

BIOGRAPHY

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, 1906-1945

The life and work of Dietrich Bonhoeffer is both intriguing and inspiring to people of all denominational backgrounds. Even though he only lived 39 years, his writings, sermons, and life of faith in witness to Christ Jesus has had a monumental impact on the Church at large.

Born in Berlin in 1906, Bonhoeffer grew up a prodigy and, at the early age of 14, declared to his relatively nonreligious family his desire to study theology and to serve as a pastor. By the age of 21, he had received his doctorate in theology from Tübingen University in Berlin. His doctoral dissertation centered on the idea of what it means to be a “communion of saints,” and that communities of believers should be at the heart of the faith journey. He later studied for a year at Union Theological Seminary in New York City, where he experienced first-hand both the spirituality of African-Americans and their fight for civil rights, furthering his ideas of a faith community.

In 1931 he returned to Berlin to teach, and watched several colleagues and Christians succumb to the nationalist ideas of the Third Reich. He served as pastor, teacher, and theologian during one of the most difficult times in history for church leaders. In 1933 he helped form the “Confessing Church,” breaking away from the Evangelical Church after it had added the “Aryan Clause” to its confession. In response to Hitler being named “Führer,” the Confessing Church announced that it believed that there could be only one “Führer”, or leader for the Church, and that leader was Christ. Bonhoeffer helped establish an underground seminary after sympathizing pastors were expelled from the state church’s seminaries. Two of Bonhoeffer’s best-known books, *The Cost of Discipleship* and *Life Together* were written during this time of religious persecution.

In 1939 Bonhoeffer returned to New York and Union Theological Seminary in order to escape the trouble in Germany and to avoid being drafted into military service. After a month of intense spiritual turmoil regarding his decision to leave the dangers of his native land, his overwhelming concern for the people left behind won out. Accepting what he knew to be God’s will, Bonhoeffer returned to Germany just before war broke out.

Because of his many international contacts, Bonhoeffer helped pass information to aid the resistance movement and to aid several Jews in escaping the country. In time, he concluded that Hitler needed to be removed and became involved in a plot to assassinate him. The plan was discovered, and he was arrested in April of 1943.

Bonhoeffer spent the last two years of his life in prison. Two books of letters, written to a friend and to his fiancé, have been published as *Letters and Papers from Prison* and *Love Letters from Cell 92*. One of the letters written to his parents during his first Christmas as a prisoner described how much more meaningful this season had become for him, the surroundings of the very first Christmas being fairly similar to his own. His letter related that when a prisoner to sin believes and knows that Christ came to suffer and die for him, he has been made part of the community of faith that breaks down all barriers, and prison walls become meaningless.

In the spring of 1945, Bonhoeffer was removed from prison and was taken to Flossenburg, an extermination camp. With only three weeks remaining before American forces were to liberate Flossenburg, Bonhoeffer was executed. The tree from which he was hanged still stands and bears a plaque that reads: *Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a witness to Jesus Christ among his brethren.*

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Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel

Latin Hymn, 12th cent.
Tr: John M. Neale, 1818-66, *alt.*

VENI EMMANUEL
a 15th cent. French Processional



Choir: 1. Oh, come, oh, come, Em - man - u - el,
 Trebles: 2. Oh, come, our Wis - dom from on high,
 Men: 3. Oh, come, oh, come, our Lord of might,
 Choir: 4. Oh, come, O Rod of Jes - se's stem,
 All: 5. Oh, come, O Key of Da - vid, come,
 Organ: 6. Oh, come, our Day - spring from on high,
 All: 7. Oh, come, De - sire of na - tions, bind



And ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el,
 Who or - dered all things might - i - ly;
 Who to your tribes on Si - nai's height
 From ev - 'ry foe de - liv - er them
 And o - pen wide our heav'n - ly home;
 And cheer us by your draw - ing nigh;
 In one the hearts of hu - man - kind;



That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 To us the path of knowl - edge show,
 In an - cient times gave ho - ly law,
 That trust your might - y pow'r to save;
 Make safe the way that leads on high,
 Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,
 Oh, bid our sad di - vi - sions cease,

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Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
And teach us in her ways to go.
In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
Bring them in vic - t'ry through the grave.
And close the path to mis - er - y.
And death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
And be your - self our King of Peace.



