

Anthem Notes for March 5, 2017

May Your Life Be Filled with Gladness

Roy Hopp (b.1951)

*May your life be filled with gladness
which will grace you all your days,
and transfigure hurts and troubles
into daily psalms of praise.*

*May your life be filled with passion,
where delight and sorrow fuse,
teaching you to find, when suffering
gifts of joy you cannot lose.*

*May your life be filled with wonder
at the whole world God has made;
and, although your sight may falter,
may your vision never fade.*

*May your life be filled with beauty,
from which angel light reflects,
and be waiting in excitement,
for what God will teach you next.*

*May your life be filled with Jesus
and his love to all proclaim,
until every thought and action
offer glory to God's name! Amen.*

This morning's anthem is a gentle prayer akin to a benediction for God's grace in every aspect of our lives—the grace which sustains us in the worst times and helps us flourish in the best times. It, too, is a prayer of encouragement that calls us to be open to God's gifts of the spirit and to be filled with passion, finding joy in the living of our Christian lives. Finally, it is a prayer that our lives be filled with Jesus, that in all things we model him, glorifying him and proclaiming his love.

Rae Whitney's (b. 1927) poetry captures the spirit of what our Christianity should be about. It recognizes that we may falter but encourages us to look to Jesus. Mrs. Whitney, who was born in England and was married to an Episcopal rector and who served with him in Scottsbluff, Nebraska, has texts in about twelve hymnals and has a

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Rae Whitney

collection of 230 texts in a book entitled, *With Joy Our Spirits Sing*. Author of over 500 hymns, she has a paraphrase of the *Song of Simeon* in our Presbyterian Hymnal on page 604.

Composer Roy Hopp is active as a church musician as director of music at Woodlawn Christian Reformed Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan. He is also is director of the Calvin Theological Seminary Choir, where he serves as professor of choral music as well. He has an extensive list of choral publications and his hymn tunes appear in over two dozen hymnals and collections in the United States, Canada, Scotland, England and Wales.



Roy Hopp

Philippians 4:12-13

¹²I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. ¹³I can do all this through him who gives me strength.