

# SING FOR JOY

January 2004



*Sing For Joy* host  
Pastor  
W. Bruce Benson

## *From the host*

How we reckon our days — how we mark them, number them, name them, keep track of them — is easier to determine than why. We order our days according to weeks and months and years. We are quite aware that we now begin a new year, an experience most of us rather enjoy.

But why do we care if this is January? And why do we feel we need to know whether it's the 5<sup>th</sup> or the 15<sup>th</sup>? Or even whether it is Tuesday or Friday? There's no question that we have come to depend on a numbering system. Without it, we couldn't make doctor's appointments, put out the garbage on time for pick-up, or schedule weddings and graduations more than a few days in advance.

The human practice of marking times and seasons has, however, been around much longer than modern life. We humans seem to order our days as a way to give them not just order, but meaning. For example, it is more meaningful to me, and probably to you, to think that a week in January is a particular week after the Day of Epiphany instead of just one more winter week hardly different from any other. And even though I know that naming a certain day — January 18 — as Confession of St. Peter Day was made by human choice, I still find it more meaningful to remember St. Peter on that day than to remember nothing more than how gray the sky is, how chilly the air feels, or how much this day seems just like any other.

I suppose the Christian Church would not need to have its own days and seasons; we could simply follow the calendar of the world. And there are some Christians who take literally those Bible verses that see problems with observing “new moons and Sabbaths.” They have a point. The mind of the Church, however, has pretty much followed the Hebrew mind in this matter. It is true that every day should be holy to the Lord, as the Scripture counsels; but it is easier for us to remember the holiness of each day if we name and number our days in a way that remembers the Giver of all our days.

To sum up: the meaning of our days is much deeper if we number them according to the story of Jesus and if we observe special days to remember wonderful stories and people from the Bible.

Confession of St. Peter Day (January 18) and Conversion (or the calling) of St. Paul Day (January 25) are both noted on *Sing For Joy* during January. So is the week between those two festival days, which is called the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The Day of Epiphany (January 6) is certainly noted, as is the First Sunday after the Epiphany, a day when the Church remembers and celebrates the Baptism of our Lord.

We live in days and times that have more meaning than winter dates alone can give. We live in days that honor the Christ who walked among us. May those days be for you a “Happy New Year.”

Warm Regards,

*Pastor Bruce Benson*

# Listings

## January 4

Scriptures For January 4:

- (1R) Jeremiah 31:7-14  
(PS) Psalm 147:12-20  
(2R) Ephesians 1:3-14  
(G) John 1:[1-9] 10-18

**O Come, All Ye Faithful (ADESTE FIDELES)** – John F. Wade.  
Arr. Sir David Willcocks (G) The Bach Choir – London / Sir David Willcocks.  
(CD) *Family Carols* / CHANDOS / CHAN 8973  
© 1991 Chandos Records, Ltd., Essex, England

**Verbum caro factum est (The Word Was Made Flesh)** – 15<sup>th</sup> Century Italian  
Laude (G) The Boston Camerata / Joel Cohen. (CD) *A Medieval Christmas* / ELEKTRA NONESUCH / 971315-2  
© 1992 Elektra Nonesuch, Warner Communications, 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10019

**“Now the Word Becomes the Flesh” from Gaudete** – Piae Cantiones, Arr. Anders Öhrwall (G) Soli Deo Gloria Cantorum – Omaha, Neb. / Almeda Berkey. (CD) *Gaudete* / SDG RECORDS / SDGCD 91 © 1991 SDG Records, 3402 Woolworth Ave, Omaha, NE 68105

**Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day** – English Traditional, Arr. Sir David Willcocks (1R) The Cambridge Singers / John Rutter. (CD) *Christmas Night: Carols of the Nativity* / COLLEGIUM RECORDS / COLCD 106 © 1987 Collegium Records, P.O. Box 31366, Omaha, NE 68131

**Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day** – John Gardner (1R) The Dale Warland Singers – Minneapolis / Dale Warland. (CD) *Christmas With the Dale Warland Singers* / GOTHIC / G 49208 © 2002 Loft Recordings, LLC., 10 Harrison Street, Suite 311, Seattle, WA 98109-4509