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el
Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el
Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el
Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el
Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el
Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el
Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!
Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!
Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!
Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!
Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!
Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!
Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

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My Soul Gives Glory to My God

Luke 1:46-55

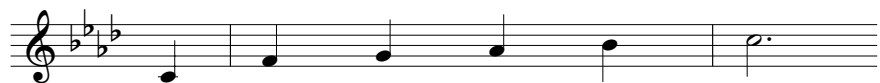
Para. Miriam Therese Winter, b. 1938

CONSOLATION (MORNING SONG)

Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, Part 2, 1813



All: 1. My soul gives glo - ry to my God.
 All: 2. My God has done great things for me:
 Choir: 3. From age to age, to all who fear,
 All in Canon: 4. Love casts the might - y from their thrones,
 All: 5. Praise God, whose lov - ing cov - e - nant



My heart pours out its praise.
 Yes, ho - ly is God's Name.
Such mer - cy love im - parts,
 Pro - motes the in - se - cure,
 Sup - ports those in dis - tress,



God lift - ed up my low - li - ness
 All peo - ple will de - clare me blessed,
Dis - pens - ing jus - tice far and near,
 Leaves hun - gry spir - its sat - is - fied,
 Re - mem - ber - ing past prom - is - es



In man - y mar - vel - ous ways.
 And bless - ings they shall claim.
Dis - miss - ing self - ish hearts.
 The rich seem sud - den - ly poor.
 With pre - sent faith - ful - ness.

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Savior of the Nations, Come

Latin Hymn attr. St. Ambrose, 340-397
German Vers. Martin Luther, 1483-1546
Tr. William Reynolds, 1812-76, alt.

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND
from Erfurt Enchiridia, 1524
Based on a 12th/13th cent. plainsong



Choir: 1. Sav - ior of the na - tions, come;
All: 2. Not by hu - man flesh and blood;
Trebles: 3. Won - drous birth! O won - drous Child
Men: 4. From the Fa - ther's throne he came
All: 5. Praise to God the Fa - ther sing,



Vir - gin's Son, make here your home.
By the Spir - it of our God
Of the vir - gin un - de - filed!
And as - cend - ed to the same,
Praise to God the Son, our King,



Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth,
Was the Word of God made flesh -
Though by all the world dis - owned,
Cap - tive lead - ing death and hell -
Praise to God the Spir - it be



That the Lord chose such a birth.
Wom - an's off - spring, pure and fresh.
Yet to be in heav'n en - throned.
High the song of tri - umph swell!
Ev - er and e - ter - nal - ly.

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Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Charles Wesley, 1707-88, *alt.*

MENDELSSOHN
by Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-47



All: 1. Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the
Choir: 2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored; Christ, the ev - er -
All: 3. Hail the heav'n - born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of



new - born King; Peace on earth and mer - cy mild,
last - ing Lord! Late in time be - hold him come,
Righ - teous - ness! Light and life to all he brings,



God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!" Joy - ful, all ye
Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb. Veiled in flesh the
Ris'n with heal - ing in his wings. Mild he lays his



na - tions, rise; Join the tri - umph of the skies; With th' an -
God - head see; Hail th' in - car - nate De - i - ty, Pleased in
glo - ry by, Born that we no more may die, Born to



gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
flesh with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
raise us from the earth, Born to give us sec - ond birth.



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"
Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"
Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"

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Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

St. 1-2, German, 15th cent.

Tr. Theodore Baker, 1851-1934

St. 3, Friedrich Layritz, 1808-59

Tr. H. R. K. Spaeth, 1845-1925

ES IST EIN ROSE

from *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, Cologne, 1599

Harmonization by Michael Praetorius, ca. 1572-1621

Choir: 1. Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing From
SATB: 2. I - sai - ah 'twas fore - told it, The
Unison: 3. This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der With

ten - der stem hath sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage
Rose I have in mind, With Mar - y we be -
sweet - ness fills the air, Dis - pels with glo - rious

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com - ing As men of old have sung. It
hold it, The Vir - gin Moth - er kind. To
splen - dor The dark - ness ev - 'ry - where. True

came, a flow - 'ret bright, A - mid the cold of
show God's love a - right, She bore to us a
man, yet ver - y God, From sin and death now

win - ter, When half - spent was the night.
Sav - ior, When half - spent was the night.
saves us, And light - ens ev - 'ry load.

