FOR LOVE IS STRONG AS DEATH...

ALLELUIA!

The Octave of Easter
The David A. Weadon Memorial Concert

7:30 P.M.
Sunday, 19 April 2009

Miller Chapel
Princeton Theological Seminary
Princeton, NJ
About reading the Song of Songs with the New Testament . . .

“St. Bernard, in eighty-six sermons [on the Song of Songs] composed over a period of eighteen years, had reached only the beginning of the third chapter. And that is understandable. When the spiritual man [sic] has told what he feels, what he thinks of the love of God—and he may be able do so in a few verses—he has the right to lay down his pen.”


As this legacy of St. Bernard attests, in the medieval cloister and university there was no book more contemplated or commented upon than the Old Testament book of Song of Songs (also known as the Song of Solomon). We inherit from such monastics and scholastics alike a disposition to read Christ as the consummate lover of the collective church and the individual soul. In this evening’s service we explore this tradition by pairing New Testament Easter texts with anthems and verses from the Song of Songs. And so we tell something of what we think of the love of God:

For love is strong as death, its ardor as fierce as the grave! (Song of Songs 8:6)
Choral Introit “The Call”  

text: George Herbert  

music: Alexander Brent Smith

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:  
Such a way as gives us breath;  
Such a truth as ends all strife,  
Such a life as killeth death.

Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:  
Such a light as shows a feast,  
Such a feast as mends in length,  
Such a strength as makes his guest.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:  
Such a joy as none can move,  
Such a love as none can part,  
Such a heart as joys in love.

Opening Sentences  
from an ancient Easter hymn of praise, The Exultet

Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!  
Exult, all creation around God’s throne!  
Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!  
Sound the trumpet of salvation!  
Rejoice, heavenly powers!  
Sing, choirs of angels!  
Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!  
Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendor, radiant in the brightness of your King!  
Christ has conquered! Glory fills you!  
Darkness vanishes forever!  
Rejoice, heavenly powers!  
Sing, choirs of angels!  
Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!  
Rejoice, O mother church! Exult in glory!  
The risen Savior shines upon you!  
Let this place resound with joy, echoing the mighty song of all God’s people!  
Rejoice, heavenly powers!  
Sing, choirs of angels!  
Jesus Christ, our King, is risen! Amen.
Processional Hymn

"Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven and Voices Raise"

text: Christopher Wordsworth
music: HYFRYDOL, Thomas J. Williams

1. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia! Hearts to heaven and voices raise.
2. Al-le-lu-ia, Christ is ris-en! Death at last has met de-feat.
3. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia! Glo-ry be to God on high.

Sing to God a hymn of glad-ness, sing to God a hymn of praise.
See the an-ci-ent pow-ers of e-vil in con-fu-sion and re-treat.
Al-le-lu-ia to the Sav-i-or, who has won the vic-to-ry;

He who on the cross a vic-tim for the world's sal-va-tion bled,
Once he died and once was burried; now he lives for ev-er-more.
Al-le-lu-ia to the Spir-it, fount of love and sancti-ty:

Je-sus Christ, the King of glo-ry, now is ri-sen from the dead.
Je-sus Christ, the world's Re-deem-er, whom we wor-ship and a-dore.
Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia! to the tri-une Maj-es-ty.

Prayer

Easter Alleluia

The women go to anoint Jesus’ body with spices

Reading

Mark 16:1-4

I come with spices

Reading

Song of Songs 5:5-6
Anthem

“I Got Me Flowers”

text: George Herbert

music: Ralph Vaughan-Williams

Jonathan LaBarge-Kliewer, soloist

I got me flowers to strew thy way;
I got me boughs off many a tree:
But thou wast up by break of day,
And brought’st thy sweets along with thee.

The Sun arising in the East,
Though he give light, and the East perfume;
If they should offer to contest
With thy arising, they presume.

Can there be any day but this,
Though many suns to shine endeavor?
We count three hundred, but we miss:
There is but one, and that one ever.

Easter Alleluia

Honduras

Mary Magdalene discovers the empty tomb

Reading John 20:1-10

I am my beloved’s and my beloved is mine

Reading Song of Songs 6:1-3
Mary recalls the anointing of Jesus

**Anthem**

Lydia Casey, soloist

"The Anointing" Alice Parker

LOVE DIVINE, Appalachian Melody

Text: Charles Wesley

When my Lord is at his table, my perfume spreads its fragrance.

My beloved is mine, and I am his.

Why was not this perfume sold?

She has washed my feet with her tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head.

She has kissed my feet and anointed them, and the house is filled with the fragrance of perfume.

I am my beloved’s and he is mine.

She has washed my feet with her tears; she anoints me against the day of my burial.

Why was not this perfume sold, and the money given to the poor?

Let her alone. The poor you have always with you, but me, you have not always.

Set me as a seal upon your heart, for love is strong as death.

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven to earth come down.

Fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown:

Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art.

Visit us with thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving spirit into every troubled breast;

Let us all in thee inherit, let us find the promised rest;

Take away the love of sinning, Alpha and Omega be;

End of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

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Come, Almighty to deliver, Let us all thy grace receive;

Suddenly return and never, Never more thy temples leave.

Thee we would be always blessing, Serve thee as thy hosts above,

Pray, and praise thee without ceasing, Glory in thy perfect love.
Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene

Reading  
John 20:11-17

I will seek him whom my soul loves

Reading  
Song of Songs 3:1-4a

After disclosing himself to Mary, Jesus bids her to go

Anthem  
“In the Garden”  
Lloyd Larson

I come to the garden alone while the dew is still on the roses;  
and the voice I hear falling on my ear, the Son of God discloses.

