



Messiah

GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL

PART I

presented by

The Westminster Singers and Orchestra

Dr. Gabriel C. Statom, Director

Sunday, December 8, 2013

Messiah

A Sacred Oratorio (1742)
MUSIC BY GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL
LIBRETTO BY CHARLES JENNENS

PART I

The Prophecy and Realization of God's Plan to Redeem Mankind by the Coming of the Messiah

Sinfonia (Overture)

SCENE I

Isaiah's Prophecy of Salvation

Accompagnato

James Harr, tenor

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplish'd, that her iniquity is pardon'd. The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness; prepare ye the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. (*Isaiah 40:1-3*)

Aria

Ev'ry valley shall be exalted, and ev'ry moutain and hill made low; the crooked straight and the rough places plain. (*Isaiah 40:4*)

Chorus

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it. (*Isaiah 40:5*)

SCENE 2

The Prophecy of the Coming of Messiah

Accompagnato

Evan Jones, bass

Thus saith the Lord, the Lord of hosts; Yet once, a little while, and I will shake the heav'ns and the earth, the sea, and the dry land. All nations I'll shake, and the desire of all nations shall come. (*Haggai 2:6-7*)

The Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to His temple, ev'n the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in; behold, He shall come, saith the Lord of hosts. (*Malachi 3:1*)

Air

But who may abide the day of His coming, and who shall stand when He appeareth? For He is like a refiner's fire. (*Malachi 3:2*)

Chorus

And He shall purify the sons of Levi, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness. (*Malachi 3:3*)

SCENE 3

The Prophecy of the Virgin Birth

Recitative

Christy Young, alto

Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Emmanuel, God with us. (*Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23*)

Air and Chorus

O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, get thee up into the high mountain. O thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, behold your God! (*Isaiah 40:9*)

Arise, shine, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. (*Isaiah 60:1*)

Accompagnato

Evan Jones, bass

For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people; but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and His glory shall be seen upon thee. And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising. (*Isaiah 60:2-3*)

Aria

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; and they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. (*Isaiah 9:2*)

Chorus

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government shall be upon His shoulder; and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. (*Isaiah 9:6*)

SCENE 4

The Appearance of the Angels to the Shepherds

Pifa (Pastoral Symphony)

Recitative

BJ Webster, soprano

There were shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night. (*Luke 2:8*)

Accompagnato

And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. (*Luke 2:9*)

Recitative

And the angel said unto them: "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." (*Luke 2:10-11*)

Accompagnato

And suddenly there was with the angel, a multitude of the heav'nly host, praising God, and saying: (*Luke 2:13*)

Chorus

"Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth, good will toward men." (*Luke 2:14*)

Aria

Ginger Statom, soprano

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, thy King cometh unto thee; He is the righteous Saviour, and He shall speak peace unto the heathen. (*Zechariah 9:9-10*)

SCENE 5

Christ's Redemptive Miracles on Earth

Recitative

Terri Theil, alto

Then shall the eyes of the blind be open'd, and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb shall sing. (*Isaiah 35:5-6*)

Duet

Terri Theil, alto; BJ Webster, soprano

He shall feed His flock like a shepherd; and He shall gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those that are with young. (*Isaiah 40:11*)

Come unto Him, all ye that labour, come unto Him that are heavy laden, and He will give you rest. Take his yoke upon you, and learn of Him; for He is meek and lowly of heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls. (*Matthew 11:28-29*)

Chorus

His yoke is easy, and His burden is light. (*Matthew 11:30*)

Homily: Sanders L. Willson

Hymn of Joy: *Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come*

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room, and Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven and nature sing, and Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found, far as, far as, the curse is found.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness, and wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders, of His love.**

Chorus (from Part II)

Hallelujah: for the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth (*Revelation 19:6*)

The kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He shall reign for ever and ever. (*Revelation 11:15*)

King of Kings, and Lord of Lords (*Revelation 19:16*)

Hallelujah!

