



# O SING OF CHRIST

ADVENT MIDWEEK WORSHIP SERIES

***O LORD, HOW SHALL  
I MEET YOU***

*Wednesday, November 28, 2018*

## Encouragement in Singing the Faith

from Katharina Schütz Zell (1497-1562 )

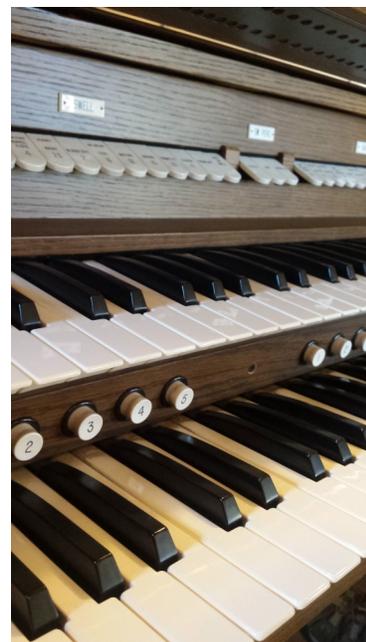
In 1534, in Strasbourg, Germany, Katharina Schütz Zell, the lay reformer and author, edited and republished the first German-language hymnbook (originally published in 1531). As her preface indicates, Schütz Zell was motivated by the collection's religious content and its potential utility for the faithful: "I found such an understanding of the works of God in this songbook that I want all people to understand it. I ought much rather to call it a teaching, prayer, and praise book [rather] than a songbook....[I]t seemed to me a very good and useful thing...to convey the whole business of Christ and our salvation in song, so that the people may thus enthusiastically and with clear voices be exhorted regarding their salvation.... [T]herefore now sing these songs, which express so admirably God's love towards us and exhort us so faithfully not to neglect the salvation offered to us." \*\*from Hendrix, Scott. *Early Protestant Spirituality*, 191.

### Tonight's Encouragement for Singing at Bethel

Where else do you sing with others?

Does the group expect perfection from every voice?

Why or why not?



# O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

By Paul Gerhardt (1607-1676); translated by Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878) and others

1 O Lord, how shall I meet You,  
How welcome You aright?  
Your people long to greet You,  
My hope, my heart's delight!  
O kindle, Lord most holy,  
Your lamp within my breast  
To do in spirit lowly  
All that may please You best.

2 Your Zion strews before You  
Green boughs and fairest palms;  
And I too will adore You  
With joyous songs and psalms.  
My heart shall bloom forever  
For You with praises new  
And from Your name shall never  
Withhold the honor due.

3 I lay in fetters, groaning;  
You came to set me free.  
I stood, my shame bemoaning;  
You came to honor me.  
A glorious crown You give me,  
A treasure safe on high  
That will not fail or leave me  
As earthly riches fly.

4 Love caused Your incarnation;  
Love brought You down to me.  
Your thirst for my salvation  
Procured my liberty.  
Oh, love beyond all telling,  
That led You to embrace  
In love, all love excelling,  
Our lost and fallen race.

5 Sin's debt, that fearful burden,  
Cannot His love erase;  
Your guilt the Lord will pardon  
And cover by His grace.  
He comes, for you procuring  
The peace of sin forgiv'n,  
His children thus securing  
Eternal life in heav'n.

6 He comes to judge the nations,  
A terror to His foes,  
A light of consolations  
And blessèd hope to those  
Who love the Lord's appearing.  
O glorious Sun, now come,  
Send forth Your beams so cheering,  
And guide us safely home.

## 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. What image described in tonight's focus hymn helps you understand something from Scripture?
2. Which line or phrase from tonight's focus hymn really speaks to your faith journey? Why?
3. Dietrich Bonhoeffer said from prison in Nazi Germany that he spent time singing and memorizing Paul Gerhardt's hymns because they helped sustain his faith. When during the next 7 days might you need God's help to sustain your faith?
4. What line or phrase or stanza from tonight's hymn would be helpful to sustain your faith during that tough time?
5. 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?