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He Comes to Us as One Unknown

Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926

REPTON
by C. H. H. Parry, 1848-1918, *alt.*



Choir: 1. He comes to us as one un-known, A
 Choir: 2. He comes when souls in si-lence lie And
 Trebles: 3. He comes to us in sound of seas, The
 Men: 4. He comes in love as once he came By
 All: 5. He comes in truth when faith is grown; Be -



breath un-seen, un-heard; As though with-in a
 thoughts of day de-part; Half-seen up-on the
 o-cean's fume and foam; Yet small and still up-
 flesh and blood and birth; To bear with-in our the
 lieved, o-beyed, a-dored: The Christ in all the



heart of stone, Or shriv-elled seed in dark-ness sown, A
 in-ward eye, A fall-ing star a-cross the sky Of
 on the breeze, A wind that stirs the tops of trees, A
 mor-tal frame A life, a death, a sav-ing Name, For
 scrip-tures shown, As yet un-seen, but not un-known, Our



pulse of be-ing stirred, A pulse of be-ing stirred.
 night with-in the heart, Of night with-in the heart.
 voice to call us home, A voice to call us home.
 ev-'ry child of earth, For ev-'ry child of earth.
 Sav-ior and our Lord, Our Sav-ior and our Lord.

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The King of Glory

Willard Jabusch

KING OF GLORY
an Israeli folk melody

Refrain



All: The King of glo - ry comes, the na - tion re - joic - es.



O - pen the gates be - fore him, lift up your voic - es.



Cantor: 1. Who is the King of glo - ry; how shall we call him?
Men: 2. In all of Gal - i - lee, in cit - y or vil - lage,
Trebles: 3. Sing then of Da - vid's Son, our Sav - ior and broth - er;
All: 4. He gave his life for us, the pledge of sal - va - tion,
All: 5. He con - quered sin and death; he tru - ly has ris - en.

To Refrain



Trebles: He is Em - man - u - el, the prom - ised of a - ges.
He goes a - mong his peo - ple cur - ing their ill - ness.
In all of Gal - i - lee was nev - er an - oth - er.
He took up - on him - self the sins of the na - tion.
And he will share with us his heav - en - ly vi - sion.

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Comfort, Comfort Now My People

Johann Olearius, 1611-84
Tr: Catherine Winkworth, 1829-78, alt.

FREU DICH SEHR
from *Trente quatre pseumes de David*, Geneva, 1551
Harm. by Claude Goudimel, ca. 1514-72

All:

Unison: 1. "Com - fort, com - fort now my peo - ple;
SATB: 2. For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing
Unison: 3. Straight shall be what long was crook - ed,

Tell of peace!" So says our God.
 In the des - ert far and near,
 And the rough - er plac - es plain!

Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness
 Call - ing us to true re - pen - tance
 Let your hearts be true and hum - ble,

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Mourn - ing un - der sor - row's load.
Since the King - dom now is here.
As be - fits God's ho - ly reign!

To God's peo - ple now pro - claim That God's par - don
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for
For the glo - ry of the Lord Now on earth is

waits for them! Tell them that their war is
God a way! Let the val - leys rise to
shed a - broad, And all flesh shall see the

o - ver; God will reign in peace for - ev - er!
meet him, And the hills bow down to greet him.
to - ken That God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

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Joy to the World

Issac Watts, 1674-1748
Psalms of David, 1719

ANTIOCH
by G. F. Handel, 1685-1759
adapt. by Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

All:

SATB: 1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let
 SATB: 2. Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let
 Unison: 3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, Nor
 Unison: 4. He rules the world with truth and grace, And

earth re - ceive its King; Let ev - 'ry
 all their songs em - ploy While fields and
 thorns in - fest the ground; He comes to
 makes the na - tions prove The glo - ries

heart pre - pare him room, And
 floods, rocks, hills, and plains Re -
 make his bless - ings flow Far
 of his righ - teous - ness, And

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heav'n and na - ture sing, And
 peat the sound - ing joy, Re -
 as the curse is found, Far
 won - ders of his love, And

- 1. And heav'n and na - ture
- 2. Re - peat the sound - ing

heav'n and na - ture sing, And
 peat the sound - ing joy, Re -
 as the curse is found, Far
 won - ders of his love, and

sing, And heav'n and na - ture
 joy, Re - peat the sound - ing

heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 as, far as the curse is found.
 won - ders, won - ders of his love.

sing, And heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, Re - peat the sound - ing joy.

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