



# O SING OF CHRIST

ADVENT MIDWEEK WORSHIP SERIES

## *O SING OF CHRIST*

*Wednesday, December 12, 2018*

## What are Hymns? Why Hymns?

Hymns are a kind of song: but they differ from a professional song, or an art-song, in being **songs for unmusical people to sing together**. They are a kind of poetry, but they are such **poetry as unliterary people can utter together**. Hymns are the folk song of the Christian folk. Hymns are verse-repeated songs capable of being sung by a congregation which was not in any sense made up of trained singers. \*\*from Erik Routley, *Christian Hymns Observed* (1-6).

**Hymns are designed to be communal, corporate, congregational.**

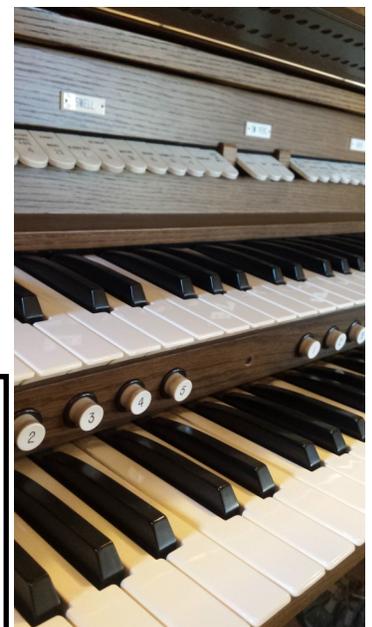
The more a song depends on the musical accompaniment and cannot be sung by a couple of children in the car on the way home, the more performance-oriented and less congregational it probably is. Congregational songs tend to have singable, memorable, and repeatable melodies.

“Hymns are intended for a corporate body. They must be of use to many people and build up a sense of shared identity and shared purpose, just as working songs, marching songs, and protest songs do.”

\*\*from Jonathan Leeman (9marks.org) & Carl Daw via worship.calvin.edu

### Tonight's Encouragement for Singing at Bethel

Pay attention to how we are able to sing a hymn together—and how singing together emphasizes being the Church.



# O Sing of Christ

by Stephen P. Starke (b. 1955); tune: adapted from Ralph Vaughn Williams (1872-1958)

1 O sing of Christ, whose birth made known

The kindness of the Lord,

Eternal Word made flesh and bone

So we could be restored.

Upon our frail humanity

God's finger chose to trace

The fullness of His deity,

The icon of His grace.

2 What Adam lost, none could reclaim,

And Paradise was barred

Until the second Adam came

To mend what sin had marred.

For when the time was full and right

God sent His only Son;

He came to us as life and light

And our redemption won.

3 He came to that which was His own,  
But He was not received;  
Yet still through Him God's glory shone,  
And some His name believed.  
To these He gave the right to be  
The heirs of heav'n above,  
Born not of human ancestry  
But born of God in love.

4 Lord Jesus Christ, You deigned to dwell  
Among us here on earth  
As God with us, Emmanuel,  
To bring this holy birth.  
Though rich, You willingly became  
One with our poverty,  
That we might share Your wealth and name  
For all eternity!

## Reflection/Discussion Questions

After each Advent Midweek Worship, Confirmation students join their Lay Coaches for a 15-minute conversation. Confirmation parents huddle up to have their own conversation.



You could also tap a few people around you and ask them to stick around to reflect on tonight's service with you. Pastor will wrap things up in the Sanctuary around 7:30 with a closing prayer.

1. Pastor explains that Stephen Starke wrote "O Sing of Christ" with the intention to focus on some aspect not in other hymns. Why is it helpful to put other teachings from the Word of God into our mouths through song?
2. What are some other truths about Jesus or Scripture passages that you would like to see a hymn focus on? (Give your group's list to Pastor).
3. What line or phrase or stanza from tonight's hymn would be helpful to keep as a reminder of being devoted to Christ, the Bridegroom?
4. Decide before you go home: Will you write out that line/phrase/stanza and post it somewhere to see it each day? Or will you work on memorizing it to keep it with you all week? Or both?
5. **\*\*Have you been trying #4 the last 2 weeks? How's it gone?\***