**“Ring Out, Ye Crystal Spheres” from Hodie** – Ralph Vaughan Williams (G)  
The St. Olaf Orchestra, Massed Choirs of St. Olaf College / Anton Armstrong. (CD) *Immanuel, Our Hope Forevermore* / ST. OLAF RECORDS / E-2333 © 2000 St. Olaf College, 1520 St. Olaf Avenue, Northfield, MN 55057

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## LECTIONARY

1R-First Reading 2R-Second Reading PS-Psalms G-Gospel

## January 11

Scriptures For January 11:

- (1R) Isaiah 43:1-7  
(PS) Psalm 29  
(2R) Acts 8:14-17  
(G) Luke 3:15-17, 21-22  
(E) Epiphany

**The First Nowell (THE FIRST NOWELL)** – English Traditional, Arr. Sir David Willcocks (E) The New York Choral Artists – New York, N.Y. / Joseph Flummerfelt. (CD) *O Come, All Ye Faithful* / EMI / CDC 7 49908 2 © 1989 Manufactured for EMI by Capitol Records, Inc., 1750 N. Vine Street, Hollywood, Calif.

**Epiphany Alleluias** – John Weaver (E) St. John’s Episcopal Cathedral Choir – Denver, Colo. / Donald Pearson. (CD) *Sing We Merrily* / DELOS / DE 3125 © 1991 Delos International, Inc., 1032 North Sycamore Avenue, Hollywood, CA 90028

**Down to the River to Pray** – American Traditional (G) Alison Krauss & First Baptist Church Choir – White House, Tenn. (CD) *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* (Soundtrack) / MERCURY RECORDS / 088 170 039-2 © 2000 Mercury Records, division of UMG Recordings, Inc.

**Syriac (REJOICING SERAPHIM)** – Arr. Larry L. Fleming (E) The National Lutheran Choir / Larry L. Fleming. (CD) *Infant Holy* / NATIONAL LUTHERAN CHOIR RECORDINGS / NLCA-32 © National Lutheran Choir, PO Box 6450, Minneapolis, MN 55406-6450

**Brightest and Best of the Sons of the Morning (WESSEX)** – Alwyn Surplice (E) The Choir of St. Paul’s Cathedral – London / John Scott (CD) *Epiphany At St. Paul’s* / HYPERION / CDA67269 © 2002 Hyperion Records Limited, London, England

**Here’s a Pretty Little Baby!** – Traditional Spritual, Arr. André Thomas (E) Albert Jordan – Tenor, The St. Olaf Choir / Anton Armstrong. (CD) *Dawn of Redeeming Grace* / ST OLAF RECORDS / E-2198 © 1997 St Olaf College, 1520 St. Olaf Avenue, Northfield, MN 55057

**The Three Kings** – Healy Willan (E) The Dale Warland Singers – Minneapolis / Dale Warland. (CD) *A Rose in Winter* / D’NOTE CLASSICS / DSD 1022 © 1997 d’Note Entertainment

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# Listings

## January 18

Scriptures for 2 Epiphany:

- |      |                       |       |                 |
|------|-----------------------|-------|-----------------|
| (1R) | Isaiah 62:1-5         | (STP) | Confession of   |
| (PS) | Psalms 36:5-10        |       | St. Peter       |
| (2R) | 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 | (CU)  | Christian Unity |
| (G)  | John 2:1-11           |       |                 |

**Trumpet Tune (Excerpt)** – Jeremiah Clarke (G) The Empire Brass, Michael Murray – Organ. (CD) *Music for Organ, Brass, & Percussion* / TELARC / CD-80218 © 1990 Telarc International Corporation, 23307 Commerce Park Road, Cleveland, OH 44122

**“Set Me as a Seal” from A New Creation** – René Clausen (1R, G) The West Coast Mennonite Chamber Choir / Tony Funk. (CD) *The Time of Eternity* / MCC SCS / IKR012CD © 2002 Mennonite Central Committee Supportive Services

