

Bay County Christian Youth Choir, Panama City, Florida **The *Unity Tour* Spring 2010 (Speaking Parts)**

Reading No. 1 Praise From the Visible Church Through the Ages

Good evening! We are the Bay County Christian Youth Choir from Panama City, Florida, and we are pleased that you came to celebrate with us the goodness and greatness of God, and the mercy he shows His Church-- those that believe in Him.

In response to the work of God in our hearts, Christians compose and perform music to God's glory. The Church has been the home to most of the greatest composers and musicians throughout the ages as they use the creative gifts they were given by God to honor Him.

Our first few songs are representative of the great music sung in our churches for centuries. Giuseppe Pitoni was a 18th Century Italian composer that wrote over 3,500 religious works, including 255 hymns and 789 psalms;

Thomas Tallis was a 16th Century English church musician, and the text he used is the words of Jesus that are directed to each believer—"If you love me, keep my commandments."

Holy Is His Name was written by a contemporary composer and musician, John Michael Talbot, and he sets the text of Mary's Song, her Magnificent, in a flowing and melodic style.

***Cantate Domino (O Sing Ye To the Lord)* Giuseppe Pitoni (Psalm 98)**

***If You love Me, keep My commandments* Thomas Tallis (John 14:15)**

***Holy Is His Name* John Michael Talbot (Luke 1:46-55)**

Reading No. 2: The Church in Corporate Worship

Please stand and join us in singing two familiar hymns of the church. *The Church's One Foundation* is based on the theme text for our tour, Ephesians 4:1-6, and was written to bring unity to a fractured church of England in the 19th Century. The second verse reminds us of the unity all believers have in Christ.

Faith Of Our Fathers was written by Frederick Faber, a 19th Century priest from England and was contained in a collection of hymns he wrote to encourage congregational singing.

Following the hymns, please join us in reciting the Apostles' Creed, a 2nd or 3rd Century confession of faith that was used at baptisms. The creed has been used by all

denominations for centuries, and it contains all of the fundamental articles of the Christian faith.

***The Church's One Foundation** (Samuel J. Stone, Samuel S. Wesley) (Eph 4:4-6)

***Faith of Our Fathers** (Frederick W. Faber, Henry F. Hemy) (Heb 11:1-2)

***The Apostles' Creed**

Reading 3: The Church in Prayer

Worship has been described as singing the Word, reading the Word, listening to the Word, partaking of sacraments that remind us of the Word and *praying* the Word. Everything we do in worship, including our prayers, must be centered around the Bible, God's Word.

The next two hymns represent early American hymnody, one a traditional spiritual and the other a hymn written by a Methodist minister. Both hymns call us to worship, and that worship includes prayer—an opportunity to communicate with our Heavenly Father.

We are pleased to have Eric Schrottenboer on tour with us. He will be playing a selection from his most recent album, "Prayers," a collection of hymns.

We ask you and the choir to use the time during Eric's playing to reflect on the greatness of God and on his mercy to each of us. Also, pray that God will use this service to touch each choir and audience member in a special way. Please join us when Eric leads us in praying the prayer Jesus taught his disciples, the Lord's prayer.

In response to our prayers and the answers we know God will provide, the choir will sing a new version of that very old joyful hymn of response—the "Doxology." We would appreciate your joining in on the second time through the song.

Brethren, We Have Met to Worship (George Atkins, William Moore) (Psalm 95:6)

Down To The River To Pray (Matthew 6:9-13)

Selection from the "Prayers" album; Eric Schrottenboer

***The Lord's Prayer**

***Doxology Again** (Jed Dorsey)

Reading 4: The Personal Faith of Each Believer

The faith of our fathers and mothers does not bring us salvation. The faith that brings salvation is a faith that is personally accepted and believed by each Christian.

It is a faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ, a faith that recognizes that the perfect life and substitutionary death of Jesus purchased our salvation—we were bought by a price.

The Bible calls us into action. The creation and the providence of God teaches us that we are no accident and that God has demonstrated His great love for each of us. The God who created the heavens and earth, is the same God that created me and provides me with strength and sustenance.

Frances Havergal was a woman that lived a short life, but she wrote many hymns, include *Take My Life and Let It Be*. This hymn is a personal prayer for each Christian, that Christ, as our Lord and Savior, would reign in us and take control of all of our actions—our hands, feet and our lives.

How Great Is Your Love (Robertson/Clark) (Isa 40:25-31)

Come and Reign in Me (with Take My Life) (Stan Hinshaw and Frances Ridley Havergal) (Rom 10:9,10 and Rom 6:19)

To Live Is Christ (Kate Wray) (Phil 1:21)

Reading 5: The Unity the Church has in Christ

All Christians can celebrate the unity we have in Christ. The pattern for our unity is revealed in the very Trinitarian nature of God—he is the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God in three persons.

In John Chapter 17 Jesus prayed specifically for his Church, those that believe in him. Jesus prayed: “Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one.”

The Trinitarian pattern is evident in our Tour theme passage from Ephesians Chapter 4—there is one Spirit, one Lord and one God the Father. The passage uses the word “one” seven times in stressing our unity. It reads:

“I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

Make every effort to keep the *unity* of the spirit through the bond of peace.

There is *one body* and *one* Spirit—just as you were called to *one* hope when you were called---

one Lord, *one* faith, *one* baptism;

one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.”

Our unity is built on Jesus Christ, the living rock, the cornerstone of the Church. The Apostles’ Creed, that we recited earlier, was adapted from the first New Testament creed recorded when Peter declared that Jesus was “the Christ the Son of the Living God.”

Eric will come back and lead you in a time of corporate singing in thankfulness to the unity we have as believers in Christ—the center of our worship.

After the time of corporate singing, the choir will sing a new song recorded by *Casting Crowns* that teaches us that the arms, feet, hands and words that God has determined to use on this earth are *our* arms, *our* feet, *our* hands and *our* words. As the body of Christ, we must reach out in love to the world around us.

Upon This Rock (Pepper Choplin) (Matt 16:16-20)

***Praise and Worship Songs- led by Eric Schrotenboer**

If We Are The Body (Mark Hall) (1Cor12:24-27)

Reading 6: The Church Triumphant

The good news is that Satan and sin has been defeated already by Christ on the cross. He crushed the head of Satan, and although we have daily struggles and battles with sin and Satan, we know that the battle has been won.

The Church will triumph! We will have everlasting life in heaven, and there we will engage in worship to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ—the perfect lamb that was slain for our sins.

Revelation Song (Jennie Lee Riddle) (Rev 5:12)

Closing Remarks:

The Reason We Sing (Dick and Melodie Tunney)

Benediction