

The Rhythm of Time

Advent 2 Philippians 1: 3-11

featuring HWB 420 Heart with loving heart united

Cast: Song leader with spoken parts (bold), scripture reader (italics), pianist (brackets)

Preset: metronome, piano, pitch pipe, conductor's wand optional for visual effect

Congregation: hymnals open to 420 prior to reading

Production notes: thoroughly rehearsed, song leader should be fully memorized

There is something good about regularity. [metronome begins, continues throughout]

I thank God every time I remember you.

I am constantly praying with joy.

*In every one of my prayers for you my joy
flows on because we have shared in the gospel.*

And there is something of value in a starting point ... [sustained G, pitch pipe]

From the first day until now, you have shared in the gospel.

For this reason, I thank God in joyful prayer.

There is strength in the first chord ... [initiate opening chord, congregation hums]

I am confident of this: that the one who began a good work among us

will bring it to completion by the day of Christ Jesus. [chord ends]

Confidence knows a certainty beyond its human starting point.

It knows God [* begin] to be the Conductor of Time.

[* conduct two
measures in
silence]

[piano plays first two measures, sustain last note and reader begins ...]

*It is logical for me to think this way, because you hold me in your heart,
for all we share together – both in my imprisonment and my defense of the gospel.*

[piano plays first full line, sustain last note and reader begins ...]

With God as my witness, I long for you with the compassion of Christ.

*And this is my prayer: that your love may overflow more and more
with knowledge and full insight."*

You see, love's overflow must be guided, like a musical score.

Knowledge is the treble clef. [piano: line 3, first two measures, treble clef only]

Insight is the bass. [piano: line 3, first two measures, bass clef only]

May your love be composed by awareness and knowledge.

[line 3, first two measures, all parts]

May your love overflow so that you may determine what is best.

Every symphony knows the song, at some point, will come to an end.

[piano, final measure]

Philippians calls that final measure “the day of Christ Jesus.”

[piano, last two measures]

And final notes aren’t meant to discourage.

They are intended to motivate, to inspire. Listen:

[piano, last line with energy]

(spoken with joyful energy, memorization strongly encouraged)

This is my prayer: that your love may overflow, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the symphonic sounds of righteousness which come through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

[all stand, sing HWB 420 Heart with loving heart united]