Rejoice in the Lamb

Program notes:

Rejoice in the Lamb was written in 1943 shortly after Benjamin Britten's (1913-1976) return to Great Britain following a three-year stay in America. This work was preceded by the composition of two of Britten's most popular and substantial choral compositions, the Hymn to St. Cecilia and the Ceremony of Carols. Those two works were written on Britten's journey home from the States. Musicologist Phillip Brett suggests that it was almost “as if to think of England were to think of choral music,” and his return might have been Britten's impetus for the writing of some of his greatest works for chorus. The work was commissioned by the Rev. Walter Hussey, who also commissioned the Chichester Psalms from Leonard Bernstein twenty-two years later. Jubilate Agno or “Rejoice in the Lamb” is a long poem written by Christopher Smart, an eighteenth-century poet known during his lifetime for his translations of some of the odes of Alexander Pope and his contributions to several literary magazines in London. His commitment late in his life to several mental asylums is often commented upon, though it is not clear to what degree he might have been unstable. What today might be called religious zealotry could have been an excuse for his wife’s stepfather to have Smart put away. Given the serious attacks made on Smart by his father-in-law in the press and through some other publishing ventures, one cannot be too sure of the nature or seriousness of Smart’s supposed mental illness. What is known is that Smart produced much of Jubilate Agno after being confined to St. Luke's Hospital for Lunatics on May 6, 1757, as a “Curable Patient.” In “Rejoice in the Lamb,” he abandons the norms of eighteenth-century literary style for a personal poetic style. The composition of thirty-two pages of lines of poetry which start with the word “let” or “for” created a litany nearly ecstatic in its presentation of a theme of worship and praise. Britten carefully organized the excerpts he set to music. They are described in the preface to the score by Walter Hussey, as presented below:

“The cantata is made up of ten short sections. The first sets the theme. The second gives a few examples of one person after another being summoned from the pages of the Old Testament to join with some creature in praising and rejoicing in God. The third is a quiet and ecstatic Hallelujah. In the fourth section Smart uses his beloved cat as an example of nature praising God by being simply what the Creator intended it to be. The same thought is carried on in the fifth section with the illustration of the mouse. The sixth section speaks of the flowers—“the poetry of Christ.” In the seventh section Smart refers to his troubles and suffering, but even these are an occasion for praising God, for it is through Christ that he will find his deliverance. The eighth section gives four letters from an alphabet, leading to a full chorus in section nine which speaks of the musical instruments and music’s praise of God. The final section repeats the Hallelujah.”

-Patrick Gardner
CHORUS
Rejoice in God, O ye Tongues; give the glory to the Lord, and the Lamb.
Nations, and languages, and every Creature in which is the breath of Life.
Let man and beast appear before him, and magnify his name together.

Let Nimrod, the mighty hunter, bind a leopard to the altar and consecrate his spear to the Lord.
Let Ishmail dedicate a tyger, and give praise for the liberty in which the Lord has let him at large.
Let Balaam appear with an ass, and bless the Lord his people and his creatures for a reward eternal.
Let Daniel come forth with a lion, and praise God with all his might through faith in Christ Jesus.
Let Ithamar minister with a chamois, and bless the name of Him that cloatheth the naked.
Let Jakim with the satyr bless God in the dance.
Let David bless with the bear the beginning of victory to the Lord—to the Lord the perfection of excellence.
Hallelujah for the heart of God, and from the hand of the artist inimitable, and from the echo of the heavenly harp in sweetness magnifical and mighty.

SOPRANO SOLO
For I will consider my cat Jeoffry.
For he is the servant of the living God, duly and daily serving him.
For at the first glance of the glory of God in the East he worships in his way.
For this is done by wreathing his body seven times round with elegant quickness.
For he knows that God is his saviour.
For God has bless'd him in the variety of his movements.
For there is nothing sweeter than his peace when at rest.
For I am possessed of a cat, surpassing in beauty, From whom I take occasion to bless Almighty God.

ALTO SOLO
For the Mouse is a creature of great personal valour.
For this is a true case—cat takes female mouse, male mouse will not depart, but stands threat'ning and daring. . . . If you will let her go, I will engage you, as prodigious a creature as you are.
For the Mouse is a creature of great personal valour. For the Mouse is of an hospitable disposition.

**TENOR SOLO**
For the flowers are great blessings.
For the flowers have their angels, even the words of God's creation.
For the flower glorifies God and the root parries the adversary.
For there is a language of flowers.
For the flowers are peculiarly the poetry of Christ.

**CHORUS**
For I am under the same accusation with my Savior,
For they said, he is besides himself.
For the officers of the peace are at variance with me, and the watchman smites me with his staff.
For the silly fellow, silly fellow, is against me, and belongeth neither to me nor to my family.
For I am in twelve hardships, but he that was born of a virgin shall deliver me out of all.

