

# O Bride of Christ, Rejoice

Danish hymn circa 1600 (possibly much older); translated by Victor O. Peterson (1864-1929)

1 O bride of Christ, rejoice;  
Exultant raise thy voice  
To hail the day of glory  
Foretold in sacred story.

*Refrain* Hosanna, praise, and glory!  
Our King, we bow before Thee.

2 Let shouts of gladness rise  
Triumphant to the skies.  
Now comes the King most glorious  
To reign o'er all victorious. *Refrain.*

3 A humble beast He rides,  
Yet as a King presides;  
Though not arrayed in splendor,  
He makes the grave surrender. *Refrain.*

4 The weak and timid find  
How meek He is and kind;  
To them He gives a treasure  
Of bliss beyond all measure. *Refrain.*

5 Then go thy Lord to meet;  
Strew palm leaves at His feet;  
Thy garments spread before Him  
And honor and adore Him. *Refrain.*

**“It is the voice of the Church that is heard in singing together.  
It is not you that sings,  
it is the Church that is singing,  
and you as a member of the Church may share in its song.”  
Dietrich Bonhoeffer — *Life Together***

## 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. This hymn begins with the image of Jesus being the Bridegroom, and the Church is the Bride. How does that image/metaphor help you understand more about what it means to be a believer in Him?
2. Tonight's hymn seems to be very "historical"—it is describing events that took place already and long ago (birth of Jesus, Palm Sunday, the crucifixion). For you, what line or phrase, though, helps the "historical" become part of your "present" faith and life?
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?



## **O SING OF CHRIST**

**ADVENT MIDWEEK WORSHIP SERIES**

***O BRIDE OF CHRIST,  
REJOICE***

*Wednesday, December 5, 2018*

**I Can't Help But Sing** Early Christians were found to be singing God's praises wherever they went. Clement of Alexandria (c.150–215) wrote: "We cultivate our fields praising. We sail the sea hymning." Jerome of Bethlehem (347–420) said: "You could not go into the field, but that you might hear the plowman at his 'Hallelujahs,' the mower at his hymns, and the vinedresser singing David's Psalms." However, periods of the Church's history prohibited the laypeople to sing during worship for practical but also sometimes frivolous reasons. And the Church's insistence on worship in Latin curbed the writing of hymns in people's heart languages. For instance, the Scandinavian cultures were known for their mythmaking in poetry as told & sung by their mystic ones called *skjalds*. That tradition was not encouraged, so that their art wasn't applied to their new faith in Jesus. The early Danish hymnal compiler, Hans Thomisson, preserved the "old hymns" which weren't allowed in the Church but were written and sung and preserved the faith at home and in the community. \*\*from The Covenant Quarterly, 56 no 2; and ccel.org

### **Tonight's Encouragement for Singing at Bethel**

Not sure about singing? Hesitant as you learn a new tune? What should you do during the hymns?

