

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.

The lyric draws its verses from the 12-century hymn *Dulcis Jesu memoria*, translated by the New England minister and author of hymns Ray Palmer (1808-1887).

Albert Blackwell
February 12, 2012

O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts

To the Glory of God
and to Frederick Terry, Jane Potter, Betty Barton, Jean Vinson, Dave Korn, Dave Rasche, Bob Pierce & Henry B. Dennis
Blessed are those who wait.

Ray Palmer (1808–1887), alt.

Martin L. Swalboski (1951–)
edited by Albert Blackwell

Unison

O Je - sus, joy of lov - ing hearts! Thou Fount of — Life! Thou light of —
Our rest - less spi - rits yearn for Thee, Where' - er our change - ful lot is —

Acc.

7

all! From the best bliss that earth im - parts, ——— we turn un - filled to
cast; glad, when Thy gra - cious smile we see, ——— blest, when our faith can

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heed your call. Thy truth un - changed hath ev - er stood; Thou
hold Thee fast. O Je - sus, ev - er with us stay! Make

20

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

25

rit. *a tempo*

seek Thee, Thou art good, to them that find Thee, All in All!
night of sin a - way, shed o'er the world Thy ho - ly light!

rit. *a tempo*