He speaks, and the sound of His voice is so sweet the birds hush their singing,  
and the melody that He gave to me within my heart is ringing.

And He walks with me, and He talks with me, and He tells me I am His own,  
and the joy we share as we tarry there, none other has ever known.

I’d stay in the garden with Him though the night around me be falling,  
but He bids me go; through the voice of woe his voice to me is calling.
The surpassing worth of knowing Christ and the power of his suffering and resurrection

Reading  Philippians 3:7-11

A love stronger than death, fierce, unquenchable; a treasure beyond our means

Reading  Song of Songs 8:6-7

Love so amazing demands my soul, my life, my all

Anthem  “When I Survey”

When I survey the wondrous cross on which the prince of glory died; my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down. Did e’er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown.

Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small; love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

Easter Alleluia  Zimbabwe
All are made alive in Christ
Reading 1 Corinthians 15:20-22

The winds herald the arrival of spring
Reading Song of Songs 4:16

To walk among the springing green
Anthem “Christ Hath a Garden” text: Isaac Watts, adapt. Robert Bridges music: Eleanor Daley

Christ hath a garden walled around a paradise of fruitful ground, chosen by love and fenced by grace from out the world’s wide wilderness.
Like trees of spice his servants stand, there planted by his mighty hand, by Eden’s gracious streams that flow to feed their beauty where they grow. Awake, O wind of heaven and bear their sweetest perfume through the air, stir up, O south the boughs that bloom, ’til the beloved master come.
That he may come and linger yet among the trees that he hath set, that he may evermore be seen to walk among the springing green.

The night is over, winter is past; the land springs with new life
Reading Song of Songs 2:3-4, 8-13

The rising sun drives away gloom
Anthem “O Day Full of Grace” F. Melius Christiansen

O day full of grace, which we behold, now gently to view as ascending;
Thou over the earth thy reign unfold, good cheer to all mortals lending, that children of light in every clime may prove the night is ending.
How blest was that gracious midnight hour, when God in our flesh was given; then flushed the dawn with light and power, that spread o’er the darkened heaven; then rose that sun divine which gloom from our hearts hath driven.
Yea, were every tree endowed with speech, and every leaf let singing, they never with praise God’s worth could reach, though earth with their praise be ringing. Who fully could praise the light of life who light to our souls is bringing?
With joy we depart for the promised land, and there we shall walk in endless light.
Jesus appears to the disciples and commissions them

Reading Matthew 28:16-20

Easter Alleluia (sung by choir)  “Toki Gong” Indonesia

Let everything that breathes praise the Lord. Alleluia!

Prayers of the People

Eden is restored

Reading Revelation 22:1-5

Closing Hymn (green #138) “There in God’s Garden”

stanza1 - all
stanza 2 - women
stanza 3 - men
stanza 4 - choir
stanzas 5 and 6 - all

Responsive Reading

I have come into my garden, my sister, my bride;
I have gathered my myrrh with my spice.
I have eaten my honeycomb and my honey;
I have drunk my wine and my milk.
**Eat, friends, and drink;**
**drink your fill of love.**
I am my beloved’s, and my beloved is mine.
**I am my beloved’s, and my beloved is mine.** (Song of Songs 5:1, 3:2)
Behold, I am coming soon!
I am the Alpha and the Omega,
the First and the Last,
the Beginning and the End.
**The Spirit and the bride say, “Come!”**
**And let those who hear say, “Come!”**
**Let those who are thirsty come;**
**and let all who wish take the free gift of the water of life.**
He who testifies to these things says,
“Yes, I am coming soon.”
**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus** (Revelation 22:12-13, 17, 20)
Choral Response

“E’en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come” Paul Manz

Peace be to you and grace from him who freed us from our sins,
Who loved us all and shed his blood that we might saved be.
Sing holy, holy to our Lord, the Lord, Almighty God,
Who was and is and is to come; sing holy, holy, Lord!

Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein; rejoice on earth, ye saints below,
For Christ is coming, is coming soon, for Christ is coming soon!
E’en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, and night shall be no more;
They need no light, nor lamp, nor sun, for Christ will be their All!

The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God’s people.

Amen. (Revelation 22:21)

Passing of the Peace

Easter Alleluias

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Princeton Theological Seminary Chapel Choir

Martin Tel, C. F. Seabrook Director of Music
Chi Yi Chen, Choral Associate

Sopranos
Michelle Burdick
Lydia Casey*
Kai-Li Chiu
Katja Gruening
Melissa Haupt**
Emma Hayes
Rachel Henry*
Sarah Iliff*
Oan Jaisaodee
Megan LeCluyse
Yunson Mun
Lynace Pabst
Anita Tong*

Altos
Megan Acedo*
Becca Arrowsmith
Jennifer Barchi
Erin Buckner
Rachel Daley*
Tina DeYoe
Jillian Greene
Karen Hartsfield
Sarah Henkel*
Kathy Joy Kihlstrom*
Becky Kindig
Megan DeWald Kline*
Julie Lillis*
Ji-Yeon Lee
Annie McMillan
Margaret Mitsuyasu
Lydia Widbin

Tenors
Marcus Hong*
Gospel Johnstone
Steven Leach
Jason Lillis*
Neal Locke*
Bradley Long
Matthew Nickel
Thomas Rusert
Ryan Timpte*

Basses
Nathan Besteman
Daniel Escher*
Benjamin Heidgerken*
Jonathan LaBarge-Kliwer*
Alex Martini
Eric Peltz
Aaron Sizer*
Sin Lung Tong

Laura Thelander, trumpet

Janice Smith Ammon, Minister of the Chapel

William Brower, Associate Professor of Speech and Communication Emeritus