

April 11, 2020

MUSICAL OFFERING FOR HOLY
SATURDAY

Dear Friends,

The email and resource below were forwarded to me by my brother-in-law, the Rev. Timothy Carroll, Pastor of English Ministries at the *Chinese Christian Church of Virginia in Falls Church*, where his passion is to share Christ's love across racial and cultural boundaries.

While our friends across The Pond are not a far reach, culturally-speaking, from the Anglican Communion, I thought you might all enjoy this stunningly beautiful and creative offering of J. S. Bach's *St. John Passion* as we contemplate this Holy Saturday and prepare to celebrate Easter tomorrow. Please see the encouraging words of theologian N. T. Wright below, and enjoy the links.

Yours,

Ann

Dear Online Friends,
Friends – as across the world we find our own ways of commemorating the most solemn day of the Christian calendar, let me commend a wonderful project which Maggie and I have just been watching.



The 'Oxford Bach Soloists' were going to be performing Bach's St John Passion; but because of the enforced lockdown and isolation that seemed impossible. So they have got together – electronically! – and are performing it in half-hour segments, with every single one of the singers and instrumentalists, and the conductor as well, in their own homes.

It is moving at two quite different but interlocking levels.

First, those who like me have loved Bach's 'Passions' from childhood (and every repetition, whether singing or listening, adds another layer of memory and prayer) will find this a performance worthy of the music. And, particularly, worthy of the story that Bach is setting.

But second, the team have done a wonderful Easter thing: they have taken the constraints, darkness and sorrow of this 'isolation' time, this 'exile' where we cannot even meet our friends let alone make music with them, and have turned it into something truly beautiful. The technology alone is mind-blowing – when you watch it you will see sometimes up to thirty small screens simultaneously, with the singers and instrumentalists all in their own rooms. And it all works.

Some of the performers are people Maggie and I knew in our previous life in Oxford, thirty years ago. The whole thing is in the best traditions of Oxford music – high standards but with a sense of inventive delight, refusing to be beaten by circumstances but instead making something new and powerful out of it all.

You will find the link on the Oxford Bach Soloists webpage: 'St John Passion in Isolation'. Just use this link: www.oxfordbachsoloists.com or go to the YouTube link here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pUmxx_mNG1s&feature=youtu.be
This first episode gives you an introduction by Roderick Williams who is singing Christ, and then the first twenty minutes or so of the music. The rest will come in due course. There is also a link for anyone who would like to donate to a charity which helps out-of-work musicians (as most of them are) at this difficult time.

Warm greetings to one and all as we await the Easter dawn.

Tom

Prof N T Wright
St Andrews/Oxford

P.S. You may wish to listen to a lecture I did on St. John's Passion here:
<https://ntwrightpage.com/2016/04/25/the-passion-of-st-john-today/>

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You are receiving this email because you expressed interest in online courses by N.T. Wright.

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Resources During COVID-19

During this extraordinary time of isolation and virtual worship, we offer these resources for your devotion, meditation, and encouragement.

SPECIAL MUSIC: ENCOURAGEMENT FOR THE JOURNEY: Music of comfort and encouragement from the archives of Christ the King.

SING FOR JOY!: Music selections that support every Sunday of the liturgical calendar with pastoral commentary.

Check out [my Blog](#) here.

We look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal. 2 Corinthians 4:18

Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever. Hebrews 13:8

Christ the King Parish Temporary Worship

Click [here](#) to join virtual Morning Prayer, Midday Prayer, Bible studies, and more.

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