**BASS SOLO**
For H is a spirit, and therefore he is God.
For K is king, and therefore he is God.
For L is love, and therefore he is God.
For M is musick, and therefore he is God.

**CHORUS**
For the instruments are by their rhimes,
For the shawm rhimes are lawn fawn and the like.
For the harp rhimes are sing ring and the like.
For the cymbal rhimes are bell well and the like.
For the flute rhimes are tooth youth and the like.
For the bassoon rhimes are pass class and the like.
For the dulcimer rhimes are grace place and the like.
For the clarinet rhimes are clean seen and the like.
For the trumpet rhimes are sound bound and the like.
For the trumpet of God is a blessed intelligence and so are all the instruments in Heav'n.
For God the Father Almighty plays upon the harp of
stupendous magnitude and melody.
For at that time malignity ceases and the devils
themselves are at peace.
For this time is perceptible to man by a remarkable
stillness and serenity of soul.

Hallelujah for the heart of God, and from the hand of the artist inimitable, and from the
echo of the heavenly harp in sweetness magnifical and mighty.

—adapted from *Jubilate Agno* by Christopher Smart (1758-1763)

WESTMINSTER NEWS
October 18, 2015

IT’S CONFIRMED!
The Rev. Heather and Rev. John Lea will be
with us as our Intentional Interim Ministers
starting Nov. 1st to June 30th, 2016.

Yesterday, there was a Service of Celebration of the agreement between the United
Church of Canada and the United Church of Christ (USA) for full communion between the
two denominations. We will circulate more information about this in the bulletin next
week.

The Fellowship team will be hosting a kitchen party on the 25th of October after the
service.
We are looking for volunteers to help with set up, clean up, serving and cooking.
Many hands make light work so come out and enjoy our new kitchen. We will be making
soup and biscuits. Desserts, salads and crockpots would all so be a wonderful contribution.
Bring your complete dish or bring the ingredients and join the production team.
We will put on a pot of coffee so come out and enjoy some fellowship and share in the joy of the new kitchen.

Please contact Maggie at maggiemay269@hotmail.com or phone 204-691-4311.

For the month of October Outreach is collecting non-perishable food items for West Broadway during this time of Thanksgiving. Your generosity is appreciated.

**What’s Happening in October?**

**Election Day** – Monday, October 19 - polling stations in the lecture hall

**Bell Tower Community Café** – October 23, 6:30 to 8 p.m.

**Winnipeg Philharmonic Choir concert** – Sunday, October 25, 3 pm

**Trompette en Chamade dedication** – Sunday, November 1, during worship

**Organ Series concert** – Sunday, November 1 @ 2:30 pm

Parking is now available in the Food Fare lot during Sunday worship.

**The King’s Singers are returning to Westminster in February! Tickets are now available!**

**The Bell Tower Community Café** enjoyed a great summer of barbecues with new musicians on stage and lots of burgers to go around. Thanks to everyone who helped make that possible and supported our meals and Friday nights at the Bell Tower.

Coming this fall, we are excited to start cooking together in the beautiful newly renovated kitchen. Our community is growing and we want to continue to provide enough food so everyone at the Bell Tower Community Café can share a meal together. We would love to start a team of cooks to join in and cook a big batch of soup, stew or chili during the week in preparation for Friday nights at the Bell Tower. If you are interested in cooking, please contact Margaret Hodson (maggiemay269@hotmail.com) or Meaghan Pauls, Bell Tower coordinator (meaghanpauls@belltowercommunitycafe.org, 204-250-6768).

Our next Bell Tower is: Friday, October 23rd. All are welcome! Hope to see you there.

**The Christmas Craft Sale and Cookie Walk** will be held Saturday, November 21, from 10 am to 2 pm.

Bakers: Get your cookie sheets ready, Shortbread and nut-free cookies are the big sellers.

Crafters: tables are available, call or email to reserve (1 table $25, 2/$40).

Please contact Maggie Hodson (at 204-691-4311 or maggiemay269@hotmail.com) or the church office, 204-784-1330 or info@westminsterchurch.org.
Annual Fall Supper! Sunday October 25 @ the United Church in Meadowood, 1111 Dakota Street. 4:00—6:30 pm continuous seating
For tickets call the church office—204-256-7002
Tickets Adults $15, Children 5-12 $8, Children 0-4 Free

Stewardship is a Way of Life Workshop - November 13-14, 2015
Everyone is invited to attend a special Stewardship Workshop being held on Friday, November 13 (4:30-9pm) and Saturday, November 14 (9am-3pm) at Westworth United Church (1750 Grosvenor Ave., Winnipeg).
- Learn to tell your story through narrative budgets
- Adopt stewardship in worship, learning and serving
- Complete the circle of stewardship with thanksgiving
Sessions will include: Church Treasurer 101; Year-Round Stewardship; The Narrative Budget; Giving as a Spiritual Practice.
For more information, please see the brochure on the narthex or hallway bulletin board
The registration fee starts low and gets lower as your team gets larger!
So, bring a crowd!
Registration Deadline: October 30, 2015
Brought to you in part by Mission & Service of The United Church of Canada.

