherans are doing in the relatively new organization called ALCM. Our National President was Carlos Messerli who spent quite some time at the booth greeting people. Marshall, Mark Francis and I were also usually present.

Marshall explains our project in this way:

"The up to date (for its day) computer was a Mac SE30 with an Apple Laser printer printing out a hard copy of your choir anthems. The database program was called Microsoft File. It was a flat data-base which allowed quick searches for your choice of season, choir configuration or difficulty. In this pre-Sundays and Seasons era

this collection of choir anthems was a good way to search for just the right anthem for any choir or Sunday of the liturgical calendar. Sadly, this collection was definitely from its time and place. Many of the choir anthems are now out of print. Also, the database program no longer exists and the files are sitting on a 3.5 inch floppy drive in a drawer of my cabinet. I am not sure where I would find a floppy drive to put the disk into, even if the program was available to open the files. It is great to have the help of Sundays and Seasons sitting on my desk."



Carole Lea Arenson, Mark Francis and Marilyn Comer, ALCM National Vice President

ALCM sponsored a Friday Night ALCM Banquet featuring a panel discussion by Mark Hayes, Carl Schalk and K. Lee Scott moderated by Mark Francis, Phoenix ALCM member. The topic for the discussion was, "**Church Music in the Next Century: Are you ready?**"

The Lutherans Are Here!

A Brief Encounters with "The Choir of the West" at ACDA National in Dallas

Erik Whitehill, Tempe, AZ



When one attends the American Choral Directors Association National Conference, it is very easy to become oversaturated with choral sounds. This year, the ACDA national conference in Dallas, TX had the most choirs it has ever had. It was a veritable plethora of choral excellence. I love choir concerts, but I have a limit.

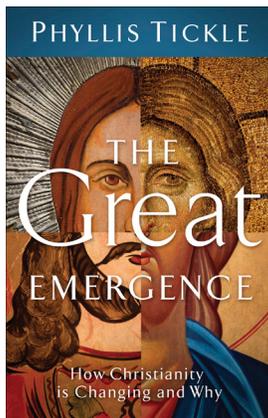
One afternoon, late in the conference, my friend David Hein and I were sitting in a performance session at the Meyerson Symphony Center. We had heard several great groups that day, but my limit was quickly approaching. I would probably have ducked out, but the next choir on the docket was "Choir of the West" from Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington.

The Choir of the West and Richard Nance walked out onto the stage and sang the first phrases of *Exultate* by

Brian Edward Galante. When they hit their first strong cadence chord, the sound that rang through the hall was glorious. It was so much in tune that it sent visible chills through the crowd. David turned and whispered to me, "**The Lutherans are here!**" It was a moment I won't forget.

The Choir of the West's ACDA set was spectacular. In addition to *Exultate*, they performed *When David Heard* (Weelkes), *Luxuriosa Res* (Lukas), *Sept Chanons: 1, 4 & 6* (Poulenc), *Northern Lights* (Esenvalds) and *So I'll Sing With My Voice* (Argento). The *Northern Lights* premiere was particularly memorable because the entire choir suddenly became a glorious glass harmonica!

David and I are both Lutheran college graduates (he from St. Olaf College of Northfield, MN and I from Luther College of Decorah, IA) and have an appreciation for the Lutheran contribution to the greater choral sounds of the universe. PLU proudly carried that banner at ACDA! It was absolutely refreshing to be reminded yet again of the musicality, spirituality and heart of the Lutheran choral tradition.



THE GREAT EMERGENCE:

How Christianity is Changing and Why

By Phyllis Tickle

ISBN 978-0-8010-1313-3 www.bakerbooks.com

Grand Rapids: BakerBooks 2008 172 pp.

In the often confusing Christian landscape around us, it sometimes is difficult to see the big picture since we get totally distracted by all the pressing little things. This book helps us at least have one explanation of “What is going on?” and “Where are we headed?” Phyllis Tickle says, “Every five hundred years, the church cleans out its attic and has a giant rummage sale.”

A group of us formed a Study Group. Over a number of months we read and discussed Phyllis Tickle’s thoughts in relationship to what we saw happening. I highly recommend this book to you and, if at all possible, also recommend you gather a small group for periodic discussion for the course of this read.

Here is one review of the book which seems to summarize the intent: Rooted in the observation that massive transitions in the church happen about every 500 years, Phyllis Tickle shows readers that we live in such a time right now. She compares the Great Emergence to other “Greats” in the history of Christianity, including the Great Transformation (when God walked among us), the time of Gregory the Great, the Great Schism, and the Great Reformation.

Combining history, a look at the causes of social upheaval, and current events, The Great Emergence shows readers what the Great Emergence in church and culture is, how it came to be, and where it is going. Anyone who is interested in the future of the church in America, no matter what their personal affiliation, will find this book a fascinating exploration.

Phyllis Tickle talks about us living on the “hinge” of the 500 year transition. Here is an outline of the change every 500 years with names attached to the change:

1. The Great Transformation – in the 1st century
2. Gregory the Great – at the end of the 6th century
3. The Great Schism – in the mid-11th century
4. The Great Reformation - in the early 16th century

A more thorough explanation of historical 500 year events:

1. **The Great Transformation –**
the coming of the Son of God and the beginning of the proclamation of the gospel.
2. **Gregory the Great –**
one who led the church in a time of ecclesio-political coherence as the empire of Rome came to its full collapse.
3. **The Great Schism –**
the time when the church officially split into west (Roman Catholic) and east (Eastern Orthodox)
4. **The Great Reformation –**
championed by Martin Luther and many other protestant reformers such as Calvin, Zwingli, Knox, etc.

About the author

Phyllis Tickle is the founding editor of the Religion Department of Publishers Weekly and a respected authority and speaker on religion in America today. She often is quoted and interviewed in media outlets including: the New York Times, Time, USA Today, Newsweek, CNN, C-SPAN and PBS. Phyllis is a lay Eucharistic minister in the Episcopal Church and a senior fellow of Cathedral College at the National Cathedral in Washington. Some of her over two dozen books include: The Divine Hours prayer manuals and mostly recently, The Words of Jesus: A Gospel of the Sayings of Our Lord.

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Attention Region 4 Members Coming to Valpo!

We will have a Region 4 Lunch Meeting during the conference.

Check for details when you register.

We want to see you and get your input.

See you there!
Kim Cramer
Region 4 President