Benediction

THE WESTMINSTER SINGERS

Marjorie Bowman	Jennifer Brandon	Lee Wallace	Robert Sutton	Chuck Curtis
Emily Taylor	Mary Edwards	Beth Fischer	Dan Whipple	Brett Trimble
Suzanne Burgar	Martha Hopper	Kathy Hammond	Warren Jones	Rob Liddon
Kelsey Boyle	Christy Young*	Rachel Harkins	David Dennis	Evan Jones*
BJ Webster*	Mary Lawrence Flinn	Jerry Bowman	Colby Morgan	
Pat Corbitt	Terri Theil*	James Harr*	Keith Young	<i>*soloists</i>
Ginger Statom*	Anne Thompson	Tucker Williams	John Beckham	

ORCHESTRA

Violin	Viola	Bass	Bassoon	Timpani
Long Long Kang	Marshall Fine	Scott Best	Garrett McQueen	Wes Parker
Diane Zelickman	Mario Williams			
Marisa Polesky		Oboe	Trumpet	Organ
Gaylon Patterson	Cello	Joseph Salvalaggio	Ben Lewis	Molly Johnson
Rafael Spencer	Iren Zombor	Saundra D'Amato	Norman Blakely	
	Jonathan Kirkscey			Harpichord
				Lenora Morrow

MUSIC MINISTRY STAFF

Dr. Gabriel Statom, *Director of Music*
Lenora Morrow, *Organist*
Christy Young, *Assistant Director*
Mary Quinlan, *Administrative Assistant*

Terri Theil, *Director of Children's Music
and Second Conservatory*
Ginger Statom, *Director of Youth Choir*
Molly Johnson and Kelsey Boel, *Interns*

THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS

We hope you enjoy this worship service celebrating the marvelous birth of Jesus Christ, who is the Savior of mankind and the true meaning of Christmas. More importantly, we hope you know Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. Being a Christian is more than identifying yourself with a particular religion or affirming a certain value system. Being a Christian means you have embraced what the Bible says about God, mankind, and salvation. Consider the following truths found in the Bible.

God is Sovereign Creator. Contemporary thinking says man is the product of evolution. But the Bible says we were created by a personal God to love, serve, and enjoy endless fellowship with Him. The New Testament reveals it was Jesus Himself who created everything (John 1:3; Colossians 1:16). Therefore, He also owns and rules everything (Psalm 103:19). That means He has authority over our lives and we owe Him absolute allegiance, obedience, and worship.

God is Holy. God is absolutely and perfectly holy (Isaiah 6:3); therefore He cannot commit or approve of evil (James 1:13). God requires holiness of us as well. First Peter 1:16 says, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

Mankind is Sinful. According to Scripture, everyone is guilty of sin: "There is no man who does not sin" (1 Kings 8:46). That doesn't mean we're incapable of performing acts of human kindness. But we're utterly incapable of understanding, loving, or pleasing God on our own (Romans 3:10-12).

Sin Demands a Penalty. God's holiness and justice demand that all sin be punished by death (Ezekiel 18:4). That's why simply changing our patterns of behavior can't solve our sin problem or eliminate its consequences.

Jesus is Lord and Savior. Romans 10:9 says, "If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved." Even though God's justice demands death for sin, His love has provided a Savior who paid the penalty and died for sinners (1 Peter 3:18). Christ's death satisfied the demands of God's justice, and Christ's perfect life satisfied the demands of God's holiness (2 Corinthians 5:21), thereby enabling Him to forgive and save those who place their faith in Him (Romans 3:26).

The Character of Saving Faith. True faith is always accompanied by repentance from sin. Repentance is agreeing with God that you are sinful, confessing your sins to Him, and making a conscious choice to turn from sin (Luke 13:3, 5; 1 Thessalonians 1:9) and pursue Christ (Matthew 11: 28-30; John 17:3) and obedience to Him (1 John 2:3). It isn't enough to believe certain facts about Christ. Even Satan and his demons believe in the true God (James 2:19), but they don't love and obey Him. True saving faith always responds in obedience (Ephesians 2:10).

