O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts
by
Martin L. Swalboski

Unison with Accompaniment

General

This is another anthem kindly contributed by Martin Swalboski (see Introduction to The Wedding at Cana). With the epigram "Blessed are those who wait," he dedicates the anthem to friends at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Anderson, SC—spouses of his fellow choir members.

For me Martin's music recalls the expansive melodies of hymns from the Edwardian era, unafraid to stride with wide intervals ("From the best bliss that earth imparts..."), rising to a stirring climax ("to them that seek Thee, Thou art good...") followed by a deeply satisfying final cadence. At the same time his harmonies are contemporary and distinctively Martin's own. I particularly enjoy the setting of "Thy truth unchanged hath ever stood" on a single, reiterated note, while the accompaniment's inner voices trace gentle epicycles like the sempiternal wheeling of heavenly spheres.


Albert Blackwell
February 12, 2012
O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts

Ray Palmer (1808–1887), alt.

Unison

O Jesus, joy of loving hearts! Thou Fount of Life! Thou light of

Our restless spirits yearn for Thee, Where’er our changeful lot is

Acc.

all! From the best bliss that earth imparts, we turn unfilled to

cast; glad, when Thy gracious smile we see, blest, when our faith can

Free Anthems for Church Choirs, © 2012 by Albert Blackwell,
is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 3.0 Unported License.
heed your call. Thy truth un-changed hath ever stood; Thou
hold Thee fast. O Jesus, ever with us stay! Make

sav-est those that on Thee call; to them that
all our moments calm and bright! Chase the dark

seek Thee, Thou art good, to them that find Thee, All in All!
night of sin away, shed o'er the world Thy holy light!