**Dicit Dominus (The Lord said, “Fill the jugs with water.”)** – Gregorian Chant (G) Choralschola der Wiener Hofburgkapelle – Austria / Fr. Hubert Dopf, S.J. (CD) *Gregorian Chant* / PHILIPS / 411 140-2 © Phonogram International BV

**Songs of Thankfulness and Praise (ST. EDMUND)** – Charles Steggall, Arr. Harrison Oxley (G) The Choir of St. Edmundsbury Cathedral – England / James Thomas. (CD) *The Complete New English Hymnal: Volume Twelve* / PRIORY / PRC D 712 © 2002 Priory Records Ltd., 3 Eden Court, Eden Way, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire, England LU74FY

**Tu es Petrus** – Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (STP) Voices of Ascension – New York, NY / Dennis Keene. (CD) *Prince of Music: Choral Music of Palestrina* / DELOS / DE 3210 © 1999 Delos International, Inc., 1645 North Vine Street, Suite 340, Hollywood, CA 90028

**Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ (LINSTEAD)** – Jamaican Folk Melody, Arr. Bradley Ellingboe (CU) The St. Olaf Choir / Anton Armstrong. (CD) *Great Hymns of Faith* / ST. OLAF RECORDS / E-2294 © 1999 St. Olaf Records, 1520 St. Olaf Avenue, Northfield, MN 55057

**Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation (WESTMINSTER ABBEY)** – Henry Purcell, Arr. John Rutter (STP, CU) The Cambridge Singers, City of London Sinfonia Brass / John Rutter. (CD) *Sing Ye Heavens: Hymns for All Time* / COLLEGIUM / COLCD 126 © 2000 Collegium Records, P.O. Box 31366, Omaha, NE 68131

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### Letter from a listener

“The December newsletter had a wonderful tribute and thank you to the sponsors — the Sukup and Sauder families — of your uplifting program. Thank you, Pastor Bruce, for saying it so well. When I saw the name on the grain dryer equipment at a farm last year, I was really pleased to see an example of Sukup Mfg. in use!” — *a listener in Minnesota*

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## January 25

Scriptures for 3 Epiphany:

- |      |                           |       |                 |
|------|---------------------------|-------|-----------------|
| (1R) | Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 | (CSP) | Conversion of   |
| (PS) | Psalms 19                 |       | St. Paul        |
| (2R) | 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a   | (CU)  | Christian Unity |
| (G)  | Luke 4:14-21              |       |                 |

**The Church’s One Foundation** – Samuel Sebastian Wesley, Arr. John Ferguson (2R, CU) The St. Olaf Choir / Anton Armstrong. (CD) *Great Hymns of Faith, Volume II* / ST. OLAF RECORDS / AVAILABLE SPRING 2004 © 2004 St. Olaf Records, 1520 St. Olaf Ave, Northfield, MN 55057

**Hail to the Lord’s Anointed (ES FLOG EIN KLEINS WALDVÖGELEIN)** – German Traditional (G) Schola Cantorum of St. Peter the Apostle – Chicago, Ill. / J. Michael Thompson. (CD) *Music for the November Feasts* / THE LITURGICAL PRESS / 7896-3 © 1995 Order of St. Benedict, Collegeville, MN 56321

**Saul, Saul, was Verfolgst du Mich?, SWV 415** – Heinrich Schütz (CSP) The Monteverdi Choir, The English Baroque Soloists / John Eliot Gardiner. (CD) *Musikalische Exequien* / ARCHIV / 423 405-2 © 1988 Plydor International GmbH, Hamburg, Germany

**There Is a Balm in Gilead (BALM IN GILEAD)** – African American Spiritual, Arr. William L. Dawson (CSP) Cantus – Minneapolis, Minn. (CD) *Deep River* / CANTUS RECORDINGS / CTS-1203. © 2003 Cantus Recordings, P.O. Box 16321, Minneapolis, MN 55416

**Jesus Shall Reign (DUKE STREET)** – John Hatton (G, CU) From a “Sing!” led by Alice Parker. (CD) *Sing!* / ALCM / CS – 3. © 1998 Association of Lutheran Church Musicians, P.O. Box 6064 Ellicott City, MD 21042



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