Rossbrook House Annual Open House and School Craft Sale, Thursday, November 5, 2015
from 11 am – 2 pm. Program displays and presentation of Education Awards 12:30 pm.

Weekly Groups Sponsored by Westminster Church
Sparks (girls aged 5 & 6) and Brownies (girls aged 7 & 8) –
Mondays, from 6:30 – 8 pm, concert hall and concert hall lounge
Guides (girls aged 9 – 11) – Mondays, from 6:30 – 8 pm in the gym
Pathfinders (girls aged 12 – 15) - Mondays, from 6:30 – 8 pm in the library
Beavers (5 – 7) boys and girls meet every Tuesday, from 6:30 – 8 pm concert hall
Cubs (8 – 10) boys and girls meet every Tuesday, from 6:30 – 8 pm in the gym
Families Anonymous meets every Wednesday, from 1 – 3 pm in the library
Scouts (boys and girls 11- 14) meet every Wednesday, from 6:30 – 8 pm in the gym
Quilters meet Thursdays from 1 – 4 pm in the library
Wolseley Judo – Thursdays, 6:30 – 8:30 pm
Westminster Church Choir – Thursdays from 7 – 8:30 pm in the sanctuary
AlAnon holds their meetings every Thursday, from 7:30 – 9 pm in the library
Wolseley Mom’s group – Thursdays, from 8 – 9 pm, September 17 – October 22, 2015
During the next few weeks **Casavant Freres**, the organ builder, will be adding a unique set of pipes to the organ. Mounted on either side of the rose window will be 61 polished copper horizontal trumpets, commonly known as a ‘**Trompette en Chamade**’. This set of pipes can be played from all keyboards of the organ console.

Westminster Church is very grateful to Hertha Jahn for this designated gift to the Church which has made possible this addition to the organ.

**The Trompette en Chamade will be dedicated at the morning service on Sunday, November 1, and will be featured at the Westminster Concert Organ Series with New York organist Benjamin Sheen performing at 2:30 pm.**

Following the morning service, there will be a reception in the Fellowship Hall courtesy of Hertha Jahn. Everyone is welcome.
Moderator Message: The Question of the Niqab

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I’m writing to you today because I am deeply disturbed by what I have been hearing from Canadians around the question of the right of Muslim women in Canada to wear the niqab. The tone of the conversation, especially on social media, has bordered at times on hate-mongering. Words are powerful, and they have consequences. In the past few weeks at least two attacks on Muslim women were reported in the media. It is no coincidence that these assaults took place at this time. As people of faith, we must speak and act in ways that challenge the ignorance and prejudice that fuel such hostility.

Jesus told his followers that what we do to the “least of these” we do to him (Matthew 25:34–46). As Christians, a fundamental principle of our faith is respect for the dignity and integrity of every person—including those who are different from us—for we are all created in God’s image. In our Creed we affirm that we are called “to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil.” These words are also powerful and can have a profound impact on our society if we allow them to shape our attitudes and our choices.

Our faith instructs us to love our neighbour as ourselves. When asked to define a neighbour, Jesus answered by telling the story of the Good Samaritan. Our neighbour, according to Jesus, may be someone of a different faith, a different culture—someone who doesn’t dress like us or pray like us, whose ways seem strange to us. What makes us neighbours is our shared humanity and our commitment to treat one another with compassion and dignity.

I urge all of you in our church, our political leaders, and all people of good will to challenge the prejudice and Islamophobia that are escalating in our country. And I encourage all of us to make an effort to get to know our Muslim sisters and brothers. Prejudice and fear thrive where there is ignorance and misunderstanding.

A good way to overcome our fear of someone who is different from us is to befriend them. When we truly know one another as people, not as stereotypes, we discover that there is much more that unites us than divides us. The preamble to the statement on United Church–Muslim relations, That We May Know Each Other, states: “Through creating such understanding it will be possible to sustain long-term mutual relationships of respect, trust, and common action for the sake of the world we all inhabit.”

Let this be the path we choose, for in doing so we bear witness to our faith in the God of justice, compassion, and right relationship.

Yours in Christ,

The Right Reverend Jordan Cantwell
Moderator
The United Church of Canada